

# Value of Wheaton FDR bottle modest, especially out of box

By **HELAINE FENDELMAN and JOE ROSSON**  
Scripps Howard News Service

**Dear Helaine and Joe:** I have had the bottle in the enclosed photograph since my aunt passed away in 2001. She had the bottle in her cupboard for at least 20 years. I would like to learn more about the bottle. The side of the bottle with the relief image of FDR is stamped January 30, 1932 Franklin Delano Roosevelt April 12, 1945. The back of the bottle reads, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself," Franklin Delano Roosevelt 32nd President 1933 - 1945." The bottom of the bottle is stamped "Wheaton, N. J." and the number 3 and "First Edition" on the margins. Does this piece have any value?

— J. K., Loveland, CO

**Dear J.K.:** T.C. Wheaton and Company of Millville, N.J., was a relative late comer to the glass industries

of "South Jersey," and was founded in 1888 by Doctor Theodore Wheaton.

Initially, Dr. Wheaton wanted to be a sailor, but on his first voyage he found that a tendency toward seasickness made this inadvisable. As a result, he apprenticed himself to a pharmacist/physician in South Seaville, N.J.

In 1872, Wheaton enrolled in the Philadelphia School of Pharmacy and Science where he received his Ph.D. (Graduate in Pharmacy) in 1876. In 1879, he received his M.D. from the Medical College of the University of Pennsylvania.

He and his wife moved to Millville in 1883, and opened a pharmacy and general store, but Wheaton was not satisfied. The most successful business in Millville at the time was the Whitall Tatum glassworks, and Wheaton observed the success of this company making bottles and glass tubing (among other things).

He decided to open his own small glass works making bottles and glass

tubing. The company was very successful, and eventually, it and its associated companies became the second largest employer in all South Jersey. Automation came to Wheaton in 1938, but they did maintain a hand-blown shop making such things as electronics and precision laboratory glassware. In more modern times, the company split apart and exists under several names — including Wheaton Industries.

The piece in today's question is from Wheaton's presidential bottles collection; it is machine-made and came in at least two sizes and a variety of colors. In the 1960s, '70s and '80s, Wheaton went into the making of reproduction glass bottles in a big way and current collectors can find reproductions of ink bottles, poison bottles, bitters bottles (such as Dr. Fisch's Bitters shaped like a fish), medicine bottles, and a variety of others.

Current collectors can find bottles commemorating such luminaries of

the past as Mark Twain, Pocahontas, Helen Keller, John Paul Jones, Thomas A. Edison, Benjamin Franklin, Douglas MacArthur and Alexander Graham Bell among many others. It is safe to say that with the great variety of reproduction bottles, they were a mainstay with gift shops (including those found at historic sites) and flea markets.

As for their Presidential bottles grouping, we checked what was out there for sale and found everyone from Martin Van Buren, to John F. Kennedy, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Abraham Lincoln, John Adams and Harry Truman. We suspect there are Wheaton presidential bottles featuring the other presidents out there as well.

As for the value, it is modest to say the very least. Examples with their original boxes are more desired, but unboxed FDR bottles sell in the \$10 to \$25 range at retail.



SHNS photo

**The value of this T.C. Wheaton and Company presidential bottle is modest to say the very least. Unboxed FDR bottles sell in the \$10 to \$25 range at retail.**



Submitted photo

Newton Robotics Team members Jason DeClesis, Alexis Van Duzer, Cassie Yauch, Caitlin Bailey and Tess Bugay, team captain, show the team robot to children at Northern Hills Academy in Sparta.

## Newton robotics students spread STEM knowledge to youth

Five student members of Team Aperture — 3142 of the Newton Robotics Team recently took the afternoon off from their studies to visit the Northern Hills Academy school in Sparta to show the team robot to the children attending this school specializing in education for children with disabilities.

Tess Bugay, team captain, explained some basics of how the robot functions and brought smiles to the kids' faces when she explained how the robot throws Frisbees and can climb a jungle-gym-like pyramid. Bugay included the students in the discussion by asking them what kinds of technology they used, and talked about some real life examples of technology

and how technology "works" and make our lives fun.

Caitlin Bailey, an eighth-grader at Halsted Middle School and a new member of the team, said, "We had the robot turned off, so we could let them touch it. They were thrilled to be able to see it up close."

Not only did the students touch the robot, they also were able to hold the battery, touching what powers the robot. Jim Hofmann, the team coach, supported most all of the weight, as motorcycle batteries are far too heavy for young children to hold by themselves.

Even the quietest of the kids in the room were soon animated raising their hands to ask questions and sliding closer to

Bailey's mini-robot that raced around the room.

Jason DeClesis and Alexis Van Duzer, new members of the team, tagged along on the trip for their first opportunity to see what Aperture does in the community and had just as much fun as the children.

Aperture does many outreach events like this each season as a way to give back to the community. With so many people helping the team reach its goals, the team always likes to give a big "Thank you" back to all.

— By Gwen Manley-Muller and Laura Bugay, Newton Robotics Team

## Tae Kwon Do student earns orange belt

SPARTA — Tiger Shin's Tae Kwon Do student Matthew Sturchio received his orange belt in November. Matthew is 7 years old and attends Rev. Brown School.

Tae Kwon Do is a Korean, unarmed martial art. It is not only kicking and punching, but also a way of thinking and living. The main goal of Tae Kwon Do is to achieve total mind and body control through training. Tiger Shin's Tae Kwon Do mission is to produce individuals that are strong in character, discipline and physical strength.

The Tiger Shin's Tae Kwon Do rank and progression system is designed to be motivational and have a level of student accountability. This instills self-confidence and a solid sense of achievement in the student. Within each rank there are specific techniques and knowledge milestones to attain. Students attend classes regularly in order to achieve their rank and progression qualifications. Approximately every three months a promotion test is held and eligible students are invited to attend. At this test, students demonstrate to Master Shin what they have learned.



Submitted photo

Matthew Sturchio poses with Master Shin after he received his orange belt in Tae Kwon Do in Sparta.

Upon a satisfactory inspection of their techniques, Master Shin will promote them to the next belt rank.

For more information about Tiger Shin's Tae Kwon Do School, visit online at [www.shin-stkd.com](http://www.shin-stkd.com) or call 973-729-2299.

## Hackettstown PBA remembers those in need on Thanksgiving



Photo Courtesy of Hackettstown PBA 369

The Hackettstown Policeman's Benevolent Association Local 369 purchased Thanksgiving dinners from the River Star Diner in Hackettstown and then delivered the dinners on Thanksgiving to needy local families. Also, the NJ Mopar Group donated 40 bags of groceries to the Hackettstown PBA 369 to distribute to those needy families. Pictured above from left are Darren Tynan (PBA), Jim Laoudis (PBA), Glen Brotzman (PBA), Aaron Perkins (PBA), Jim Macaulay (PBA), Scott Wheeler (PBA), John Amey (PBA) and Halio Bayram (River Star Diner manager).

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[www.unitedwaynj.org](http://www.unitedwaynj.org)

You can make your coat or monetary donation at the **United Way of Northern New Jersey Office** Located at The New Jersey Herald 2 Spring Street (Suite 1), Newton

Collection boxes donated by Sutherland Packaging, Andover, NJ