

ARTIFACT OF THE MONTH

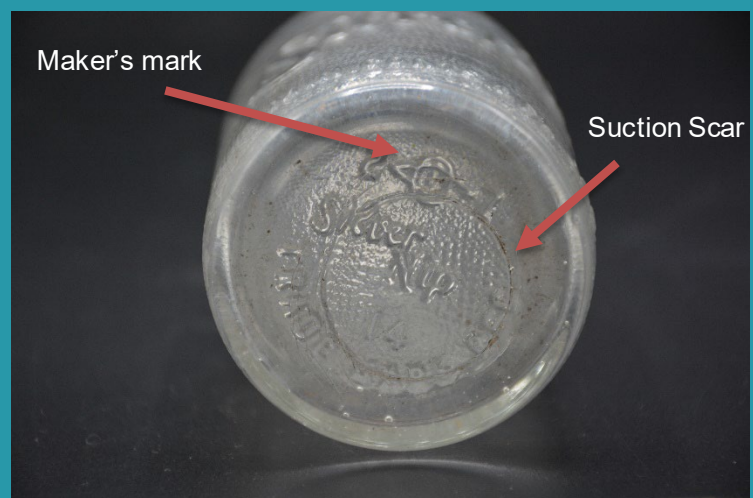
August 2023

We all love to have a refreshing beverage, whether it be at dinner time or in the hot summer sun. This month the Collections team is highlighting two glass Silver Nip bottles. Historic bottles offer a very relatable insight into the recent past. At one time these bottles contained a grapefruit beverage. The Silver Nip brand was first trademarked in 1928. The producer of this drink was a company called Florida Fruit Cannery, Inc., which was based in Frostproof, Florida, (Justia, 2023). This company was owned by citrus tycoon Latimer “Latt” Macy, who started his citrus enterprise in 1917 when he opened Lake Reedy Packing Company in Frostproof (Florida Citrus Hall of Fame, n.d.).

Although the Silver Nip drink was produced in Frostproof, the glass bottle itself wasn't. From the maker's mark on the base of the bottle, and its adjacent number codes, it can be confirmed that these bottles were produced by Owens-Illinois Glass Co. and were most likely made in their factory in Huntington, West Virginia. Also on the base of the bottle is a suction scar, which is a mark left during production when using an Owens automatic bottle machine (Lindsey, 2021) (Lockhart and Hoenig, n.d.). Presumably after the bottles were produced, they were shipped to Frostproof for packaging.



Sadly, there is no Silver Nip on the shelves today. Although it is unclear when, it seems that Florida Fruit Cannery changed its name to Silver Nip Citrus. Silver Nip Citrus was then acquired by Alico, Inc. in 2014 (mergr, n.d.). Alico is based in Fort Myers and is a holding company with related operations in agriculture. Some of their more notable citrus processing clients are Minute Maid and Tropicana (Layden, 2018).



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The resources provided by the Society for Historical Archaeology are a great way to learn more about glass bottles and other historical artifacts. Check out the links below to learn more.

<https://sha.org/>
<https://sha.org/bottle/>

If you are interested in learning more about the objects in the collection, check out the previous artifacts of the month on our website: stofthpo.com

