

Bireley's Bottle Opener Cap Catcher Combo

By John Eblen

Back in November of last year, eBay had one of the nicest bottle opener cap catcher combinations I've ever seen listed for sale. The Bireley's cap catcher (at right) was in beautiful shape and showed it had been well cared for during its lifetime. The cap catcher stood about 16" high and had the number E-339-47 marked on the side of it. It can be assumed the 47 part of the number stood for the date of manufacture

1947. It ended up fetching a lofty sum of \$898. It should be mentioned that the original opener for it was missing and had been replaced with a nice but incorrect Franz Krag bottle opener. The correct style bottle opener for it is pictured at left. It was able to accept the larger

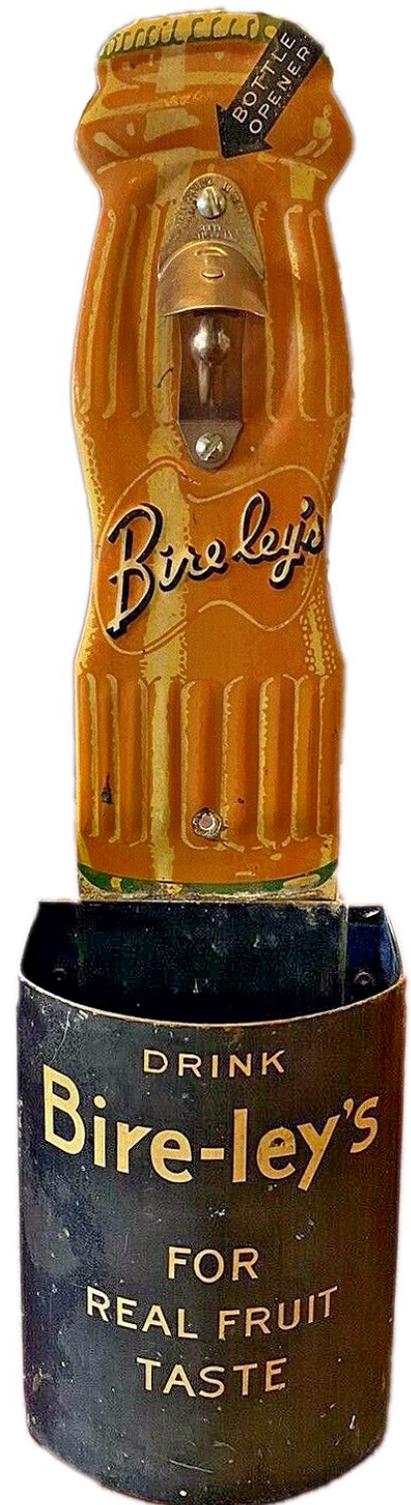
Dacro crown caps which is shown on the cap catcher bottle.

On the following pages we'll talk more about the larger Dacro caps used on vintage soda bottles back in the early days.



**Franz Krag
bottle opener was
patented in 1950**

NO. E-339-47



Just For Openers January-December 2022 2

Certain soda makers offered bottles with the Dacro caps between the late 1930's to the mid 1950's before switching to smaller standard size crown caps we're familiar with today. Bottles using these larger caps came in two basic sizes back then, 6.25 and 8 FL. OZ.

6.25 FL. OZ. Sizes

Far left: Flight Chocolate malted, next to Bireley's both using the larger 1-5/8" Dacro crown caps



8 FL. OZ. Sizes

Green Spot next to Bireley's with 1-5/8" caps. Far Right: 8 FL. OZ. Bireley's with 1-3/8" cap



Just For Openers January-December 2022 3

Special bottle openers were required to handle the larger Dacro caps. These are just a few of the vintage stationary wall mounted openers that were available to handle the job.

