

## POP BOTTLES

Jim Simmons

A recent visit to the Bowler Collection in Bath has prompted a note on "pop" bottles. Some time ago I dug up in my garden a "codd" bottle (the type with a glass marble known as a "pop alley" in my childhood.) This was a very good specimen with "Stroud Brewery Company" and "Newport Glass Works" names moulded in the glass and with the glass marble and a rubber sealing ring, printed "Stroud Brewery Co." in place. The bottle has joined other similar bottles in Stroud Museum.

A striking feature of this bottle was its weight. The empty bottle weighed  $17\frac{1}{2}$  ounces, yet it only held 10 ounces of water. Making allowance for the stout wooden crates in which each dozen bottles were transported, the load on the carts which Mr Bowles' horses hauled up the hills in Bath was probably less than 30% saleable "pop", not a very efficient method. A modern glass milk bottle weighs  $9\frac{1}{2}$  ounces to carry 20 ounces and a modern aluminium can for aerated drinks only weighs  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounces.

Incidentally, if you wonder how the marble gets into the neck of the bottle, I have been told that the pre-formed components of the body and neck of the bottles were fused together in an operation rather like a plumber making a joint in lead pipes, with the marble in place.