

Collecting Liquor Stores

by Mike Prero

Did you know that in seventeen alcoholic beverage control (ABC) states, the specialty liquor stores are owned and operated exclusively by the state government, where liquor stores often sell only spirits or sometimes sell spirits and wine but not beer? ABC-run stores may be called ABC stores or state stores. Did you know that North Dakota consumes the most alcohol?

Over the past five years, the Beer, Wine & Liquor Stores in the US industry has grown by 2.3% to reach revenue of \$58bn in 2019. In the same timeframe, the number of businesses has grown by 0.9% and the number of employees has grown by 1.8%.

The Tavern at Rainbow Row Charleston, SC, claims to be the oldest liquor store in the U.S., going all the way back to 1686! The tavern is the original liquor store.

John Bachochin, OK had 3,114 different Liquor Store covers in his collection as of March 2016, so there are a lot of them out there. And, there are many oldies in the category, including Crowns, Diamond Quality, and the like. Unfortunately, I didn't have room to run some examples here, but they're there. Notice, also, on p. 3, that there are even Girlies to be seen. There is no listing of Liquor Stores.

continued on p.3

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