



# Local liquor store offers wine for nearly \$11,000

by Cyndy Davis  
Battalion Staff  
Pay almost \$11,000 for a bottle of wine?

If it was the last available bottle of its kind, you might reconsider. And Randy's Liquor owners Ira and Georgeann Held and Sammy Pugh have such a bottle for sale.

The trio is asking \$10,860 for the 1953 Petrus Double Magnum which it purchased from the Chateau Petrus cellars in France. The wine was transported to Dallas last week and arrived in College Station Friday night.

Held said the French Bordeaux wine is the last available bottle of its kind. About 2,000 were originally produced and the last sold for \$11,000 at the Heublein Auction in Chicago about two months ago.

"It's an incredible vintage, an incredible year, an incredible wine," he said.

For those with less expensive

taste, Held also has two "very rare" double magnum-sized bottles of Chateau Lafite Rothschild for sale.

A double magnum-sized bottle holds about one gallon.

The 1949 vintage Rothschild is available for \$2,695. Held said the type of bottle makes this wine rare. The Marie-Jeanne bottle, "a squatty, double magnum" is hand-blown. This particular type of bottle is no longer made.

The 1961 Rothschild costs \$3,800.

"These are probably some of the rarest bottles of wine around," he said.

The three bottles are kept in cases on a shelf in the "always 68 degrees temperature" of Randy's Liquor Store on University Drive.

A special cabinet had been ordered for them but was not completed on time.

Held said he expected a wine

collector or businessman might buy the wine.

However, this wine might never be served with dinner.

"There are many collectors in the Bryan-College Station area who purchase wine as an investment — like fine art," he said.

Several wine collectors have already expressed interest in the wine, he said, but he declined to name any prospective buyers, saying that wine collectors are "very private people."

A wealthy businessman might buy a bottle of wine such as the Petrus and have some friends over for dinner, charging them \$2,000 a plate, serve the wine, donate the money to charity and claim it all as a tax deduction, Held said.

He said he believes bringing this wine to College Station

might start a trend in the area.

"If the people of Bryan-College Station want something, they have had to go to Dallas or Houston to get it," Held said. "Now here's something they won't have to travel for. Now the people in Houston and Dallas will have to come here. This is something they don't have."

Before coming to College Station 10 months ago, Held was in the wine import/export business in Panama and in Paris.

He expects to purchase more rare bottles of wine in the future, he said.

But his influence in the wine industry has not always gotten him everything he wanted.

Last week he offered \$42,000 for an 1864 Chateau Lafite Double Magnum but was turned down.

staff photo by Diana Sultenfuss

Ira Held with the \$10,860 bottle of 1953 Petrus Double Magnum and two rare bottles of Chateau Lafite Rothschild

## Today's almanac

United Press International  
Today is Tuesday, July 27, the 208th day of 1982 with 157 to follow.

On this date in history:  
In 1909, Orville Wright set a world record by staying aloft in a plane for one hour, 12 minutes and 40 seconds.

In 1953, after two years and 17 days of negotiations, the war in Korea was declared an end.

In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee voted, 27-11, to re-

commend the impeachment of President Richard Nixon on an article relating to Watergate.

In 1980, deposed Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi of Iran died in an Egyptian military hospital of cancer at the age of 60. He was buried two days later in a state funeral attended by former President Nixon.

A thought for the day: French novelist Alexander Dumas said, "Business? It's quite simple. It's other people's money."

## Business breakfast

The Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce Small Business Council will hold a Business-to-Business Breakfast Thursday morning from 7:30 to 9:30 to discuss the topic: "Keeping the Customer Satisfied."

The breakfast will be held at the B-CS Chamber Office, 401 S. Washington in Bryan.

A panel of business people who deal with customer-related problems daily will be featured. Panel members include: Leroy Balmain, Better Business Bureau; Nancy Crouch, Home Care Services; Gary Jackson, Sears and Roebuck Inc.; Charlene Morrison, City of Bryan; Mike Callihan, Small Claims Court; and John Hansen, Allen Oldsmobile-Cadillac-Honda.

The format of the breakfast will be informal, giving members of the audience a chance to voice their thoughts and ideas on how to solve problems involving customer relations.

Cost of the breakfast is \$5 which includes doughnuts and all the coffee you can drink.

Reservations can be made by calling 779-2278. The deadline for reservations is Wednesday.

**DANCE**  
Tuesday Nite — Ladies Free  
Music by  
**The Music Masters**  
Sons of Hermann Hall  
1104 W. 25th Street, Bryan  
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<b>14K Gold Beads</b>		<b>Add-A-Bead Chains</b>
3 mm - 53¢	<p>Semi-Precious Beads • Pearls • Garnet • Lapis • Malachite • Many More</p>	16" - \$27.75
4 mm - 83¢		18" - \$29.96
5 mm - \$1.46		20" - \$33.71
6 mm - \$2.36		24" - \$39.71
7 mm - \$2.96		All Sizes Available
8 mm - \$3.71		

Layaways  
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**THE ODD COUPLE**

**AUGUST 4-7**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT THE MSC BOX OFFICE!  
GOOD SEATS STILL AVAILABLE

Tickets must be purchased at least 24 hours in advance for Thurs., Fri., & Sat. night.

DATE	DINNER	Serving Time	Students & Senior Citizens	Gen. Public
Wednesday	Non-Dinner Show	7:00 p.m.	\$2.75	\$3.75
Thursday	Marco Polo (Chicken)	6:30 p.m.	\$7.75	\$8.75
Friday	BBQ Dinner	6:30 p.m.	\$5.95	\$6.95
Saturday	Buffet	6:30 p.m.	\$8.95	\$9.95

Performance at 7:45 each evening  
#201 MSC