

MIDWEST  
**GLASS CHATTER**  
MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1971

Midwest Glass Chatter  
August 2008

### Club Officers

- *Dave Rittenhouse, Pres.*  
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765-468-8091
- *Jean Harbron, V.P.*  
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Anderson, IN 46012  
765-644-4333
- *Anne Szopa, Treas.*  
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Economy, IN 47339
- *Joe Coulson, Sec.*  
10515 Collingswood Ln.  
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- *Norman Barnett, Pres. Emeritus*  
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### Membership

The Midwest Glass Chatter is a monthly publication and is a forum through which collectors can share information.

Membership cost is \$15.00 per year, per family, due each December 31. All jar/bottle related collectors are welcome. Send to MAFJBC, Attn: Joe Coulson, 10515 Collingswood Ln, Fishers, IN 46037

### Next Club Show

January 11, 2009

Make your reservation now!  
The hotel's phone number is 765-284-4200

## Meeting Minutes August 3, 2008

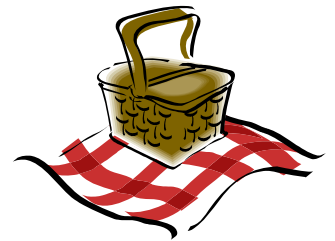
The August club meeting was our Annual Club Picnic and was held at the home of Colleen and Jerry Dixon in Muncie, Indiana. Club President Dave Rittenhouse opened the meeting and welcomed 13 members.

Dave told us that we did okay on our July Show and that it was tough to get dealers to go to this show, but those who attended enjoyed it. This year our Summer Show was close to the time of the National Expo.

Dick Cole gave us an update on the Phil Robinson DVD titled "Parable of the Jars." We sold 10 copies at the July Show. The labels are printed onto the discs and have nice graphics. Prism Video is doing the production work. Dick visited with Meredith and Christie Robinson and was able to obtain additional video footage to be placed on the DVD. The

content now includes a previous (much older and a little longer) edition of "Parable of the Jars"; it also contains a 1996 interview with Phil walking around his museum. The price remains at \$15, and you may contact Dick Cole or Dave Rittenhouse to obtain a copy. If you have newspaper clippings about Phil, please send copies of them to Dick Cole for possible inclusion on the DVD. Dick's address is: 2904 W. Moore Rd., Muncie, Indiana 47304.

Anne Szopa gave us a treasurer's report on our July Show. We made money on the show, so that was good. Marty Troxell came through on his promise to pick up donuts at good price, and everyone said the donuts tasted good. Thanks go to Marty for his effort. Donations received from the club auction helped us out. In general, expenses were kept down.



Dave said that we would have new club T-shirts at our January 2009 Show. Dave also mentioned that several club members will be attending the National Bottle Expo in York, Pennsylvania, which is less than a week away from now.

The October 5th club meeting will be at Minnetrista at 1:30pm in the Cantina. Bring sun-colored amethyst (SCA/purple) jars and bottles for Show and Tell.

See you all at the next meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary



## Show and Tell

Club members were asked to bring a recent purchase, either from the July show or elsewhere.

Joe Coulson said that he had fun trading jars with Anne Szopa at the July Show. He traded a nice light aqua HG #274 Ball (dropped 'a') Perfect Mason for a "Tom Nixon" retirement jelly jar. Tom is one of our club members, and he worked at the Winchester, Indiana glass plant.

Joe displayed a few of the "experimental dimple" Ball jars that he acquired at the July Show. He bought several Ball blue PT #203-5 Ball Ideal experimental dimple jars from Don Burkett. He also bought a couple of Ball blue QT #300 Ball Sanitary Sure Seal experimental dimple jars from the club auction (offered for sale by Mike Keith).

Joe also shared a clear QT #358 "15 Years Ball (76 encircled by 13 stars) Mason Mundelein Illinois" jar which he recently purchased from Jeff Klingler of Ohio. Joe has a large collection of the Ball special run jars.

Jean Harbron displayed an aqua QT #2603 SEALTITE (base: Pa G. Co.). These jars are normally found in clear rather than aqua. This jar is special to Jean because it is one of Phil Robinson's Museum jars (recently auctioned on eBay by Greg Spurgeon under the name "hoosierjar").

Jean brought a clear pickle jar with a paper product label, which read "Tourist Brand / Wm. W. Vaughan Co. / Detroit, Mich. / Copy-

righted". There was also another label which read "Guaranteed under the PURE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1906." This jar takes a Schies Patent glass topseal lid.

Jean showed us a Ball jelly mold with a chromed lid. This is listing #101 in the American Jelly Glasses book. It was made between the early 1900's up to WWII. There were 12 flutes around the inside.

Jean also displayed a 1995 MAFJ&BC cream pitcher. This was a club pottery award jar given to exhibitors at our show in 1995.

Anne Szopa displayed the complete kit for the clear QT #2871 Vacuum Tite Jar (lid: Vacuum Tite Co. / Pittsburgh Penna. / Patented August 19, 1930). The kit included the vacuum pump, instruction book, rubber ring, and box of the rubber "vacuum process units to fit standard jars." It was very interesting to see the entire kit.

Anne also shared a clear QT #1049 The Gaynor Glass Top (reverse: Mfd By Gaynor Glass Works, Salem, N.J.). This jar has a dimple neck similar to the normal Ball Idea jar, and even says "Bail Here" on the neck.

Anne displayed a clear PT #2559-2 One Pint Sanitary Bucket (with carrying bail). This jar had a product label, which read "The Ohio Prepared Mustard / The Ohio Packing Co. / Lancaster, Ohio."

Anne brought a box of "Keeran's Sealing Wax Disk Seal / Seals for Mason Jars." The box had its original con-

tents of wax disks. The slogan on the box said "no seal seals like this seal seals." Try saying that slogan ten times real fast!

Colleen Dixon made a good find in a box lot of jellies that she purchased at the club auction. She showed us an early jelly glass: J.W. Beardsley & Sons New York USA (on bottom).

Colleen also brought an aqua QT #1996 Mason's F Patent Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1858; a pure green QT #274 Ball (dropped 'a') Perfect Mason; a clear QT #2190 Mission Trade (figure of a bell) Mark Mason Jar Made in California; a clear PT #1047 Garden Queen (on lid); and a Cahill's Prickly Pear jelly glass.

Kay Rittenhouse showed us an attractive Standard Wax Co. linen calendar.

John Elwood brought an aqua QT #987 F. B. Co. wax sealer. John also brought an aqua QT unembossed wax sealer that with a lot of glass character—very swirled and whittled.

Jerry Dixon displayed a saucer from the French Lick hotel, French Lick, Indiana. This is a nice go-with. Jerry collects items relating to the Pluto Spring in French Lick. The saucer shows the Pluto building. Jerry and Colleen also let us wander around there home to view the many bottles and jars that they have collected.

Sue Wilson shared a bluish aqua QT #2729 Star Glass Co. New Albany, Ind. (wax sealer). This jar was a darker aqua than you typically see (almost a Ball blue color). Sue also showed us a clear



*Jerry and Colleen let us wander around their home to view the many bottles and jars they have collected*

## Show and Tell, cont'd

glass solid-pour item which may have been an insulator? Maybe it should be called a whats-it!

Dick Cole displayed an aqua HG #1651 The Mason. Ball Brothers bought the Coffeyville, Kansas plant and added their name to the jar.

Dick showed us a copy of a book written about Anchor Hocking Commemorative bottles and jars. He also showed us an example of an amber special run bottle which was pictured in the book. This bottle was made for the Overmyer Mould Co. to celebrate a 50 year anniversary. The book lists a value of \$450, but Dick only gave \$3 for it. Dick isn't sure the bottle is worth that much, but he was pleasantly surprised anyway.

Dave Rittenhouse displayed an aqua QT #2603 SEALTITE. He purchased this jar at the July Show during hotel room hopping. This is another example of the same scarce jar that Jean also brought for show and tell!

Dave shared a nice pale aqua #2534 SAFETY. This jar was manufactured in Muncie, Indiana by the Nelson Glass Co.



A wonderful buffet of picnic food including chicken and rolls



Dick Cole serving home-made ice cream to everyone



Norman Barnett caught in the act of enjoying the ice cream



*To everyone's pleasant surprise, the home-made ice cream tradition was carried on by Dick Cole*



# Pictures from Show and Tell



Seeing double—two scarce aqua SEALTITE jars



“Experimental Dimples” make Joe smile



Tourist Brand—takes a Shies lid



Exhibitor's Award Jar from 1995



One Pint Sanitary Bucket w/ label



No Seal Seals Like Keeran's Seal Seals!



Complete kit for the Vacuum Tite Jar

### Pictures from Show and Tell, cont'd



Pint-size mustard jar



Mission (bell) Mason Jar



Buck Glass Co., Garden Queen



Darker aqua Star Glass Co.



The Gaynor Glass-Top



15 Years Mundelein Illinois



Glass solid-pour whats-it?



50 Years Overmyer Mould Co.



J W BEARDSLEY S SONS jelly glass

## Club Members at the York National Expo

[Editor's note: Junne Barnett submitted the following article, which describes the involvement of our club members in the FOHBC National Bottle Expo that took place in early August.]

It had been a long time since we attended a bottle show at York, Pa. However, we did have some very good memories of the show held at the York fairgrounds. Yes, we remembered the open sided cattle barns, where the dealers set up, and where some of the odor still lingered. The paths around and between the cattle stalls were dirt and very dusty. We would be lucky if a breeze would come through to cool us down. Best of all we have memories of seeing some of the early fruit jar collectors such as George McConnell of New Jersey, Alex Kerr of California, Roy Brown of Illinois (at that time, now from Kentucky) and others.

What a surprise this time as we pulled through the York fairgrounds gate.... Paved

driveways, large enclosed buildings and great parking areas. In the area where we were used to seeing cattle stalls was a very large building called the Toyota Arena with concrete sidewalks instead of a dirt path.

Entering through one of many doors we came to the lobby where we saw the FOHBC registration desk, an area where they served foods and with air conditioning... what a relief from the old days.

Going into the show room we saw row after row of tables filled with bottles, fruit jars, go-withs, etc. We had wondered how much the high price of gasoline would affect the show participants, but there were 416 dealer tables. Bottle people sure love this hobby.

We didn't get to York in time to attend any of the 13 varied seminars, however, club members Phyllis Pahlmann

and Pat Van Dyke, presented a program on 'Collecting Jellies.'

There were 28 different, interesting displays. The fruit jar displays included Phil Alvarez (from New Jersey) with 'Great American Preserve Jars'. Dan Corker (from Virginia) along with Ken Dippold (from Ohio) and Greg Spurgeon (from Indiana) showed 'Salesman Sample Jars'. Dan also had a beautiful display of 'Patent Closures.' Ron Hands (from North Carolina) had 'Early American Fruit Jars.' Randy Hoffman presented 'Pennsylvania Canning Jars.' 'Rare Pint Fruit Jars' were offered in a display by Wayne and June Lowry (from Missouri). Mike Jordan (from Florida) had a beautiful and colorful display of 'Hyacinth Vases.'

Joe Merkel (from Michigan) and Jim Sears (from Maryland) combined their collections in a display of '150 Year Celebration of Mason's



*Yes, we remembered the open sided cattle barns, where the dealers set up, and where some of the odor still lingered*



Great American Preserve Jars



Pennsylvania Canning Jars



## Junne's York Expo Report, cont'd

1858 Patent.' The program books also had an article and pictures pertaining to the growth of the Mason Patent. These gentlemen are researching for a book on the subject. If you have an unusual Mason jar they would appreciate hearing from you. Contact info: Joe Merkel, P.O. Box 459, Chelsea, MI 48448, ph. (734) 433-9904, email [merkel@gmail.com](mailto:merkel@gmail.com).

During the banquet (which had a large attendance of 266 people), Tom Caniff was inducted into the 'Hall of Fame.' Personally, we feel there was an oversight in that Deena was not recognized for her photography in Tom's articles. Also during the banquet Joe Coulson was awarded 'second place' for his club newsletter (Glass Chatter). Great job, Joe.

On Saturday night, during the Federation Auction, club members Greg and Angela Spurgeon, Day and Dave Rittenhouse, Ken Dippold and Phil Smith assisted auctioneer Norm Heckler as they called bids from the crowd.

Members, dealers, wives, etc. who had sales tables were: Ron Ashby, OK; Sheldon Baugh, KY; Berry Bernas, PH;



150 Year Celebration of Mason's 1858 Patent

Don Burkett, MI; Caniff, OH; Corker, VA; Davis, IL; Driver, FL; Dudley, OH; Harms, IL; Ketchum, MN; Koch, OH; Leybourne, MI; Merkel, MI; Phifer, KS; Pennington, IN; Rittenhouse, IN; Rhineberger, IL; Sears, MD; Smith, KY; and Spurgeon, IN. And members who were not setup were Dick Bere and Ken Dippold, both of Ohio. Yes, MAFJBC was at Expo 2008.

As we were not setup we took advantage of sitting in the Lowry's area when we had to rest. Also staying there was 'Pepper', the Lowry's friendly little fluffy dog. Now 'Pepper' has attended many bottle shows and is well known, so many people, both youngsters and adults, stopped by to say 'hello' to him.

Since this is the first Expo that we did not have a dealers table we took our time strolling around to see every table. We would do a couple of rows and then sit down to rest. Of course, it took us two

days to do this. However, we were able to visit with many people, some we have seen recently and several that we hadn't seen for many years. We especially enjoyed seeing 'long time' friends from the East Coast and California.

Before the 200 Expo in Denver I coaxed Norman into attending with the thought that we were in our 70's and it could be our last Expo. Well, we attended the 2004 Expo in Memphis, and now the York Expo in 2008 when we are in our early 80's. Can we make it to the 2012? We certainly hope so. We have so many friends because of this hobby.

Now, last but certainly not least, 'Many, Many Kudos, Thank You's' and so forth to Wayne and June Lowry (long time members of MAFJBC) for the many hours of work and effort that they have given to the hobby, for our MAFJBC and also to the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors.

*During the banquet,  
Tom Caniff was  
inducted into the  
'Hall of Fame'*

## The 2008 York, Pa. FOHBC National Bottle Expo

[Editor's note: Long-time antique jar collector, Bruce Schank, tells us of his experience at the show.]

In the thirty years I have been collecting antique jars, I've never been to any National Expo. Mine was an experience of local Shows around the Tri-State area of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. All good in their own right mind you but the kind of show that has at most 100 tables or so and usually the same dealers and people you see at all of the other local shows. Some possibly have a different mix depending on location.

So I was excited to say the least that I was finally going to my first National Expo and I didn't know at the time nor could I be sure what to expect either. I felt like a young collector all over again excited and full of anticipation for something beyond the pale. I didn't sleep hardly a wink either the night before the first day's early opening just thinking about all the sights, sounds and possible goodies I was going to experience.

As a matter of fact, I pretty much was one of the first non-dealers to show up at the Toyota Center at the York fairgrounds and actually the first non-dealer to walk through the doors on Friday. Something I had a habit of doing back in the good old days when there actually was a York Show but at that time it was out in the open fields. Yep, I remember fondly how York was my favorite of all the shows I went to. I would arrive when it was still dark and walk around as people were



just getting up or half asleep and scour whatever tables and boxes I was able to. I always came away with something decent from that show so my expectations were high about this one and this time it was no different either.

I can say this much that The York National Expo was IMO Fantastic and "The Best Show" I have ever been to in my entire life. And that's saying something because as I already mentioned, I've been to many local shows over the years. Besides, I had gone to the January 2008 Muncie Show and at the time I thought that show was the Best after being there. Boy was I pleasantly surprised by this Expo.



The York Expo had so many incredible displays of wonderful glass it was simply mind-boggling. Collectors such as Wayne & June Lowry, Phil Alvarez, Randy Hoffman, Jim Sears, Joe Merkel and others displayed the Crème de le crème of Fruit Jars. And I

was completely transfixed by the amount and quality of stuff that was all over the place for sale at over 400 tables. To say the place was huge is an understatement.



And if there is one thing I learned at York after digesting the wonderful displays of jars is that my collection was tantamount to that of a Novice and I am not kidding. After seeing what the Best actually have in their collections all I can say is my collection is full of plain old ordinary run of the mill jars. I guess I'll just have to survive bottom feeding but oh what a pleasure it was to see the Best of the Best up close and personal. Yet I did have some luck going for me while I was there because I didn't walk away empty handed. Nope, not by a long shot. I managed to pick up some really good stuff and some good enough to impress even the Big Boys. What's the saying, "being in the right place at the right time?"

*The York Expo had so many incredible displays of wonderful glass, it was simply mind-boggling*



## Bruce's York Expo Experience, cont'd

On Friday afternoon just after walking through the doors as we were allowed to enter during early entry, I made a bee-line right and saw Don Burkett putting out jars. My buddy Michael Rutledge was right behind me as usual. Now, for those who didn't go or don't understand how it works, the first day when you are let in, the tables are not even populated with items yet. Dealers are frantically putting out stuff while you're walking or shall I say running around looking and trying to make the best judgment call as far as what and where relates to you.



Anyway, I asked Don Burkett as he was bent over pulling jars out of boxes if he had something that a Ball Collector such as me would be interested in. Now mind you, Michael and others are already holding jars in their hands that I lost out on and other collectors are all over the place too. So he took a quick look over at me and said "yes Bruce I believe I do, come back in ten minutes and we'll discuss it." So I went around looking for other items all the while my mind was running wild with Ball jar fever wondering what in the world he could possibly have. Those ten minutes seemed like an eternity but low and behold, when I saw what he in fact did have I was shocked to say the least. It

was a beautiful solid pour 3L Ball MASON pint and a find of a life-time for me and any other collector for that matter.

There were so many people crowding around looking over my shoulder it wasn't funny. I held on to that solid piece of glass (which felt like 5 lbs.) for dear life because all of them were just waiting for me to put it down. It's amazing how people can sniff this stuff out, but if I had let go of it then it would now be in someone else's collection for sure. I was told by many long-time serious collectors including Ron Ashby, Russ Crupe, Jon Vanderschouw and others that they would have bought it in a heartbeat. Why pray tell? Because it is Rare and I can't emphasize that word any stronger!

It's a good thing I went to York with lots cash because the bottom line here is "money talks and nobody walks." We all love to find things at bargain prices but the truth is if you want something really good then most of the time you have to Anti-up or walk away. I'd like to believe that somehow I had Ball Karma working for me while I was there at the Expo but the simple fact that there were so many tables from so many good dealers from all over the country with so much good stuff, it would have been hard for anyone to go away empty handed.



I won't soon forget my short time there. The personal talk I had with Doug Leybourne over breakfast at the hotel, the long conversation I had with Greg Spurgeon, the many friends and long time acquaintances I met and hung out with, the wonderful one-of-a-kind jars I had the privilege to see for the first time and photograph and the very special items I managed to bring home. To me, the York Expo was like the opening night of the summer Olympics. It was simply a grand time beyond my expectations and one experience I won't soon forget.



Bruce Wayne Schank

*It was a beautiful solid pour 3L Ball MASON pint, and a find of a life-time for me*



MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT  
JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

*A jarrific place to share and learn*

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG



Colleen and Jerry Dixon were our gracious hosts of the Annual Club Picnic.

## Announcements

- The October 5th club meeting will be at Minnetrista in Muncie, IN at 1:30pm in the Cantina. Bring sun-colored amethyst (SCA/purple) jars and bottles for Show and Tell. For directions or information, contact Dave Rittenhouse at 765-468-8091.
- There will be an auction on Sunday, October 19th of the remaining “common” jars in the Robinson Museum collection. This will be handled by Dragoo Auction & Realty, 9400 N. CR 925 W., Alexandria, Indiana, ph. 765-748-6022. More details and pictures are on their Internet auction listing: <http://www.auctionzip.com/cgi-bin/auctionview.cgi?lid=499751&kwd=&zip=47304&category=0>
- The Findlay Antique Bottle Club will be having its 32nd annual Bottle Show and Sale on Sunday, October 19th. The show is held at the Old Barn Auction House, 10040 St. Rt. 224 West, Findlay, OH. The show will open to the public at 9:00am. Contact show chairman Fred Curtis for more information, ph. 419-424-0486. Club website: <http://fabclub.freeyellow.com/>
- For those of you planning ahead, the program for the November 2nd meeting will be jars and items embossed with some variation of “Mason’s Patent Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 1858”. The December 7th meeting will be our Annual Christmas Pitch-In Dinner.

