

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

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter  
August 2010

### Club Officers

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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: Anne Szopa, 11199 U.S. Highway 35, Economy, IN 47339

## Meeting Minutes, August 1st, 2010

The August club meeting was held at the home of Jerry and Colleen Dixon in Muncie, Indiana. This was our annual club picnic event. President Dave Rittenhouse opened the meeting and welcomed 14 members.

Dick gave a report on the Gas City Boom Town 1892 event. The discovery of natural gas was very important to Gas City, and its economic development. The Boom Town 1892 street festival included good home-cooked food, live music, and various demonstrations. Dick gave a talk on a fruit jar making machine at the event.

Dick also reviewed the success of the enhanced July Fruit Jar Get-Together. The club provided a small amount of money to help reimburse for expenses (\$100). This is the same amount that would have been given to Kay Rittenhouse for hospitality goodies at a regular Show.

Dave mentioned that our club tentatively has both hotel conference rooms reserved for the January Show weekend. People can make use of these rooms in the same way as they did for the July Get-Together, if they wish to do so. It would be possible to reserve a time slot

in the conference room for a presentation (such as "Early Jars") or a special interest group discussion (such as "Ball jars only").

Dick Cole told us that an updated Club Lending Library list is available now. The club website has been updated with the new information as well. Also, the Lending Library has a new location. Dick has rented an office in downtown Muncie. He has many of his Ball Corporation collectibles on display there. Call ahead for an appointment (765-468-8091).

Lou Ebert brought five different books on the subject of glass-making. He suggested that the books have very useful historical information, and that the club should find and buy copies for the Lending Library.

Anne Szopa gave the Treasurer's report for July and August. Expenses included a food expense donation for the July Get-Together, and the cost of the newsletter. We received some income from Club T-shirt sales at the July Get-Together. There are only a few left (XXL size), and the price has been reduced to \$10 to sell them quickly.

Dave Rittenhouse said that he would have a sales table at the FOHBC National Bottle Show on Aug. 6-8th in Wilmington, Ohio. Early admission for the Show is on Aug. 7th from 1-5pm, and the actual Show is Aug. 8th from 9am-3pm. Joe Coulson said that he would have a sales table too. There should be several fruit jar dealers there. It is also worth attending just to see the bottle and jar exhibits.

Dick Cole mentioned that he needs help in coming up with topics for future jar club meetings. Let's see if we can come up with some ideas. Let him know.

See you all at the next club meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary



Mason's GCo Patent Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1858

## Show and Tell

Club members were asked to bring Indiana jars.

Sue Wilson shared a clear quart #2196 Model Mason. This jar was made in Summitville, Indiana circa 1900–1910. Sue also brought a picture of the Summitville glass plant reproduced from an old postcard.

Anne Szopa displayed a clear quart #2681 ginger jar (base: Speas Mfg Co / OI logo / U-Sav-It / Jar) (made in Alton, Illinois, 1935); and a clear quart (unlisted) vinegar pitcher (base: Speas Co / OI logo / U-Sav-It / Pitcher / Trademark / Reg US Pat Off) (made circa 1945–1967). Anne mentioned that there is a website with lots of info on Speas jars.

Jean Harbron displayed a light green half gallon #501 Boyds Perfect Mason (made in Greenfield, Indiana); an amethyst quart #1636 Mason (fancy lasso underlined loop; made in Anderson, Indiana); and a box of Bernardin metal top seal lids (made in Evansville, Indiana).

Dave Rittenhouse shared a clear solid pour quart Model Mason jar! Dave said that Phil Robinson only sold two jars out of his museum, and this was one. Sue Wilson told the story of how the solid pour jar was found. Phil Robinson bought it for \$100. A young man was cleaning out a woman's garage in Alexandria, Indiana to raise money for college.

Dave displayed a rare machine-made aqua quart #1123-1 GLOBE (regular mouth size). The jar had a smooth lip (not ground); different style of Globe lettering (no

serifs); and a plain base (no large Hemingray mould number). Dave had a typical aqua quart #1123 GLOBE jar to compare it with. There are only two of these machine-made GLOBE jars known. Dave purchased his at an auction in Indiana. Dave did not realize what it was when he bought it. The jar was on his sales table for a while before he discovered its importance!

Dave also displayed a clear quart #745 The Daisy Jar (original closure); an aqua tall pint #460 "The Best" Fruit-Keeper; an amber quart #1465 The Leader (one line); and an aqua pint #2534 Safety.

Walter Gaussman brought a light green quart #496 Genuine Boyds Mason; a light green quart #500 Boyd Perfect Mason; an aqua quart #2510 Root Mason; an aqua quart #238 Ball Mason (altered Root mould); and a Ball blue quart #271-5 Ball Perfect Mason.

Walter gave us historical information on the jars that he brought. The following information comes from: A Collector's Guide to Ball Jars; Ball Collectors Club Newsletter; MAFJBC Glass Chatter; The Standard Fruit Jar Reference; Red Book 10; and Fruit Jar Works Vol. 2.

(Genuine Boyds Mason, Boyd Perfect Mason, etc.) The earliest of the Boyd jars had very crude lettering compared to the two jars shown. The Boyd jars were made by Greenfield Fruit Jar & Bottle Co., Greenfield, Indiana. This company preceded Ball in the use of the "Perfect Mason" name. The Perfect Mason jars were made soon after Green-

field received an exclusive license to make fruit jars on the Owens machine in January 1909. The company made a number of Boyd Perfect Mason jars, but the plant and exclusive license was purchased by Ball on November 20, 1909. The Boyd molds were then altered to make the first Ball Perfect Mason jars. The Greenfield Fruit Jar & Bottle Co. was in operation from 1890–1909.

(Ball Perfect Mason, 1910–1914) These jars were made on newly-acquired Owens machines from the sale of the Greenfield company. The Greenfield Fruit Jar & Bottle Co. was continued by Ball with F.C. Ball as president until 1914 when it was completely merged with Ball. The Owens machines were moved to Ball Factory #2 in Muncie, which Ball leased to Greenfield. Ball resold the Greenfield plant in 1917 to Owen's Bottle Co., and the plant was closed in 1921.

(Root Mason) Root Glass Co. purchased Harry W. Street-er's idle northern Terre Haute Glass Manufacturing Company plant in October 1905. After making improvements the plant reopened January 1906 and employed 150 men from a closed Coffeyville, Kansas glass house. Root produced Mason fruit jars from 1905 to 1909. Fruit jars were produced with a yellow green and light blue glass. On the bottom of Root fruit jars is a series of glass bumps or dots. These dots vary from one to five or more. No reference has ever explained the meaning of these dots. Ball acquired this company in 1909. Ball's philosophy of "waste not, want not" result-

ed in taking the Root molds and altering them to say Ball. Ball closed the plant in 1913. An interesting fact is that when Ball purchased the Root fruit jar plant it did not acquire the beverage bottle operation. Root retained this operation and designed the first trade marked bottle used by Coca-Cola.

Mike Mosier displayed an aqua pint #1934 Mason's GCCo Patent Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1858 (made by Giles Clough Co., Redkey, Indiana); a Ball blue quart #400 Bamberger's Mason Jar (within circle) (made by Ball Brothers in Muncie, Indiana); a greenish aqua half gallon #480 Boldt Mason Jar (made by The Charles Boldt Glass Company in Muncie, Indiana); and an aqua quart #2729 Star Glass Co. / New Albany, Ind.

Joe Coulson displayed a light aqua quart #641 Columbia (glass screw cap: Patented / Columbia / Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> 1896) with a paper label for Hammond's Lambs' Tongues (The G.H.Hammond Co., Hammond, Indiana).

Lou Ebert shared a clear pint (unlisted) Presto Glass Top (reverse, heel: Manufactured by Illinois Glass Co.) (right side, heel: W89X) (base: I in diamond, S-ER in valve mark, mold number 1) (neck: WIRE SIDE). This jar is a square shape, smooth lip, Lightning dimple neck seal. The jar was made in Illinois Glass Co.'s Thompson plant in Gas City, Indiana circa 1913–1929.

Lou also shared an ink bottle, embossed just below the shoulder in two lines "Chas. M. Higgins & Co. New York".

## Show and Tell, cont'd

The bottle has a damaged partial label for Higgins Eternal Ink. The bottle and label is of the same style as circa 1910 Higgins ink bottles illustrated in Tom Caniff's Fruit Jar Rambles in the October 2009 issue of *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector*.

Dick Cole displayed a picture from Minnetrista a Dunkirk glass factory tools.

Dick also displayed a light green #206 Ball Ideal Pat'd July 14, 1908. Dick explained that the patent date referred to

the glass "dimples" where the bail wire attached to the jar. A "tie wire" style was used before the glass dimples were invented. Sometimes you may see a tie wire closure on a jar with the patent date. This may have occurred when older machines were sent to other plant sites for occasional usage.

Dick shared some interesting information about the Owens machine license. The license required the manufacturer to keep track of what was made due to royalty payments.

Ball had to keep books.

These books made their way to Minnetrista. They are not always simple to read, because someone would have to decipher the codes used. Dick read the details on a bookkeeping sheet from 1928. Within a period of 10 days Ball made "lug pint" and "Ideal neck wire" jars! The "lug pint" probably refers to dimples, and the "Ideal neck wire" probably refers to tie wire. It is very unusual that this kind of information has survived!



Light green quart Ball Ideal Pat'd July 14, 1908 glass "dimple" on neck

## Men vs. Women—Collecting Fruit Jars

Roll call that evening at the Homemaker's Club was, "What does your husband do for a hobby?" After hearing several responses of fishing, golfing, hunting, even going to bars, the president asked me what my husband did. I was a guest at this meeting, and I didn't know very many of the women. My response was "He collects Fruit Jars." The expression on some of the faces was rather comical, and one lady, with a shocked expression, exclaimed "He does WHAT?"

Having heard this question from women before, I was ready with my answer: "There are more men who collect fruit jars than women." Women remember planting a garden, hoeing weeds, gathering the fruits of her labor and then "canning, preserving, putting up, etc." in those cans / jars. And usually the names familiar to them are Ball, Mason, Kerr, Atlas, etc. Therefore, most collectors of fruit jars are of the male specie, and they are very

dedicated about their collections.

I did not go on to say this: what the men look for are color of glass, perfection of the jar, size, how it was sealed, and who made it. Some even look for imperfections in the glass and of course the rarity of the jar. A RARE jar was one that very few were made, and very few were made because they did not work well, or they did not seal well, or the closure was very difficult to use. In fact, on the R.M. Dalbey jar the closure had nine different parts to it. Norm often remarked "imagine a woman canning hot tomatoes, trying to get the closure on that jar." In fact, one day Norm and Alex Kerr tried putting the closure on a jar we had, and it took both of them to get it on, and the jar didn't have hot tomatoes in it! In the 1970's and 80's Rare jars were easier to be found, and the prices were reasonable; however, jar collecting caught on and now the prices have soared.

The Rare jars are either in a well-known collector's possession or perhaps have not been discovered yet.

After jar collectors have started their collections they often change their direction, because they have seen something different and more interesting than what they were collecting. For instance, Norman started his collection by purchasing everything from pint, quart and half gallon that had the same name, and our shed was running over. Then after seeing Roger Emery of Hagerstown, Indiana and Roy Brown of Danville, Illinois (now of Grayson, Kentucky) and the type of jars they had on their sales table, Norm started collecting jars with names we seldom saw in our area and also some colored jars. After having a very nice collection, he changed again, or rather added to, and began collecting jars with RARE closures.

—Junne Barnett



Chas. M. Higgins ink bottle  
"Higgins Eternal Ink"

### Show and Tell Pictures



Light aqua quart  
Columbia w/ label for  
Hammond's Lambs' Tongues



Greenish aqua HG  
Boldt Mason Jar



Aqua quart  
Star Glass Co.  
New Albany, Ind.



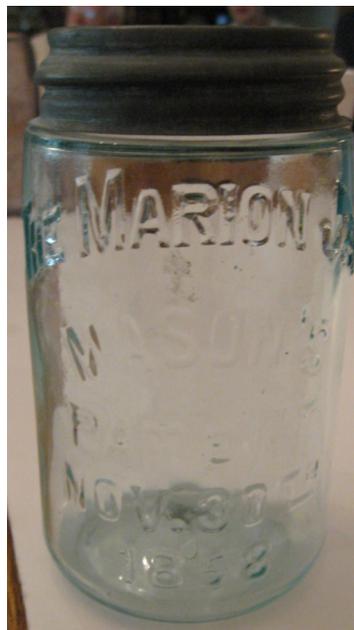
Amethyst quart  
Red (over Key)  
Mason's Patent  
Nov 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858



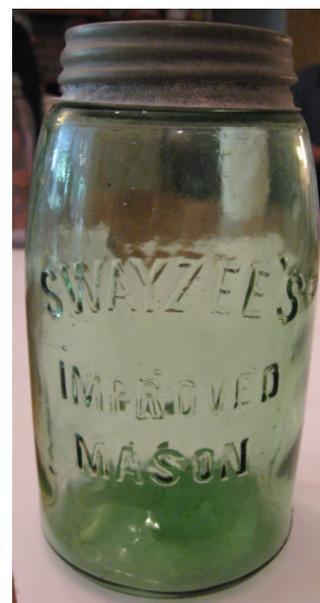
Aqua quart  
Root Mason



Ball blue pint  
Ball (italic) Perfect Mason



Light aqua pint  
The Marion Jar  
Mason's Patent Nov 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858



Green quart  
Swayzee's Improved Mason

### Show and Tell Pictures, cont'd



Amber quart  
The Leader



Aqua pint  
Safety



Clear solid pour quart jar!  
Model Mason



Clear quart  
Model Mason



Clear pint  
Presto Glass Top  
Manufactured by Illinois Glass Co.  
W89X

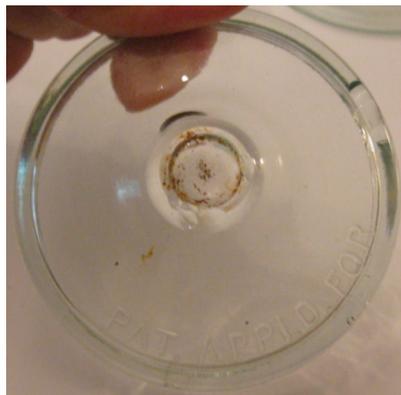
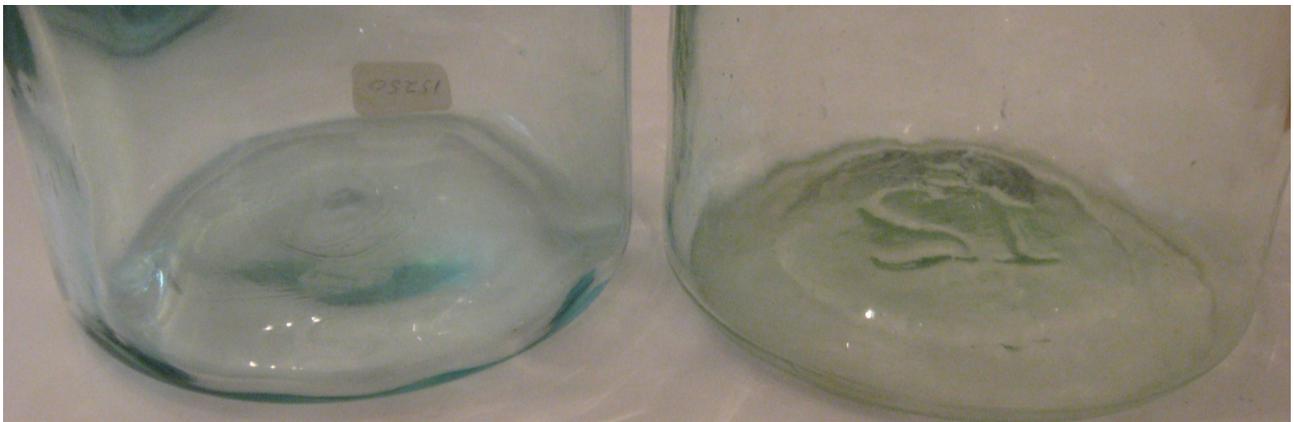


Light green quart Boyd (italic) Perfect Mason, and  
Light green quart Ball (italic) Perfect Mason



Clear quart  
Speas U-Sav-It Pitcher

Pictures of rare machine-made GLOBE quart jar (left)



# **MAFJ&BC**

## **January 9, 2011 Show & Sale**

### **Muncie, Indiana**

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The Show and Sale on Sunday, January 9, 2011 will be the culmination of several days of fruit jar-related happenings. Some people will start arriving at the Signature Inn, 3400 N. Chadam Lane, Muncie (765-284-4200) as early as Thursday to get their rooms set up and start room-hopping. If you haven't been room-hopping, you don't know what you have missed. Dealers set their jars up in their rooms and you can hop from room to room in the motel, looking for that special find. Thursday and Friday nights will be the prime time for action in the rooms. You must make your reservations by December 9 to get a room. The Fruit Jar Get-Together and Auction also will be held at the Signature Inn.

### **Events**

#### **Saturday, January 8, 2011**

##### **JELLY JAMMERS MEETING**

At 10:00am in the Conference Room on the second floor of the Signature Inn. Buy, sell and show jelly jars and related items. Everyone is welcome.

##### **FRUIT JAR GET-TOGETHER**

At 1:30pm in the Conference Room on the second floor of the Signature Inn. Collectors from all over the United States and Canada show off their latest finds, and put jars up for auction.

##### **FRUIT JAR AUCTION**

Immediately following the Get-Together, the jars put up for auction will be sold off to the highest bidder. Here's a chance to find some jars that you won't find on a table the next day.

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT  
JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

*A jarrific place to share and learn*

Send articles and info here:

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG

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Jean Harbron shared some rhubarb conserve that she had preserved earlier in the year. It was very delicious! The recipe came from an old canning booklet.

## Announcements

- Some details can be found on Speas vinegar jars at this website: <http://www.angelfire.com/nc2/jars/WELCOME.html>
- Our club is a member and supporter of the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (the national bottle club). They have a website: <http://www.fohbc.com>
- The Ball Jar Collectors Community Center (BJCCC) is located at this site: <http://balljarcollectorscommunitycenter.yuku.com/>

