

Midwest Glass Chatter,
December 2005

Club Officers

- *Norman Barnett, Pres.*
P.O. Box 38
Flat Rock, IN 47234
812-587-5560
- *Dave Rittenhouse, V.P.*
1008 CR 900 W.
Farmland, IN 47340
- *Richard Cole, Treas.*
2904 W. Moore Rd.
Muncie, IN 47304
- *Joe Coulson, Sec.*
10515 Collingswood Ln.
Fishers, IN 46038

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: Junne Barnett, P.O. Box 38, Flat Rock, IN 47234.

Next Club Show

January 8, 2006

See you there! The hotel's phone number is 765-741-7777

Club Meeting Minutes for December 4, 2005

The December meeting was held at Minnetrista in Muncie. President Norm Barnett opened the meeting and welcomed seventeen members. The November meeting minutes were accepted as reported and placed in the Secretary's book.

Dick Cole presented the treasurer's report, and it was accepted and placed in the Secretary's book. Everyone needs to get their membership dues for 2006 sent to Junne as soon as possible (if you have not already done so).

Dave Rittenhouse suggested that the club should allow irradiated jars to be sold at our club shows. Dave has seen these items for sale at other bottle shows. Some people find these colors interesting. A vote was taken and the motion approved to allow these items for sale. The club will continue to have an educational display to let new collectors know that these jars were enhanced after their original production.

There will be no change in club officers for 2006. The nominating committee determined that the candidates were the same for each of the positions, so the current officers were voted on and re-elected.

Dick Cole presented the

idea that the club could produce a computer CD with all of the available electronic versions of the club newsletter on it (the computer version is in color!). A membership directory (names and addresses) could also be placed on the CD. Another idea is that we could include photographs taken during the year at our club shows. Dick has volunteered to coordinate this task. If you have more ideas on what to put on the club CD then please contact him.

Kay Rittenhouse volunteered to look for places to do free advertising for our January Show. Dick Cole made show flyers available to everyone, so that they could be handed out or posted at various places.

There will not be a club meeting in January. Instead we will have the Fruit Jar Get-

Together in association with the January Show. The get-together is at 1:30pm in the Ballroom of the Hotel Roberts (bring an item to share and don't forget there is an auction afterwards!). The Jelly Jammers meeting is also that same day at 10:00am in the Ballroom.

The next club meeting will be held February 5th at Minnetrista in the Cantina room at 1:30pm. The theme for show and tell will be jars and items that start with the letters U and V.

Everyone had plenty of food to eat at our Christmas Dinner. Lots of fun was had during the "dirty" bingo too!

See you all at the January Show.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Coulson, Secretary

Beautiful poinsettias and lots of delicious food at our holiday dinner!



Show and Tell Session

We didn't have an officially planned show and tell session for our Christmas Dinner club meeting. Everyone in attendance did bring a an appetite and did what fruit jar people do best: talk about jars and eat.

Joe Coulson brought a

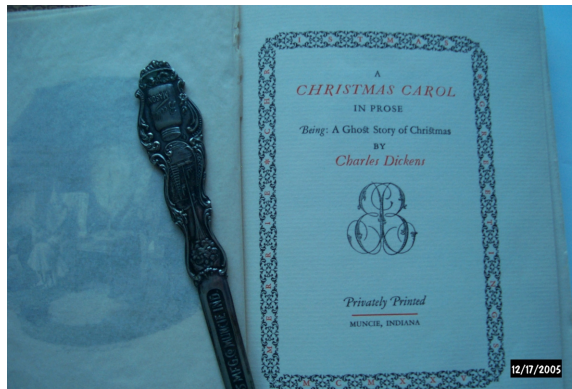
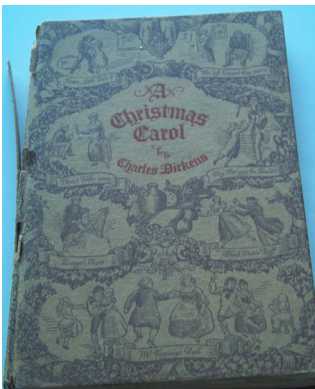
couple examples of the so-called "Christmas" Mason. Dick Cole mentioned that the jar gets its name because of the Gothic style lettering. Both of Joe's jars had the Sun, Moon, Star embossed closures. These jars can be found in the Red Book under num-

bers 1780 to 1782.

Joe also brought a copy of the book "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. This book is special because it was privately printed for the Ball Bros., copyright 1925. Dick Cole indicated that this book was most likely given to em-

ployees at the holiday time.

Charles Williams brought a full carton of the new squat Ball wide-mouth half pint jars. Charles purchased his jars at the local Wal-Mart store. The November 2005 Fruit Jar News has a nice article on this jar.



The Elusive Tigner Jars

Xenia, Ind. was located on the Chicago, Ill. to Columbus, Oh. route of the Pennsylvania R.R. and Xenia, Oh. was located on the Cincinnati, Oh. to Columbus, Oh. route of the Pennsylvania R.R. In the early 1890s the railroad was having trouble with freight being misdirected to the wrong Xenia. The railroad threatened to move its station in Xenia, Miami County, Ind., 1/2 mile across the county line into Grant County, Ind. unless the town board agreed to change the town's name to Converse. After deliberating for some time the name was changed to Converse effective August 1, 1892.

In 1889 Lewis Edward Tigner (commonly called L.E. or Ed) and his brother

Charles M. Tigner came to Grant County when Fairmount Glass Co. was started. In April 1891 when Dillon Glass Co., also located in Fairmount, Ind., went into operation Charles M. Tigner was Superintendent and L.E. Tigner was Assistant Superintendent of the new firm.

The June 11, 1891 issue of The Xenia Journal, Xenia, Ind., reported that the Xenia Real Estate Co. had closed its deal for the location of the Tigner Glass Co. The factory was to be located in the Grant County portion of what is now Converse. The newspaper stated that L.E. Tigner, one of the proprietors, was to design and see to the building of the factory and would be factory manager.

None of the area newspapers listed the names of any stockholders, officers or anyone else involved in the Tigner company. These papers never reported of the company having filed papers of incorporation with the Secretary of State of Indiana or with the Grant County Recorder, as was common practice. A search of the index cards of companies in the Indiana State Archives did not turn up anything pertaining to the Tiger Glass Co.

The Xenia Journal on July 16, 1891 announced that a specialty would be made of glass kerosene cans and that a contract had been placed for 200 dozen per day during the season. The construction of the factory had barely begun at that time.

Delays were encountered in the building of the factory and it was not yet in operation when it was sold to William Feighner and Dr. J.H. Forrest, both of Marion, Ind., in mid-December of 1891. L.E. Tigner was retained as manager of the factory. The product was to be fruit jars, oil cans, etc.

At the time of the sale Messrs. Feighner and Forrest owned the Peerless Manufacturing Co. in Marion. One of their products was the tin jacketed Standard oil can. This company was only a stamping works and did not make any glass.

The Tigner Glass Co. and the Peerless Manufacturing Co. were combined to form Peerless Stamping and

The Elusive Tigner Jars, cont'd

Glass Co. in late December of 1891 when the new firm was capitalized at \$20,000. The stockholders were listed as Dr. J.H. Forrest, Wm. Feighner, W.Q. Stephenson, Wilson Addington and J.A. Gauntt. The only mention of L.E. Tigner was that he would continue as Superintendent.

Blowing began on January 9, 1892 starting on Mason quart and half gallon jars. The honor of blowing the first jar was accorded to Miss Bessie Tigner, the daughter of L.E. Tigner. Apparently the molds for the Tigner jars had been made and were on hand, so they were used although the name of the company was no longer Tigner Glass Co.

Although the jars are base embossed Tigner G. Co. the Tigner Glass Company never produced any ware be-

fore it was bought out. How long Peerless continued to make jars marked Tigner is unknown.

On January 19, 1892 L.E. Tigner resigned his position as Superintendent with Peerless Glass and Stamping Co., it was said that a matter of compensation was the reason. By March he had returned to the Dillon Glass Co. in Fairmount where he worked as a blower. Mid June 1892 saw him in Greenfield, Ind. where he served the first of two stints as manager of the Hollweg & Reese factory.

As a result of the annual stockholders meeting of the Peerless Stamping and Glass Co. in December 1894, the company petitioned in Grant County Circuit Court, in 1895, to allow a name change. The petition was granted and

the firm became the Peerless Glass Company.

On February 26, 1896 Peerless Glass Co. was sold to Edmond B. Ball on behalf of the Indiana Fruit Jar Sales Association (a.k.a. Western Fruit Jar Combine). The factory was then shutdown with the molds, grinder and other equipment and material being shipped to other factories of the association.

The Indiana Fruit Jar Sales Association was formed to control the price and sale of fruit jars and was composed of Ball Brothers Glass Manufacturing Co. of Muncie, Ind. and Marion Fruit Jar and Bottle Co. headquartered in Marion, Ind., said to be the two largest producers of fruit jars, along with Swayzee Glass Co. of Swayzee, Ind. and Giles-Clough Co. of Redkey,

Ind. Peerless Glass Co. was not a member of the association and was bought out and shutdown to eliminate its competition. This may have been the first case of Ball Bros. buying out and shutting down its competition.

In 1898 Ball sold the factory which was then fitted up as a window glass operation. In the following years it was William L. Sharp Glass Co., 1898–1900; The Phoenix Window Glass Co., 1900–1902; Rodefer Window Glass Co., 1902–1903; Magnet Glass & Oil Co., 1903–1905; and finally Miami Window Glass Co., 1906.

Louis E. Ebert

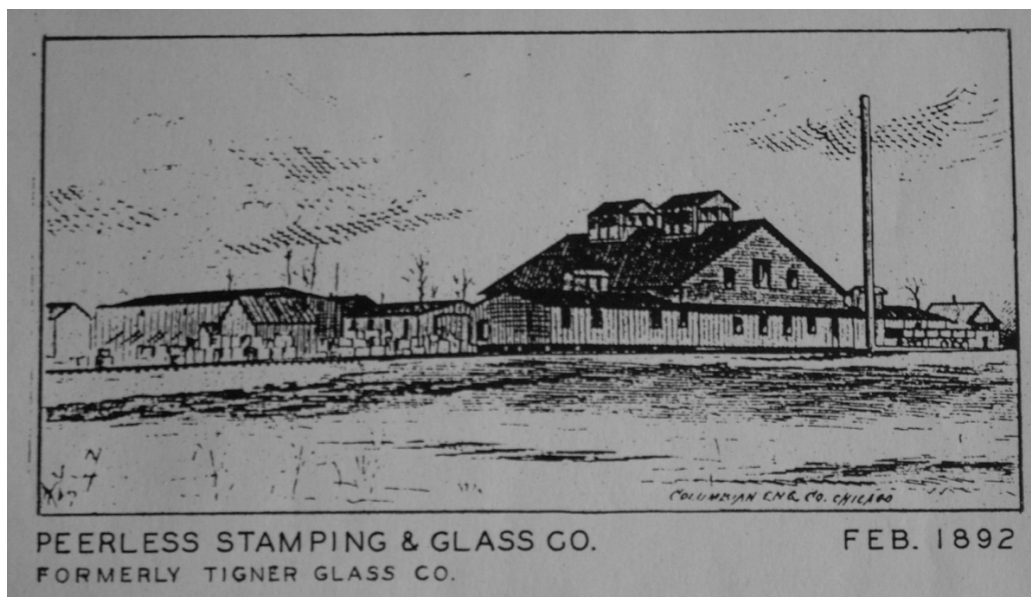
Sources:

1. Indiana Glass Factories Notes, by Dick Roller, c1994.
2. Various Grant County, Ind. and area newspapers, 1889 - 1906.

Fruit jars produced by the Peerless Stamping and Glass Co.:



Red Book #1898 MASON'S PATENT NOV. 30TH 1858 (Base embossed TIGNER G. CO.-XENIA, IND.-). Hand blown, ground lip jars in quart and half gallon sizes.



MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT
JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

A jarrific place to share and learn

Send articles and info here:
Joe Coulson, Editor
10515 Collingswood Ln.
Fishers, IN 46037-9598
Email: jcoulson@leaderjar.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG

**Next club meeting will be
replaced by our January
7th Fruit Jar Get-Together
at Hotel Roberts!!**

Announcements

- Doug Leybourne has begun working in earnest on Red Book 10. Many collectors rely on the numbering system in this book to catalog their collections. Doug intends to have the new edition published this Fall. If you have suggestions or information for the new edition then please contact him soon: Douglas Leybourne, P.O. Box 5417, North Muskegon, MI 49445.
- Glennie Burkett is home from the hospital and continues to make progress after her heart valve surgery. Keep Glennie and Don in your thoughts and prayers. They won't be able to make it to the January Show, and we will miss them a whole bunch!
- It's time for everyone to renew their club membership for 2006. Please send your \$15 dues to: Junne Barnett, P.O. Box 38, Flat Rock, IN 47234 (make checks payable to "MAFJBC").

