

MIDWEST GLASS CHATTER

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter
December 2011

Club Officers

- *Dave Rittenhouse, Pres.*
1008 CR 900 W.
Farmland, IN 47340
765-468-8091
- *Richard Cole, Vice Pres./Lib*
2904 W. Moore Rd.
Muncie, IN 47304
765-288-8717
- *Anne Szopa, Treas./M.C.*
11199 U.S. Highway 35
Economy, IN 47339
765-886-6198
- *Joe Coulson, Sec./Editor*
10515 Collingswood Ln.
Fishers, IN 46037
317-385-0956

An Index to the Club Lending Library is available online. Please contact Dick Cole about items which you would like to check out.

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, December 4th, 2011

The December club meeting was held at Minnetrista in Muncie, Indiana. Club president Dave Rittenhouse opened the meeting and welcomed 14 members.

Dave gave the Treasurer's report on behalf of Anne Szopa. There was income from one dues renewal. The club continues to maintain a positive bank account balance.

Dave said that he has received 20 contracts from dealers for the January Show so far. This is a good pace this early. We will have Show ads in Antique Weekly, Bottles & Extras, and Antique Bottle & Glass Collector.

Dave indicated that the nominating committee for

club officers has determined that we will have the same officers for 2012 with the exception of Treasurer. Anne has decided not to run for this office again. The 2012 roster was voted on and approved. Dave will find someone to fill the Treasurer position.

Dick Cole donated a copy of "A Christmas Carol" to the club Library. This edition was privately printed for Ball Brothers in 1926. Dick shared an urban legend about this book:

Ball used to give away hams at Christmas. One of the executives went to the Trading Post (a saloon across from Ball on Macedonia Ave.) on Christ-



mas Eve afternoon. He saw lots of hams on the bar. He was told that Ball employees brought the hams in and traded them for booze. The following year Ball gave away the book instead of a ham. Dick shot this story down by pointing out that Prohibition started in 1924.

See you all at the January Show.

Joe Coulson, Secretary



Gingerbread buildings and a Christmas tree in the Minnetrista lobby

Annual Christmas Pitch-In Dinner Pictures



Lots of good food ready to be eaten



Table of packages to be opened during "Dirty" Santa exchange



Buffalo Mineral Water



"Take a walk on the Wild side" funny gag gift that was placed inside a fruit jar!



Fake fireplace in the Cantina room



One of the most "stolen" gifts



We had a very good turn out of members at the pitch-in dinner



Christmas tree in the Cantina where we had our meeting

Visiting with Jar Friends by Joe Coulson

In September I took a wonderful vacation out West with my long-time friend Jim Durr. It was a trip of several Firsts for me. I had never been on a driving vacation this long (a total of 14 days and 7,000+ miles and 10 states); I had never seen the sights of the West (other than within the confines of a few major cities like Las Vegas and Phoenix); and I had never been to any of

the National Parks, which was the primary purpose of this trip. I had made arrangements ahead of time to visit with some jar collector friends along the way, and I am sharing a few photos of those visits here. One of Jim's hobbies is photography, and he gets credit for taking these photos.

We were able to visit Larry and Hazel Munson on

September 15th, which was near the beginning of the trip. Larry lives within a couple of hours of Glacier National Park. Larry has a full basement where he keeps part of his collection. He also has a completely separate "jar house" where the remainder of his large collection is on display. He has over 6,000 jars in his collection. I don't know of any jar collection that comes

close to that size. Larry also has two real 1890s train cars on his property. Hazel keeps her Christmas collection in the train cars. Larry and Hazel are super nice people, and they really loved sharing their collections. There was no way I could see every jar that Larry owns in one short trip, so I am planning to go back and visit again sometime.



Larry, Joe and Hazel



Larry had this wonderful sign made for Hazel



A peek at some of the Christmas items on display



One of the two real 1890s train cars of Hazel's Christmas Express

Visiting with Jar Friends, cont'd



Turn of the century die-cut manger scene



Just a few of the many lovely Santa Claus figures on display



A glimpse of a portion of the full basement in their main house



On our way to the separate "Jar House" (it was nearly full!)



The main room of the jar house—there were several rooms!



One of several great display cases in the jar house

Visiting with Jar Friends, cont'd

We visited Jeff and Mary Harper on the return trip. Jeff has the biggest and most complete Ball jar collection in existence. He has about 2,100 jars total and nearly every variation of jar that Ball ever made. Most of the collection is on display at their home in Houston. They recently remodeled several rooms and had very nice shelving built just for the

collection. Jeff and Mary also have a lake home about an hour away. We graciously accepted their offer to let us stay the night there. More Ball jars were on display at their lake home. The lake property also has alligator visitors! We got to see one slowly creeping along while we were there. Once again, I didn't have time to properly see all of the jars,

but we had a lot of fun in the short time we were there. Mary gave us a great golf cart adventure tour of the whole lake community. I hope to be back again to discuss the finer points of Ball jars and their history and have more fun.

The national parks that Jim and I visited included Mount Rushmore, Black Hills

of South Dakota, Yellowstone, Glacier, Salt Lake, Mount Zion, Bryce, Grand Canyon (north and south rim), and Carlsbad Caverns. Wow, that was a jam packed vacation with some fruit jar fun added in. I really enjoyed the parks and the wildlife and mountains and wide open space and skies. I hope to do something like this again in the future.



Jeff proudly standing next to some of his "better" jars that he keeps next to him in his home office. The complete lineup of Ball Perfection jars and closures on the lower shelf is super.



The new Ball jar "gallery" in their Houston home.



A "student" of Ball jars lost in deep thought

Visiting with Jar Friends, cont'd



An original sign from the Ball Stores building



Very nice Ball Jars neon sign



Mary collects "pain relief" bottles



Mary and recently adopted LBK— "Little Blind Kitten"



Ball "special run" jars at the lake home



Mary has created an alligator theme at the lake home



A real live alligator swimming near the dock!



Show Headquarters—Signature Inn

Room Hopping

Jelly Jammers—Saturday, January 7, 2012—10 am

Fruit Jar Get-Together & Auction—Saturday, January 7, 2012—1:30 pm

Make your own reservations with the hotel—765-284-4200

Show Location—Horizon Convention Center

Admission \$2

Ample Space—Dealer tables still available

Fantastic lighting

Show Chairman—David Rittenhouse

1008 S 900 W

Farmland, IN 47340

765-468-8091

Show Information—Dick Cole

765-288-8717



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JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

A jarrific place to share and learn

Send articles and info here:

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG



Mike Mosier ended up with this popular gift which traded hands several times. The bowl was a give-away (compliments of Anchor Hocking Glass Co.) at the 100th National Convention of the American Flint Glass Workers Union. It just so happens that Mike was a member of this organization at one time. The front and reverse of the bowl are shown in the two pictures above.

Announcements

- Our annual Winter Show is coming up very soon. Saturday, January 7th is the Fruit Jar Get-Together & Auction at The Signature Inn (ph. 765-284-4200). Sunday, January 8th is the Jar Show (9am to 2pm) at the Horizon Convention Center in Muncie, Indiana.
- North American Glass holds fine quality fruit jar auctions. Recent auctions have featured fabulous jars from the collection of Bill Dudley. Check out the website for more details. <http://www.gregspurgeon.com/auction/>
- The Circle City Antique Bottle Club has well-attended monthly meetings on the west side of Indianapolis. You might consider stopping in sometime and saying "hello." Contact Martin Van Zant for more details: mdvanzant@yahoo.com
- The Jelly Jammers now have a website called the "Jelly Jammers Cupboard": <http://www.jellyjammers.com/>

