Meeting Minutes February 4, 2007

The February meeting was held at Minnetrista in the Cantina room in Muncie. President Dave Rittenhouse opened the meeting and welcomed thirteen members. The January get-together minutes were accepted as reported in the Glass Chatter last month. The meeting minutes were placed in the Secretary's book.

Dick Cole gave the February treasurer's report which was accepted and placed in the Secretary's book. We made approximately $600 after deducting expenses for the January Show.

Several members thanked Norm & Junne Barnett and Dave & Kay Rittenhouse for successfully organizing the January Show. We were faced with many changes due to our usual hotel not being available. The consensus was that The Signature Inn provided a more close-knit feeling among attendees, since all the attendees’ rooms were located on the first floor. The lighting in the rooms could have been a little better, but this is not unusual for hotel rooms (and typical lack of natural light in the winter). The hotel went out of their way to open the Continental breakfast earlier on Sunday just for our group.

We received good coverage of the show in the local newspaper. There was a nice article about Phil’s Museum.

Dave confirmed that our club meetings will continue to be the first Sunday of the month throughout this year. Dick Cole has graciously helped us secure the Cantina room at Minnetrista as our meeting location.

The July Show will once again make use of The Signature Inn for accommodations. The hotel's 46 first floor rooms will be blocked until 30 days before the show. Please consider making your reservations early (765-284-4200).

Once again there were many good refreshments brought to the meeting by club members. It was especially filling this time, since Kay brought Church dinner leftovers for us to eat!

The March 4th meeting will be at Minnetrista—for this meeting bring a post WWII Ball jar, and Dick Cole will help identify what year and where it was manufactured.

See you all at the February meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary

Midwest Glass Chatter
February 2007

Club Officers

- Dave Rittenhouse, Pres.
  1008 CR 900 W.
  Farmland, IN  47340
  765-468-8091
- Jean Harbron, V.P.
  245 E. Oak St.
  Anderson, IN  46012
  765-644-4333
- Richard Cole, Tres.
  2904 W. Moore Rd.
  Muncie, IN  47304
- Joe Coulson, Sec.
  10515 Collingswood Ln.
  Fishers, IN  46037
- Norman Barnett, Pres. Emeritus
  P.O. Box 38
  Flat Rock, IN  47234
  812-587-5560

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 MAJFBC, Attn: Joe Coulson, 10515 Collingswood Ln, Fishers, IN 46037

Next Club Show

July 8, 2007

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

Tom Sproat brought this advertising trade card to our February club meeting. Ball was a large producer of Oil Cans.
Show and Tell

The theme for Show and Tell this time around was something that you purchased at the January Show, or a bottle or jar from your birth state or the state of one of your relatives.

Anne Szopa shared a clear QT (rounded square shape) #1317-5 Iris Coffee, Haas, Bartuch & Co. (on base), made circa 1940s by Owens Illinois; an unlisted clear QT (rounded square shape) Quality Supreme (label space) Always Fresh (on front), Perfection in Food Products / Preferred Stock / Remember our Colors / Red—Gold—White / General Grocery Company, Inc. / Manufacturers, Portland, Ore. (on reverse); and an unlisted clear PT product jar, ground lip, glass lid and lid is rayed (Mason Improved style closure).

Sue Wilson displayed a Ball blue PT #317-2 Ball (script, dropped ‘a’) Sure Seal (Sanitary is peened out). This jar also seemed to have an unusual shape and was made on an earlier Owens machine.

Colleen Dixon showed a clear PT #525 Geo. D. Brown & Co. (on shoulder), ground glass lid & 3-position metal clamp, lid embossed Thomas Patent July 1882; an aqua QT #2565 Schram Automatic Sealer (script), metal lid embossed Schram Bottle Cap Patd. 1901 & 3 Mfg. For Gowens Kent Co. Toronto; a clear PT #2885 Seal Pat. Feb. 24 1914 Victor Jar Co. Detroit, Mich. (all on lid), with repro metal clips made by our own Phil Robinson; and a clear HP jelly glass with glass screw cap.

Marty Troxell brought two show purchases to share with everyone. The first was a green midget PT #1941 Mason’s Patent Nov. 30 1858 (reverse: cross). The second was a wonderful yellow amber #1900 Mason’s Patent Nov. 30 1858 (base: W.C.D.).

Lou Ebert shared several items from his hometown area of Grant County, Ind. The first item was a wooden shipping box for fruit jars (number 32 on Dick Roller’s list): Mason Fruit Jars [in red] Manfd. By The Safe Glass Co Upland, Ind. One Doz. Quarts [in black]. Circa late 1898 to early 1905. When John S. Giles relocated from Red Key, Ind. to Upland, Ind. in late 1897, he operated his factories as J.S. Giles, with production starting in late Jan. 1898. The Safe Glass Co. was incorporated Nov. 22, 1898 by John S. Giles and others and lasted until 1905.

Lou’s second jar was one which he had mistaken for a ghosted The Marion Jar Mason’s Patent Nov. 30 1858. It was in fact a #1787 (picture on page 4). Ground lip, shoulder seal, HG, in a beautiful blue-green (Differences from a Marion Jar: note the wide M and small apostrophe in MASON’S. Also the long underline to the TH and the number one without a serif at the top in the 1858).

Lou’s next item was a very light aqua (almost clear with a slight aqua tint) HG #1624 The Marion Jar Mason’s Patent Nov. 30 1858, ground lip, shoulder seal. The extremely unusual feature of this jar is the 1 1/8” valve mark on the base. This is the only jar that Lou has seen with a valve mark. Originally all fruit jars made by Marion Fruit Jar and Bottle Co. were hand blown. Reportedly they had experimented with a blowing machine in Aug. 1897. In the Fall of 1899 for the 1899—1900 season they began installing the press and blow machine developed by Charles E. Blue—also called the Atlas or Beatty-Brady machine. In mid-1902 they were operating 36 shops on machine-made fruit jars in their factories. Indications are that a new type of machine may have been installed in 1903 or in 1904 before they sold out to Ball Bros.

Lou also shared a salesman’s sample of the patented Smith oil can, 5 oz. capacity. In the Fall of 1891 the Smith Manufacturing Company relocated from Canton, Ohio to Marion, Ind. Apparently they had been obtaining their glass bodies from Canton Glass Co. while Canton Glass Co. was still in Canton, Ohio. Smith built their new Marion factory just north of the Canton Glass Co. factory. By Feb. 1894 Canton Glass Co. had taken over the oil can factory.

Lou shared photocopies of the original contract and the certificate of incorporation for the Thompsons’ Glass Company, Gas City, Ind. and a rubbing of the HG #1920 Mason’s CFJCo Patent Nov.
Show and Tell, cont’d

Tom Sproat displayed several show purchases. These included an aqua QT unmarked jar that was mouth blown into a mould, many seams, tooled lip, Civil War era; a dark aqua QT #600 Patent June 9, 1863 Cin. O. (on original lid); a very nice condition one gallon Dandy oil can; and a Dandy advertising trade card.

Tom also showed two special clear drugstore bottles from his hometown area, Chillicothe, Ohio. Several generations of his family are from there. In the early days there were three drugstores in Chillicothe. People would walk to the closest drugstore. Correspondingly marked bottles turn up in neighborhoods closest to the respective drugstore! The very interesting thing is the first bottle "J & F Sproat" was related to Tom’s Dad’s grandfather! And the second bottle “F. Sproat” was from another generation as well!

Phil Robinson displayed an aqua HG Potter & Bodine’s Air-Tight, and a dark green QT Mason’s Patent Nov 30 1858 (upper part of first 8 is filled, and upper and lower part of second 8 is completely filled); a clear 1 liter commemorative glass plate ‘Elwood Indiana Glass Festival 1974’ (with picture of glass blower). Joe said he bought quite a few more Indiana items at the January show.

Dave Rittenhouse shared an amber HG #1465 The Leader (on one line, a scarce variation in this size). Dave acquired this jar by doing a lot of jar cleaning work for a fellow collector.

Norm Barnett showed us the only known example of the Star jar (clear QT, #2725). The closure on this jar is identical to The Leader jar and was most likely made by the same company.

The Thompson Contract

Tax abatements and write-offs offered by governmental bodies to induce businesses to expand or locate in their jurisdictions has not always been the norm. In the past the inducements of money, free land, gas, water, etc. were offered by land developers, commercial clubs, chambers of commerce, civic organizations, etc.

A typical example is the Thompson contract which is a portion of the material in the Thompson Family Collection donated by members of the family to the Marion Public Library Museum in Marion, Indiana.

John L. Thompson was a large Grant County, Indiana landowner and farmer specializing in importing and raising Shropshire sheep. Oscar S. Thompson was one of the sons of John L. Thompson. The Gas City Land Company, which was incorporated March 21, 1892, purchased and platted hundreds of acres of farm land in Grant County and induced factories to locate in their new town of Gas City, Indiana. The land company was separate from the Gas City governing body.

The glass factory formed by John L. and Oscar S. Thompson was incorporated on March 7, 1893 as Thompsons’ (plural possessive) Glass
The Thompson Contract, cont’d

Company. The original certificate of incorporation is on display in the Marion Public Library Museum.

In November of 1897 Thompson Bottle Company was incorporated. This was a reorganization of Thompson’s Glass Company. In September of 1913 Illinois Glass Company and Thompson Bottle Company merged. The Gas City factory became known as Illinois Glass Company, Thompson plant. In March of 1929 the Owens Bottle Company and Illinois Glass Company merged to form Owens-Illinois Glass Company. The Gas City facility became plant number 12. Production of all glassware came to an end in December of 1982.

–Written by Louis E. Ebert, January 2007

Copy of the Thompson Contract wording:

This contract made and concluded this 23d day of May 1892, by and between John L. Thompson and Oscar S. Thompson, parties of the first part, and The Gas City Land Company party of the second part, Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the covenants and agreements hereinafter contained, said first parties hereby contract, bind their executors, heirs and assigns to construct a factory for the manufacture of fruit jars of a capacity calling for one hundred (100) employees upon the following described real estate situated in Grant County, Indiana, to wit: Five (5) acres out of the southeast corner of the southeast quarter of section Thirty-three (33) Township Twenty-three (23) North, Range Eight (8), East, being and lying east of the right away of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis Railway as the same is now located and constructed over and across said southeast quarter. Said factory to be fully completed and employ regularly, one hundred (100) employees on or before November 1st 1892. In consideration of which said second party agrees to convey by deed of general warranty to said first party the real estate above described, within thirty (30) days after said factory shall have been in operation and employing one hundred (100) employees, with express understanding that said first parties shall not convey any part of the above described real estate for other than factory purposes, for and during a term of three (3) years from Nov. 1st 1892. Second: said second parties are to transfer to said first parties from eighty to one hundred sixty acres of gas leases on or before Nov. 1st 1892. Third: said second parties agree to pay to said first parties the sum of Five Thousand Dollars ($5000); payments to be made as follows: one fourth (1/4) when buildings are constructed; one fourth (1/4) when said first parties begin operations, under the conditions herein contained; one fourth (1/4) when they shall have been in operation thirty (30) days employing daily not less than one hundred employees and the remainder within thirty (30) days thereafter. Fourth, to construct for the exclusive use of said first parties one (1) gas well on the above described premises.

Executed in duplicate at Gas City Indiana, this 23d day of May 1892.

Oscar S. Thompson
The Gas City Land Company
By H.I. Miller, President
Attest, L.C. Boyd, Secretary

Lou Ebert displayed
The Marion Jar,
Mason’s Patent
Nov. 30th 1858,
Illinois Glass Co.
paperweight, and
salesman’s sample
oil can
Pictures from our Show and Tell

Anne Szopa brought this Iris Coffee jar, Quality Supreme coffee jar, and a clear pint product jar with fancy rayed lid.

Colleen Dixon’s Schram Automatic Sealer, Victor, Geo. D. Brown, and jelly glass with glass screw cap.

Phil Robinson’s Ball Bros. “Thrifty” pressure canner.

Tom Sproat’s Hemingray jar and early mouth blown jar.

Joe Coulson’s The Ball Jar Mason’s Patent Nov 30th 1858 with filled in numbers.

Joe Coulson’s glass plate ‘Elwood Indiana Glass Festival 1974’.

Tom Sproat’s wonderful family related drugstore bottles!

Dave Rittenhouse’s The Leader next to Norm Barnett’s Star jar.

Tom Sproat’s Dandy kerosene oil can.

Phil Robinson’s scarce Redkey oil can that needs repair.
Announcements

- The March 4th club meeting will be at Minnetrista at 1:30pm in the Cantina. Bring a post WWII Ball jar, and Dick Cole will help identify what year and where it was manufactured. For directions or more information, email Dick Cole: dcole@minnetrista.net

- The new Ball Jar Collector’s Community Center website can be located at: http://p067.ezboard.com/bballjarcollectorscommunitycenter

- The FOHBC 2007 National show will be in Collinsville, IL, August 17 - 19, 2007 at the Gateway Center. The Holiday Inn is the host hotel. For contract or more information contact R. Wayne Lowry, 401 Johnston Ctr., Raymore, MO 64083, 816-318-0161, JarDoctor@aol.com

- Future club meetings (our schedule is the first Sunday of the month): April 1, May 6, June 3. The July meeting will be replaced by the next Club Show. Meeting themes are being posted in advance on the club website.

Norm Barnett received this item as a gift from our Christmas “dirty Santa” gift exchange. Dick Cole informed us that this item was a template that would have been copied and sent to many customers. A nice piece of fruit jar history!