

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

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter  
 February 2010

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- *Richard Cole, Vice Pres.*  
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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: Anne Szopa, 11199 U.S. Highway 35, Economy, IN 47339

**Meeting Minutes, February 7th, 2010**

The February club meeting was canceled due to the snowstorm conditions. There are no meeting minutes to record.

It's that time of year to send in your membership dues renewal. Joe Coulson is transitioning the Membership Coordinator responsibility to Anne Szopa. If you have not yet sent in your dues, please send them to Anne real soon. Her address is shown in the left-hand column on this page. Anne is also our Treasurer. Thank you, Anne, for all that you do for the club!

We are sad to report that Glennie Burkett passed away suddenly on Thursday, February 11th. We will miss her

smiling face at the Jar Shows. Please send Don a card or letter, and let him know you are thinking about him. You can reach him by mail at: Donald Burkett, 3942 E. Dunbar Rd., Monroe, MI 48161.

We are also sad to report that Norman Barnett's health has taken a turn for the worse recently. He is not able to put any pressure on his legs and has restricted movement of his arms. He is currently undergoing physical therapy to exercise those muscles. Please keep Junne and Norm in your thoughts and prayers. You can reach them by mail at: The Barnetts, P.O. Box 38, Flat Rock, IN 47234.



The next club meeting is March 7th. The program will be a videotape on Glass-making. Bring one or two recent purchases for Show and Tell.

See you all at the next club meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary

**More Muncie Winter Show Pictures**



Joe Merkel & Don Burkett



Ed Kincheloe & Michael Rutledge

## More Muncie Winter Show Pictures, cont'd



Doug Leybourne & Phil Smith



The Phifers



Tom Sproat



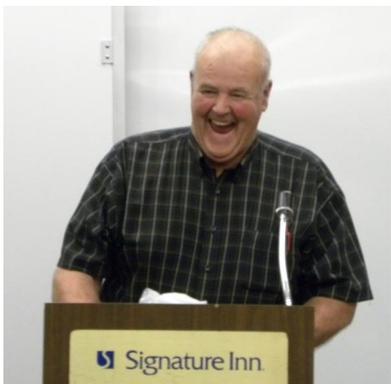
Bill Dudley



Patty & Richard Elwood & Jeff Klingler



Angela & Greg Spurgeon



Larry Munson



Bob DuLong



Mike Jordan

# Remembering a Friend

By Bruce W. Schank

Have you ever regretted anything in your life and the regret centered on what you didn't do, what you could have done and why you didn't do it? I don't know about the rest of you but I'm guilty of that kind of regret. You might ask what this is all about anyway. Well, this is simply about me dropping the ball and failing to stay in touch with someone I considered a very close friend at one time. The regret is due to the fact I can't make it right because that special person is now gone.

How many times have we heard people say, if you can count on one hand how many true friends you have then you're a rich person indeed? Well, honestly I can say I have that with all sincerity right now in my life but what about those true friends you lost contact with? Can we ever really stop remembering them? Does the passage of time erase the conversations, letters and communications we had with those people? Only if you decide it should. This one thing has been nagging me for what seems like an eternity. Why did I allow myself to drop off the face of the earth and lose contact with all of those I considered a good friend so many years ago?

Ok, so I had many excuses such as I was going through an ugly marriage and brutal divorce at the time and the Ex was so bad, she made it practically impossible to do anything let alone continue life as it had been prior to all hell breaking loose. I was broke mentally, physically and financially and I had no way of keeping in contact with others let alone take

care of myself. I was ashamed at how badly I had failed in life and I didn't want to be a burden on those around me. And lastly, I convinced myself that "nobody knows you when you're down and out." Which by the way is a lie of sorts because there's always someone who knows and someone who cares?

Yes, sad but true I lived for years in isolation afterwards with a so-called clear conscience but there's an old saying; "a clear conscience is often the result of a poor memory." Let's face it though, I eventually found it hard to look in the mirror and continue convincing myself in all honesty that I could pin my reclusiveness and complete silence on anything other than me. The truth unfortunately was I alone chose to run from openness and into obscurity. I chose the path that led to complete communication breakdown with all of my family and friends.

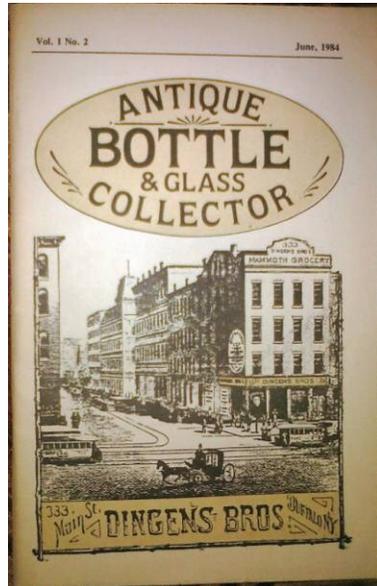
Possibly many of you reading this article so far are probably thinking yet again to themselves, what in the blippy-blip does this have to do with "fruit jars. Well, I'll tell you plainly that it has everything to do with fruit jars and the hobby too because the person I've been lamenting losing contact with was none other than the late great Vivian "Granny" Kath. I had a very close relationship with her from between late 1988 through late 1993, until as I mentioned, I fell off the face of the earth and lost all contact with everyone I knew and cared about including poor Vivian.

I was literally going through hell on a daily basis with my ex-wife and it all finally ended in a



brutal divorce in February 1999. When the dust finally settled and I became focused on fruit jars and people once again in early 2000, I began trying to make contact with long lost friends and acquaintances. It wasn't until Feb of 2003 though that I found the Fruit Jar Group on Yahoo. I joined and to my delight found a few of my old friends already situated there. It was also at that time I discovered to my complete disheartenment, the sad fact that my old and dear friend Vivian "Granny" Kath had passed away in 1999. I was devastated to say the least and that news has somehow haunted me to this very day. And in writing this it all finally ends here and now.

I only knew Vivian "Granny" Kath through the written word and by phone. To all of you modern gadget people in the audience (and I'm a proud member of that group too) you'd be surprised how the written word on paper has the tendency to mean a whole lot more than a casual txt message or email. It literally took time and a bit of real caring to sit down and either write or type out a long letter to a friend in those days but once done and read over and over again it stayed more indelibly into your being. Although Vivian and I never met in person, we knew each other as if we in fact had. Back in those days there was no Internet and long distance phone calls cost a premium. Yet I wrote her often and bombarded her constantly with questions and jar finds. We wrote back and forth to each other consistently on a monthly basis and I even broke down eventually and called her at least once a



month, typically on a Saturday despite the high phone rates so it could be a bit more personal once in awhile.

I remember talking with Vivian over the phone one day and her telling me that my incredible enthusiasm for jars as well as my zest for knowledge had caused her to have a sort of personal rebirth in the hobby. And if anyone knew her sense of humor, she made sure to mention how I had now upset the apple cart in regards to her budget. We became quite good friends and sold

and traded jars with each other on a regular basis as well as sharing valuable info and just plain ole good laughs.

I still have every letter she ever sent me as well as every jar and go-with that was graciously given to me as a gift or trader. Whenever I look at those things I am transported to a much simpler, slower and somewhat happier time and I can almost hear her raspy voice. I used to send out jar lists in the mail back then and as a matter of fact, that's really how it was done in the those days. It was either that or a magazine. Well, Vivian at one time bought a goodly amount of whatever was left on one of my lists. She owed me \$100 but I didn't give a hoot because money has never meant that much to me when it came to a friend. One day though to



my sheer amazement and complete surprise and out of the blue, a package arrived at the house. In it was the most beautiful quart amber Ball Perfect Mason I had ever seen at that point. And of course it was a color I didn't have either and wanted very badly. I'll never forget how in her letter accompanying the package she mentioned this was to make up for what was owed me and that she just plain didn't have the money. What struck me funny was how she mentioned that the jar had no olive in it at least from what she could see and that it was a true amber example she hoped and in fact it was indeed. I was elated of course and that jar still sits on my shelf alongside all of my other colored BPM's.

Over the years Vivian sent me a few gifts including a Ball logo patch, an I Love fruit Jars badge, a light blue shoulder seal pint Ball the Mason, an unusual white wide mouth lid (glass holder) and two blue Ball logo mugs on one Christmas. I still have every one of those items she sent to me and it's never even crossed my mind to part with them for any reason. But the one real surprise she sent me was the complete Volume 1, #2 thru Volume 3, #2 of the AB&GC minus Volume 1, #1. I still

have those magazines too and every one of them has her name and address on the mailing label. And it was typical of Vivian how she played it all down by saying how bad she felt that she couldn't locate Volume 1, Issue #1. And all of that came about simply because in a general conversation with her on one Saturday I mentioned I was missing the earlier years of the magazine.

Vivian was a wonderful, full of life, giving and gracious human being who I have never forgotten. She actually was my inspiration to share more with the hobby by revealing finds. I wish I could go back and change 1994 – 1999 in particular but that isn't possible. There's a valuable lesson to be learned here folks and I know I have learned it. Don't ever forget what really matters in life are God, Family and Friends so keep them close to your heart. I'm now making the remorse work out for the positive after all these years. It was because of "Vivian's" passing that I came up with the idea of doing a series of articles about long time collectors. Then other long time collectors started to pass from the scene too which made it even more urgent for me to get things done. Suffice it to say, Vivian was the true inspiration for my new series of articles entitled "Legends of the Jar" now being published nationally.

I'm reminded how fleeting life truly is and how eventually we too will all pass from this wonderful life. So with that in mind, be the Best friend you possibly can to each and every friend you have? Go and make new friends and acquaintances especially with the old timers? If you do that you will learn a lot. Get out to as many Shows as possible and mingle with people. Don't ever let your silence be deafening and even when you think you have no more to give, when a true friend cries out to you, somehow find the strength to help them.



Many of the items gifted to me by Vivian.

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT  
JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

*A jarrific place to share and learn*

Send articles and info here:

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Email: JCoulson@LeaderJar.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG

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Glennie Burkett was well known for her “Evening in Paris” display (as well as a “Devon Violets” display). She usually incorporated a few Teddy bears to add interest. The picture above is her display at the 2004 Muncie Winter Show. She was a sweet person who always had a smile on her face. She will be sadly missed at our Jar Shows.

## Announcements

- Our next club meeting will be March 7th at Minnetrista in Muncie, Indiana. The program will be a videotape on Glass-making. Bring one or two recent purchases for Show and Tell.
- Greg Spurgeon’s next North American Glass auction will open on March 15th. There are 138 items available for preview now:  
<http://www.gregspurgeon.com/auction/>
- The inventory of the Lending Library is viewable on the club’s website. Get in touch with Dick Cole (contact details on first page) if you would like to borrow an item. Dick is also seeking book donations from our club members. Please consider donating your old bottle and glass books. Dick’s contact information is on the front page of this newsletter.
- The Ball Jar Collectors Community Center (BJCCC) is located at this site:  
<http://balljarcollectorscommunitycenter.yuku.com/>
- The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (the national bottle club) will have their National Show in Wilmington, Ohio on August 6th to 8th, 2010. For more information, contact show chairman: Jamie Houdeshell, P.O. Box 57, Haskins, Ohio 43525, phone: 419-722-3184, email: JHBotle@hotmail.com

