

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

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter  
January 2010

### Club Officers

- *Dave Rittenhouse, Pres.*  
1008 CR 900 W.  
Farmland, IN 47340  
765-468-8091
- *Richard Cole, Vice Pres.*  
& Librarian  
2904 W. Moore Rd.  
Muncie, IN 47304  
765-288-8717
- *Anne Szopa, Treas.*  
11199 U.S. Highway 35  
Economy, IN 47339  
765-886-6198
- *Joe Coulson, Sec./Editor*  
10515 Collingswood Ln.  
Fishers, IN 46037  
317-915-0665
- *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 MAFJBC, Attn: Anne Szopa, 11199 U.S. Highway 35, Economy, IN 47339

## Meeting Minutes, January 9th, 2010

The January club meeting was replaced by the Fruit Jar Get-Together on Saturday, January 9th at The Signature Inn in Muncie, Indiana in the second floor Conference Room. Club President Dave Rittenhouse opened the event and welcomed a full room with about 50 people in attendance.

Dave introduced the club officers. As mentioned in the December newsletter, the 2010 club officers are: Dave Rittenhouse, President; Dick Cole, Vice President; Anne Szopa, Treasurer; and Joe Coulson, Secretary. A sign-up sheet was passed around to capture the names and addresses of everyone in attendance.

Dave reminded everyone that we will not have a Show in July. We will continue to have one Show in January, and it should be bigger and better. Dave said that there will be a Get-Together at the hotel in July. Our Vice President (Dick Cole) is responsible for scheduling programs and will be overseeing arrangements for the July Get-Together meeting. The club will have a block of rooms at the hotel in July. Dave said that there will be no advertising for the meeting in July.

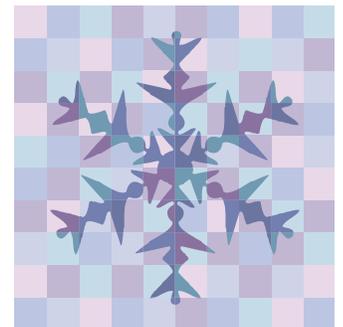
The next topic was the rules for the auction following the Get-Together. If you want

to put a reserve on an item the fee is: \$1 for a reserve of \$1–\$100; \$2 for a reserve of \$101–\$500; and \$3 for \$500+.

Items could be placed in the auction as we went around the room for introductions and Show and Tell.

Mike Jordan started the Show and Tell. He said that he brought a jar that he had not seen for sale in his 30 years of collecting. All of the sudden he came across two examples of this rare jar. The jar was a quart (Red Book #2811) Torrey's Egyptian Patented March 13<sup>th</sup> 1866 Fruit Jar (stenciled on stoneware jar; dull brick red glaze finish). The second example was the same jar, but in a black glaze finish and slightly larger in size. Mike said that he had never seen a closure for this jar or even heard of one reported. He showed us a black glaze finish closure, however it did not exactly fit either of his jars.

Jon Vander Schouw told us that he is retired and likes to visit antique malls with his wife. He said that some people say they never find anything. He recently made a trip from Florida to New York to Wisconsin. On this leg of the trip he found a nice green quart Mason's Patent Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 1858 (base: large 14). On the next leg of the trip he headed to



Montana. In one antique shop he spotted a clump of jars and could see a ground mouth jar with no lid. The ground mouth jar turned out to be a clear pint DOME. Jon showed us the sales receipt - it cost him the sum total of 77 cents for this scarce jar!

Bob Christ displayed a tin lid for a wax sealer jar. The lid was embossed "LEHMAN'S HARDWARE / KIDRON, OH".

Norm Barnett displayed two J. C. LEFFERTS PATENT-ED FEB. Y 15<sup>th</sup> 1859 cast iron jars. One of them had a reproduction closure. Both jars were pretty rusty. One jar had raised lettering; and the other jar had painted, stenciled lettering. Norm put these items in the auction.

Junne Barnett introduced herself as Norman's "Go-With". Junne placed two Atlas miniature jar banks in the auction. Junne also placed a pair of Salt and Pepper Shakers

## Show and Tell, cont'd

(Ball Perfect Mason) in the auction.

Joe Coulson shared something old and something new. Joe's first item was an advertising postcard with a figure of a jar on the front. The jar was embossed Whitman and Lomax's Improved Fruit Jar Pat. Dec. 18, 1877. Joe also brought a copy of the United States Patent document. This is the first time that information about this jar has been reported in our hobby. Joe's second group of items consisted of modern LEIFHEIT jars. These jars are also unlisted and are being produced in Germany. They come in four different sizes (1/4 Liter, 1/2 Liter, 3/4 Liter, 1 Liter). Each size jar has a different shape.

Dick Cole shared a booklet that he authored on the subject of Brinkerhoff jars. This booklet contains the known information about the series of scarce to rare Brinkerhoff jars (Ohio). Dick displayed a clear wine bottle made by Ball Brothers Company to commemorate the retirement of one of their employees. Dick also displayed a clear quart jar (unlisted) with a threadless sipper finish (with pour spout) that commemorated the retirement of Ball employee James Tucker. Dick's last item was a Ball Brothers Glass Mfg. Co. letterhead dated 1908 from Buffalo, New York. Dick placed the letterhead in the auction.

Wanda Yoder displayed two different jelly glasses. She asked the audience who might have made these jelly glasses. They were unembossed and represented two different glass

patterns.

Jean Harbron shared a clear half gallon Ball ® Mason pitcher and a clear pint Ball ® Mason drinking mug. Both of these items were made in the 1980's. Jean mentioned that there were a series of three variations of the half gallon pitcher, and that photos of all three could be seen on the Ball Jar Collectors Community Center website. Tom Caniff replied to Jean's email information request by mentioning an article by Dick Roller in the Nov. 1985 Fruit Jar News. The article revealed that production began on October 1st, 1985.

Carl and Marilyn Miller introduced themselves as new members and said that they were enjoying the weekend.

Dan Corker displayed a rare blue quart Whitmore's Patent jar with an original closure.

Darrell Plank told us a story about a recent eBay auction purchase. He said that he noticed a listing for a group of wax sealers. In the main picture all you could see was a group of aqua jars. There were four pictures in the detailed listing. One was a common FCGCo, and another was a common Dillon. The fourth picture showed a darker colored jar against a black background, and he really had to study it to see that it might be a better jar. The auction description had several paragraphs about the aqua wax sealers. The very last sentence mentioned "also a cobalt blue wax sealer". Darrell won the auction and this was the jar he brought for show and tell. It was a beautiful dark cobalt blue

quart wax sealer (the kind that takes a Willoughby stopple). The jar got quite a reaction from the crowd when he displayed it. Needless to say, Darrell was very happy about this purchase. Good finds are still being made!

Don Burkett displayed an aqua quart (RB #544) C. Burnham & Co. Manufacturers Philada with an original closure. This jar was special to Don because it came from a barn on the Springer farm in the area where the Gettysburg battle took place during the Civil War. The jar had a small crack in the internal lug. Don's theory is that a mini-ball shot from a gun during the famous Civil War battle went into the barn and glanced off that jar and caused the crack. There was a lot of laughter in the room as Don told this theory with a "straight face" (Don is famous for his humor).

Mary Harper told us that she takes credit for getting her husband (Jeff) into the fruit jar collecting hobby. She said that once every 10 years she gets a good Christmas gift idea. This year she had a neon sign custom made for Jeff, and the sign says "Ball Jars" on it. This is a reproduction of an original Ball neon advertising sign that was displayed during Minnetrista's "Can It!" exhibit. Mary showed us photos of the sign.

Jeff Harper displayed an aqua quart Ball (3-L loop) MA (missing the SON). Jeff also shared two clear ACL product bottles made by Ball. The first was an "Airport" soda (figure of airplane), and the second was "It's Julep Time". Jeff

brought three different MUNCIE PERFECTION lids for us to see: 1) unmarked, milkglass; 2) No. 1, milkglass; 3) No. 1, aqua. All of these lids were made circa 1914.

Mason Bright displayed an amber bottle with a "bird swing" defect in it. He also displayed a Ball History Timeline poster. Both items were placed in the auction.

Paul Holabaugh told us that he shared a room with Jerry McCann. He had a story to tell, but Jerry might shoot him. On second thought, Paul owes Jerry some money, so he didn't think Jerry would shoot him. Paul told us again the story that he told at the previous July show about how he was able to find an original closure for a Western Pride jar. Jerry didn't think he could find it that quickly.

Tom Sproat remarked that "with the tough economy where else have you seen so many people laughing and enjoying themselves." People certainly were having a good time at the Fruit Jar Get-Together. Tom took a few moments to recall a Phil Robinson story. Phil had several visitors at his museum one day while he was trying to get caught up on yard work. It ended up that one guy from Nebraska mowed the lawn for Phil. And a guy from Georgia ended up putting a \$50 donation in the donation jar. Isn't it a wonderful world we live in. Good friends and good jars.

Heidi Crupe told us a short story of "the things you don't always get".

Rick Wheeler gave a long

## Show and Tell, cont'd

speech on his acquisition of a "milkglass swirled" jar from room hopping. Rick said that he knows that Ball jar collectors go after tiny little details like dots and diamonds, etc., and markings on the bases of jars. He has a lot of respect for Ball jar collectors who are serious and dedicated and like to document all of these details and further the knowledge. Rick said that an "uninformed" Ball jar collector showed him a jar for \$25 and marked it down to \$20. Rick snatched it up. He conferred with sophisticated collectors that it was a milkglass swirled jar (as opposed to stained). Rick placed this unusual jar in the auction. Later during the auction the jar "sold" for several hundred dollars. It turned out that Rick put on a good show (along with several friends) to have a joke with Bruce Schank (the collector who sold him the jar). Bruce is quite a character and had fun with this too (he was completely taken in as were

several others!).

Larry Munson displayed a clear half gallon Mason's Patent Nov. 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858 that was a reproduction. He also told us about a reproduction midget pint that would start to sell in the April 2010 time frame. Buyers should always be aware of reproduction jars.

Doug Leybourne told us about a gentleman who had a wax sealer for sale in northern Michigan. He was careless with it, and the jar got a chipped lip when it was banged by another wax sealer. The jar was an aqua half gallon (ghosted Keystone) and was very whittled and crude. Doug always wondered where it came from. Well, he finally found the original one. Doug displayed an aqua half gallon KEYSTONE (with iron cage lid).

Tom Schumm mentioned that several years ago he had to sell his collection to pay for medical bills. He said it was

nice to come back to the Fruit Jar Get-Together. He says he gets to visit about 30% of his collection here!

Donavan Wilson displayed a clear half gallon Schram Automatic Sealer with a wire closure around it that looked something like a Dalbey closure. Donovan wondered if anyone had seen this before.

Marianne Dow told us that she represented the Findlay, Ohio bottle club. She said that the Findlay club is hosting the Federation's National Show in Wilmington, Ohio this year in August. She is looking for article contributions for the Show Program.

Bruce Schank introduced himself as the "Uninformed Collector" (the person that Rick Wheeler was referring to earlier). Everyone laughed!

Joe Merkel told us that he is still working on a Mason jar book along with Jim Sears. Joe shared an aqua midget pint

(LGCo monogram) with a mold number 1; an aqua quart (LGCo monogram) with a mold number X3; an olive yellow quart (LGCo monogram) with a mold number 3; a sky blue quart (LGCo monogram) with a mold number 3; and an aqua quart (LGCo monogram) with a mold number 3. Joe also displayed a deep olive yellow quart Standard Vinegar Works Louisville KY.

Phil Smith warned us that a reproduction green Jumbo elephant-shaped jar is being sold. He has seen them on eBay with a Buy-It-Now option for \$30. The original jar sells for \$850. The embossing is clearer on the original. The glass is thicker on the reproduction. It is easy to tell them apart when an original is sitting next to a reproduction, but it may not be so easy to spot a reproduction online.

Ron Ashby displayed a clear GEM tiny sample-size jar with an oil spout on it.

## The Barnetts Say "Thanks to All"

Please add this note to the newsletter for us: we have so many people to thank.

**January 13, 1974 to January 10, 2010**

Our first MAFJBC jar show was just great, because it was our club's first. It was in a new Ramada Motel in Richmond, Indiana. The previous Sunday there were 7 rooms reserved. Jar collectors filled the hotel, and the manager was ecstatic. Fruit jar collectors were there from Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, New

York, and Missouri.

The following years we met so many new friends, some who are still around collecting. We have traveled from coast to coast chasing the elusive unusual fruit jars, winning some and losing some.

Now moving on, "old age" and health that is not A-1, Norm has decided to let others enjoy the love he has had for his collection. Lately we have been so blessed with help from you Collectors in getting our jars, luggage and such from the

car to the motel and to the convention center, we appreciate this very much. Whoever said 'old age is golden' sure as h##l hasn't been there, just ask us...

Special Thanks to the guys who helped Norm up the stairs to the Jar Get-Together and those who stopped by the room to reminisce about the many times, jars, and places—and even disagree about a few things, it was so good for him. Thanks also to you guys who help me [Junne] carry bags, suitcases etc. from the car to

the convention center. I may be small, but I always thought I was a tough old bird... now I am beginning to think I'm just an old bird!

Yes, our time of collecting the elusive, regal old fruit jar has come to an end, but it has been one of the happiest times of our lives, and just because we won't be sitting behind a dealer's table, be sure to look around, if at all possible we will be there visiting with our many friends.

**The Barnetts**

## Show and Tell Pictures



Don Burkett shows us where the Civil war mini-ball would have hit!



Mary Harper shows us her great Christmas gift idea—a neon sign



Jeff Harper shows us an ACL product bottle made by Ball



Wanda Yoder asks questions about two unembossed jelly glasses



Rick Wheeler spins the tale about the milkglass swirled jar



Doug Leybourne tells us about the mould progression of this KEYSTONE jar



Donavan Wilson displays a Schram jar with an odd closure attachment



Ron Ashby displays a few jars to be placed into the auction



Phil Smith warns us about green reproduction Jumbo jars

## Exhibit Pictures



Jean Harbron and Wanda Yoder showed proprietor, product, and packer jars made by Ball



Joe Coulson showed model train cars based on Ball Train Cars



Junne Barnett brought glass Christmas lights from the Victorian era



Mike Jordan showed many Ball-Made Jars



Anne Szopa showed a display of Fruit Jars That Were Replicas, Fantasies & Fakes

## Exhibit Pictures



Donavan Wilson won all three awards: the "Dealer's Choice" Award, the "People's Choice" Award, and the "Most Educational" Award for his display "What to Collect - What U Like"



Jerry McCann made this display of Millville Atmospheric Jars



Dick Cole's display was about the inventions of Alexander W. Brinkerhoff



"Good Friends & Good Jars, Sometimes Both Are A Little Cracked." Tom Sproat showed us how slightly flawed jars can still make a good collection

# Winter Muncie 2010

**As seen through the Stained and Uninformed Eyes of BallJarz (Bruce Schank).**

## Side A – The Lighter Side

Folks, in doing these reports and engaging in long and lively discussions including a little B.S. now and then, (Hey, that's my initials) as well as taking photos too, I tend to get a wee-bit side tracked if you get my drift. What I'm trying to say is this; I end up getting "sniped" :0) by other collectors and thus lose out on many jars I might otherwise have had in my own hands. Now please don't get me wrong because I'm not complaining whatsoever since I consider doing this write-up both a privilege and an honor and let's face it, you can't have them all anyway. I'm just trying to point out that one simple fact but the bottom line is truly this; I do it all with a willingness and an attitude of giving for the great people in this wonderful hobby of ours. Ok, enough said...

Without a doubt this year's week long Winter Extravaganza was the Best time I've ever had at any one place in an extremely long time and that's saying a lot. As a matter of fact, I'm actually still recuperating as I write these words from all of the partying and driving. Let's see, if

my noggin is functioning correctly I calculate I had anywhere from 12 – 16 hours of sleep in a four day period. I went to bed really late every night and I was up way too dang early every morning. At one time when I was a younger man this was no big deal or sweat off my back but now that I'm up there I've noticed it takes a toll. Still, I wouldn't change a thing or a moment. I just didn't want to miss anything. I'm also still a bit dazed and confused over all of the events and happenings that went on there too and you'll understand why a bit later on.



The sheer amount of fruit jars (and this year there were some great ones) along with the whirlwind of activity from between Wednesday Jan 5<sup>th</sup> through Sunday Jan 10<sup>th</sup> won't soon be forgotten by me (that is unless I happen to get alzies sometime in the near future.) Let's hope not. Simply put, this year's 2010 Show takes the cake Big Time.

Everyone who has attended a Winter Muncie Show knows full well that the weather can be brutal. This year was no different. With the forecast of heavy snow from early Thursday morning until Friday late in the day a surprising multitude of reasonable thinking people showed up early this time. I ought to know

because I always get there on a Wednesday. It was party time from the get-go and I was going to ride the wave and see where it would take me.

Let's digress now for a bit. I started this long party trip at 2:45 A.M. Wednesday Jan 5<sup>th</sup> and compared to last year it was a breeze driving in. There were some gotcha moments though. Everything was clear until the other side of

Allentown, PA when I hit snow squalls. This continued until in far western PA, I encountered a rain and snow mix and the left lane was mush the whole way through until about an hour into Ohio. Anyway, I stopped at the very first Service Center on I76 West for fuel, food and a bathroom visit. It was at that time when I realized how much snow had actually fallen and what the true road conditions were like because off of the freeway/toll roads it was treacherous.

When I left the Service Center the wind was unbelievable and a gust caught my little box of a ride (a Scion XB) and I fish tailed to a point that literally scared the bejeebers out of me. Undaunted, I regained my composure and went my merry way. The amount of salt laid down on the major highways also was a catch 22 because I



Chuck Erb & Jon Black coming in from the cold.

couldn't see out of the back or side windows at all and it was way too cold to even open them a crack. I probably drove a tad too fast for most people's likes but after only two pit stops and all of that driving in semi-iffy conditions I arrived at the Signature Inn safe and sound in 10 hours and 45 minutes.

On the way back after cleaning all of my windows for maybe the third time, I noticed a pot-stone in the front wind shield with four radiating cracks. I thought to myself looking



My dirty little XB

at that,

"Geez, what else could possibly go wrong?" Oh believe me when I tell you I was prophetic because just a short time later on I76 East an 18 wheeler flat bed carrying pallets lost some of its load. I was doing 90 at the time

and as I came around a corner there they were littering the highway. It took every bit of my driving skill to avoid running directly over any of them. I managed to just run over the corner edge of one pallet with the left front tire. As I blessed myself and continued on I soon began to get this nagging feeling that the car was driving weird. I wasn't sure but I was paranoid it might be I was getting a flat. So besides the two regular pit stops I need to definitely make it home, I ended up stopping an additional three times to put air in the tire. It wasn't until I arrived home that I realized I was putting air into a perfectly good tire and it was all in my mind. And incredibly with all of those stops and that tire bothering me, I made it home safe and sound in a record setting 10 hours and 5 minutes. Now that's flying.

Ok, so let's get back to the Signature Inn



Ron & Carol Ashby

and the meat of the subject. I ended up partying with Ron Ashby on Wednesday and had a really good time. We talked about many things but mainly Jarzzz of course. Ron and I sat in my room and polished off a 1.5 liter bottle of Riunite Lambrusco until just before 1:00 A.M. Now that doesn't sound like much but when you only drink but a glass of wine a day normally, 750 milliliters each is quite a bit. What I didn't know was this was only the start to the actual partying to come. During the day I picked up a really nice pint jar from Ron, an RB 2010 (hmmm I wonder if that's just a coincidence) that I've been looking for and for what seems forever. I realize it doesn't book for a lot of money but it is one scarce little jar. Now all I need to sure up that little set is a 2009-1 quart if it actually exists because I've never seen one. What really got me excited was that I somehow finally persuaded Carol to allow me to come and visit with them so I could do a write-up on Ron. It was also good to see Jon and Joy Vander Schouw. I had a nice time visiting with them over the many days there. From what I could tell, Jon picked up some really nice jars at the

low me to come and visit with them so I could do a write-up on Ron.

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Jon & Joy Vander Schouw

Jon picked up some really nice jars at the



Jerry McCann's excellent Millville Sampling

show and a few I would have loved to have bought too. Although I collect Ball jars many of them cross over into other collectors territories so it isn't a given that some of those jars will be left lying around very long.

I also had a really good time hanging out with Jerry McCann too. Of course every time I see him I end up bombarding him with a multitude of questions and its serious learning time for me. He's without a doubt a virtual fruit jar encyclopedia and although I'm a Ball jar collector, I want to know as much as I can about all fruit jars in general. Jokingly I told Jerry that if you could have groupies in the Fruit Jar realm, well I was his and he retorted that he must have done something terribly wrong in life if after everything was said and done "I" was what he ended up with. :0)

Jerry gave a very informative talk about Millville jars on Thursday. He repeated the same talk on Friday as well. I attended both talks and as I mentioned before, I like all fruit jars. I was able to see up close and personal some of the rarest Millville jars that exist. That was a real treat for

me. Plus I learned some interesting facts that you'd never hear anywhere else unless you attended his talk.

Jerry had an extremely nice grouping of Millville jars to see and as much as I was amazed to see an amber, cobalt and clear example side by side, I was also just as amazed to see a rare half quart jar as well. His jar is one of only two known examples.



Jerry McCann giving a great talk

I shared my room with one of my Best Jar buddies Joe Coulson. We both had a great time but it was disappointing that he couldn't make it until Friday due to issues he had put off for far too long of a time, one being the publication of the Glass Chatter. I couldn't help myself but on Saturday at the Show & Tell when Joe was explaining he had copies finally of the Oct & Nov issues, I stood up and asked if in the future this was now going to be a "quarterly" publication and the room filled with Oh's & Ouches. All poor shy Joe could do was put his hands over his eyes to try and escape the immense and unwanted attention. I loved it.

The really incredible thing was the drinking didn't seem to ever end. It was non-stop binging. I should have known better and you'd think I would have realized it sooner but I found out rather quickly that you can't mix wine, Mango Smashers and Tequila. Of course I wasn't alone in the



Joe C. wailing on the guitar, Joe M., Tina, & Marianne

venture to see who got the most wasted. There is no way I could keep up with younglings such as Donovan Wilson, Jon Raver, Mike Mosier, Joe Merkel & Tina Chavez who by the way is Joe's new fiancé. Congrats to the both Joe & Tina because they make a wonderful couple.

Joe M. for some reason had more on his mind than fruit jars because he brought along with him his new toy, guitar hero. He had a special electric guitar and drums along with a mike. We ended up getting kicked out of Joe & Tina's room for being too loud. Imagine that. So we moved the whole shebang to my room and we partied till the cows came home. Joe wouldn't admit it



Kay R possibly thinking we're all crazy

but he was so good on that guitar that I knew that's all he's been doing since receiving it for a Christmas gift. Tina was also excellent on the drums and surprisingly a very good singer. I was cajoled into singing myself and surprisingly I wasn't half bad considering. Chuck Erb was hilarious singing and playing the drums at one point. Even my new pal Kay Rittenhouse was in the room having a blast.

Marianne Dow also was in on the act too while my good bud Jeff k was zoning out on my bed and just watched the rest of us. I wasn't



Jeff k zoning out big time

paying complete attention due to all of the excitement and drinking but I know many people were in and out of my room constantly that night either looking in utter disbelief or wishing they could be a part of the action but were too shy. Ya all know who you are in that regards. Our noise and partying ended up causing another raucous which again got the main desk involved and we eventually had to shut down the concert. Folks, remember this is all on top of room hopping and jar buying.

I was gifted a few things by various people and I want to thank them all for their kindness and generosity. It was unexpected and a real pleasure to be on the receiving end. The whole first floor every day was hoping with excitement. There were jars everywhere and many great jar people too. I was so pleased to see many of the collectors I haven't seen in a longtime like Tom Schumm. It appears that he and his lovely wife are doing a lot better at the moment and I know they both had a great time being there.

Chuck Erb & Tom Schumm



ones room. My Ball jar friends Michael Rutledge (Robin) and Jeff Harper can attest to that fact because both of them came up with unlisted ball jars to my chagrin. Remember what I was saying in the beginning of this expose? :0)

That's what makes Muncie hands down stand out from any other bottle show in the country as far as I'm concerned. The biggest and best collectors and dealers either bring or show up to find the

best jars available and once in a while you can see some of them with a show and tell

Unless you've been to a Muncie Show you can't possibly understand the mas-

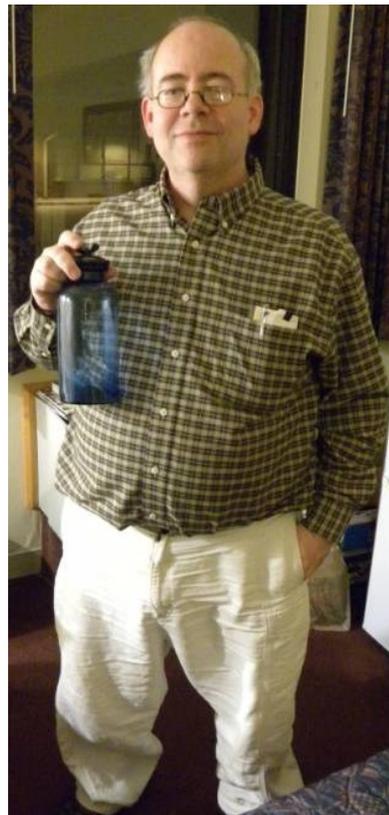


Sweet jars in jars4erb's room



Super jars for sale by Bill Burgess

sive amounts of great jars and the under the radar treasures that can be found by anyone roaming accidentally into some



Darrell Plank holding a fantastic cobalt jar

jar such as Darrell Plank's incredible quart three piece mould cobalt fruit jar with a superb original whilloughby stopple. It's just non-stop fruit jar overload and you don't want any of it to come to an end but unfortunately all good things do in fact come to an end.

## Joe's Account of the Winter Show

I took vacation time on Thursday and Friday. My original plan was to arrive in Muncie on Thursday evening. Instead of doing that, I spent most of both of those days working on catching up with my Midwest Antique Fruit Jar & Bottle Club newsletter editor duties. Events in Life (we all have them in some fashion) caused me to get behind by several months. I felt badly about it, and I didn't want to arrive in Muncie with that dark cloud hanging over me. I'm probably my own worst critic and maybe it wasn't as big of a deal as I believed it to be, but I take a great deal of pride in publishing the newsletter and wanted to fulfill that responsibility. I put all of my energy into getting the newsletters done and at the same level of attention to detail that I normally produce. I loaded up the big blue truck on Friday evening with my sales jars and display. On my way out of town I stopped by the FedEx Kinko's store to pick up the boxes of the printed newsletters, so I could distribute them at Muncie. I was now on the path to Muncie with a much lighter heart and free mind and was anticipating the fun ahead.

I arrived at the hotel a little after 7pm. A big bunch of jar people were just returning from dinner. Bruce Schank and Michael Rutledge and Russ Crupe and others were in the group, and I got a warm welcome. Bruce and I were sharing a hotel room, so I started unloading with a little help from him. I got the

room key card from him, and I didn't see him again for a while! He disappeared to do room hopping, which was in full swing at this time of the evening. There were many people with hotel room doors open on Friday evening. I went out and got some fast food at the nearby Burger King and hurried back to the hotel room with it. I only got part way through my sandwich...

Folks, I can tell you that jar people have a special sixth sense. It detects when a new person arrives and starts unboxing jars to set them up for sale in their hotel room! The room seemed to fill up with people as the sound of crackling newspaper from unwrapping jars hit the air waves. Or maybe "fresh" jars put out a distinguishing scent. Then again, maybe it was the smell of fast food... I am not sure which it was. I brought along a couple of dozen different Ball "special run" jars for sale, and a few other nice non-Ball jars too. Interest in the special run jars was strong and so were sales (both in the room and on Show day).

I spent a little time that evening chatting with Jerry McCann. His room was next door, and he came over with one of his room hopping purchases - an aqua quart BALL BBGMCo FRUIT JAR! It had base mold number 2. I am keeping track of known mold numbers for this jar. I held the jar in my hands and admired its glass character and historical significance. This is one jar that I wouldn't mind

owning more than one example of. The embossing just jumps out at you. Most of our discussion centered around the fact that the shape of the base on this jar is very different than other Ball jars.

Somewhere around 11pm on Friday evening I wandered into Mason Bright's hotel room. The usual Ball jar nuts were hanging out there. The last one wandered off around midnight. I stuck around and chatted with Mason for a while longer. Mason is a good friend, and we hadn't seen each other for a while, and we had to catch up on recent events. We looked up and the clock said 1:30am and decided it was time to call it quits.

I went back to my hotel room, and the whirlwind of Attention and Activity named "Bruce" arrived shortly thereafter with an entourage. Much to my surprise the party was just getting started. Joe Merkel and Tina, Jeff Klingler and Marianne Dow, Chuck Erb, Jon Black and others were looking for their next "gig" and this was it. I got my first introduction to the Wii Rockband game and had fun along with everyone else. I did a decent job at singing (karaoke), somewhat okay with drumming, and not so good (but eager to try) at the guitar. Joe Merkel had a lot of patience trying to teach me the guitar. He would make a good instructor. It's a wonderful thing the game had an "easy mode". Every time I hear Don McClean's "American Pie" song, it will

certainly have a new meaning. We played our hearts out and did the best we could with our individual God-given abilities, taking turns with the instruments. Somewhere around 3am the knock came on the door that ended the party... It was time for everyone to go their separate ways...

Excitement and anticipation are powerful things, and I didn't have any trouble getting up Saturday morning. Bruce and I made our way to the hotel's small continental breakfast buffet. This is a great place to socialize, because most people wander through there every morning. Once I had my black coffee and biscuits and gravy, I was re-charged. I had the privilege of spending part of the breakfast time with Doug and Lori Leybourne. Doug has this infectious smile and attitude about life, and it always rubs off on me. He calls me "Sunshine", and I always try to treat new collectors with the same enthusiasm and respect that he treated me when I first started collecting.

The first Saturday event for me was the Jelly Jammers meeting at 10am. I like to support this group. Ball made several jelly glasses throughout their history, so there is a natural connection for me. And besides, I enjoy glass history of any kind and this club likes to do research. For show and tell, I brought clear half pint examples of the circa 1990 Ball ® MASON jars with original labels for Apple Butter and Black Raspberry Jelly. Ball didn't make these prod-

## Joe's Account of the Winter Show, cont'd

ucts for very long, because Welch's (one of Ball's glass container customers) felt that Ball was starting to compete with them. Dick Cole brought a pint example of the Apple Butter jar for his show and tell, and he ended up giving that jar to me. What a nice guy. I did not know that they came in the pint size. I did know that there were six different varieties of the half pint size. More than a dozen people were in attendance at this meeting, and I got to see jelly glasses from the late 1800's through modern times.

The Jelly Jammers meeting was over sometime around 11:30am. I was looking for my good friend Jean Harbron and her sister Wanda and my good friend Colleen Dixon to have lunch with. It's almost become a tradition for us to have lunch at Mancino's (a short walking distance away) on Saturday after the Jelly meeting. We update each other on our room hopping finds and jar collecting news. And when Wanda makes it to town (she can't always come from Virginia), we get to catch up on happenings with her. Jean is my adopted "Jar Mother". She noticed my enthusiasm at the very first jar club meeting I ever attended and helped me get started in the hobby and pointed me at the research books.

The next Saturday event for me was the Fruit Jar Get-Together at the hotel conference room at 1:30pm. The room was full (40+) and a few more were standing in the doorway. Everyone gets a

chance to introduce themselves and say what they collect and talk about a show and tell item that they brought (if they want to). I brought an advertisement for "Whitman & Lomax's Improved Fruit Jar". I also was able to find the original 1877 patent information and show a copy of that. An example of this jar is not known, and no information has been recorded about this jar until now. I also shared examples of the new LEIFHEIT jars. These are modern German canning jars (still available for retail purchase) that have not yet been listed in our hobby reference books. There were several interesting items that sold in the auction following show and tell. This included a Ball history timeline poster and a Ball (3-L loop) Mason advertising pamphlet describing train loads of jars being shipped. Then there was the selling of the infamous milky swirled Mason's Patent Nov. 30<sup>TH</sup> 1858 jar with a correspondingly intricate and swirled web of happenings around it... but that is Bruce's story to tell.

It was about 4pm, and I did some more room hopping. At about 5pm a group of folks were heading out for dinner, and I was able to tag along. Russ & Heidi Crupe and Richard & Patty Elwood were the drivers. The destination was Texas Roadhouse, and it is a good thing we went early because this was a very busy and popular place. Can you imagine sitting in a booth with Bruce, Michael, Jeff K and Donavan Wilson?! Let's

just say that the personalities feed off of each other and the discussions were lively. We heatedly discussed almost every controversial Ball jar theory and maybe even created a couple of new ones. The food was good, the brew was good, and the company was the best part.

It was somewhere around 7:30pm when we made it back to the hotel. The group dispersed, and I suspect everyone went for the next round of room hopping. I eventually made my way to Don & Glennie Burkett's room. There was a chance that Don wasn't going to stay for Show Day because he injured his ribs, so I wanted to make sure I stopped by and had my ritual visit with him. I was able to buy a clear quart Ball Eclipse Wide Mouth with the unusual "inverted dimples" for the wonderful price of \$5. Darrell Plank wandered into Don's room at about the same time as I did. I chatted with Darrell for a little bit and it turns out that we both have something in common besides fruit jars - we're both professional computer programmers - so we got to talk shop for a while. Darrell told Don and I the amazing story of how he recently acquired an early cobalt fruit jar on eBay. It was one of those rare situations where a great jar is poorly described and poorly photographed in a group of common jars.

I made it back to my hotel room for a while and sold some more Ball jars. At some point Jon Raver made

his way into the room. I met him for the first time at the Findlay, Ohio bottle show. He loves Ball jars and we got to talk for quite a while. We had a lengthy discussion on Jon's "Steel Band Theory." There seems to be some connection between the glass top seal jars with steel screw band from the 1914 - 1915 era (Ball Improved, Ball Perfection, Faxon, etc.). Jon had me a believer by the time we were done talking. I am going to see what Ball letterhead I can dig up to support his theory. By this time it was getting to be 10 or 11pm, and it was time for me to turn in for the night.

On Sunday, activities started super early. Bruce and I were up by 5:30am. We had to get ready, pack up and clear out of the hotel as soon as possible. We had completed a little of the prep work the night before to save time. Exhibitors are allowed to set up their displays at 6:30am, and Dealers can start setting up their sales tables at 7:00am at the Horizon Convention Center. I think we arrived somewhere close to 7am, and I got busy setting up my display of half a dozen different examples of Ball's Muncie & Western model train cars (a fun go-with - these are replicas of the box cars that were used to ship jars in the old days). I got my sales table set up pretty quick after that.

The Show doors opened to the public at 9am and a good crowd came through the doors right then. There was a steady stream of people

## Joe's Account of the Winter Show, cont'd

through the door the whole day. I did well on jar sales. I didn't acquire any Ball jars, but I did get one rare jar. It was an example of Red Book #1632 with Greenfield Fruit Jar & Bottle Co. on the base. A highly prized Indiana fruit jar. Dennis Walls had this jar for a long while and it is a duplicate for him, and he finally decided to sell his duplicate.

I spent some time standing with Mason Bright at his sales table. He was tickled to find a jar to add to his large collection. It was a clear half gallon Ball (2-L loop) Special made on a Ball-Bingham machine (these are more commonly found made from the Owens machine). The early Ball jars are tough to find in clear and this particular one has eluded him for years. Mason knows so much about Ball jars, and I must have stood there for an hour or so just sponging up whatever he had to say.

I got to spend some time chatting with Jeff Harper too. He volunteered to be at the MAFJBC sales table and take a few membership renewals. If there was an award for "Best Ball Jar Acquired" at the show, it would certainly be Jeff's ABGA MASON IMPROVED. It's great when previously unknown Ball jars appear on the scene. Dave Rittenhouse said that the jar showed up back in late November at the Terre Haute, Indiana bottle show. Dave told the guy to bring the jar to the Muncie Winter Show where he knew there would be strong interest. The jar was acquired by the previous owner at an antique store in Illinois. I'm not sure how Jeff ended up being there first to get to the jar on show day. He scored big! I got a chance to hold the jar and examine it closely and congratulate him on his new purchase. The jar was made on an Owens machine, and the base mold number is 1. Jeff was pretty

certain that he was going to hand carry the jar through the airport on the way back home to Houston, Texas.

The Show ended at 2pm. Bruce and Michael and some others left early in the day, so they could make the long trips home (they didn't have sales tables or exhibits). I packed up my sales table jars and display fairly quickly after the show ended. I said my good-byes and then pulled away in the big blue truck. I always

feel a little sad when the Muncie show ends and things quiet down again, and it's back to the normal routine. The trip home goes fairly quick, because I am reviewing in my mind all the things that went on over the course of the last few days. I didn't mention here all the people that I met and all the conversations that took place. There were just too many. The Muncie Show is like a big "jar family" reunion.



New discovery: Ball blue, half gallon, ABGA (script) MASON IMPROVED



Joe Coulson opening a box of modern LEIFHEIT jars to share during Show and Tell



Joe Coulson and close friend Bruce Schank on Show Day

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Joe Coulson, Editor

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Smiling faces that you always see on Show Day: Junne Barnett, David Rittenhouse, and Norman Barnett, at the Barnett's sales table. The Barnetts want to Thank You for your help.

## Announcements

- Glennie Burkett passed away suddenly on Thursday, February 11th. Please keep Don Burkett in your thoughts and prayers.
- The February club meeting was canceled due to snowstorm conditions. 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.
- The Columbus, Ohio bottle show is Saturday, February 20th at the Ohio State Fairgrounds, 17th Ave. & I-71. Show hours are 9am to 2pm. Scott's Antique Show is also Saturday at the Fairgrounds. Contact Joe Hardin for more info: (937) 371-0264.
- 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

