

# MIDWEST GLASS CHATTER MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1971

Midwest Glass Chatter  
July 2008

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

## Next Club Show

January 11, 2008

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

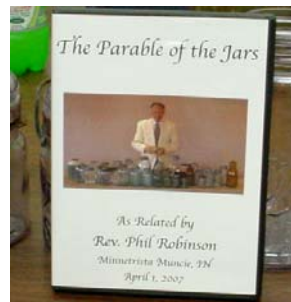
## Fruit Jar Get-Together, July 12, 2008

The July club meeting was replaced by the Fruit Jar Get-Together on Saturday, July 12 at The Signature Inn in Muncie, Indiana in the second floor Conference Room. Club President Dave Rittenhouse opened the event and welcomed about 50 people in attendance. Dealer and Exhibitor packets were made available to save time and effort for everyone on Sunday morning.



Dave took a minute to recognize the Midwest Antique Fruit Jar & Bottle Club board members (officers). These are the people that work behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly.

Dave announced that the "Parable of Jars" DVD is now available for \$15. He said that we lost a hobby giant when Phil Robinson passed away earlier this year. Greg Spurgeon thinks it will take 2 to 3 years to sell the "better" jars from Phil's Museum collection in his online auctions.



Wayne Lowry gave a brief update on the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (FOHBC) Expo Show & Sale to be held August 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> in York, PA. Dealer registrations were down but early admissions were way up. There will be double the number of attendees at the banquet than ever before in recent history. An Expo is a lot different, longer, and bigger than the regular national show. There will be some great displays.

Dave also wanted everyone to recognize the many contributions made by Norm and Junne Barnett over the years to our club and the shows. A special cake was presented to them in their honor, and everybody got to have a piece!



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.

Joe Coulson was our first show and tell person. Joe enjoys collecting and researching fruit jars, particularly those with an Indiana connection. He displayed a rare framed photograph of John L. Mason. Dick Roller had documented the existence of this photo in the past, but only a couple have been seen or heard of.

The photograph was possibly produced during the time of the U.S. Centennial Exposition (1876). John Mason is seen sitting next to the fruit jars and metal screw capping machine that he invented. It is an eye-catching photo of the "Father of the Modern Fruit Jar". You are all probably familiar with the "Mason's Patent Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 1858" that is seen embossed on many fruit jars.

Joe also shared a copy of an old stock news photograph showing the aftermath of a Ball Brothers Company fire that had occurred at their

## Fruit Jar Get-Together, cont'd

plant in Muncie, Indiana in January 1945. Joe was showing this photo on behalf of Bruce Schank, who could not attend. Thanks go to Bruce for making this available for others to see at the get-together.

Phil Smith was next and he encouraged others to donate time and/or money to the club. Think about ways you can help promote our hobby. Phil also suggested that we take the time to interview and document our hobby's history from the long-timers. It would be nice to capture the knowledge and experiences from those who have been in the hobby a very long time. Current and future generations of collectors will appreciate this.

Greg Spurgeon brought three quart size Petal jars for show and tell. These were jaw-dropping colors that are not often seen: cobalt blue, dark olive green, and dark olive amber.



Greg also mentioned that he is currently handling the sale of the Cay & Erv Bettinghaus lifetime collection of fruit jars. Greg has already conducted several Internet sales through his North American Glass auctions: <http://www.gregspurgeon.com>.

Alan De Maison introduced himself at the get-together. Alan is Treasurer for the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors. We were glad to have him spend

some time with us!

Wayne and June Lowry love to collect odd-closed pint fruit jars. Wayne showed us the following pints: an aqua damaged J.J. Squire; another aqua J.J. Squire, but this is the only one reported with the rubber-band style closure; and a teal damaged A.B. Brayton & Co. San Francisco Cal.



Wayne gave us an update on his research in new technology to repair damaged jars. He told us how he had purchased a \$1000 curing light that didn't work out. He then found a \$4800 curing light that is working, and may also have found an adhesive that doesn't turn color. After the repair, the polished epoxy (plastic) ends up shinier than the glass, if you look very closely you can detect it. Wayne expects to give us a big update at the January 2008 Muncie Show due to recent advances that he has made.

Mike Keith collects items from Ball as well as items with "Millville" embossed on them. Mike shared a light purple PT Ball Sure Seal; another SCA PT Ball Sure Seal, but with disconnected underscore; and a light green QT Ball (dropped 'a') Mason that had an amber streak in it.



Ruth Nestleroad brought her grandson to the get-together. He was very helpful throughout the weekend and had a fun time. We may have a brand new collector!

Tom Schumm showed the crowd the tattoo of the yellow olive Van Vliet Improved on his upper forearm. Tom may be the first person to have a fruit jar tattoo, and it certainly is a worthy jar. Tom brought several Crownford China jars from the 1970s to show us: a cobalt blue HG; a dark teal blue QT; and a light amber HG (cracked). You don't see these jars very often any more.



We were lucky to have Stan Gamble in attendance. Stan told us of his terrifying encounter with a tornado back in February. Look for the full story later in this newsletter.

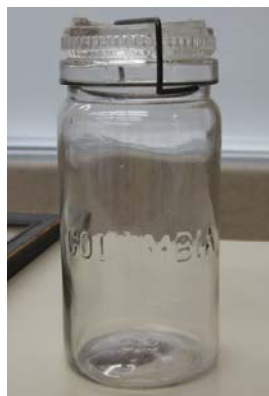
Dave Rittenhouse brought a clear 24oz Columbia jar to share. This is an uncommon size.



Wayne Lowry expects to give us a big update on glass repair technology at the January 2008 Muncie Show



## Show and Tell, cont'd



Mason Bright ended the show and tell by announcing

that his Ball Jar collection is available to the public for viewing. Mason collection takes up the entire full basement underneath his house. The floor is nicely carpeted, and there are tables and chairs so you can sit down and study items. Of course, there are walls and walls of shelving containing almost one example of every Ball jar known. Mason loves to share and talk about his collecting experiences, so you should take him up on his offer. He can be

contacted by telephone at: 734-241-0113.

The September 7<sup>th</sup> club meeting will be at Minnetrista - bring "errors and oddities" in jars and bottles. See you all at the September meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary



## Auction Items

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Framed picture of illustrations of fruit jar patent models (\$34)</li> <li>2. Framed picture of illustrations of tin can patent models (\$31)</li> <li>3. Linen hanging tea towels Standard Wax Co. (\$15)</li> <li>4. Little mouse in a jelly product jar (\$10)</li> <li>5. Original band for 5lb. Butter Jar (\$25)</li> <li>6. Pieces of Ball Utility Kitchen Set (\$5)</li> <li>7. Two original product jar labels, Blackbird (\$5)</li> <li>8. Original Globe reg. mouth hardware (\$20)</li> <li>9. Repro midget pint amber backward S (\$55)</li> <li>10. Aqua QT Mason's F Patent jar (\$20)</li> <li>11. Aqua HG The Queen fruit jar (\$21)</li> <li>12. Box lot of jelly glasses;</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ball, etc. (\$2)</li> <li>13. Box lot jelly glasses; Hazel Atlas, etc. (\$8)</li> <li>14. Box lot figural product jars (\$1)</li> <li>15. Box lot bottle club pottery award jars (\$100)</li> <li>16. Box lot kitchen jars (\$7)</li> <li>17. Box lot of jelly glasses and few Jumbo jars (\$5)</li> <li>18. Aqua PT Michigan Mason jar (\$20)</li> <li>19. Cardboard shipping box Bernardin Mason Jars Excellent for Jelly (\$10)</li> <li>20. Green QT Ball Perfect Mason (\$25)</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. Experimental Dimple QT Sanitary Sure Seal (\$9)</li> <li>22. Experimental Dimple QT Sanitary Sure Seal (\$21)</li> <li>23. No sale</li> <li>24. Red, White, Blue Kerr Bell Jars (\$150)</li> <li>25. Wooden Shipping Box Ball Fruit Jars (Ball 3L Mason) (\$111)</li> <li>26. Vacuum Seal Jars and Go-Withs (\$13)</li> <li>27. Nabisco box with nice fruit jars inside (\$37)</li> <li>28. Book: Brantley's Collectors Guide to Ball Jars in original mailer (\$5)</li> </ol> |
|---|--|---|



*Herb Karcher  
donated a few  
auction items (above);  
Norm Barnett put a  
couple of framed  
prints of patent  
illustrations in the  
auction (below)*



## Pictures from our July Show



Signs outside the hotel rooms tell you who is inside for "room hopping" (you might find jars for sale!)



In Loving Memory of our jar friend Phil Robinson. This placard was in the Hotel lobby and Show lobby.



We had a good crowd of about 50 people participating at the Fruit Jar Get-Together.



This is a linen item that Junne Barnett put in the auction. It shows advertising for the Standard Wax Company.



This photo provided by Bruce Schank during Show and Tell portrays the damage from a fire at the Ball Brothers Muncie Plant in January 1945.



Vacuum Seal jar and all of its original go-withs. The pump was used to create the vacuum.



Greg Spurgeon had the most expensive jar for sale on Show day. It was a blue Hero Cross jar for \$22,000.

## Pictures from our July Show



Margaret Shaw and Angela Spurgeon modeling for the perfect camera pose!



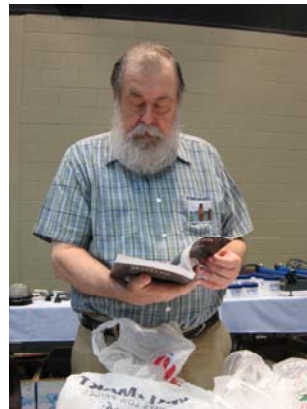
Mason Bright makes a sale to Walter and Ann Gausmann.



Jerry McCann at his sales table. He is the author of *The Fruit Jar Annual* (the 2008 edition is available).



Jean Harbron enjoys working at the show and signing up new members!



Dick Cole doing what else?! Buried in a reference book doing some research.



Dick Bere is another regular at our shows. He helps with auction book-keeping.



Shoppers browse through the dealer displays on Show Day.



Deena Caniff and Sue Wilson take care of admissions to the Show.

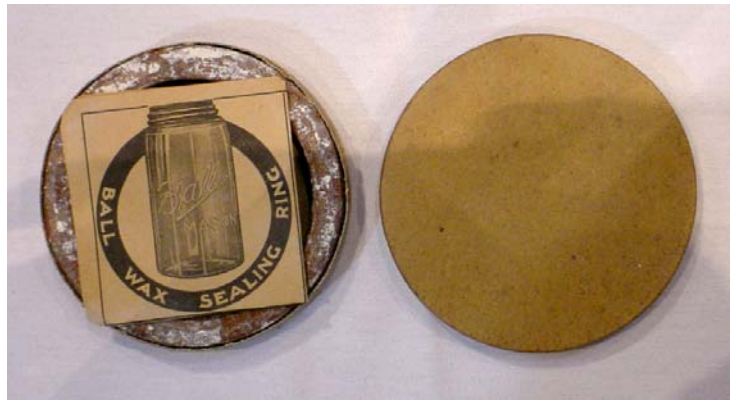


Mike Keith wearing a shirt which says "It's all fun and games until someone drops a jar".

## Pictures from our July Show



A closeup of Joe Coulson's amber half gallon BBGMCo. There are only 2 known amber HG jars, and only 2 known amber QT jars.



Joe also shared this rare early Ball Wax Sealing Ring box. The round cardboard box included all of its original contents and still had the powder used when packing the rings in the box!



Dave Rittenhouse displayed pint jars with odd closures.



Janet Lee had a colorful display of posters, cookbooks, jars, and lids used in making jam. The jelly glasses were supplied by Colleen Dixon.



Mike Keith's wonderfully large display of wax seal fruit jars in many sizes and colors.

## Pictures from our July Show



Jean Harbron showed Ball jars which have the McDonnell Patent date on the front, reverse, or base. The patent was for a pair of bosses on the neck which hold the wire closures.



Wayne and June Lowry displayed many one-of-a-kind pints and photo album describing each one. They were given both the Dealer's Choice and People's Choice awards for their efforts.



Dick Cole's display titled "Things I Found While Cleaning My Closet". Dick previously worked for Ball Corporation.



Junne Barnett displayed posters and pictures related to canning. The drawing in the lower right corner was signed by many of the early members of MAFJBC.



Wayne and June Lowry holding their award ribbon, and Pepper their dog (a familiar sight at shows!).



Joe Coulson had a nice display of some of the earliest Ball jars, made while they were still located in Buffalo, NY. For his efforts, Joe won the Most Educational Award.

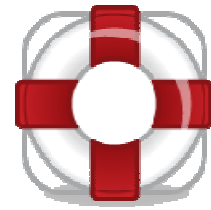
## Pictures from our July Show



Another picture of browsers looking through the dealers sales tables on Show day.



Dennis Walls had this nice amber half gallon CFJCo jar for sale on Show day.



## An Heroic Act Amidst the Chaos

*[Editor's note: Club member Stan Gamble provided the following Arkansas newspaper article clipping. He told us at the Fruit Jar Get-Together about his rescue.]*

***F4 Tornado, 120+ Miles of Terror, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008; Powerful funnel plows through Arkansas***

Billie Shelton, the man who manages the Timberline Restaurant in Highland, doesn't know why he went to the restaurant last Tuesday night. Although he was unaware of it at the time, that intuition would lead him to save another man's life.

"Billie and Sharon never come in at night ... but they came in that night," Terryann Loerzel, employee of two years, recalled.

Sharon Shelton, Billie's wife and co-manager of the Timberline, headed to the restaurant for a routine visit that evening. Billie said that he had an eerie feeling as Sharon was leaving and knew he had to accompany her.

When Sharon and Billie arrived at the restaurant, there were two customers eating and six employees working.

Not long after their arrival, the lights began to flicker and soon went out. Billie said he felt an urge to walk outside and look into the night sky. What he saw there was something many Highland residents witnessed and were terrified by that night, and Billie was no exception.

"The only reason I could see the tornado was because of the reflection from the cars' lights that were inside of it illuminating the tornado," Billie explained.

Billie was joined outside by Loerzel and together they ran inside to warn the others to take cover. As Billie yelled for everyone to head to the back, he could hear the whirling winds outside. Huddled in a small bathroom at the back of the store, the eight people inside did not have to wait long.

"As I shut the door, the

tornado hit," Billie said.

Loerzel explained how Billie and another male present, huddled over all of the women as they held on for their lives. After the terrible screams of the tornado passed, the frightened eight walked outside to survey the damage.

Five minutes after the tornado hit, a desperate woman's voice echoed out of the rain and darkness. The woman, Jocelyn Strobbe, was yelling for help from the mangled remains of the house across the street. Her father, Stan Gamble, was trapped under his house and Jocelyn was helpless to save him.

Billie ran across the street with another man and claims that the heroic act he performed next was based on pure adrenaline.

As one man steadied the staircase, they found the 88-year-old man helplessly trapped under, Billie lifted the staircase and pulled the man out.

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*Her father, Stan Gamble, was trapped under his house and Jocelyn was helpless to save him*

## Heroic Act, cont'd

After seeing the damage done to the Gamble's home, it's hard to imagine how Stan made it out with only five broken ribs, his wife a broken foot; and Jocelyn, their daughter, sustained no major physical injuries.

The consensus among the residents who were part of this destructive weather, was that small miracles saved

many lives that Tuesday night.

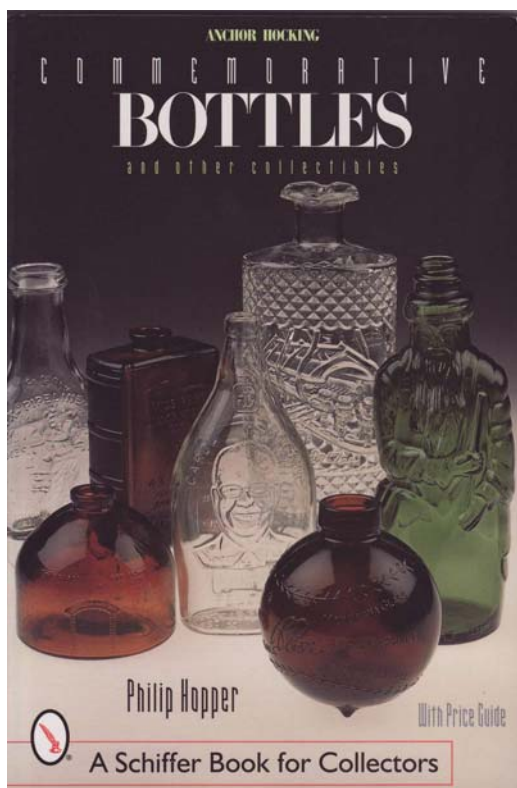
Dale Strobbe, Jocelyn's husband, said the Gambles and Jocelyn were headed downstairs to take cover as the tornado lifted the house from where it had stood for over 10 years. Everything happened so fast that once the tornado had passed, Jocelyn said she couldn't understand why she was getting rained on inside

her parent's home. The reality was, the house had been removed from above them. Once the urgency of the situation came to light, Jocelyn ran barefoot across the debris and found Billie across the street.

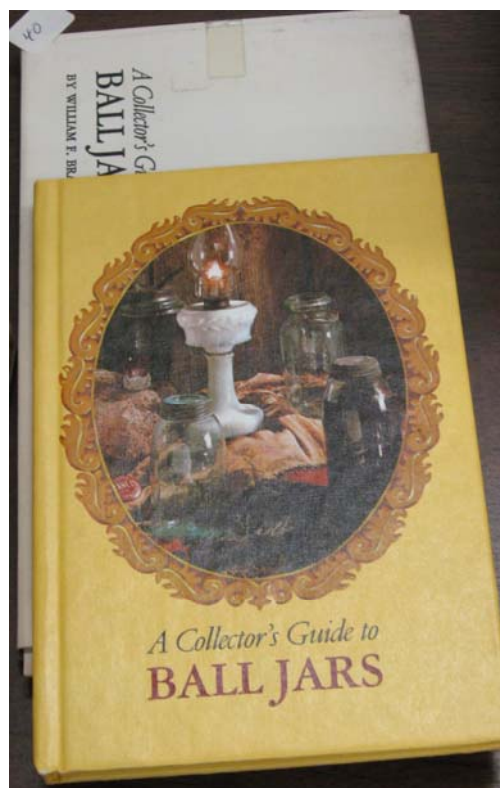
Whatever it was that brought Billie to the Timberline that night, the Gambles and their family are thankful it did.



## Reference Books Worth Mentioning



"Anchor Hocking Commemorative Bottles And Other Collectibles", by Philip Hopper, c2000. If you collect Anchor Hocking retirement and special run bottles then this the book for you. It is loaded with color photos. Still available online for about \$14. ISBN 0764310011



"A Collector's Guide to Ball Jars", by William Brantley, c1975. Even though this is an older book, it is still one of the best overviews you can get of the jars that Ball made—complete with color photos. You can find these books on Ebay for around \$10.

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT  
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



Joe Coulson shared this rare photograph of John Landis Mason. John Mason is sitting next to the fruit jars and metal screw cap-making machine that he invented. Wouldn't it be nice to have a time travel machine, and go back and visit with Mr. Mason at this moment! And maybe bring home some of those items in the photo!

## Announcements

- The September 7th club meeting will be held at Minnetrista in Muncie, Indiana at 1:30pm in the Cantina room. Bring "errors and oddities" relating to jars and bottles for your Show and Tell. If you need directions or further information, please contact Dave Rittenhouse at 765-468-8091.
- There will be an auction on October 19th of the remaining "common" jars in the Robinson Museum collection. This will be handled by Dragoo Auction & Realty, 9400 N. CR 925 W., Alexandria, Indiana, ph. 765-748-6022. More details and pictures can be found on their Internet auction listing: <http://www.auctionzip.com/cgi-bin/auctionview.cgi?lid=499751&kwd=&zip=47304&category=0>
- Club Membership cards were distributed to everyone with this issue of the Glass Chatter. Thanks again to Charles Williams for his effort in having these produced!

