

MIDWEST GLASS CHATTER

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter
July 2010

Club Officers

- *Dave Rittenhouse, Pres.*
1008 CR 900 W.
Farmland, IN 47340
765-468-8091
- *Richard Cole, Vice Pres./Lib*
2904 W. Moore Rd.
Muncie, IN 47304
765-288-8717
- *Anne Szopa, Treas./M.C.*
11199 U.S. Highway 35
Economy, IN 47339
765-886-6198
- *Joe Coulson, Sec./Editor*
10515 Collingswood Ln.
Fishers, IN 46037
317-915-0665
- *Norman Barnett,*
Pres. Emeritus
P.O. Box 38
Flat Rock, IN 47234
317-738-3232

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, July 10, 2010

The July club meeting was held at The Signature Inn in Muncie, Indiana in the second floor conference room. Vice President Dick Cole opened the meeting and welcomed a room full of 40+ club members. President Dave Rittenhouse was unavailable due to his Saturday work schedule.

Dick introduced the other club officers in attendance: Anne Szopa, Treasurer; and Joe Coulson, Secretary. Dick also extended a special welcome to Norm Barnett, who was able to make a brief trip away from the Masonic Home where he is presently staying.

Since today's meeting was an official meeting of the fruit jar club, Dick Cole asked the audience if there was any New Business. A motion was re-



ceived for the club to give \$75 to Jerry McCann and Marianne Dow to assist in covering their costs of promoting and enhancing the July Fruit Jar Get-Together. The motion was amended to raise the amount to \$100. The motion carried and was approved.

An empty fruit jar was

passed around for additional free will donations to help Jerry and Marianne. Jerry indicated that there were approximately \$500 in out-of-pocket expenses.

Dick Cole asked everyone to give a round of applause to Jerry and Marianne for their efforts to plan an enhanced July Get-Together in place of the usual July Show at the Horizon Convention Center. There were seminars, a jar sales room and a social room with free food and drinks in addition to the extensive room hopping. The enhanced Fruit Jar Get-Together was well attended by club members from all around the country.

See you all at the next club meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary

Special Thanks from Junne Barnett

Due to Norman's health we could not get there until Saturday, however, we heard that it was a great 1st Time event. A special thank you to Marrienne Dow and Jerry McCann, also the club owes the hotel manager, Cathy, a vote of thanks for all she did to help arrange this gathering.

Thanks to all the friends who stopped by to talk to Norm, and also those big, strong guys who lifted him and his wheelchair up and down the stairs.

The Fruit Jar Get Together became a special feature at several of the FOHBC shows at various locations, some of our memories are:

The Monday after the St. Louis Expo in 1976 a meeting was held, and a group of 80 jar collectors from 17 states attended.

Also, during the 1988 Las Vegas show, there were 124 jar collectors attending a meeting held at 7:30 A.M. Other bottle collectors asked, "How did you get so many people to attend a

Special Thanks from Junne Barnett, cont'd

meeting at that time in the morning." The answer— "They are jar people."

During the early days of the club when we held shows at Richmond, Indiana, an amusing thing happened. On Sunday of the show a snow blizzard suddenly appeared, and the show was closed early. Hal Wagner of St. Louis came up to Norm and said, "We are going to stay at your house tonight." Norm handed him the house key and replied,

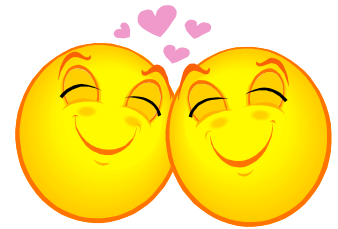
"That's O.K. with us, but we are staying here at the motel." That's not all of the story.....

We usually stayed around and checked under tables etc. to be sure people had not left anything, especially as they left in such a hurry that day. Norm spied a large box with the top closed up. When he opened it it contained several beautiful rare display jars. He immediately knew whose jars they were. One was a clear pint Arthurs jar, which he later

owned. Some time after he knew Roy would be home, he called and said "Guess what I found in the show room?" Roy gasped, and said "There's going to be a killing around here," but he didn't keep his word.

There are so many great memories, and the 2010 Get Together added to them. Thanks again to all our jar friends, and we hope to see you again.

The Barnett's



Friday Morning Seminars

There were two fruit jar seminars on Friday, July 9th. Jerry McCann spoke about "Early Fruit Jars", specifically those made prior to the Civil War (1840–1860). Some of the earliest fruit jars were made in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania district over a seven or eight year period. There were many glass houses in that area. During this time the bottle "turned into" a fruit jar (change in style of collar). Companies at this time called them "corkers", and "cement" was used to seal the jars. This is a difficult time period to study, particularly because the jars typically have no maker's marks or embossing. The general knowledge of the time period was to keep the air out, and there was no concept of microorganisms. These early jars have a pontil mark on the base. There are several different types of pontils.

Jerry displayed a clear pint Arthur's Patent 1855 (with an outside channel to hold wax). During the manufacturing

process the blow pipe would have been "broken off" from the jar, and then the jar's mouth ground down. Jerry also showed the original patent details for this jar. The patent called for a tin can, but glass jars were made which conformed to the specifications described in the patent.

Jerry then displayed a deep aqua quart Hemingray wax sealer (sheared off mouth; not finished; rough).

The next jar that Jerry shared is one of the most prized in the fruit jar world. The jar was an aqua quart W^M Pogue (reverse: For Preserving Fruit). These jars have been attributed to South Jersey. The base is pushed up and shows a an iron pontil. The jar was placed back in the glory hole (fire glazed) to finish the mouth.

Jerry also shared three different jars with similar (but different) mouths. This emphasized the theme that bottles

evolved into jars.

Jerry had several more early fruit jars to show everyone. He displayed an aqua quart A. Stone with glass stopper; a deep aqua half gallon Gray & Hemingray & Bros. (earliest form of that company) (melon ribbed; metal lid with wrench lugs); an aqua pint H&S (with original cage-like closure); a quart cast iron J.C. Lefferts (coated with porcelain inside); and an aqua half gallon The Ladies Favorite (embossed lady; cast iron J.D. Willoughby stopper).

Jerry told us that Willoughby was investigating channel locks and was knowledgeable in working with cast iron. The bulk of Willoughby stoppers were sold as aftermarket closures and were used on many early jars and bottles.

Jerry continued his display of early fruit jars with: an aqua quart R.M. Dalbey (with three thumbscrews); an aqua pint "Crowleytown" (early Mason

jar); and a clear quart Branwhite's Patent (shoulders similar to the "Crowleytown" Masons). Jerry mentioned that Dick Watson has the original patent model for the Branwhite's Patent jar.

Jerry told us that many historically interesting jars can be had cheaply (because they are unembossed).

The second seminar on Friday morning was presented by Jeff Klingler. Jeff lived in California in the early part of his career (now he is in Ohio). He took us through his 25+ year journey of acquiring all sizes and colors of the Mason QG jars, QG jars, and Mason SGW jars. The collecting journey ended very recently when he acquired the last jar he needed. Jeff also shared some beautiful colors of California insulators. The colors were comparable to the California-made jars.

Seminar Pictures



For Preserving Fruit
Iron pontil, Aqua Quart



Hemingray wax sealer
Deep Aqua Quart



Melon-ribbed
Hemingray



Whimsey-Air Tight Fruit Jar
Aqua Quart



R.M. Dalbey
Aqua Quart



Pontiled Food Jar
Clear Quart



Pontiled Food Jar
Aqua Quart



The Ladies Favorite
Aqua Quart



Mason SGW: clear quart, light purple quart, clear pint



California insulators: dark green, sediment amber, purple

Show and Tell on Saturday

Jerry McCann started off show and tell by sharing an aqua half gallon "Packed By Collins, Wheaton & Luhrs S.F." This jar was probably made circa 1868–1878 by Pacific Glass Works, San Francisco, California. It appears to have been produced from a reworked Victory jar mould.

Tom Caniff had several items to share. He displayed an amber quart jar that was square-shaped and had a wide-mouth (closure: glass lid and metal screw band). The jar had an original paper label and contained sterilized gauze from Seabury & Johnson. Tom displayed an almost identical jar which had a paper label for "Callanan's Coffee".

Tom then displayed two amber toggle clamp jars from France. They were embossed "Le Pratique". The quart jar had an amber lid, whereas the slightly larger jar had a clear lid.

Tom also shared a clear half pint "egg poacher" jar that had a tall metal clamp. The jar was made by Jenna Glass. It was very interesting and elegant for such a small jar.

Tom then displayed a modern clear pint unembossed jar with a paper label for "Shan Mango Pickles".

Tom's last item was a large aqua "blow-over" piece that was dug in Findlay, Ohio. The glass was very thick.

Joe Coulson displayed a pair of replica Ball jar mugs distributed by At Home America. The jars were clear quarts with Ball (script, undropped 'a', underscore) Ideal on one side and a star emblem in a

circle on the other side. It is not known if the Ball logo was legally licensed for these jars. Joe said that he purchased them on eBay, and that these were the only examples that he has ever seen for sale. The jar mugs are shown in the Internet catalog of the company's web-site, but are listed as out of stock.

Joe also displayed an original box of Ball Vacu-Seal closures. The box was very unusual because it had multiple "blacked out" areas where the wording previously mentioned white rubber seals. Apparently when the changeover was made to red rubber seals, these old boxes were used until the supply ran out!

Colleen Dixon shared an aqua sample size Trade Mark Lightning.

Dan Corker displayed a rare aqua quart Harris (MH monogram) Improved. This jar was patented by Milo Harris, Jamestown, New York, August 16, 1881.

Dan's next jar was found in an antique shop one mile from where he lives. Dick Watson called him to let him know. The jar was a rare aqua pint Hilton's Patent Mar 10th 1868. The jar was made circa 1868 by the Massachusetts Glass Co., Boston, Massachusetts. The jar was patented by Alexander J.H. Hilton, Boston, Massachusetts, April 21, 1868 (antedated to March 10, 1868).

Dan told us that he is having reproduction glass lids made for the The Magic (star) Fruit Jar. The lids are embossed "CLAMP PAT. MARCH 30TH 1886" just like



the originals. The difference will be a dot in the center of the lid.

Lou Ebert showed an interesting glass company history book: Mister Collins—Father of Anchor Hocking.

Lou also displayed a clear pint Presto Glass Top (reverse heel: Manufactured By Illinois Glass Co.).

Don Burkett shared a very unusual go-with. It was a wooden tobacco pipe that had "(cross) Masons Patent Nov. 30TH 1858" carved in it! This was a gift from Dick Cole to remember Glennie by. Don really liked this gift, especially since he collects jars with "Mason" embossed on them.

John Elwood displayed three different color variations of Ball Corporation's 1976 reproduction of the historic BBGMCo (monogram) jar. John showed us an amber, clear and blue quart. There is only one clear example known, and only two blue ones. John

got them in a box lot at an auction. The amber color was used for the production run.

We were really glad to see Father Patrick Wilhelm at our show and tell. He missed a few Get-Togethers due to recovering from a stroke. Fr. Pat displayed an aqua quart Mason's Patent Nov. 30TH 1858 (with all three N's reversed); an SCA pint Ball (script, dropped 'a', underscore) Perfect Mason with the rare Perfection-style inner ledge (base: M 1); and a Ball blue quart Ball (2-L) Mason (beaded neck seal) with the rare Perfection-style inner ledge.

Fr. Pat jokingly told us that there is a jar he has been "lusting" for since he started collecting 35 years ago. He said that you could describe it as a unique and yet ubiquitous 1858. It is a proprietary product jar and is an aqua quart. Fr. Pat spent some time telling all of the details of the jar and building up suspense before actually revealing the jar from

Show and Tell on Saturday, cont'd

within the cardboard box on the table in front of him. Fr. Pat said it didn't matter if he died now, because he had achieved an important milestone! As he revealed the jar, we could see it was a spectacular example of a Burnett's Perfect Baking Powder jar. Only one example of this beautifully embossed jar is known. The embossing is as follows: front, Burnett's Perfect Baking Powder, around 1874 E in multifaceted design; reverse, Clark E Huntington 164 Duane St New York Patent Applied For; base, Mason's Patent Nov. 30th 1858. Needless to say, Fr. Pat was very happy!

Tom Sproat displayed an unusual quart wooden fruit jar. It had a nice patina on the surface and showed signs of wear. It appeared to be a 19th century piece. Tom said this item came from Phil Robinson's museum collection. He said that we had ironware, stoneware, glassware and now another category called "tree-ware"!

Jeff Klingler displayed an unopened cased of square half gallon Ball Ideal jars that he acquired while antiquing.

Jeff also shared a rare aqua half gallon "Packed By Collins, Wheaton & Luhrs S.F." This example was made in the style of a butter jar.

Joe Merkel brought an unlisted aqua quart The Gem, reverse hour glass, over The Gem (base: A; glass lid, HGW).

Joe also displayed an aqua half gallon THE (no crossbar in E) BALL / JAR / Mason's / Patent / Nov 30th / 1858 (base: 163, 6 flipped and re-

versed); and an SCA quart Ball (2-L) Improved (first jar given to Tina—his fiancé— by Bruce Schank).

Marianne Dow announced the upcoming Wilmington, Ohio national bottle show. She also announced the Findlay, Ohio bottle show.

Dick Cole showed five different variations of the clear half gallon Ball ® Mason (reverse: fruit medallion) pitcher. Even the dedicated Ball jar collectors didn't realize there were this many variations. The variations were as follows (all are clear half gallons): 1) first run, shaped similar to a fruit jar; 2) production run, shape changed to strengthen jar, tucked in towards base; 3) reversed pouring spout, glass worker prank, limited number made; 4) same style as #2, added small notch to side of mouth for pouring ice; 5) same style as #1, base deeply recessed (7 made?).

Dick also invited everyone to visit his new office in downtown Muncie. Dick has rented a place to showcase his modern Ball collectibles throughout the whole year. He is happy to give tours and "talk jars" to collectors or the general public at any time. Call ahead to make arrangements (765-288-8717).

Bruce Schank asked everyone for help in identifying other collectors that he could interview for his Legends of the Jar article series. We all appreciate the chance to see photos of great jars, and to hear about other people's collections.



Father Patrick Wilhelm sharing his Burnett's jar



Burnett's Perfect Baking Powder—Only one example known

Show and Tell Pictures



Ball Ideal replica, beverage mugs
Distributed by At Home America



"Egg poacher" product jar
Clear half pint



Thick glass blow-over
Dug in Findlay, Ohio



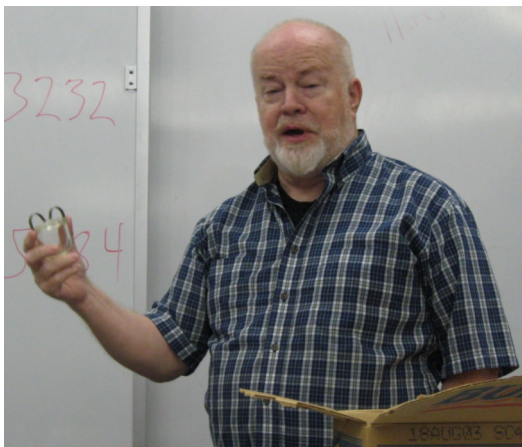
Hilton's Patent
Aqua Pint



Le Pratique toggle clamp French jars
Light amber quart and amber quart+ size



Ball Vacu-Seal box
Blacked-Out Areas



Tom Caniff discussing a product jar



Harris Improved
Aqua quart



Packed By Collins, Wheaton & Luhrs S.F.
Butter jar style and Victory jar style, half gallon

Show and Tell Pictures, cont'd



Presto Glass Top
Clear pint



Wooden smoking pipe given to Don Burkett
(cross) Masons Patent Nov. 30th 1858



Similar amber pint product jars
Callanan's Coffee and Iodoform Gauze



John Elwood
Discussing a rare Ball jar find



Reproduction BBGMCo jars made in 1976 by Ball Corp.
Only one clear quart known, and two blue quarts known



Jon Vander Schouw
And Best Friend



Tom Sproat
Discussing wooden fruit jar "tree-ware"



Bruce Schank
Ball Packaging Products jacket for auction



Jeff Klingler
Unopened box of 1940's Ball Ideal jars

Muncie July Show Trip Report by Joe Coulson

I wasn't sure I was going to make it to Jerry McCann's talk on Early Fruit Jars (pre-Civil War) at noon on Friday, but I did. I had used my truck to jumpstart my car, and I drained the truck's battery a little too much. The portable battery charger did its magic on the truck battery, and I was out on the road to Muncie as quick as I could be. In fact, I arrived at Jerry's talk only a few minutes after it had started. Jerry gave a wonderful dissertation on the various styles of jars that were made during the early time period. The most prolific manufacturers and unusual colors came from the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area. Jerry brought several rare jars to show the features that he talked about (pontil types, jar body shapes, closure styles, and colors).

Jeff Klingler gave a talk on California jars right after Jerry's talk. Jeff specifically told the story of how he acquired all of the embossing and color variations, as well as sets of sizes (pint, quart, half gallon), of the Mason's QG jars, QG jars, and Mason SGW jars. It was a 25+ year journey to get them all, and he got the last one he needed very recently. I had not seen an example of any of these jars before, and it was very impressive to see and hear about his collecting efforts.

The highlight of Friday for me was the opportunity to visit with Father Patrick Wilhelm. He had been a part of all of our shows (and other Midwest shows) until three years ago when he suffered a stroke. Father Pat always has interesting show and tell items, and he was missed during this ex-

tended recovery period. He still has trouble with his right leg, but his mind is certainly as sharp as ever. In fact, he reminded me of jars we talked about in the past. It was really good to see him again, because he has been a long time supporter of jar collecting, and the hobby is a big source of enjoyment to him.

Dick Cole took several people over to his new studio office in downtown Muncie on Friday afternoon (and again on Saturday too). The rent is real cheap, and this gives him a place to display his modern Ball collectibles to the public. We got to see all kinds of paper items in addition to the Ball special occasion and retirement jars that he has in his collection. If you are ever in Muncie, you can get in touch with Dick for a personal tour. He is very happy to share his collection and his knowledge on the subject of Ball Corporation.

Saturday morning was the Jelly Jammers meeting. They collect jelly glasses of all kinds. I always try to bring something Ball-related for their show and tell. I brought a set of four clear 2 ounce glass jars that only had embossing on the base. Each jar had a different color metal cap with the same design that showed grapes, apples and peaches. The base had the Ball logo and plant code 84 (representing the Washington, Pennsylvania glass manufacturing plant). I came across these little jars recently during an eBay search for Ball items.

The Fruit Jar Get-Together was in the afternoon on Saturday. Norm Barnett

was able to make an appearance for this event, and he received a round of applause and encouragement from everyone in attendance. Norm is not able to walk and has limited use of his arms. He continues to undergo physical therapy. It was a personal goal for him to be able to make it to this jar event.

Several people had interesting items for the show and tell session. I brought an unusual box of Ball Vacu-Seal closures. The packaging had many "blacked out" areas. I could barely make out the fact that the blacked out wording talked about white rubber seals. The box contained metal lids with red rubber seals. It was very interesting that Ball went to so much trouble to re-use their stock of old packaging. I also displayed a pair of replica Ball jar drinking mugs which were distributed by At Home America in 2009. They look pretty crude, and it is possible that this was a very short lived product. I see no indication on the box that they were properly licensed to use the Ball logo. Also, this is the only pair of mugs like this that I have seen for sale, and I do watch for jar drinking mugs on a regular basis.

There were about fifteen items in the auction following show and tell. I was able to purchase a very nice Ball Packaging Products, Inc. jacket from the early 1980's (price \$65) (thank you, Bruce, for putting this item up for auction). There was a 1909 Ball letterhead too, but I did not acquire it (price \$33).

I spent a great deal of time

in the "Social Room" at the hotel. The smaller of the two second floor hotel conference rooms was reserved for our event. The room had tables, chairs, snacks and drinks during the whole weekend. You could go in anytime and sit down with your fellow collectors and chat (or just rest your feet and listen in on the conversations). One of the interesting conversations was discussing the milkglass lids that appear to be Ball-made. Both collectors who purchased them during the weekend were showing them and theorizing about their origin. I stayed in the social room until 1am on Friday and about midnight on Saturday. This was a good gathering place when you weren't room hopping. There were also several tables in the social room that had jars for sale.

I stayed until hotel check-out time on Sunday. The Jelly Jammers club had arranged a tour and talk at the Greentown Glass Museum in Greentown, Indiana (less than an hour from Muncie). I love glass history of all kinds. There were many glass manufacturing companies in east central Indiana at the turn of the 19th century. The Greentown company (Indiana Goblet & Tumbler Co.) did not make fruit jars. They made pressed glass items, which mainly included tableware. They did make a few different jelly glasses.

The entire weekend was filled with fun. The best part is always meeting with fellow collectors and sharing your passion for the hobby.

Gas City Boom Town 1892—Event Pictures

This event occurred June 19th in Gas City, Indiana. Joe Coulson, Anne Szopa, Sue Wilson and Dick Cole were present. The city celebrates its natural gas heritage by having an annual festival. Highlights included: home-cooked food for sale, people dressed in period clothing, Anderson University Glass Blowing demonstrations, Thompson Glass Factory history, live music, and a boxing match. Joe, Sue & Anne had sales tables and promoted the fruit jar hobby. Dick Cole was a presenter.



You could park your car and get a horse-drawn wagon ride to the event location.



This booth showed a Dentist's office of the time period along with tools and bottles.



Anderson University brought their portable glass furnace operation in on this trailer.



You can see the fiery "glory hole" of the furnace in this photo.



Here are some of the glass items made by the Anderson University students. They were for sale.



This photo shows the large number of blow pipes that were on hand.



Here the Anderson University professor is demonstrating how to shape a hot piece of glass.



This photo shows the large number of glass-working tools that were being used.

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT
JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

A jarrific place to share and learn

Send articles and info here:

Joe Coulson, Editor

10515 Collingswood Ln.

Fishers, IN 46037-9598

Email: JCoulson@LeaderJar.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG



Our very own Dick Cole was a presenter at the Gas City Boom Town 1892 event. Dick discussed the operations of the fruit jar making machine while standing in front of the wonderful glass factory background photo.

Announcements

- Our club is a member and supporter of the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (the national bottle club). They have a website: <http://www.fohbc.com>
- The Ball Jar Collectors Community Center (BJCCC) is located at this site: <http://balljarcollectorscommunitycenter.yuku.com/>

Summer