


MIDWEST
GLASS CHATTER
 MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter
June 2010

Club Officers

- *Dave Rittenhouse, Pres.*
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- *Richard Cole, Vice Pres./Lib*
2904 W. Moore Rd.
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- *Anne Szopa, Treas./M.C.*
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- *Joe Coulson, Sec./Editor*
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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, June 13, 2010

The June club meeting was held at Minnetrista in Muncie, Indiana. Vice President Dick Cole opened the meeting and welcomed nine members. Dave and Kay Rittenhouse were not able to attend.

Anne Szopa gave the Treasurer's report for June. Expenses included newsletter printing and postage as well as Federation dues. The club continues to maintain a positive bank balance.

Dick Cole reminded us of the "She Can Make A Difference!" exhibit that is now going on at Minnetrista.

Dick also reminded us of the Boom Town 1892 event in Gas City on June 18th and 19th. Sue Wilson, Anne Szopa, and Joe Coulson volunteered to attend on Saturday, June 19th and help with a table to promote the hobby (and possibly sell a few items).

Dick announced that he now has an office located at 405 S. Walnut St. in Muncie, Indiana (first door south of Casello's Kitchenware). Dick has his modern & commemorative Ball collectibles on display. The club Lending Library is also housed there. Dick invited us over to visit after the club meeting. Give him a call anytime to set up your own visit!!

The next club meeting is September 12th at 1:30pm at Minnetrista. Show & Tell will be "unusual" fruit jars or bottles (whittled, bubbles, inclusions, etc.).

See you all at the next meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary



Every meeting club members get together and have fun sharing their recent finds and learning new things about glass history!

Events and Activities Guide • May-June 2010



Exhibit opens May 22!

<p>Exhibit hours: Mon. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>General Admission: Non-members \$5; Members and Kids 3 and under FREE</p>
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 Minnetrista
 NATURE • HISTORY
 GARDENS • ART

The Minnetrista exhibit runs from May 22 through Sept. 26

Show and Tell

Club members were asked to bring “figural” jars and bottles for Show and Tell.

Bill Wherrett displayed a clear “Lucky Joe Bank” jar. The jar originally contained Nash’s Prepared Mustard by Nash-Underwood, Inc. of Chicago, Illinois.



Bill also displayed a green soda bottle produced by Kerr Glass Mfg. Corp. The label on the bottle had a figure of playing cards. The bottle was produced to commemorate “Dunkirk Glass Days 1980”.

Anne Szopa shared a clear figural vinegar bottle from the Prohibition era—formed in the shape of person: Carrie Nation (base: Des. Pat. 81,611; Owens-Illinois logo).

Anne also shared a square clear quart Ball Ideal “The Fisher Years 1941–1986” (figure of John Fisher).

Anne also displayed an unlisted clear baby food jar, front: 25th Anniversary (figure of baby), back: (figure of building) Asheville, N.C. 1958–1983.

Anne’s last display item was a soda bottle encased in red plastic; front: InterBev Convention, Atlanta, GA 1994; back: (figures of glass makers) Owens-Illinois, The Glass Makers.

Sue Wilson brought three

different quart figural jars. They were in the shape of Santa Claus, a Snow Man, and a Teddy Bear. They were made by Ball Corporation (embossed on front: Kraft General Foods, Inc.). Dick Cole told us that the jars were designed by his friend Dennis Orosz during 1984–1985. The jars originally contained peanut butter.

Sue also shared a figural bottle of a naked woman (frosted looking finish). The label indicated “Naval Jelly, Strips Rust”. The bottle was made in the 1970’s by Indiana Glass Co.

Jean Harbron displayed a clear pint (Red Book #2161) McMechens Always The Best, Old Virginia, Wheeling. W. VA. USA. The jar had a ground lip and was made circa 1895–1905. On the jar was a figure of a woman holding a box lettered “Old Virginia Goods”.

Lou Ebert displayed a clear bottle embossed “Eagle Bottling Works Marion, IND.” (in a circle around a figure of an eagle). Heel: MIN. CONT. 6 1/2 FLUID OZS. This bottle was made in the 1910’s.

Lou also displayed a green bottle that had a figure of a cat embossed on it. The cat was gold painted. The cat was standing over a cellar entrance. The bottle was embossed “ZELLER SCHWARZ KATZ” just above the heel. The bottle was a Mosel wine bottle with original paper labels, circa 1967.

Lou also shared a clear quart commemorative bottle which was embossed “GAS CITY, INDIANA QUEEN

CITY OF THE GAS BELT” (lettered around a gas well derrick with 1892 1976 on either side of it). This bottle was made by Owens-Illinois. Other embossing included: “COMMEMORATIVE BOTTLE”, just above the heel; and “ONE QUART” four times around the heel.

Lou also gave us a history lesson on the origin of the name for Gas City. In March of 1892 when the Gas City Land Company was formed and the company backers petitioned to have the name of the village of Harrisburg changed to Gas City, they stole the name Gas City from various Marion, Indiana enterprises. The Marion baseball team had previously been named the Gas City Baseball Team. In the 1891 Marion City Directory there is a listing of the Gas City Cornice Works, factory in Marion. The Nov. 22, 1890 edition of “Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper” carried an article “Marvelous Marion, The Queen City of the Natural Gas Belt”, at the time that George L. Mason, the “gas boomer”, from Buffalo, New York, was promoting Marion, Indiana. Various Marion enterprises carried the name, such as the Queen City Electric Street Railway, originating in 1890. The December 1892 map of the Gas City Land Company proclaims Gas City “The Industrial Metropolis” of the Indiana Natural Gas Field. Incidentally the Fairmount Land, Gas and Improvement Co. proclaimed Fairmount, Indiana “The King City of the Gas Belt”, circa 1893.

Joe Coulson displayed a fruit jar rubbers box, “Topsy

Jar Rings” (figure of man wearing a Top Hat). The product was distributed by Simon Brothers, Inc. of South Bend, Indiana and Peru, Indiana.

Joe also shared an aqua Ball Mason jar that was a whimsy. The jar was formed by a glass worker into the shape of a Top Hat. The jar was made circa 1910.

Joe also displayed a figural bust of Michael J. Owens. This piece commemorated the man who invented a fully automatic fruit jar blowing machine.

Dick Cole shared a clear salad dressing bottle, front: Arnold E. Shulz / Kraft / 1949–1987 / Happy, Healthy Retirement / From Your Ball Friends; reverse: (figure of the bust of a man).

Dick also shared a green bottle, front: Robert R. Board / (figure of the bust of a man) / President; reverse: 1934–1980 / FF in circle (Foster Forbes logo) / 46 Years Outstanding Service And Distinguished Leadership; base: Foster Forbes Glass Co.

Dick’s last displayed item was another green bottle, front: Edward Moore / (figure of the bust of a man) / Vice President Personnel; reverse: 1945–1978 / M in hexagon (Metropak logo) / In Recognition of 33 Outstanding Service and Leadership; base: Metropak Containers.

MAFJ&BC

January 9, 2011 Show & Sale

Muncie, Indiana

The Show and Sale on Sunday, January 9, 2011 will be the culmination of several days of fruit jar-related happenings. Some people will start arriving at the Signature Inn, 3400 N. Chadam Lane, Muncie (765-284-4200) as early as Thursday to get their rooms set up and start room-hopping. If you haven't been room-hopping, you don't know what you have missed. Dealers set their jars up in their rooms and you can hop from room to room in the motel, looking for that special find. Thursday and Friday nights will be the prime time for action in the rooms. You must make your reservations by December 9 to get a room. The Fruit Jar Get-Together and Auction also will be held at the Signature Inn.

Events

Saturday, January 8, 2011

JELLY JAMMERS MEETING

At 10:00am in the Conference Room on the second floor of the Signature Inn. Buy, sell and show jelly jars and related items. Everyone is welcome.

FRUIT JAR GET-TOGETHER

At 1:30pm in the Conference Room on the second floor of the Signature Inn. Collectors from all over the United States and Canada show off their latest finds, and put jars up for auction.

FRUIT JAR AUCTION

Immediately following the Get-Together, the jars put up for auction will be sold off to the highest bidder. Here's a chance to find some jars that you won't find on a table the next day.

Sunday, January 9, 2011

MAFJ&BC SHOW AND SALE

Horizon Convention Center is in downtown Muncie, at 401 South High Street. Displays set up at 6:30 am, dealers at 7:00 am and the doors open to the public at 9:00 am. Show lasts until 2:00 pm. Admission is \$2.

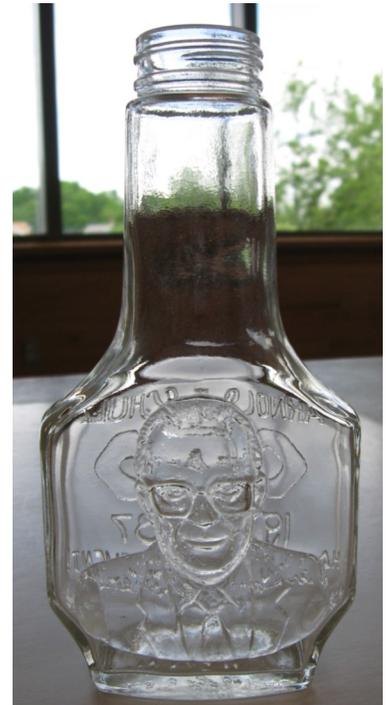
Show and Tell



Green bottle commemorating Robert R. Board, Foster Forbes Glass Co.



Green bottle commemorating Edward Moore, Metropak Containers.



Clear bottle commemorating Arnold Shulz, Kraft



McMechens Always The Best



Lucky Joe Bank



Dunkirk Glass Days 1980

Show and Tell



Did you know that Ball Brothers Company made Zinc Alloy Termite Shields!!
Dick Cole shared this interesting item



Ball Corp. made these peanut butter jars for Kraft in 1984–1985



Carrie Nation
“Prohibition”
vinegar bottle



Owens-Illinois bottle made for InterBev convention



Quart Ball Ideal celebrating “The Fisher Years”



Figural “naval jelly” bottle

Show and Tell



Jar rubbers box with man wearing "Top Hat"



Ball Mason jar formed as a whimsy into a "Top Hat", circa 1910



Figural bust of Michael J. Owens, Inventor



Wine bottle with figure of a Cat



Gerber jar with figure of a Baby

Pictures from Trip to Dick Cole's Downtown Office



LEGENDS OF THE JAR!

[Editor's Note: This article is a result of long time collector and author Bruce W. Schank reaching out to long time collectors Norm & Junne Barnett.]

For those in the hobby who know Norm Barnett, they know his name was always synonymous with nothing but the finest and rarest fruit jars available. For those who don't know Norm, just ask any long time collector and they will tell you he literally had many of the Best of the Best. Norm and Junne were also considered by many to be true pioneers of the fruit jar hobby. They led incredibly industrious and productive lives dedicated to the creation, continued expansion and perpetual existence of the fruit jar hobby in general, so that second, third and fourth generation collectors and beyond could enjoy what they did so much and what we possibly might even take a bit for granted now.

Both are members of The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors 2003 "Hall of Fame." Norm is a former FOHBC Chairman: 1979-1980, Direc-



tor at Large: 1991-2003, Midwest Region Chairman: 1977-1978 & 1985-1986, Midwest Region Vice Chairman: 1975-1976, Show Poster/Flyer Chairman: 1981- 1990 & National Show Chairman: 1993 & 2001. Junne is a former FOHBC Merchandising Director: 1993-2000, Midwest Region Editor: 1977-1978 & National Show Chairman: 1993 & 2001.

Norm was born February 9, 1926 and is a graduate of Flat Rock High School. Just prior to graduation he was taken into the Army. He was a salesman for his father's business, Oliver's Farm



The Barnett's home with Norm's famous wall of jars.

Equipment which eventually became White Farm Equipment for most of his adult life and this provided Norm and Junne a decent life style. Norm started collecting fruit jars way back in 1967 and before he knew it his jars had grown by leaps and bounds. After church on every Sunday, Norm and Junne would hit the antique shops. Norm had been bitten by the fruit jar bug bad and his old shed was full and running over and there was no turning back.

Norm and Junne had been attending a few collectors' carnival shows in Indianapolis where they met notable collectors Roy Brown and Roger Emery. It was at one of these early shows that he saw a cobalt jar for the first time. As a matter of fact Roy Brown was

Norm holding a ribbon for his unusual closed jar Display.



holding two cobalt jars in his hands. Norm didn't have any colored jars at the time but the color bug hit him and he then started looking for colored jars. Junne one day spied a green Mason quart jar and after waiting for a long time for it to be sold finally grabbed it for \$7.00 and they still own it to this day. That was their first colored jar. Junne happened to be clerking a household sale one particular time and she spotted a quart amber Lightning jar and motioned to Norm to bid on it. When it sold to someone else she looked at Norm puzzled and asked why? Well, he replied, it sold for \$18.00 which was a lot of money at that time. Of course Norm went on to eventually own some of the most fabulous colored jars in the hobby.

The first Federation Bi-Centennial Expo in 1976 had a huge impact on Norm. That is where he met Alex Kerr and George McConnell who quickly became his friends. He was able for the first time to see some of the most fantastic collections in the country on display. That single handedly changed the direction of his future collecting because it was there that he decided instead of collecting every jar known that he would instead focus on collecting "Rare" jars and those with unusual closures. The rest is history...



Alex Kerr & George McConnell.

Norm holding Rare HG R.M. Dalbey jar.

At one time Junne was at one of her many various ladies club meetings in Flat Rock when an elderly lady in her 80's brought in an R.M. Dalbey's jar that was complete and perfect in every way. She told Junne that her grandmother used to keep Christmas candy in the jar. When Junne went home and told Norm about it he hurried down to see the lady and look at the jar. He told the lady he wanted to buy it, but she said, "No I'm not ready to sell it yet." Eventually the call finally came in that she was ready to sell the jar. Junne and Norm at the time were getting ready to go to Florida on a business trip. They went over and got the jar but didn't pay her at that time. The elderly lady didn't know what to ask, and Norm and Junne didn't know what to offer her, so the lady said, "when you come back from your trip, just tell me." So they called Roy Brown, who told them you don't want to give too much, and you don't want to give too little either. So Laura suggested \$35.00 (one must remember that this was back when jars were reasonably priced), so they sent her the check before leaving for Florida. When they arrived back from the trip there was a message from the elderly lady on their phone saying, "On no, no, no you gave me too much money." That Dalbey's ended up being one of their favorite jars, and when it came time to sell it, that \$35.00 turned into a fortune because they received a whopping 15k for the jar.

The idea of forming a Bottle Club in the



Midwest was born at the 1972 St. Louis Show. Norm and Roger Emery discussed the fact that no such club existed near Indiana, and so on Nov. 12, 1972 twenty-two collectors and dealers from IL, IN and OH met at the Fire Station in Flat Rock, IN. The name Midwest Fruit Jar and Bottle Club was chosen because most of the attendees were fruit jar nuts. In fact, this Club from its inception has revolved mainly around fruit jars and is the only such Club in the Country to do so. The first "Club Show" was held in Richmond, IN on Jan

13, 1973. Several shows were held at that location. While at that first show, Dick Vanderlaan mentioned to them he wished everyone had more time to visit and talk with other collectors. That thought spawned the Summer Show with an added day of Show & Tell. This was followed by the now famous "Room Hopping" where dealers came into the



Norm in the early days posing with his jars.

Junne and Norm in the early years.



hotel days early and set up their jars in their rooms and began wheeling and dealing. Then the auctions came later, where a buyer could sell his jars at the Saturday Get-together.

What fruit jar collector who has ever attended an MAFJ&BC Show, whether originally at Richmond, Indy or Muncie, could ever imagine it any different than what it is now today. In fact, none of us could, and the hobby is that much better because of it. That format is what makes the MAFJ&BC Muncie Show the extravaganza that it is today, and the number one Show for Fruit Jars in the country bar none.

Junne incredibly managed the Club's Newsletter, "Midwest Glass Chatter" for more than 2½ decades. Both Norm and Junne dedicated their lives to the hobby, and the MAFJ&BC in doing and leading by example.

Norm and Junne also enjoyed attending the now defunct York, PA Show, which was held outside at the Fairgrounds. Dealers used to set up there in the cattle stalls, and anyone who attended can probably still remember the pungent smells. The jar picking was fabulous though.

Thinking the 2000 Denver Expo would be their last big show due to their age; Norm pulled some of the good jars from his collection and put a high price on them. He figured if they sell it's alright, and if they didn't he could put them back on the shelves. They actually sold and for great prices. He could have sold his HG black glass 1858 Mason to five different collectors. Again, he didn't care if it sold or not, but he made the remark openly that if it did sell they would go to England to see Stonehenge, a place he had wanted to see since boyhood. When the black glass HG sold, a collector asked "if he was still going to Stonehenge?" Norm wasn't sure, and said he'd think it over. Junne though was behind him and wasn't having any of that and said, "OH NO, you are not thinking it over. We are going to England." That spectacular jar by the way brought a whopping 10k.

According to Norm, selling some of his good jars allowed them to take four trips to Europe and Alaska. The hobby of collecting fruit jars has been very good to the Barnett's. He claims the hobby was responsible for Great Friends and Great Trips. Many of the friends they have now and others made over the years wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for the hobby of fruit jar collecting.



The Barnett's colorful kitchen window display.

Norm at one of his Sales Tables.



Although most of Norm's collection is gone now he often browses through Jerry McCann's 2010 Fruit Jar Annual and can visualize how his jar case looked at different times in the past. Jars such as: the Air-Tight Fruit Jar, Adams & Co., Arthur Burnham and Gilroy, Ball Fruit Jar, Belle, Buffington, R.M. Dalbey, Dalbey's Magic, Doanes Great Airtight, Excelsior with basket of fruit on reverse, Fridley and Corman, Great Eastern, Huyett & Fridley, Indicator, Ladies Favorite, Ludlows Patent, Mason's flag Standard, Mold Preventor (midget), green Patent Sept. 1860, Prosser, Safety with Cumberland Glass Works on base, and so many more fantastic fruit jars. Yes, Norm started collecting jars at the right time when they were available and at reasonable prices. Norm's favorite jar was his light blue quart Pogue jar.

Norm also claims that at other times when he closes his eyes he can see some of the jars that used to belong to him and the many people who bought them including Dan Corker, Phil Smith, Dick Bere, Dave Rittenhouse, Joe Coulson, Gerry Phifer and many others. He

can also see in his mind the collectors he has been so privileged to have purchased jars from years ago such as Alex Kerr, George McConnell, Roy Brown and others.

One particular fond memory Norm has is of Junne trying to scratch off the so-called ugly black pontil mark from the base of a cobalt blue Cunningham and co. jar that she brought home and had bought for a whopping \$37.00.



I've known Norm since meeting him in 1988 at the Indianapolis, IN Show. I remember seeing his display at that show of his unusual closed jars, and I was simply amazed at the incredible jars with original and rare closures.



**Rare Commodore & R.M. Dalbey's jars,
Now in the collection of Dan Corker.**

Norm with a fantastic over-size fruit jar.



Sadly, Norm is in poor health now but thankfully he still has a good mind. Incredibly Norm and Junne have been married for sixty-four years now, which in itself is a feat of gigantic proportions. Despite their ages Norm and Junne have continued attending as many bottle shows as possible to their credit. Due to health issues Norm has had to dispose of his wonderful collection, but considers himself fortunate to have his good friend Dan Corker to help him with that very sad job.

Norm would say to newer collectors to buy the Best jar(s) with whatever money you



**Rare midget Mold Preventor,
Now in the collection of Dan Corker.**

One of Norm's Displays of great jars.



have and don't mess around with common jars, as he did in the very beginning of his collecting. Norm would finally say, "to all of the friends we have made due to this hobby, it's been great knowing you."



**Many of Norm's early tin cans,
Now in the collection of Dick Watson.**



**Green original Ludlow pint,
Now in the collection of Dan Corker.**

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



Cartoon submitted by Lou Ebert from: The Marion Chronicle, Oct. 13, 1925

Announcements

- Our next club meeting will be September 12th at 1:30pm at the Minnetrista museum in Muncie, Indiana. Show & Tell will be “unusual” fruit jars or bottles (whittled, bubbles, inclusions, etc.).
- Minnetrista currently has a fruit jar related exhibit, “She Can Make a Difference!” The exhibit is an interactive exploration of women's historical contributions to family, community and our nation. The new exhibit, created by Minnetrista, explores the necessity of community gardening during war times and the response women provided for their families through home canning. Our club is an affiliate of Minnetrista, and we are very thankful to them for giving us a free meeting place. We proudly support them as much as we can—please consider attending. <http://www.minnetrista.net/Visit/Calendar/Exhibitions/SheCan.html>
- 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/>
- Have some spare time? Give Norm Barnett a call, he would LOVE to hear from you (best time is between 7pm and 9pm): 317-738-3232

