

MIDWEST
GLASS CHATTER
MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1971

Midwest Glass Chatter
March 2007

Club Officers

- *Dave Rittenhouse, Pres.*
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- *Richard Cole, Treas.*
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- *Joe Coulson, Sec.*
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Fishers, IN 46037
- *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: Joe Coulson, 10515 Collingswood Ln, Fishers, IN 46037

Next Club Show

July 8, 2007

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

Meeting Minutes March 4, 2007

The March meeting was held in the Cantina room at Minnetrista in Muncie. President Dave Rittenhouse opened the meeting and welcomed twenty-one members. The February meeting minutes were accepted as reported in the Glass Chatter last month and placed in the Secretary's book.

Dick Cole gave the treasurer's report which listed expenses for postage and printing of the newsletter. Dick also reviewed the Minnetrista Affiliate Charter 2007 rules. Our club will continue to be an Affiliate. A copy of the treasurer's report and affiliate rules was placed in the Secretary's book.

Show and Tell

Several members brought items to share at our March meeting, in addition to bringing items for this month's program.

Lou Ebert shared a greenish aqua QT #1624 The Marion Jar Mason's Patent Nov. 30TH 1858 with a triangle symbol on the base. This jar was given to him just before the meeting started by fellow collector Marty Troxell!

Dave Rittenhouse mentioned that he would be attending the March 18 show in St. Louis.

Marty Troxell said that he went to the Columbus, Ohio show and had a fun and interesting time. He bought a couple of nice flasks and a Pennsylvania crock with a big blue flower on it. The Columbus show is always a big one.

The MAFJBC July Show will once again make use of The Signature Inn for accommodations. The hotel's 46 first floor rooms will be blocked until 30 days before the show. Please consider making your reservations early (765-284-4200).

John Elwood displayed a wonderful light green QT #592 Chicago Fruit Jar with original glass "pickle pusher" immerser. This is an Australian jar.

Walter Gausmann (and Ann was there too!) shared a couple variations of an aqua QT #262-1 Ball (script) Mason's Patent Nov 80TH 1858. One jar had the correct spelling of 30TH while the other was misspelled 80TH.



Once again there were many good refreshments brought to the meeting by club members.

The April 1st meeting will be at Minnetrista. Rev. Phil Robinson will be giving the program this month, "Parable of Jars."

See you all at the April meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary

This jar was produced by Ball Brothers Glass Mfg. Co., Muncie, Indiana, circa 1893-94 probably from acquired moulds. No information as to how many jars were produced. Early fruit jar production did not have high quality control and inspection.

Show and Tell, cont'd

The error jar does not have a connecting center line in the 8.



Charles Williams didn't bring any jars to display, but he did tell us the story of why Xenia, Ind. changed its name to Converse. Essentially the railroad company forced the name change to reduce confusion about its rail stops with the same name!

Colleen Dixon shared an original box of 12 Kerr jelly jars with plastic lids.



Colleen brought several other jars for Dick Cole to identify during his program.



Marty Troxell brought a couple of nice yellowware jars. Both were stamped Robert Arthurs Patent (etc.) on the base. The capacities were 1 3/4 and 5 3/4 cups.

Joe Coulson brought a clear HG #1416 King. This is a scarce size and Joe brought it to the meeting so that Dave Rittenhouse could take it home and polish out the cloudy stains on the inside.



Sue Wilson brought an amber HG #293-5 Ball Perfect Mason, and a clear HG #293-5 Ball Perfect Mason.



Sue also displayed a Ball money clip. This item is a really nice go-with.



Meredith Robinson displayed a really nice old jelly glass with original glass cap which had a fancy design imprinted on the inside.



Mike and Gusty Monaghan displayed a light amber QT #340 Ball "Buffalo" reproduction jar. It turns out that this jar was made by Wheaton for Ball during the time of the U.S. Bicentennial.

Phil Robinson shared the same REDKEY kerosene oil can that he brought to the meeting last month. This time around he showed off all the nice repair work he had done on the can!

Anne Szopa displayed a clear PT #347-5 "75th Anniversary, 1908-1983" (front), "National Fruit Product Company, Winchester Va. 1983" (reverse); an unusual pink colored #293-5 Ball Perfect Mason; and a clear QT #244 Ball Mason with huge bubbles in the glass!! This is very unusual to see in a modern jar.



Phil Robinson repaired this REDKEY oil can to give it a new life



Program—Modern History of Home Canning Jars

The recent history of the manufacture of home canning jars can be confusing.

In 1988, Ball and TBG, a Dutch company, merged their U.S. glass plants into a new company called Ball-Incon. The TBG plants had been called Indianhead Containers. This venture was owned jointly by Ball and TBG, but operated independently. In July 1994, Ball bought out TBG's interest, and formed Ball Glass Containers, Inc. which was a wholly-owned subsidiary.

A year later, in September 1995, Ball and Saint Gobain, a French company, formed Ball Foster Glass Co., composed of the Ball glass plants and the former Foster-Forbes Glass Company. Ball owned 42% of this new operation, Saint Gobain owned 58%. After about a year, Ball sold its interest to Saint Gobain, thus ending its long history of making glass. In 2000, the Ball-Foster name was changed to Saint Gobain Containers, Inc., which it

remains today.

Meanwhile, in 1993, Ball Corporation spun off its home canning division, along with the metal decorating, plastics, zinc and industrial systems division into a new company called Alltrista. The name derived from 'Ball' without the B, and 'trista' from Minnetrista. This was a completely independent company. Ball stockholders received one share of Alltrista for every five shares of Ball stock that they held.

Alltrista received a limited license to use the name "Ball" on home canning items only. Since Alltrista owned no glass plants, they contracted with Ball-InCon to make the glass bodies of the canning jars. Later they had them made by the Anchor Glass plant in Winchester, Indiana.

Alltrista continued to manufacture the home canning lids. They purchased the home canning businesses of Kerr and Bernardin, making

Alltrista the sole producer of canning. The headquarters were first located in the Fisher Building (former Ball Corp. headquarters) in Muncie, Indiana, but later moved to Indianapolis, Indiana.

In 2002, under new management, the name was changed to Jarden Corporation, and the headquarters moved to Rye, New York. The manufacture of home canning lids and bands continues in Muncie and the headquarters of the Jarden Home Brands Division of Jarden Corp. are still located in the Fisher Building.

Presented by Dick Cole, curator of Business and Industrial History at Minnetrista

Dick also was kind enough to help identify the plant codes on modern Ball jars that members brought to the meeting. Dick gave out several reference material sheets too!



Dick Cole discusses the modern history of the manufacture of home canning jars

Post-WWII Changes in Ball Fruit Jars

1947 Ball Freezer Jar, first in line of tapered jars; introduced Ball Special Widemouth; and Ball Eclipse jars re-issued

1952 Ball Freezer Jar changed to Ball Refrigerator and Freezer Jar; Ball Eclipse line discontinued

1955 Half-pint Ball Perfect Mason and Ball Ideal discontinued; Ball Refrigerator and Freezer Jar changed to Ball

1957 Cup/ounce measurements added to Ball Perfect Mason and Special Widemouth; Plant/year codes put on base

1960 Logo changed to closed loop B; Word 'Perfect' and 'Special' dropped

1962 Ball Ideal line discontinued; Never made closed loop B Ideals?

1962-66 Sculptured Fruit Design added; Plant/year code on base dropped

1974 Metric graduations added

1975 Registration mark added

1982-1995 Base embossing mostly removed



Club Member Recognized for Research

Indiana Genealogical Society Newsletter, Volume 18, Number 4, August 2006, Page 14. The following article was submitted by club member Pat Van Dyke, who recognized that this article mentions our very own Lou Ebert!

The Indiana Genealogical Society has received updated information on the accomplishments of Louis E. Ebert, who was a recipient of the Distinguished County Genealogical Service Award at the IGS annual conference in April (2006). This information comes courtesy of the Marion Public Library.

Louis E. Ebert retired as a draftsman from Indiana & Michigan Electric Company

(now American Electric Power Company). Mr. Ebert has been a regular volunteer in the Indiana Room of the Marion Public Library since 1992.

Mr. Ebert has extensively researched many businesses in Grant County, including Rutenber Electric Company, Delta Electric Company, and the Crosley Corporation. He is considered an expert on Grant County glass factories. In fact, he has created an index of Grant County businesses that is being digitized by another volunteer.

Calling on his draftsmanship, he drew maps to accompany his research on rail systems, including the Interurban in Grant County. Other maps that Mr. Ebert has cre-

ated include existing Grant County cemeteries and township lines in the city of Marion.

Mr. Ebert also has copied Marion and Grant County directories from 1887 through 1940, phone books from 1899 through 1956, and Grant County plats from 1860 until the present. The plats are now in a book that is easily accessible to library patrons.

Not only has Mr. Ebert donated his research to the library, he has generously given his time to help budding researchers. He has donated his time and knowledge to Marion High School students who were researching buildings, businesses, and houses in Grant County.



*John Elwood brought
this light green QT
#592 Chicago
Trademark Fruit Jar
(Australian)
with Immerser*



BACK TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

1976 **2007**

2007 FOHBC NATIONAL BOTTLE SHOW



AUGUST 17 - 19, 2007

BANQUET: ~~~~~ FRIDAY, AUG. 17 ~ 6:30 PM
 FEATURING **GREG HAWLEY**, STEAMBOAT ARABIA EXCAVATOR

EARLY ADMISSION: ~~~~~ SATURDAY, AUG. 18 ~ 1:00 TO 5:00 PM
 SUNDAY, AUG. 19 ~ 8:00 AM TO 9:00 AM

PUBLIC: ~~~~~ SUNDAY, AUG. 19 ~ 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

 **GATEWAY CENTER** ONE GATEWAY DRIVE
 COLLINSVILLE, IL 62234

SHOW CHAIRMAN ~~~~~ R. WAYNE LOWRY, 401 JOHNSTON CT., RAYMORE, MO 64083
 (CONTRACTS AND INFO) PHONE 816-318-0161 ~ JARDOCTOR@AOL.COM

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE ~~~ CURT FALKENBERRY, 9459 EASY ST., HILLSBORO, MO 63050
 PHONE 636-797-5220 ~ STLBOUBLEBABE@YAHOO.COM

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT
JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

A jarrific place to share and learn

Send articles and info here:

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Fishers, IN 46037-9598

Email: JCoulson@LeaderJar.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG



Dick Cole reviews the variations of 25 different clear Ball Perfect Mason jars with attendees. Dick demonstrated that collecting just this one series (and color and size) of jar can be a fun and interesting challenge all by itself!

Announcements

- The April 1st club meeting will be at Minnetrista at 1:30pm in the Cantina. Our program will be "Parable of the Jars", presented by Rev. Phil Robinson. For directions or more information, email Dick Cole: dcole@minnetrista.net
- The FOHBC 2007 National show will be in Collinsville, IL, August 17 - 19, 2007 at the Gateway Center. The Holiday Inn is the host hotel. For contract or more information contact R. Wayne Lowry, 401 Johnston Ct., Raymore, MO 64083, 816-318-0161, JarDoctor@aol.com. The guest speaker at the banquet will be Greg Hawley, one of the excavators of the steamboat Arabia. He has a 45 minute presentation and is bringing artifacts (bottles, jars, etc.) with him.
- Future club meetings (our schedule is the first Sunday of the month): May 6 and June 3. The July meeting will be replaced by the next Club Show. Meeting themes are being posted in advance on the club website: <http://www.fruitjar.org>

