

MIDWEST
GLASS CHATTER
MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1971

Midwest Glass Chatter
May 2007

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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 May 6, 2007

The May meeting was held in the Cantina room at Minnetrista in Muncie, IN. President Dave Rittenhouse opened the meeting and welcomed 11 members. The April meeting minutes were accepted as reported in last month's newsletter, and a copy was placed in the Secretary's book.

Dick Cole presented the treasurer's report for April. Expenses included the cost of renewing (\$200/yr.) insurance coverage for our Shows. Dave is going to investigate to see if the club's membership in the Federation includes insurance or not. It is possible we could reduce this expense.

Dave mentioned that he would be setting up a sales table at the Mansfield, Ohio show this coming weekend. Club members always look forward to attending this big

bottle show.

Jean and Dave have been working hard to identify meeting themes well in advance. Be prepared at our next meeting to discuss possible themes for the August and September meetings.

Contracts have been mailed out for the MAFJBC July Show. Give Dave a call if you need one. The Show will once again make use of The Signature Inn for accommodations. The hotel's 46 first floor rooms will be blocked until June 6th. Please consider making your reservations very soon (765-284-4200).

Many attendees commented on how beautiful the Minnetrista grounds looked this month. The Spring flowers in the surrounding gardens were in full bloom.

The June 3rd club meet-



ing will be at Minnetrista in the Cantina at 1:30pm. **Note a SECOND change of location for this meeting!** However, the Minnetrista parking lot will **not** be available as it will have tents set up on it. Members may drive to the main entrance of the Minnetrista Center to unload, then park at the Delaware Co. Fairgrounds—the entrance is the first street north of Minnetrista on Wheeling Ave. It is a short walk through to the Minnetrista Center. The meeting will be “Pottery Jars.”

See you all at the June meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary

Show and Tell

Several members brought items to share at our May meeting. The theme for this month was “Glass top seal lids, Immersers, or glass caps”.

John Elwood started us off with several jars with original closures. John displayed the following: an aqua midget

PT #1722 Trade Marks Mason's CFJCo Improved (CFJCo glass lid); a clear QT #305 Ball (script, undropped 'a') Special Made In U.S.A. (Ball glass lid); an amber QT #340 BBGMCo reproduction (with milkglass Ball Bros. lid); an aqua QT #1432 Knowlton



Vacuum (star) Fruit Jar (with

Show and Tell, cont'd

correct Knowlton glass lid and cap); an aqua QT #1084-6 The Gem (with Rutherford & Co. glass lid); a Ball blue QT #219 Ball (3-L loop) Improved (with glass lid); and a light green #592-1 "Chicago" Fruit Jar (with glass immerser lid).



Larry Stoner brought a clear PT #2635 Simplex Mason (with glass cap). This was one of six jars he started with in 1967. They were given to him by his mother which in turn were given by her mother. The jar originally was full of hard candy.

Dave Rittenhouse shared an aqua QT #2673 The T.A. Snider Preserve Co. He had purchased this jar 25 years ago without the correct lid. Just recently he was able to purchase a group lot of junk lids which contained the correct lid for this jar!



Dave also showed us a clear PT #1294 Imperial Pat. April 20th 1886. This is another jar Dave bought about 25 years ago without the correct lid. The person selling it

told him that "you will never find a pint size lid to go with it." About 2 years ago Dave bought the correct lid with some minor damage, and the seller of the lid told him "you will never find a pint jar to go with it!" What a coincidence!



Norm Barnett displayed a clear QT #1663 "Mason" (figure of immerser) Disk Immerser. When Norm first purchased this jar many years ago, it did not have the correct lid. Don Burkett did have a correct immerser lid, which Norm was able to obtain. Years later Norm acquired another correct immerser lid for this jar. Surprisingly, Don Burkett in the meantime had acquired an example of this rare jar without the lid, and Norm was able to return the favor!

Mike Keith had been very anxious all meeting to get to show and tell, because he had something "special" to show us! Mike recovered several items during a recent dump dig. The first thing he showed was a clear 10 oz. "Tangy" Brooks ketchup bottle (with Ball logo on base), which he gave to Joe Coulson to add to Joe's Ball collection. Mike also showed a clear 16 oz. Nehi soda bottle made by the Root plant in Terre Haute, Ind. Mike said that he had recovered many common bottles from the dig site.

After building up the suspense to all curious onlookers, Mike displayed his last "dig" piece. It was a beautiful olive green QT #314 Ball (3-L loop) Standard wax sealer! He said it brought a tear to his eye when he found it!



Mike also shared a recent acquisition to his Millville collection. It was an aqua HP #2185 Millville (reverse: Hital's Paten).



Jean Harbron made the effort to bring the photos from her previous Show display of glass top seal lids. It was very professionally done with 31 blown-up photos of glass lids.

Jean brought the following jars with correct lids to show us: a clear HP #115 Atlas E-Z Seal (with Atlas EDJ Seal lid); a clear HP #133 Atlas HA Mason (with HA lid); a clear PT #133 Atlas HA Mason (with HA lid and stippled lettering); and an aqua PT #1114 Glassboro Trade Mark Improved (with Glass-



Norm Barnett showed a rare clear QT #1663 "MASON" (figure of immerser) Disk Immerser with original closure



Show and Tell, cont'd

boro glass lid).



Joe Coulson displayed 6 different early Ball Bro's. Glass Mfg. Co.—Buffalo N.Y. glass lids. Joe got inspired to collect as many different varieties as he could after seeing pictures of Jeff Harper's National FOHBC Show display and handout on Ball lids. These are described with jar #194.



One of Joe's lids was a milkglass midget pint lid.



Tom Sproat displayed an aqua QT Fahnestock Albree & Co. wax sealer. Tom likes to collect early jars.

Tom also shared with us some of the old letters from the 1910s from his grandfather's store, McKell & Co.,

which closed in 1917.



One of the letters was of particular interest to this month's theme. A letter dated March 14, 1916 talks about new top seal lids available from Ball. There are no references to these lids in any of the 1917 letters that he has. Tom was going to meet with Dick Roller at the July Show in 1998 to show him these letters (they had corresponded about the collection of letters), but Dick's health failed and this did not come about. Dick had previously thought that the Ball glass lids marked "Top Seal" and "Ball Perfect Mason" were made in 1932.

Junne Barnett shared a jelly glass lid which read "National Jelly Pat Dec. 7, 1875". She said it is for sale.



Lou Ebert shared several glass lids. The first was a clear lid marked "Patd Sept. 20th 1898 (around F in center)". Patent #610,897 was issued to Samuel J. Dunkley, Kalamazoo, Mich., and the lid fits these jars: #181, #854, #855,

and #2637.

Lou's second clear lid was marked "Pat. Dec. 30. '02. U-NO-ME". Patent #717,388 was issued to John S. Giles, Chicago, Ill., and the lid fits jar #2855. While this patent was used on the unmarked jar advertised as "U-NO-ME" made by Safe Glass Co. of Upland, Ind. and Chicago, Ill., this lid will not fit the quart and half gallon jars—it may be from a jam/jelly jar.

Lou's third clear lid was marked "Calcutt's Patent Apr. 11th Nov. 7th 1893". Patent #495,299 and D22,873 was issued to Reginald B. Calcutt, Chicago, Ill. This lid fits on jar #549 (unmarked). These jars were made by The Canton Glass Co. and the Canton Glass Works of the National Glass Co., both in Marion, Ind.—also by The Cambridge Glass Co. of Cambridge, Ohio. It should be noted that the pint and quart lids are different sizes.

Lou also displayed a clear QT #565 The Canton Domestic Fruit Jar (lid marked "Patd Dec 31 1889), and a light purple #566 The Canton Domestic Fruit Jar (word Domestic in frame). Patent #418,266 was issued to David Barker, Canton, Ohio, and assigned to Canton Glass Co. David Barker was the designer for Canton Glass Co. Lou showed us that there are two styles of these lids: 1) The top surface of the lid is domed, which matches the patent drawing (inside diameter 2 11/16 inches); 2) The top surface of the lid is flat



Lou showed this fancy jar with wonderfully embossed eagle lid



Show and Tell, cont'd

and there is a slight difference in the shape of the fin (inside diameter 2 3/4 inches).



The domed lids were probably made before the factory in Canton, Ohio burned on March 23, 1890. The domed lids, which are rare, will not fit on all of The Canton Domestic Fruit Jars. These jars were made by The Canton Glass Co., Canton, Ohio and Marion, Ind. and The Canton Glass Works of the National Glass Co. in Marion, Ind.—also by The Cambridge Glass Co. of Cambridge, Ohio.



Lou displayed a clear #2333 Perfect Seal (script, in circle), with wide attached black ring marked "Perfect Seal Perfect Seal Inc., Youngstown, O. U.S.A. Wet Before Using Patent No. 2,212,804". The patentee was Royal W. Wynings, Youngstown, Ohio, and assigned to Elsie Keefer, Youngstown, Ohio. In 1945 some of these jars were made by Slick Glass Co., Gas City, Ind.



Lou showed an aqua lid marked "Ball Bro's Glass Mfg Co. Buffalo N.Y." with circular depression in the middle and cone in the center surrounded by two raised circles, with the circles connected by rays. This lid fits jar series #194 and #195.

Lou's last show and tell item was a clear lid marked with an eagle with wings spread full, beak wide open, right talon on world globe showing western hemisphere, shield in lower right background, arrows and olive branches.

The lid and corresponding jar were designed according to Canton Glass Co.'s pattern no. 130, referred to as "Multiple Scroll" by collectors. This pattern was used on several items, advertised as early as 1893. The fruit jars were shown in the Canton Glass Works section of the National Glass Co.'s 1902 export catalog, and in the 1903 catalog of The Cambridge Glass Co. The jars have a fancy band at the shoulder and at the heel. There is a smooth area between the bands. The fruit jars were shown in 3 pound and 5 pound sizes. They were also shown with a bail handle fastened to the screw band and listed as caddies. They were probably sold as packer jars for fancy fruits.

Dick Cole was our final presenter. He displayed a table full of glass lids which once belonged to Dick Roller and now are in the Minnetrista museum.



One of the lids in the collection was a "Ball Perfect Mason" that Tom Sproat mentioned earlier.



Dick also showed us a rare Ohio Fruit Jar Co. clear glass lid for an Ohio No 11 Jelly jar from his personal collection. Dick collects Brinkerhoff (Ohio Fruit Jar Co.) items. There is a family connection to Brinkerhoff.

Dick also showed us a couple of photographs of Ball workers pressing fruit jar lids!

Everyone enjoyed looking at the large number of glass lids. Lots of interesting things to discuss!



Dick Cole displayed a rare lid for an Ohio No 11 Jelly, made by the Ohio Fruit Jar Co. of Upper Sandusky, Ohio



Michael J. Owens Inducted into Inventors HOF

Newspaper article from The Blade, Toledo, Ohio, Wednesday, April 4, 2007. First reported in FABC's April "Whittle Marks" newsletter.

Toledoan Michael J. Owens, who invented the automatic bottle-blowing machine more than a century ago, will be posthumously inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame next month.

The hall in Akron announced yesterday that Mr. Owens, who died in 1923, will be among 41 "historically significant inventors" inducted May 4th.

Mr. Owens' name was on 49 patents, which included

machinery for making sheet glass and for making light bulbs. But his bottle-blowing machine revolutionized the glass-container industry and is credited for eliminating child labor in the industry.

He is the "Owens" in the Fortune 500 firms Owens-Illinois Inc. and Owens Corning, and the former Libbey-Owens-Ford Co. that is now part of Pilkington PLC, as well as in Owens Community College.

"We're honored to recognize Michael Owens' achievements," said Fred Allen, vice president for selection for the hall of fame.

"What he did gave rise to

a whole industry and gave us a world of technology we have the luxury of taking for granted today. He deserves to be better known as an inventor who played an important role in the history of our economy and our society."

In 1983, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers designated one of Mr. Owens' early machines as an International Historic Engineering Landmark and called it "the most significant advance in glass production in over 2,000 years." Modern versions of his machine, licensed by O-I globally, can produce up to a million bottles or jars a day.



"Modern versions of his machine, licensed by O-I globally, can produce up to a million bottles or jars a day."

The Owens Machine in Greenfield in 1909

Newspaper article from the Hancock Democrat, Greenfield, Indiana, September 16, 1909, page 7 of Art Supplement. Dick Roller referred to this in the Sep. 1996 Fruit Jar Newsletter.

"Three of the machines have just been put into the Greenfield fruit jar & bottle plant and set to work at a schedule of fourteen jars per minute for each machine or 7,300,000 per year, or about 20 million per year for these three machines. Already, though the first three that have ever made fruit jars have only just begun their endless grind, steps are being taken to increase their schedule to twenty-four jars a minute for each machine, or a total of something over 12,000,000 a year or 25,000,000 or so for

the three machines.

The new machine, of which the Greenfield Fruit Jar & Bottle Company has the exclusive use in making fruit jars in this country, is the first one that has ever turned out jars entirely by machinery. For twenty years or so fruit jars have been made, more or less, by machinery. The first machines became known as 'two man machines,' because one man was needed to gather the molten glass and drop it into the machine molds while another man operated the machine by levers and turning on air valves. About ten years ago, George C. Pyle, the inventor of the Pyle electric headlight for locomotives, got to work on the problem of a fruit-jar manufacturing machine, and he invented and put into operation at the

Greenfield plant, what is said to have been the first machine to manufacture fruit jars that was automatic to the extent of being a 'one man machine.' This machine and its modifications became general. The new machines that have just been installed in the same plant mark the next step, they get rid of the one operator. They are hitched up to electric motors and move up in front of patented open ovens in which there is a constant flow of molten glass. The machines do the rest, and human aid is needed only to get the dropping jars out of the way.

The principle of the machine is simple enough. There are six fruit jar molds. Those are placed on a wheel-like frame. The machine is moved up to the supply of liquid glass and the wheel,

The Owens Machine in Greenfield in 1909, cont'd

which operates horizontally, is started. As it brings each mold around to the open furnace it drops an inner mold down into the glass. The air is sucked out of the mold and of course the liquid glass rushes up into the vacuum as it keeps moving on its circular journey. As it is just about to leave the supply of molten glass, a sort of knife-like trap covers the hole and the glass is confined. It almost instantly begins to congeal, and before it travels more than three feet the inner mold, which sucked it up, separates and drops back, revealing glass.

It is held at the top by a permanent mold which has, in the meantime, formed the neck of the jar. The air pipe begins to puff air in through this neck and the molten glass begins to swell like a fiery bubble the instant it is revealed to view. Then the divided mold, which is the exact shape of the fruit jar, closes with the glass inside, and the molten mass is blown out into the shape of the jar.

Just before the mold gets around to the furnace again the fruit jar mold drops about a foot and the mold that sucks up the glass is brought into place for its dip into the molten glass. As it clears the furnace with its glass, the completed jar is dropped into a chute. It is still a cherry red, but perfectly molded, with trademarks and names blown into its side and its mouth completely finished. The jar mold having discharged its product comes up and clamps around the red-hot glass that has been sucked up for it and the process keeps up round

and round, minute after minute, hour after hour, week after week, without limit, if the electricity keeps up and the supply of glass is unending.

This is said to be the first machine that has ever been invented that sucks up its supply of glass and therefore is said to be the only one that has proved perfectly successful in the production of small mouthed or neck bottles, it having been found impractical to force enough glass down through a small hole to make a small necked bottle, though it has been possible to operate very successfully with such "dropping" machines in the manufacture of large-mouth bottles.

The great advantage that is claimed for the new machine is that the jars that it turns out are absolutely uniform. It sucks up just as much glass as will fill the vacuum chamber. In making fruit jars by machine processes, the manufacturers have counted on a variation of an ounce in the weight of the jars. The other great feature is that the glass gathering and air pressure is such that every part of the jar is absolutely the same thickness, and thus thick and thin streaks or layers are obviated. Also by the new machine the jar is made the thickest around the top, which is the first part cast, and is always of a certain thickness. There is thus obviated the weakness that sometimes causes breaking in putting on or taking off the cover. In the old days of hand-made or man-blown jars, the women-folk had to be certain that all of the shell-like glass was out. There is none of this in ma-

chine-made jars.

From an economic point of view, it is figured that each machine operating at the rate of fourteen jars a minute will make as many jars as fifteen men in twenty four hours could make. Inasmuch as it does all the skilled labor, the men who take the bottles out of the way are employed at an unskilled day wage.

It seems to be very fitting that the only place in this country where this new machine, which is the invention of Michael J. Owens, a glass worker, is to make fruit jars, will be in Indiana. The Greenfield company, which is in fact Louis Hollweg, has the exclusive rights for it for this country for fruit jar making. Indiana is the big fruit jar State. Three-fourths of all of the fruit jars made in the United States are made in this State, and most of them in Muncie and in Greenfield. A third center is Terre Haute, and the only other two factories exclusively making jars are at Coffeyville, Kas., and at Washington, Pa. Some fruit jars are made in bottle factories as a side product, but A. Lloyd, general manager of the Greenfield plant, says that probably over ninety per cent of the total annual supply comes from the five centers named, Muncie, Greenfield, Washington, Pa., Terre Haute, and Coffeyville.

One of the interesting features of this industry is that practically half of the fruit jars are sold by the manufacturers in February - and sometimes almost half of them are sold within two days."



"Three-fourths of all the fruit jars made in the United States are made in this state, and most of them in Muncie and in Greenfield."

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
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MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT
JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

A jarrific place to share and learn

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG



Mike Keith displayed this beautiful olive green Ball Standard wax sealer. The lettering is crudely and boldly embossed. It not only brought a tear to Mike's eye when he found it dump digging, but also nearly brought a tear to everyone's eye just thinking about the fun of finding such a treasure.

Announcements

- The June 3rd club meeting will be at Minnetrista in the **Cantina** at 1:30pm. **Note a SECOND change of location for this meeting!** We are back in the Cantina. However, the Minnetrista parking lot will **not** be available as it will have tents set up on it. Members may drive to the main entrance of the Minnetrista Center to unload. Parking is available at the Delaware County Fairgrounds, a short walk from Minnetrista. The entrance to the Delaware County Fairgrounds is the first street north of Minnetrista on Wheeling Ave. Park there and walk through to the Minnetrista Center. The topic will be "Pottery Jars." Bring what you have. Look up the RB# of your jars ahead of time.
- 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): 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>

