

MIDWEST  
**GLASS CHATTER**  
MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter  
November 2010

### Club Officers

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### TIME TO RENEW !!!

Please send in your club membership dues for 2011 to Anne Szopa

### 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, November 7, 2010

The November club meeting was held at Minnetrista in Muncie, Indiana. President Dave Rittenhouse opened the meeting and welcomed 14 members.

Dave mentioned the recent passing of Norm Barnett. He indicated that there was a good turn out at the viewing and funeral service. Junne Barnett appreciated all the "jar friends" that could be there. The funeral really was a celebration of Norm's life. Several people came all the way from the east coast.

Anne Szopa gave the Treasurer's report for November. We had a little income from membership dues. Expenses included the club picnic and publishing the newsletter. The club continues to maintain a positive bank balance.

Dave asked for a report from the club officer nominating committee. The same slate of officers from 2010 were nominated for 2011. A motion was made to keep the same club officers. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dave gave an update on our preparations for the January Muncie Show. Contracts for dealer tables and displays have started coming in. Dave encouraged everyone to hand out show flyers at all of the

bottle shows that you attend, or any other place you think may be appropriate (such as antique malls). Ads for our show have started appearing in the major bottle magazines. Several people are going to attend this show that have not been there in a while. The buzz and excitement is building for our big show weekend.

Dave mentioned that the Terre Haute Bottle Show is November 20th. He will have a sales table, and so will Marty Troxell.

Our next meeting is the annual Christmas Pitch-in Dinner on December 5th. The party will be held at Minnetrista at 1:30pm. The club will provide ham and turkey, paper products and plastic utensils. Members should bring a small side dish and a small dessert. Coffee and water will be provided. A soft drink machine (\$1.25) is available. Activities: short business meeting; plans for the Muncie Show on January 9; dirty bingo—bring a wrapped jar, bottle or go-with valued at \$10 or less and enjoy the fun!

Our club meeting in January will be replaced by the January Show. There will be a Fruit Jar Get-Together and Auction on Saturday, January 8th starting at 1:30pm. If you know



anyone who is interested in jelly glasses or jam jars then make sure to tell them about the Jelly Jammers club meeting at 10am that same day at the Signature Inn. Of course, don't forget about room-hopping too. Many of the attendees will have their hotel room doors open and signs posted inviting you to come in and chat and view items for sale. Room-hopping typically happens Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The actual Show will be at the Horizon Convention Center on Sunday, January 9th from 9am to 2pm.

See you all at the next meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary



## Norman Barnett—A Friend Remembered

I met Norman Barnett a little over seven years ago. This was when I first developed an interest in collecting fruit jars. I learned about the Midwest Antique Fruit Jar & Bottle Club (MAFJBC) while searching for information about fruit jars on the Internet. I discovered the club's meeting place was within an hour's driving distance from where I lived. The warm reception that I got from Norm (club President at that time), his wife Junne, and all the other club members, is the reason that I am so involved with the hobby today. They are my extended family.

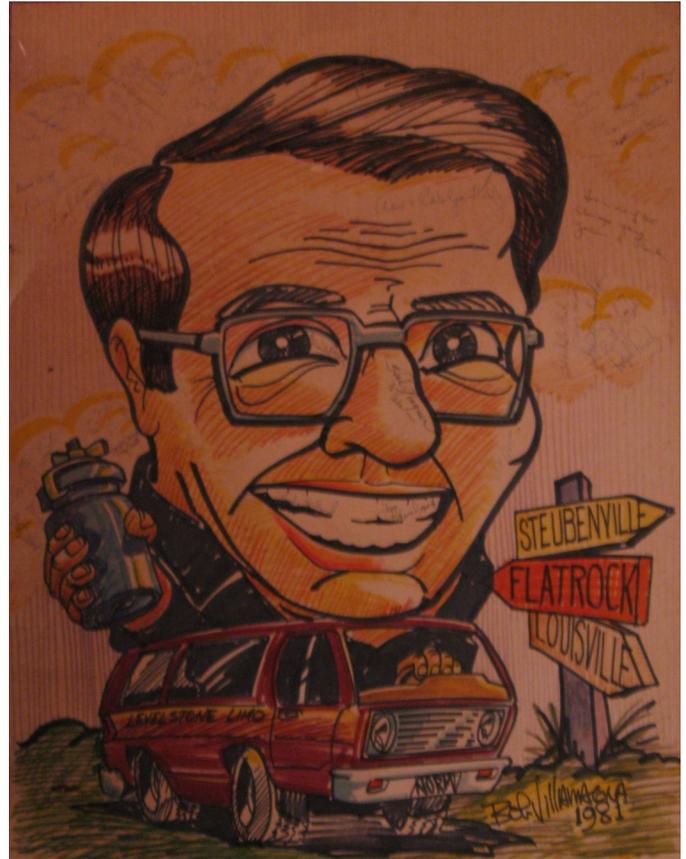
Norm was one of the founding members of the MAFJBC in 1971. I recall him saying that he only missed three club meetings during the entire time span from that beginning until a few months ago when his health worsened. I can tell you from personal experience that Norm was very dedicated to the hobby, and he enjoyed every aspect of it. To my generation of collectors, he was like a grandfather.

I learned many things about early fruit jars, rare original closures, and hobby history from him. It seemed like at

every club meeting he had another story to tell, and I was eager to listen and soak it all in. I re-lived some of the early days of the hobby through his stories. I don't think he missed very many bottle shows during the peak years of his collecting career. He and Junne were always "off to a bottle show" (see accompanying artwork by Bill Villamagna).

If you had met Norm you would probably not forget him. He would strike up a conversation with just about anyone. Maybe that is why he was such a good ambassador for the hobby. He liked to tell jokes (sometimes he was like Archie Bunker from "All in the Family", and other times he was like Henny Youngman with one-liners). He would talk to you for as long as you wanted to listen. Norm was Show Chairman for the MAFJBC Summer and Winter Shows for the majority of his time in the club. He seemed to thrive on public service, and I know that he was also well known for his many years of service in the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (also from its humble beginning).

I don't know if it would



have been possible for Norm to accomplish all of his hobby achievements without his most important "Go-With", his wife Junne. I can't think of a time when I ever saw the two of them apart. I am sure it is tough on Junne now that Norm has passed on. I hope

that I can give back to the hobby in a way that accomplishes at least a fraction of what Norm did in his lifetime. Those are some big shoes to fill. We will all miss him.

—Joe Coulson



## Show and Tell

Club members were asked to bring Atlas jars and bottles (or other company-related items) for Show and Tell.

We had a very special pair of guests at our November meeting. Russ “Mr. Atlas” and Heidi Crupe made the long trip from Washington, Pennsylvania to share in our program.

Russ started us off with the “Holy Grail” of Atlas jar collecting—an amber pint Atlas E-Z Seal. There are only two known amber pints.

In honor of Norm Barnett’s recent passing, Russ had a “Norm story” to tell. There was a fruit jar get-together at a bottle show in Steubenville, Ohio in the early 1980’s. Russ brought a Kerr Economy half gallon jar shard that was found at a dig. The shard was amber with pink and milkglass swirls. Russ showed it to Norm, and his eyes got real big. Norm wanted to buy it, because he said he had this friend that would really like it. He said that his friend helps out hobby people and this item was something that he would appreciate. Norm said he would see his friend at the next show coming up soon, which was the Midwest Antique Fruit Jar & Bottle Club show. Russ told Norm to give the shard to his friend, since the hobby is about friendship and helping people.

The friend that Norm was referring to was Alex Kerr, whom Russ had never met. Norm gave Alex the shard as promised. The result was that Russ made friends with Alex through Norm. Alex sent Russ several jars before he even met him in person. That’s just the kind of guy that Alex was. The

next year after getting the shard, Alex attended the Washington, Pennsylvania Bottle Show near where Russ lived. You have to understand that this was a small show with less than 50 tables, and Alex was a millionaire owner of the Kerr Glass Mfg. Corp. Russ said that you would never know that Alex was well-to-do from his manner or appearance. He was a true gentleman.

Russ told us the story of how he acquired the rare amber pint Atlas E-Z Seal. He received a phone call in the early 1980’s from someone who wanted to sell the pint to him for \$350. This person had previously talked to George Reilly and Alex Kerr, and both of them said that he needed to talk to Russ! The jar was made in the 1930’s in Zanesville, Ohio according to the base numbers. Russ said that the best thing in this hobby, beyond being good caretakers of our collections, is making friends.

Russ showed us another rare Atlas jar—a clear quart “HA grippers” jar. The jar gets its name from the large and tall HA letters that appear multiple times around the body of the jar. The raised lettering would have allowed a person to grip (hold tight without slipping) the jar better while preserving fruits or vegetables. This jar was also made in Zanesville, Ohio. Russ said that he can only substantiate two examples of this jar—one in his collection and one in another person’s collection. Russ got his jar from Art Snyder’s widow. Al Vignon had initially overlooked the jar when inventorying Art’s better jars after Art

passed away. Russ said that Don Burkett thought he would get it, but when the jar was located, it had a note in it to contact Russ! Russ was able to acquire the jar for \$500. The second example of the “HA grippers” jar changed hands at the Mansfield, Ohio Bottle Show earlier this year. Russ said that he offered \$100 for the “HA grippers” jar in the early 1980’s (and had no takers) even though the Red Book price guide listed it with a value of \$6–\$8!

Russ showed several nice Atlas advertising items. He had two watch fobs and a pocket mirror, circa 1906, with the “It’s All In the Jar” slogan. He shared a 1937 bakelite calendar, and a small 1936 tin sheet calendar.

Russ displayed two aqua incompletely blown quart Atlas Strong Shoulder Mason jars. One had been dug from a cullet pile not far from the factory site. The other came from the Shirlee MacDonald.

Russ told us that he started to focus on Atlas jars in 1980. The Atlas company started in Washington, Pennsylvania, which is his hometown area. Russ’s mother worked for Hazel-Atlas in the 1950’s, and he still has her union card. Russ has specialized in Atlas items (not just jars) for 30 years., which has earned him the title of “Mr. Atlas.” He has amassed a very large collection and is eager to share his knowledge and enthusiasm with other collectors.

Bruce Schank made his first appearance at one of our monthly club meetings. Bruce very recently moved from



Atlas E-Z Seal  
Amber Pint  
1 of 2 Known



Atlas Strong Shoulder Mason  
HA “Grippers”  
Clear Quart  
1 of 2 Known

## Show and Tell, cont'd

Pompton Plains, New Jersey to Greenwood, Indiana. Bruce shared an olive green with amber swirls Ball (3-L) Mason. This jar was a recent purchase. It came from Morphy's auction house. He learned about the auction while attending the Adamstown, Pennsylvania Bottle Show. He saw that the auction had several jars for sale, so he drove to the auction site to bid in person, and was able to win the jar.

Colleen Dixon displayed a clear quart (RB #128) Atlas (four leaf clover) Good Luck; an aqua quart (RB #138) Atlas Improved Mason (original screw band and glass insert); a clear quart (RB #170-2) Atlas Wholefruit (on diagonal) Jar (off-center T-shaped dimples); and an aqua pint (RB #164) Atlas Strong Shoulder Mason (dropped A).

Anne Szopa shared an apple green quart (RB #150) - Atlas- Mason's Patent (with glass lid: Simplex Glass Cap For Mason Jars Patd. Dec.5.05); a Ball blue quart (RB #116-3) "Atlas E-Z Seal" (Ball-made); a sky blue pint (RB #1227) Hazel-Atlas E Z Seal (the earliest of the E Z Seal jars); an unlisted Depression green jelly tumbler; and a clear quart (RB #112-1) Atlas E-Z Seal (half round dimples, similar to Ball).

Sue Wilson brought a cigarette ash tray, "Atlas Jars / Arc Lids Arc Caps / Freeze With Ease With Atlas" (red pyroglaze lettering). Sue also brought two miniature Atlas coin banks: a clear (RB #162) Atlas Strong Shoulder; and a clear (RB #133) Atlas HA Ma-

son cardboard shipping box for the Atlas HA Mason miniature coin banks. The box still contained 12 banks. The wording on the box indicated that the box contained 2 1/12 dozen glass jars!

Vanessa Granger shared a clear quart Atlas E-Z Seal (T-shaped dimples); and an aqua pint Atlas E-Z Seal.

Gusty and Mike Monaghan displayed a variety of items: a Surfine jar rings box; a clear shot glass, "Ball-Foster Containers"; a tiny amber Vick's bottle; an amethyst Durkee salad dressing bottle; a clear quart ACME jar; and a collection of a half dozen canning recipe books.

Dave Rittenhouse brought an olive green pint Atlas Strong Shoulder (dropped A); a clear quart Atlas E-Z Seal (H bosses); and two clear quart Ball Ideal jars with T-bosses (these are Atlas-style bosses, one jar had them facing left, and the other jar had them facing right).

Dave also shared a green quart Atlas E-Z Seal. This jar had been in Phil Robinson's museum collection, and it was a jar that Dave had always admired. It is unusual because it looks like it has a black ant stuck in the glass (a lump of debris?).

Lou Ebert told us that today was his 77th birthday! We were all glad that he decided to share part of his special day with us. Lou displayed a clear pint (RB #133) Atals H (over) A Mason; and a clear 25 1/2 oz (liquid capacity measurement) (RB # 136) Atlas Mason (product jar with CLASSICO pasta sauce, 26 oz net weight).

Lou also shared an unusual recent purchase: a lithograph stone used to produce blank checks for The Bell Window Glass Company, located in Fairmount, Indiana, drawn on the Citizens Exchange Bank, Fairmount, Indiana.

In early 1898, John Borrey, George Hadley and Frank B. Wilkenson relocated a 24 pot capacity, tank window glass factory from Pendleton, Indiana to Fairmount, Indiana and named the new factory The Bell Window Glass Company. The factory was located north of Harrison St. and between Factory Ave. and the "Big Four Railroad." Frank B. Wilkenson served as Secretary and Treasurer of the company.

In December of 1899 it was announced that the company would become factory number 22 of the newly formed American Window Glass Company combine, which had 41 factories. By the beginning of 1907 the factory was being dismantled.

In 1908 the American factory buildings and land was sold to the newly formed Bell Bottle Company. In 1924 the Bell Bottle Co. was dissolved, after being destroyed by fire. The site was acquired by the Hoosier Mold Company, maker of glass molds.

The Citizens Exchange Bank is still in operation. Source of information: Fairmount and Marion newspapers.

Lou also provided the following historical information on the Atlas Glass Company: In 1896 the Atlas Glass Company was founded by

Charles N. Brady, Robert J. Beatty, George Beatty and J.W. Paxton for the specific purpose of making fruit jars on the semi-automatic Blue machine. Charles N. Brady as president of Hazel Glass Company had subsidized Charles E. Blue in the development of the Blue machine, which was also referred to as the "Atlas" machine. In 1902 Hazel Glass Co., founded in 1885, and Atlas Glass Co. merged to form Hazel-Atlas Glass Company.

In February of 1899 the Swayzee Glass Company, after having labor troubles (strikes and lockouts) installed a Powers semi-automatic fruit jar machine. Atlas Glass Co. brought suit against Simmonds Manufacturing Company, maker of the Powers machine, for infringement of patents owned by the Atlas Glass Co. In order to operate their Powers machine, Swayzee Glass Co. became co-defendant in the suit. The suit was found in favor of the defendants. At that time the only manufacturers besides Swayzee Glass Co. to make fruit jars by machine were Atlas and Ball.

In August of 1899, Marion Fruit Jar and Bottle Company, after suffering strikes by blowers, began the process of installing six of the Blue or "Atlas" machines in each of its factories in Marion, Converse and Fairmount.

References: Dick Roller, "The Standard Fruit Jar Reference"; Julian H. Toulouse, "Bottle Makers and Their Marks"; Marg Iwen, "Whatever Happened to Hazel Atlas?, Part 1", Glass Collector's Digest, Vol. X, No. 3; Local newspapers.

Joe Coulson displayed a

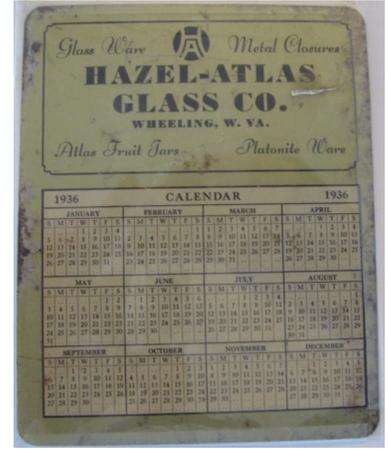
### Show and Tell Pictures



Incompletely blown Atlas Strong Shoulder jars



1937 Hazel-Atlas Bakelite Calendar



1936 Hazel-Atlas tin sheet calendar



Hazel-Atlas Watch Fob



Hazel-Atlas Pocket Mirror



Reverse of Watch Fob



Shipping Carton for Atlas HA Mason Miniature Banks



Lithograph Stone of Checks for Bell Window Glass Co.

### Show and Tell Pictures, cont'd



"H Boss" Dimple



Left-facing "T Boss" Dimple



Right-facing "T Boss" Dimple



Hazel-Atlas Cigarette Ash Tray



Pot Stone "Ant" In a Jar



Yellow Olive Green Pint



Hazel-Atlas E Z Seal



Atlas HA Mason & Atlas Strong Shoulder Mason Banks



-Atlas- Improved Mason

## **MAFJ&BC**

### **January 9, 2011 Show & Sale**

### **Muncie, Indiana**

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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.

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT  
JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

*A jarrific place to share and learn*

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG



Russ "Mr. Atlas" and Heidi Crupe made an appearance at our November club meeting. Russ showed us many rare and unusual Atlas items. This made our meeting very informative and special!

## Announcements

- Our annual Christmas Pitch-in Dinner is December 5th. The party will be held at Minnetrista at 1:30pm. The club will provide ham and turkey, paper products and plastic utensils. Members bring a small side dish and a small dessert. Coffee and water will be provided. A soft drink machine (\$1.25) is available. Activities: short business meeting; plans for the Muncie Show on January 9; dirty bingo—bring a wrapped jar, bottle or go-with valued at \$10 or less and enjoy the fun!
- The next North American Glass auction opens December 6th. Many fine fruit jars are for sale, including an amber quart Millville Atmospheric Fruit Jar, and a black glass quart Mason's Patent Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1858. The NAG website: <http://www.gregspurgeon.com/auction/>
- Our club is a member and supporter of the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (the national bottle club). The FOHBC website: <http://www.fohbc.com>
- The Ball Jar Collectors Community Center (BJCCC) website: <http://balljarcollectorscommunitycenter.yuku.com/>

