

MIDWEST GLASS CHATTER

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter
October 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.*
11199 U.S. Highway 35
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- *Joe Coulson, Sec./Editor*
10515 Collingswood Ln.
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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, October 3, 2010

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

Anne Szopa gave the Treasurer's report for September and October. We had a little bit of income from two membership dues. The club continues to maintain a positive bank balance.

Dave gave an update on the January Muncie Show. Contracts for dealer tables and displays should be in the mail very soon—please return them as soon as you can. A large number of Show Flyers were printed by students that Martin Van Zant teaches. The club greatly appreciates their help! Dave said that ads for our show will be appearing in the major bottle magazines.

Dave appointed a nominating committee for club officers for 2011. Voting will take place at the November meeting.

Dave indicated that the club By-laws have not been updated since the club started in 1972. We may want to update and distribute a new copy.

Our next club meeting will be November 7th at 1:30pm at the Minnetrista museum in Muncie, Indiana.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Show & Tell will be Atlas fruit jars or bottles (and company related items).

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 should bring a small side dish or 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!

See you all at the next meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary



Club members enjoy a lively discussion during the Oct. meeting

Our Friend Norman Barnett Has Passed Away

Obituary notice from Shelbyville News, Oct. 28, 2010

Norman Barnett, 84, of Flat Rock died Monday Oct., 25, 2010. at Indiana Masonic Home in Franklin.

Born Feb. 9, 1926, in Shelby County, he was the son of Lloyd H. and Lillie Mae (Crawford) Barnett. He married Junne Baxter on March 19, 1946, and she survives.

Other survivors include his sons, Stephen Barnett of Medaryville and Gary A. (wife, Debra) Barnett of Edinburgh; grandchildren, Angela, Jesse, Ryan A. (wife, Kim) and Brad-

ley A. Barnett; great-grandchildren, Aodhan Frazee, Icadora Frazee, David A. Barnett and Noah A. Barnett; sisters-in-law, Exiene Barnett and Joan Baxter; niece, Sandy Daulton; nephew, Bill Barnett; brother-in-law, Oris Baxter; daughter-in-law, Dawn Barnett Baker; and cousins, David Sever and Karen Doughty.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Donnie Barnett and Kenneth Barnett.

Mr. Barnett had owned Barnett Sales in Flat Rock, an Oliver and White farm equip-

ment dealership, for 30 years.

He had served in the U.S. Army and Air Force during World War II.

Mr. Barnett was a member of Flat Rock United Methodist Church, past master of Farmers Masonic Lodge and past president of Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors. In 2003, he and his wife were inducted into the FOHBC Hall of Fame. He was chairman of the organization 1979-10. He had also served on the Shelby County Sheriff Merit Board for 28 years and was board president of the Shelby County

Historical Society.

His favorite hobby was collecting rare antique fruit jars, his collection was among the top 10 in the county. He was also an organizer in 1969 of the Midwest Antique Fruit Jar and Bottle Club, the only club for collectors of mainly fruit jars with membership in 28 states and Canada and served as president for 25 years.

Due to this hobby the Barnetts have friends across the country and have been able to travel to England and Europe four times and all 50 states.

Letter from Junne Barnett

This is to thank the many "Fruit Jar/Bottle People" whom I have heard from since Norm left us. Visitors included jar friends from Va., N.J., Ohio, and Ky. And many from our local club, Midwest Antique Fruit Jar & Bottle Club. Cards from many states, that included jar people and bottle people. Flower arrangements from other states and also monetary donations that will be given to our local Salvation Army, one of Norm's favorite charities.

I can almost visualize "Up There", Norm, George McConnell, Alex Kerr and other bottle people gathered together discussing fruit jars. Who had what jar, where they got it, did they pass it down in the family, or was it sold, whose collection it is in now, etc.

Many times Norm mentioned he would like to know

the genealogy of certain jars. Somehow we never got around to doing the research... perhaps it isn't even available, but it made for interesting conversation for us. And maybe it is something one of you might be interested in doing. If so, Good Luck.

Thanks again to our many, many friends across the country whom we wouldn't know if it weren't for this Wonderful Hobby... collecting jars and friends.

—Junne Barnett

Junne's current address is:

C/O Gary Barnett

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Edinburgh, IN 46124

(812) 587-5608

thebarnetts@mach1pc.com



Show and Tell

Club members were asked to bring wax sealer jars for Show and Tell.

Anne Szopa displayed an SCA quart (RB #2709) Standard (with fancy loop underline); an aqua quart (RB #314-1) Ball (3-L) Standard with sharply squared shoulders; a Ball blue quart (RB #3099) unembossed (machine-made, 2 on base) (jar style comparable to a Ball Standard); a Ball blue quart (unlisted) unembossed (machine-made, "cup" base, no numbers); and an SCA quart (RB #3062?) unembossed (with a "dent" in the side).

Sue Wilson shared an aqua half gallon (RB #2711) Standard (with shepherd's crook underline; made by Greenfield Fruit Jar Co.); an aqua half gallon (RB #2713) unembossed (with large star on the base); and an aqua half gallon unembossed wax sealer.

Colleen Dixon brought a clear quart unembossed wax sealer (four piece mould; lop-sided mouth; large "X" on base); a light green quart Ball (3-L) Standard; a clear quart Ball (2-L) Standard; a clear half pint Agee (rolled lip for tie-over cover); and a clear quart R.G. Simpson Ball Standard retirement jar.

We were pleasantly surprised to see Howard and Judith Rothgeb make the trip from Fort Wayne to attend our club meeting. Howard said that he started collecting in 1967. He displayed the following wonderful jars: a quart yellow-ware pottery wax sealer; an SCA quart Rau's Groove Ring; an amber quart FCGCo; a cobalt blue quart FCGCo; an aqua Yeoman's Fruit Bottle;

and a deep blue aqua quart unembossed jar with a strong iron pontil.

Lou Ebert displayed an aqua quart (RB #790) Dillon G. Co. Fairmount, Ind. (on base).

Lou also shared a deep amber quart (RB #2168) M.F.J.Co. (on base) (made by Marion Fruit Jar and Bottle Co.; jar has a repaired ring; lots of seed bubbles); a light aqua quart (RB #2168) M.F.J.Co. (on base) (wonderful glass character with many seed bubbles). Lou said that while the Red Book just lists the mould number of 8, there are other mould numbers found on these jars.

Lou then displayed a clear quart (RB #2470) Rau's Improved Pat. Applied For Groove Ring Jar (made by Fairmount Glass Works at Fairmount, Indiana and possibly after moving to Indianapolis, Indiana). The ring had been cut away to show its hollow construction.

Lou brought two other jars to share: a clear 11 ounce jar (no RB number) (attributed as an unmarked Rau's Improved product jar); and a green quart (RB #2830) U.G.Co. (on heel; made by Upland Glass Co., Upland, Indiana).

Joe Coulson brought a blue aqua quart M.F.J.Co. (on base) (very crude glass); a green aqua quart unembossed (with large Hemingray 4 on base); and a blue aqua quart H&R (on base) (mould 4).

Joe also shared a recent eBay purchase. It was a wooden shipping box from the Charles Boldt Glass Company

of Muncie, Indiana. It had the design of a Boldt Mason Jar on the box. This is the first reported example of a box from this glass company.

Dave Rittenhouse displayed a quart (RB #96) Arthur's Patent Jan 2nd 1855; a light cobalt quart (RB #727) Cunningham & Ihmsen Pittsburgh Pa; and a blue aqua quart (RB #2830) U.G.Co. (on heel).

Jeff Denney brought an olive green with amber swirls quart Ball (3-L) Standard; and a light green with amber streaks quart Ball (3-L) Standard.

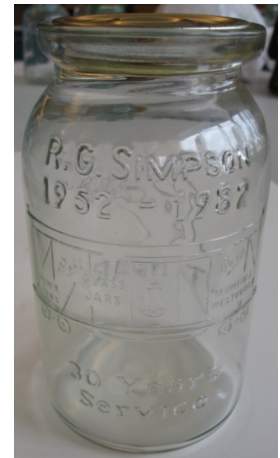
Dick Cole displayed a green aqua quart (RB #790) Dillon G. Co. Fairmount, Ind. (on base); an aqua quart H&R (on base); and an aqua quart PORT (on base).

Dick also brought an aqua Ball (3-L) Standard which had a very unusual recessed base; and an almost clear (some tint of aqua in base) quart Ball (3-L) Standard (this is an unusual color for this jar).

Bill Wherrett shared an aqua half gallon AGWL Pittsburgh; an aqua half gallon Ball (3-L) Standard; a light green Standard (with shepherd's crook underline); an aqua quart A.D. Chambers Pittsburgh; and an SCA quart Ball (2-L) Standard.

Bill also shared an aqua quart Ball (3-L) Standard. This was the first jar he ever bought at a garage sale. They were selling for \$1 a piece. Now he has the jar collecting bug!

After Show and Tell was over, we had a jar tailgate party. Several members brought jars for sale.



Clear quart R.G. Simpson Ball Standard retirement jar



Almost clear Ball (3-L) Standard (some tint of aqua in base)

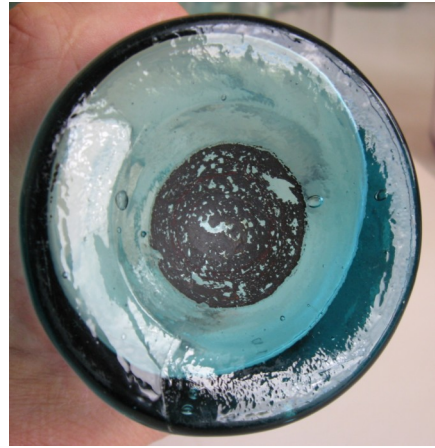
Show and Tell Pictures



Quart wax sealer pottery jar



Deep aqua, pontiled quart jar



Close-up of the strong iron pontil



Cobalt blue & Amber quart FCGCo jars



Base of the cobalt blue jar



Base of the amber jar



SCA quart Standard with looped underscore



Crude aqua quart wax sealer



Base of the crude jar has a large 7

Show and Tell Pictures, cont'd



Unembossed quart Ball blue machine-made wax sealer (same general style as a Ball Standard!)



Base of the unembossed Ball blue jar—was it made on a Ball-Bingham machine? Looks very similar!



Look at the crooked applied top on this light aqua unembossed quart jar!



Green quart U.G.Co. jar



Light purple Rau's Improved quart jar with wax sealing ring section cut out for studying



Close-up of the cut away sealing ring. This jar was machine-made and had a hollow channel inside the ring. The wires sticking out of the inner channel in the photo illustrate the hollow area.

Show and Tell Pictures, cont'd



Aqua quart wax sealer with large Star



Aqua quart Dillon Glass Company



Aqua quart Marion Fruit Jar Company



Aqua quart with Hemingray 4



Aqua quart Hollweg & Reese



Green half gallon Standard with shepherd's crook



First and only known example of a Charles Boldt Glass Company wooden shipping box



Aqua quart Ball (3-L) Standard



Base of the Ball Standard. It is unusual because it is "cupped" (large recessed area).

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.

Findlay Show Trip Report by Joe Coulson

My preparations for the Findlay, Ohio show (Oct. 17th) began on Saturday afternoon (the day before the show). Sales jars had to be priced and packed, and this activity took quite a bit of time. I also packed a few boxes of old bottle magazines. These are popular for the interesting old articles, pictures of people in the hobby in the early days, and of course, the fun of looking at how things were priced so low back then. I was doing my work in the garage with the door open, and I got to enjoy the nice sunny and pleasant weather all afternoon.

I decided to save a little money on my trip this year and just go up on show day. Last year I came up the night before the show and participated in the early setup and sales as well as the pitch-in dinner. The trip from Fishers, Indiana to Findlay, Ohio is right at three hours. I woke up Sunday morning around 2:30am and got ready. The big blue truck pulled out of the driveway at about 3:30am. I decided to take the same route as last year, which meant a long stretch on I-69 North in Indiana, and a long stretch on US 224 East going through Indiana and Ohio, with the last little leg of the trip being on I-75 North. I made one stop at a rest area just before getting on I-75. I needed about 30 minutes of closing my eyes to get that next spurt of energy for the last leg of the trip. I rolled into the Old Auction Barn (home of the show) a little after 7:00am. This was perfect timing, since the doors opened to dealers at 7:00am.

It didn't take me long to

get my dealer identification badge and get my boxes unloaded from the truck. I was much more prepared for this show than previous shows I have attended, and I had a hand truck to make box moving go quickly. The extra effort on Saturday paid off. It was as simple as taking things out of boxes and positioning them on the table. With each show you attend you pick up a little more experience and learn to be a tad more efficient. Most of my time between 7:00am and 9:00am was spent looking over other dealers tables and catching up on news with people I had not seen since the last show. There is a lot of camaraderie in the bottle and jar hobby. It is like an extended family. I did not make any early purchases, but I did make a few sales. I brought a nice green quart Victory S.F. Glass Works, which had been in my collection for several years, but it was time to give it a nice new home, and it found one.

The show doors opened to the public at 9:00am, and a steady flood of people came through the door. This time around I brought a batch of sales jars in the under \$20 category, and they sold well. Of course, I also had many of the Ball special run jars for sale, since this is a series that I specialize in. I did sell a couple of them. Many people browsed through the half dozen stacks of old bottle magazines that I brought. I seem to be one of the few people who bring this kind of material to shows – probably because the magazines are heavy when boxed, and they do not sell for much!

Several fruit jar dealers

were in attendance: Joe Merkel, Don Burkett, Tom Caniff and Mason Bright. Mason was able to get a really nice Ball go-with. Someone had talked to him ahead of time about bringing a brass version of the Michael Owens bust. These are normally found in a frosted clear glass. They were produced in the 1920's. Owens was famous for inventing the fully automatic glass bottle blowing machine, which was later improvised to make wide-mouth items such as fruit jars. Mason successfully negotiate a priced and became the new owner of the brass bust. I have one of the frosted clear glass busts in my collection, and neither of us had seen or heard of a brass one before.

Mason also scored a Ball jar that he had never been able to find or acquire for his large collection in the past. The jar is a Ball 2L shoulder seal with no trace of the word MASON. The jar is unlisted in the half gallon size, but has been known to collectors for several years. The quart size is also hard to find.

Jeff Klingler and Jon Raver stopped by my sales table for a show and tell jam session. Jeff brought several jars to discuss. He brought a pair of quart Ball blue Ball PERFECT MASON jars (notice the misspelling of PERFECT!). The first jar was of the offset style of Perfect and Mason, while the second jar was the later centered Perfect and Mason. Jon believes the moulds for these jars during this time period would have been cut using some type of template, as opposed to the freehand (no

guide) cutting of the early crude Ball 3L jars. This makes it more curious as to why an error might have occurred. At some point this led to a lively discussion of the evolution of Perfect Mason embossing from offset to centered in Owens-made jars. This topic is to be continued in full force at the Muncie, Indiana Show in January 2011.

Jeff brought several other non-Ball jars to share. This included a wonderful color lineup of the Mason's GCCo Patent Nov. 30th 1858 jars. I love these jars because they were made in Redkey, Indiana by the Giles-Clough Company. Jeff says that the SCA jar (light purple) is always found with very light embossing whereas the others, particularly the Ball blue ones, have very strong embossing. Jeff acquired a very rare and early Joel Haines West Middleburg Ohio fruit jar at the show. There are only a few known examples and none with an original closure. Jeff said that his extracurricular job of farming will help pay for this treasure. He was very proud to be the new owner.

While the three of us were chatting, a gentleman stopped by looking for more info on a recent flea market find. He had stopped by the free appraisal table, but those folks sent him in the direction of "those fruit jar people". He had an unusual example of a round Eclipse Fruit Jar Rings box. This box has been documented by ring box collectors and is listed at \$100 and up. It was a cheap find that turned out to have some real value, as well as representing local Toledo, Ohio history. This

Findlay Show Trip Report, cont'd

piece ended up being purchased by Don Burkett later during the show.

As far as purchases go, I fully intended to not buy anything due to recent major expenses, but you know how that goes. Jeff said the two PEREFCT jars were for sale, and I had to have those to add to my Ball error jar collection. I also picked up a two-toned Ball blue / amber streaked quart Ball (dropped 'a') Perfect Mason from Jeff's sales case. How could I pass up all those jars at \$15 each?! I acquired from Don Burkett two very strongly embossed Redkey, Indiana jars made by the Red-

key Glass Company. The jars were an aqua quart and aqua half gallon Mason's RED (key symbol) Patent Nov. 30th 1858. I picked up a similar dead clear half gallon from Don at the National Show in Wilmington, Ohio back in August. Jamie Houdeshell saved some "Ball Freezer Jars" cardboard shipping boxes for me, and I got those real cheap. He does a lot of house cleanouts and keeps his eye open for these types of things.

Like I said before, the show ended at 3:00pm. There was a very steady crowd up until 2:00pm. At one point during the show there was the

sound of glass crashing to the concrete floor. A quart amber Atlas E-Z Seal went to fruit jar heaven. Someone wasn't careful and dropped it while browsing at a sales table. As you might imagine, such a sound gets the immediate attention of everyone at the show, and there is a moment of complete silence right after the sound of breaking glass.

I don't know what the total attendance was for the Findlay show this year, but I am sure it was comparable to the approximate 250 people through the door last year. After getting everything packed up and loaded into the truck, I

went to dinner with Jeff & Marianne, and Ed & Diane Kuskie. We had a delicious dinner at the nearby Max & Erma's restaurant. The conversation centered around jars and bottles, and the adventures everyone had at the show. After dinner was over I hit the road and made the three hour trip back home. When I got home I didn't unload anything. It was a little after 9:00pm, and I was very tired and just went to bed. It had been a fun day and well worth the effort. I will certainly try to attend the Findlay show again next year. If you plan to have a sales table, be warned that they sell out very early!



Club members Jon Raver and Jeff Klingler



Club members Mason Bright and Jeff Klingler



Solid brass Michael Owens bust



Round Eclipse Fruit Jar Rings box



Redkey jars: clear HG; aqua QT; aqua HG

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG



A picture from our archives of Norm Barnett doing one of his favorite things: discussing early fruit jars with rare original closures—in this case, a half gallon Dalbey. We will miss you, Norm.

Announcements

- Our next club meeting will be November 7th at 1:30pm at the Minnetrista museum in Muncie, Indiana. Show & Tell will be Atlas fruit jars or bottles (and company related items).
- 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 or 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 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/>
- You can find more pictures from the recent Findlay, Ohio Bottle Show by Marianne Dow: <http://finbotclub.blogspot.com>

