

MIDWEST GLASS CHATTER MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1972

Midwest Glass Chatter
September 2011

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An Index to the Club Lending Library is available online. Please contact Dick Cole about items which you would like to check out.

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, September 11th, 2011

[Editor's note: the following meeting minutes were provided by Colleen Dixon in my absence. I enjoyed a nice two week vacation in the National Parks out West. Thank you Colleen for performing the Secretary duties this month.]

The September meeting of the Midwest Fruit Jar and Bottle Club was held September 11, 2011 at 1:30 P.M.

Dave updated us on the number of shows coming up, and told us they were also listed in the **Bottles and Extras** magazine.

The Treasurer gave a report that we were still solvent after picnic supplies were purchased last month.

Several members remarked about there not being a newsletter. There was a short discussion about this.

Dave said he was going to send out the contracts for the January show. There was discussion about the content of the show, whether it should have food provided, seminars, and tours.

This brings us to Show and Tell: Odd Shaped Jars.

Sue Wilson brought a parison jar—it looks like a squashed quart jar.



She also brought an "Original Redneck Wine Glass"—a Ball jar epoxied to the bottom half of a glass candlestick.



Ann Szopa brought two RB# 1563—tall quarts, clear and Ball blue; the base of both had L & S on them.

They were both unmarked product jars that were Ball made.



She also had an interesting product jar that once held jelly. It had three graduated tiers, like a wedding cake. It had 1 lb size on the side. It had the Dominion Glass emblem, Reg 1932 Est. 91 on the base.

Dave Rittenhouse brought a RB #96 an Arthur, Burnham & Gilroy quart (pictured below); and a RB #277 Ball Perfect Mason, half gallon.



Meeting Minutes, cont'd

He also brought RB #2421 an aqua pint Protector;



RB #2387 an aqua pint Potter & Bodine's.



Lastly, he brought RB #2334 an amber Perfect Seal.



Dave also brought several jars or crocks that he recently acquired. There was one piece of crockery that took a Willoughby stopple.



I was next. I had a bottle that was a dodecahedron (12-sided). It had a label that was for a veterinary liniment.



My 2nd 2 odd shaped jars were jellies.

One was Ball-made in the 1990s. That one was Santa Claus—it held grape jelly by Kraft.



The other was a Teddy Bear—it also was Kraft, but held strawberry jam and was not Ball made.

The next 2 jars are both unreported. The 1st is a Victor all embossing is on the lid. In a circle on the lid it says SEAL PAT Feb. 24, 1914 Detroit, MICH. It was in the FRUIT JAR ANNUAL 2008, p.192, 3rd listing. It is complete because Phil Robinson made me 4 clips to keep the lid on. It is square.



The next unreported jar is a GOLDEN HARVEST Canister;



The next jar is RB #1347 a Jumbo Peanut butter Jar. It is either the 1 ½ or 2 pound size, bulging sides to bottom that is the start of an octagon, like Dave's except no elephant.

RB #2232 National (script) SUPER MASON,



and my last jar is LAMB Mason (small lettering).



Dick Cole brought 6 Teddy Bear jars, only 2 were alike. One was a larger one. The rest were variations of the first one he showed.



Lou Ebert was the last person to present. He showed a glass shard that he determined was either the bottom of a bud vase or the bottom of a shot glass.

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 collector Dave Hinson.]

Dave was born in Sept 1960 in Bakersfield, Ca and grew up there also. He attended undergraduate college in Lubbock, TX where he met and married his lovely wife. He also went to graduate school at Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA. Dave currently works for the county of Los Angeles supervising a court investigations unit. (That sounds interesting.)

In the 1990s, Dave was busy on 'listserves' on the Internet (basically Internet e-mailing lists) focusing on a couple of popular television shows at the time (X-Files and Millennium) and those were a lot of fun for him. He wrote episode reviews and garnered tidbits of information about the shows' respective story arcs. Back in the '90s when the Internet was still new, a fan not only got to correspond with other people that were interested in their show but sometimes even some of the writers would be on the list and thus one had the honor of corresponding with them as well.

Because of those "e-mailing Lists" Dave thought it would be an interesting idea to bring collectors

Dave and Esther Hinson



together on the Internet by starting a similar list. At that time eGroups (later purchased by Yahoo) was an up and coming site and it was easy to sign up. He e-mailed various Federation folks he knew and other collectors and the list took off quickly.



Extremely scarce Western Stoneware grouping..

Rare Mexican jar.

I've never met Dave in person but I have known him since I joined the Fruit Jar Group on Yahoo back in Feb 2003. In 2004 Dave, who is the "Owner" of the Group queried for an assistant Moderator and this humble author gladly accepted that responsibility. Dave and I are still Moderators of the Group to this day.

Dave is also a former "Bottles & Extras" editor and writer of the "Western Region Report." He is an eclectic collector and is partial to various green shaded jars including pint Atlas Strong Shoulder, Ball Perfect Mason and Improved Gem jars. Not surprisingly, he really likes most of his jars but the one favorite that stands out is his The Winslow Improved Valve Jar (half gallon) that has an almost perfectly preserved metal spring under the metal clamp and a label dated 1885. He's also fond of two Southern California Packing Co. Los Angeles, Cal. Jars, the larger half gallon with an original label and both with original carrying handles.



Finally, his collection of Los Angeles Olive Grower jars in various sizes (quart to one gallon.) Along with jars, he and his wife Esther also collect jelly glasses.

Dave first became interested in fruit jars during his adolescent years. Collecting was something he and his dad did and continued doing during his elementary, junior and senior high years and in which was a positive activity keeping him out of trouble. During the summer

between his fourth and fifth grade years his father worked as a land salesman in Tehachapi, CA at a place called Enchanted Lakes. There were actually seven small lakes on the ranch which included genuine Indian petroglyphs and a couple of Indian grinding rocks; the property had a Tom Sawyer feel – like lost island at Disneyland – that naturally got his imagination going about finding treasure.

If one is not familiar with this area of California, farmers grow an abundance of Apples and other fruit in the mountain community. The development company had converted an old circa 1910s farm house into the land office.



Very appealing assortment of green jars..

Rare jars one with rare label.

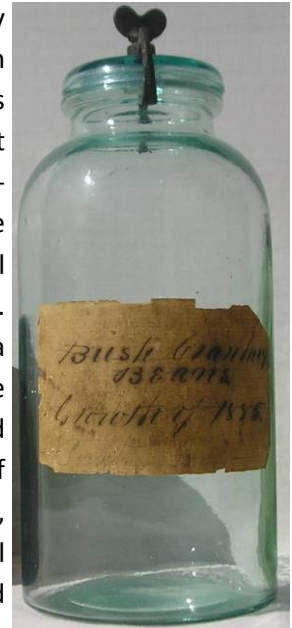


Dave was quick to note that an old fruit cellar was still intact looking pretty much as it had since the time the ranch ceased operations in the 1950s. Convinced he could find treasure, he spent many days staring through the slats of the old door covering the cellar observing partitioned boxes containing blue cylinders capped with grey metal tops (in his mind they were filled with coins or other valuables.) Despite warnings of possible rattle snake encounters (snakes are common residents in California mountain communities) his curiosity finally got the best of him and one day he cautiously ventured into that cellar to find what treasure might await him.

There were perhaps three dozen, and to his disappointment, empty blue jars but also to his amazement each of the jars had names embossed upon them. With the exception of

one of the blue pints, each said either Ball Perfect Mason or Atlas Strong Shoulder Mason. That one exception was a blue pint with the inscription White Crown Mason. After examination, he returned each jar to its rightful place in the partitioned box leaving these treasures as he found them. Asking around he

was told that the family who worked the ranch probably left the jars after the ranch shut down and he was allowed to keep one. He chose the odd-ball White Crown Mason. Intrigued by the idea that jars might have different names and possibly might be of historical significance, he purchased a small price guide entitled "The Kitchen Cup-



board" at a local antiques store. To his amazement, the White Crown booked at \$7 to \$10 dollars... Quite a haul at the time! That one find inspired his curiosity and started a relentless pursuit through junk stores, newspaper ads, jar lists advertised in the



Nice colored Atlas pint line-up.

Antique Trader, and the cellars of his father's Midwest relatives.

Dave and his dad thus went all over the place looking for jars. They used to buy wax sealers from a collector in Randsberg, CA and at that time that person was apparently a reasonably well known wax sealer collector and took trips back east to buy jars and antiques. Randsberg is still an old washed up desert mining town near Death Valley and Dave is clueless as to what that guy was doing there with his antique shop and family in the middle of nowhere.

Dave and his dad also met and visited with Ron Burris in Visalia, California. Ron was a career educator and worked with developmentally disabled children at a hospital in Porterville. Years later Alex Kerr told him Ron sold out his collection sometime perhaps in the 1980s. (Collectors or those familiar with eBay might recall Ron's name as he published an early series of books on antique fruit jars.) According to Dave, Ron's

house was crazy... It was literally a huge fruit jar collection. His garage was chocked full too, Ron had all of his jars on display and none of them packed in boxes. By sheer numbers he probably had the largest collection of anyone

at the time. Dave believes he had well over 2000 unique fruit jars at his house. As far as he knew Ron had the only complete

original AE Bray amber example. He has no idea to whom that jar went to.

During the Hinson family journeys they met the Settle family at the Tropico Gold Mine in Rosamond, California and were charter members of the now defunct Golden State Treasure Hounds, a treasure, bottle and relic club in Bakersfield, CA. He swapped jars with the Settles and to this day he still has an SCA pint QG (monogram) he got from them. After some time off for college, he took jars back up in the 80s when his kids were little plus it was a good excuse for various family vacations. (He never made it to one of the famous west coast



Appealing grouping of SCA jars.

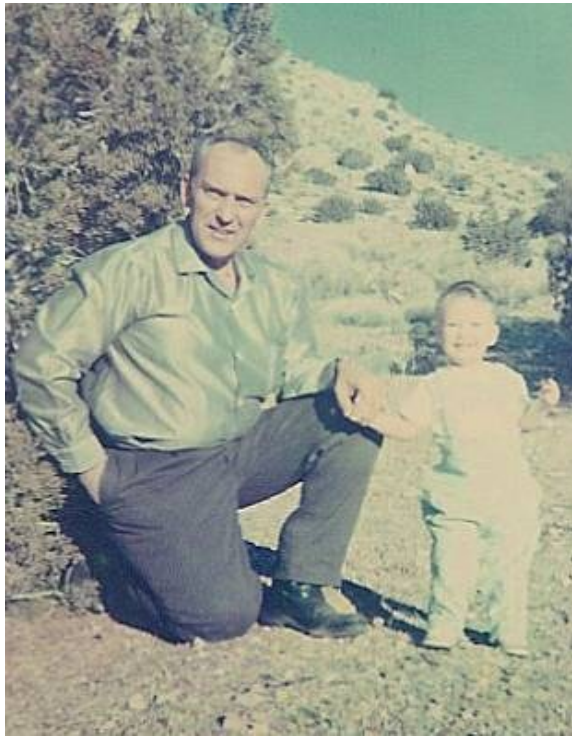
get-togethers, however, because they didn't allow children.)

The FOHBC Expo in 1988 in Las Vegas was when Dave talked to Granny Kath face to face. She was flattered and surprised to learn he read her column as a teen. His older son was two years of age at the time and there is a photo of him (Stephen) and Dave in Granny's show report column on the '88 expo.

As Dave and Esther dragged their children through antique malls/stores, flea markets, and bottle shows when they were growing up (the boys are 20 and 23 now), they met Alex and Carolyn Kerr. Alex helped him with magazine articles in the 1990s. As any long time jar collector knows, Alex had "The" fruit jar collection in his hey-day and Dave and his wife were blessed

to spend some time at their house as part of the Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club.

Dave and Esther were at the Expo in Las Vegas searching up and down the aisles when they came upon a table with a trove of jars. They struck up a conversation with a woman there who had a beautiful smile, a bright and patient disposition and the gift of conversation. He remembers asking if she could reduce the sales price of a jar. He believed truly she would have loved to knock off a few bucks but without hesitation she told him she could not without first getting her husband's approval. She confessed, she had once sold a jar for a price lower than listed on the sticker and it did not go over very well with her husband. Eventually her husband appeared at the table, our offer was denied but a friendship had begun. That was their introduction to Alex and



Very nice line-up of tough California jars.

Jellies, lids and odd lots pints.



Caroline Kerr.
According to Dave, until you really got to know him, (Alex) at first he seemed maybe a little rough on the edges; Caroline was like fine lace. They truly complimented each other. Alex took a shine to Dave and appreciated his love for and knowledge of fruit jars. Caroline embraced their children and always included them in bottle club gatherings at the Kerr home. Ever gracious, warm, and loving, Alex and Caroline became a part of Dave's family!

Another long time collector Tommy Bruhn corresponded once having noticed their jars wanted ad in the bottle magazine. Tommy was retiring from the hobby and he and his adult son were preparing to sell his collection. Although Tommy was the collector in the family he mentioned how he and his family spent grand times scouring the countryside looking for rare finds. Tommy and his family spent fond summers at a resort in Dave's area called American Adventure – a camping country club in Leona Valley,

California on a local lake. Tommy was honest to a fault and Dave purchased several jars from his list. Tommy called him once saying that he had overlooked a microscopic nick on the lip of a Hemingray jar he'd purchased from his list. Dave has a milk glass Flaccus by which to remember a short but memorable friendship with Tommy.

Dave has a clear Kerr Self Sealing quart jar in the collection has an interesting provenance. Alex produced it for a local collector after they had a serious discussion about 'whittle marks.' While Dave's club was on a field trip to the old El Monte plant, Alex demonstrated the production of a jar on one of the manufacturing machines to show a club member what a jar might look like when blown in a cold metal mold. The glass came out distorted, swirled and riddled with imperfection. Despite the term whittle mark, Alex was fond of chuckling when



Many of the jars Dave enjoys collecting.

people would try and tell him that fruit jars were blown in wooden molds.

Dave and Ester missed the national show this year because they went to see their son in Oklahoma for his birthday. He and his brother both live in Oklahoma, he's in college and their older son is in the military. It was important because everyone will be moving to the DC area early next year so we felt we needed to go. Otherwise they still go to antiques swap meets on occasion and sometimes find a bargain or two on eBay. Unfortunately they haven't been to a bottle club meeting in quite some time but do see club members at shows and local swap meets.

Dave has found that occasionally folks on eBay will overlook significant jars either because they are in a hurry, don't think the jars are all that significant or they're listed in the wrong category. That's how he found a pint sized Everlasting Jar (Jar in banner) with a ZINC SCREW TOP, rather than the traditional metal clamp and glass lid for a relative steal and a Bamberg-er's Newark for a just a few bucks. He also found a pint Fruit Keeper on "Buy it Now" for \$15. About 15 years ago as early birds to the Las Vegas show they saw a green streaked Kerr Self Sealing mason with a bird swing (arc of



glass inside the jar) that the gentleman had on his table un-priced. He thinks he offered him \$20 and the dealer took it – just pure blind luck but the kind we enjoy hearing about. The best jar Dave ever received from a relative was a half gallon Stone Mason

Fruit Jar from his Aunt Lee's cellar that she gave him absolutely for free. He considers that jar a family heirloom. Interestingly enough, Dave is one of the few collectors to tell me he has never broken a jar.

Dave and Esther are still actively collecting today and have more things than their house can hold. What's been fun about the hobby for them, however, is being able to share their things with other collectors, making new friends and being able to visit other homes where jars and other antiques are put on display. He thinks it's amazing the things a person can learn and the people you can meet in this hobby. For instance, getting to know and viewing the collection of Alex and Carolyn Kerr was wonderful for him. Although Dave claims he probably won't be fortunate enough to obtain any of the big ticket items Alex had, he's been



More jellies, pints and odd lot jars.

fortunate enough to pick up a few good jars over the years and to meet so many interesting and wonderful people.

Dave offers the following practical advice:

"Educate yourself... Information is key as well as talking to other seasoned collectors, borrow their expertise and learn from them. Get a copy of the new Red Book (if you don't already have the current one.) There are also fruit jar pages on the web where you can post wanted and for sale ads or search for jars (although belonging to a bottle club would likely be more informative.) If the new collector is near Indiana he/she should also check out the show of the Mid West Antique Bottle and Fruit Jar Club in Muncie, IN. Fruit Jar collectors from all over the country belong to the Indiana club. Usually attendees visit each other's rooms between show hours and a lot of jar talk and swapping goes on there."

"The new collector could also become a member of the Federation. See the website at www.fohbc.com The Federation also maintains a list of bottle shows the new collector might be able to attend and club meetings he/she might be able to attend. Many jar people attend local shows and are members of local bottle clubs. Join the Fruit Jar Collectors Internet Group <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fruitjars/> (Selling is not allowed on the list itself but there is a section to list jars for sale and your wants.)

Steer away from damaged jars and beware of irradiated jars. You can check out my "A Primer on Fruit Jars" by Dave Hinson. Internet:

<http://www.av.qnet.com/~glassman/info/b&e/primer.htm>

Dave's final Thoughts: "Things have changed a lot over the years. While eBay hasn't killed the bottle

show it's certainly made an impact and the old time fruit jar list may have gone the way of the dodo bird. Fruit jars are also becoming more scarce at flea markets and bottle shows as items once referred to as 'vintage' or 'collectible' become more of the everyday. Even the ubiquitous Ball Perfect Mason, while still common, is noticeably less present than in days past. Experienced collectors might also do

well for the hobby by getting involved in local organizations that promote local history and would benefit from the sharing of knowledge about the hobby. Perhaps returning to the old fashioned county fair with display entries would help promote jars and awareness about their significant role in American history. I would encourage collectors to share the beauty of old jars and their historical importance with those in your local community and thereby encourage younger folks to join the hobby."



Nicely colored miniature bells and pails.



Show Headquarters—Signature Inn

Room Hopping

Jelly Jammers—Saturday, January 7, 2012—10 am

Fruit Jar Get-Together & Auction—Saturday, January 7, 2012—1:30 pm

Make your own reservations with the hotel—765-284-4200

Show Location—Horizon Convention Center

Admission \$2

Ample Space—Dealer tables still available

Fantastic lighting

Show Chairman—David Rittenhouse

1008 S 900 W

Farmland, IN 47340

765-468-8091

Show Information—Dick Cole

765-288-8717



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG



Jeff Harper recently found an unlisted round Ball® El Monte jar—embossed around the edge (on the base) "XXIII L. A. OLYMPICS 1984" with the official mascot Sam (an eagle dressed like Uncle Sam) dribbling a basketball. Los Angeles is within 15 miles of El Monte, California. This is probably an unofficial jar.

Announcements

- The next club meeting will take place at Minnetrista in the Cantina room at 1:30pm on Sunday, November 6th. The theme for Show and Tell will be Shipping Containers or Wooden Box Ends.
- Future club meeting Show and Tell themes: December 4th, Our Annual Christmas Party; January 7th & 8th is our Winter Show. An up-to-date list is always available on the club website.
- Keep an eye on Ray Klingensmith's auctions. Several good early fruit jars have been for sale. <http://www.glassdiscoveries.com/>
- The next North American Glass auction will open October 24th. This auction is run by Greg Spurgeon, and he always has great fruit jars for sale. <http://www.gregspurgeon.com/auction/>

