

MIDWEST GLASS CHATTER

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1971

Midwest Glass Chatter
May 2008

Club Officers

- *Dave Rittenhouse, Pres.*
1008 CR 900 W.
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- *Anne Szopa, Treas.*
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- *Joe Coulson, Sec.*
10515 Collingswood Ln.
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- *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 13, 2008

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

Meeting Minutes May 4, 2008

The May club meeting was held at Minnetrista in Muncie, Indiana. Club President Dave Rittenhouse opened the meeting and welcomed 12 members. The April meeting minutes were approved as reported in last month's newsletter.

Dave told us that an advertisement for our July Show will appear in the May/June issue of Bottles & Extras as well as the June and July issues of Antique Bottle & Glass Collector. Dave has mailed out 75 contracts so far.

Anne Szopa gave the Treasurer's report for the months of March and April. Our only expenses were for the club newsletter. Some income was received from

membership renewals.

Several members indicated that they were going to attend the big Mansfield, OH show on May 9th & 10th. This is always a well attended show by bottle and jar dealers.

Greg Spurgeon has given the club permission to use the pictures he took of the jar shelves in Phil's museum on the soon-to-be-produced 24-minute movie CD of Phil's "Parable of Jars" presentation.

Joe Coulson gave Charlie Williams the artwork for club membership cards. Charlie volunteered to take the responsibility to get them printed. Charlie is also kindly covering the cost of printing. A big thanks goes to Charlie. If all goes as planned, you



should receive your club membership card by mail at the time of the next newsletter.

The June 1st club meeting will be at Minnetrista at 1:30pm in the Cantina. Bring product jars and bottles with original labels (if possible) for Show and Tell.

See you all at the next meeting.

Joe Coulson, Secretary

Glass Chatter statistics

This month I have upgraded to Microsoft Publisher 2007 and a nice 22" widescreen flat panel monitor which can rotate (my own equipment which I use for many things).

Did you know?

- The printed newsletter is mailed to 94 people
- The electronic newsletter is e-mailed to 36 people
- The electronic newsletter is entirely in color
- We have members in 25 states and 1 in Canada
- We e-mail the electronic newsletter to some clubs and special guests to promote our hobby



Your editor sitting on the floor at the coffee table "working" on the Chatter

Update on Phil Robinson

We are sad to report that Phil Robinson passed away at his home early on Monday, May 5th after a long battle with prostate cancer. He was an avid fruit jar collector and owner of the Robinson Fruit Jar Museum which he closed just one month ago. He was an active member and former officer of the Midwest Antique Fruit Jar and Bottle Club in Muncie, IN. All those interested in fruit jars were welcomed to his museum where he had collected 4,000 fruit jars and a vast number of memorabilia related to the antique fruit jar hobby.

Several members of the Antique Fruit Jar and Bottle Club visited with Phil on

May 4th after our monthly meeting. See the April edition of Glass Chatter for a photo of Phil sitting next to the large sign advertising his museum on April 6, 2008.

Meredith sent the following note on May 24th:

Thanks for all the prayers, cards, flowers and food that was brought to us during the time of Phil's illness and death. We appreciate everything that was done for us. Also we appreciate all those who came for the calling and funeral. I am doing okay.

Love and prayers to all,
Meredith Robinson

Club member Greg Spurgeon will be handling the sale of the Robinson museum collection. The contents will be dispersed through Ebay (hoosierjar) and through Greg's North American Glass website. A time schedule has not yet been announced, but listings should start in the near future.

Further details can be found here:

<http://www.gregspurgeon.com/Robinson.html>



Show and Tell

Club members were asked to bring amber jars and bottles for Show and Tell at the May meeting.

Anne Szopa displayed a 2 1/4" x 1 1/2" amber smelling salts jar (ground lip; with stopper); an amber product jar in the shape of a pot (base: Des. Pat. Apd. For; printed on lid: Table Service Pot / To Serve Remove Cap / Heat Thoroughly in a pot of hot water or in a moderate oven / Old Fashioned New England Oven Baked Beans); a dark reddish amber jelly or tobacco jar with glass lid (requires Meyers buckle closure; from Shirlee MacDonald collection).

Anne also displayed an unembossed amber QT #3062 wax sealer; and an amber beer

bottle with a Hutter(?) Lightning-type metal closure (front: The Minck Brewing Co. / Richmond / IND. / Registered; reverse: This bottle must be returned when empty).

Tom Sproat showed an unembossed amber QT #3045 -3 turn mould (no seams) wax sealer. Tom told us that he purchased this jar from Phil Robinson. He had picked it up and put it down several times while looking at another 19th century jar, and tried to decide what to do. They went back and forth haggling over the price, and finally Phil told him that if he paid the sticker price for the wax sealer then he would give him the other jar!

Tom also showed an amber QT #1542 P. Lorillard Co. jar with original closure (lid: Cohansey Glass Manuf. Co. Phila. Pa. and patent dates); and an amber QT #1226 unembossed jar with an original "The Hazel" milk-glass lid.

Jean Harbron brought an amber HG #1123 Globe that had once belonged to her "Dad's first cousin's wife". A family member had said "What are you doing giving her [Jean] that old ugly jar?!".

Jean also brought an amber HG #1498 Trademark Lightning (base: H.W.P.); an amber QT #2645 with original closure (base: A.G. Smalley & Co. / Patented April 7th 1896 & December



*Tom Sproat shared
this amber turn
mould (no seams)
wax sealer*



Show and Tell, cont'd

1st 1896 / Boston, Mass; milk-glass lid: A.G. Smalley & Co. / Boston & New York); and an amber QT #114 Atlas E-Z Seal (base: 29-34-K-2).

Ruth Nestleroad shared an amber HG #293-5 Ball Perfect Mason; an amber QT #21644 Mercantile cigar jar with original lid; an amber HG Duraglass (in script at heel) (base: OI maker's mark); a 10oz amber Coca-Cola bottle (heel: Hartford City, IND); an amber QT #2909 Wan-eta; and an amber PT Stewart's Root Beer (Applied Color Label) jar. The root beer jars were at one time distributed by the Cracker Barrel restaurant chain.

Ruth also shared an amber Aunt Jemima (figural) syrup bottle; an amber sample-size unembossed whiskey bottle; a small amber unmarked medicine bottle; and an amber QT #1340 Johnson & Johnson jar without lid.

Lou Ebert displayed an amber QT #2168 M.F.J.Co. (on base) groove ring wax sealer (with replaced ring); and an amber 1 1/2 PT unmarked jar similar to the #1235 Helme's Railroad Mills (smooth lip; glass insert & screw band; amber lid with raised button in center).

Lou also displayed an amber 7UP bottle pyroglazed in red and white (on reverse: Kiely's Bottling Co Ltd Tipperary; base: 108-44 SDA 66). It was a 7 9/16" capped bottle from Tipperary, Ireland.

Lou also displayed an amber Coca-Cola bottle (front: Coca Cola / Trade Mark Registered / Eagle Bot-

tling Works; reverse: Marion, IND / Min. Con'ts 6 1/2 Fluid Ozs; base: spread eagle figure, clutching olive branch and three arrows; it was a straight-sided amber bottle). Eagle Bottling Works was located at 513 N. Washington St., Marion, Indiana, and had operated from 1915–1922.

Lou also displayed a very large amber advertising beer bottle (no label) (base: Phelps Mfg. Co. / Terre Haute, IND). The bottle was a whopping 20" tall and 5 7/16" in diameter. The bottle had a ground lip and would have held approximately 4 1/4 quarts!

We were glad to see Charlie Williams make it to our club meeting. He shared a variety of jars. He brought many examples of irradiated ("nuked") jars which had turned an easily identifiable brown amber color. Buyers need to beware when they are purchasing amber jars.

Charlie also showed a honey amber QT #323 Ball Widemouth (front: fruit medallion; reverse: 4 gripper ribs; right heel: Made In U.S.A.); a light amber QT #340 BBGMCo (monogram) (base: An Historic Reproduction No. 1 The Amber Buffalo Jar); an amber QT #1489 Trade-mark Lightning; an amber HG #3062 unembossed groove ring wax sealer; an amber QT #1123 Globe; and an amber HG #293-5 Ball Perfect Mason.

Charlie told us that he could remember a time when you could go to the store and buy a Coke by grabbing it out of a large tub of ice!

Dick Cole brought a variety of amber commemorative bottles. All of these would have been produced in limited numbers. Dick also shared two Ball product jars.

Joe Coulson displayed an amber commemorative bottle for the Winchester (Indiana) Community High School. One side mentioned the Music Dept., and the other side mentioned the Athletic Dept. Joe thought it was unusual that a high school would have their own commemorative glass bottle. The interesting fact is that Winchester is home of a glass mfg. plant.

Joe also displayed an amber HG and PT #293-5 Ball Perfect Mason. Dick told us that a case of a dozen of the pint jars was discovered in a warehouse at Ball Corp. in Muncie in the 1970s. It is thought that all known pint size jars can be traced back to this case (jar mould D6).

Joe also shared an amber fish bottle. Look for a full article about this later on.

Norm Barnett shared a complete amber set of PT, QT and HG #1123 Globe jars. Norm also showed an unmarked QT product jar which was most likely modern.

Kay Rittenhouse showed a Ball go-with. It was a tiny Beeches spearmint candy box with the Ball logo on the back!

Dave Rittenhouse shared an amber PT #2534 Safety; an amber QT #1465 The Leader (one line); an amber QT #1466 The Leader (two lines); and an amber PT bottle of Rittenhouse Straight Rye Whiskey (with original label)!



*Jean Harbron shared
this amber Trade
Mark Lightning*



Pictures from Show and Tell



The Minck Brewing Co.
Richmond IND.



Pot-shaped product jar for Old Fashioned New England Oven Baked Beans



The original lid for the jar shown in the picture on the left



Side view of unembossed The Hazel jar



Milkglass lid for The Hazel jar shown in picture on the left



Smelling salts jar with stopper, and a jelly or tobacco jar with a glass lid



P. Lorillard Co. jar with Cohansy closure



Atlas E-Z Seal in an uncommon color



Globe with original closure

Pictures from Show and Tell



A.G. Smalley jar (square shaped; unembossed on sides)



Milkglass lid for A.G. Smalley jar shown in picture on the left



Base picture of the same A.G. Smalley & Co. jar



Product jar for Mercantile Air-Tight Havana Cigars



Amber Coca-Cola bottle embossed with Hartford City, IND



Frank Tea & Spice product bottle for "Peroxide of Hydrogen"



Group of product jars: syrup bottle; gauze jar; medicine; and sample whiskey



Stewart's Root Beer jar with applied color label (ACL)



Reverse of Stewart's Root Beer jar showing a jar filled with root beer

Pictures from Show and Tell



Reproduction amber BGGMCo jar ("Buffalo" jar)



Unusual colored (honey amber) modern Ball Wide-mouth jar



Irradiated ("nuked") Ball Ideal that turned an odd amber brown color



Amber 7UP bottle from Tipperary, Ireland



Unembossed side view of the MFJCo (Marion) wax sealer



Base picture of the MFJCo wax sealer shown in picture on the left



Similar style to Helme's Railroad Mills jars



Very large 20" tall amber advertising beer bottle made by Phelps Mfg.



Rittenhouse Straight Rye Whiskey bottle

Pictures from Show and Tell



Two product jars where the only embossing is the Ball logo on the base



Anchor Hocking Commemorative bottle for the retirement of employees



Amber Coors Light bottle with applied color label



Commemorative bottle in the shape of a glass melting oven



Commemorative bottle in the shape of a book



Commemorative bottle in the shape of a baseball



Unusual modern amber Ball Perfect Mason jars



Commemorative bottle for Winchester High School



Amber pint Safety jar



Amber quart The Leader (scarce "one line" variety)

Pictures from Show and Tell



Sue Wilson and Dick Cole discuss jar history.



Charlie Williams shared this wide variety of jars.



Eli Lilly and Company Cod Liver Oil Fish Bottles

[Editor's note: The following article is reprinted by permission from the Eli Lilly and Company Archive. I also am currently an employee of that company.]

The unusual brown-glass, fish-shaped bottles in which Eli Lilly and Company manufactured its cod liver oil from 1922 to 1933 have become collectors' items.

In 1921, Mr. Eli Lilly obtained a specimen of the Doctor Fisch's Bitters Bottle from an antique shop. Mrs. Lilly, who had taken a fancy to the fish-shaped bottle, suggested that it be used as a model to produce a new bottle for Lilly's Lofoten Cod Liver Oil. The label claimed the product was effective as "... a growth stimulant, [and would] promote nutrition, normal line development and dentition. ..."

Mrs. Lilly's idea was readily accepted and, over an 11-year period, the product was produced in amber-colored fish bottles. According to the February 1923 issue of *Tile*

and *Till*, a Lilly publication for pharmacists, the bottle was very popular.

"While it has been on the market but a few months, it has attained a most remarkable sale. Druggists who have displayed this curious bottle in their windows and on the counters say that it is attracting considerable attention and is easy to sell."

The small 3-inch sample-size bottle—displayed by Lilly sales representatives—was manufactured by T.C. Wheaton in New Jersey (eventually the Wheaton Glass Company). It was never filled with product.

The three larger bottles were manufactured exclusively for Lilly by the Fairmont Glass Company in Indianapolis. The combination of coal and sulfur in the glass formula produced the lovely red-amber color. All bottles had a bead-lip finish, were stoppered by a cork, and were machine made. A few screw tops were used just before the product was phased out in 1933 by the

introduction of vitamins to the drug market.

All the Fairmont machines were made to hold six molds at a time; however, two extra molds for each size bottle were produced to serve as back-ups in case one of the original molds became damaged. On the base of each bottle is the Fairmont trademark "F," as well as a mold number (1 through 8). Eventually, a mold for each size bottle was donated to the Lilly Archives.

The Lilly fish bottles were also manufactured by the Illinois Glass Company; however, only on a temporary basis when one of the Fairmont machines broke down. Bottles made by the Illinois Glass Company carry simply their trademark "I" within an Owen ring (a diamond shape) on their base.

After 1945, when Fairmont Glass Company changed their trademark (to an "F" encircled by a hexagon), the screw-top fish bottles were made again, but iron



Joe Coulson shared this amber fish-shaped bottle which originally contained cod liver oil



Lilly Fish Bottles, cont'd

sulfide was used in this formula, which produced a very dark amber bottle. These later bottles were filled with Yellow Seal Norwegian Medicinal Standard A Quality Cod Liver Oil U.S.P., sold and distributed by the Royal Manufacturing Company of Duquesne, Pennsylvania. (The company is no longer in business.)

During the early 1960s, Mr. Cedric C. Rau, whose family owned Fairmont Glass Company, decided to make a few more fish bottles as collector items. He located the molds—which had been stored for many years—but discovered that the plate for the bead-lip finish was missing. A new lip plate was crafted, but it pro-

duced a square lip instead of the original bead-lip finish.

Mr. Rau reproduced all three sizes of bottles, and they carried the same base markings as the original bottles—although with a square lip. These reproductions were never filled with product. Later, he experimented with a clear glass bottle; however, the clear bottle did not have the same appeal as did the amber ones.

In 1970, Mr. Rau took the mold for the four-ounce bottle to the Imperial Glass Company, of Bellairs, Ohio, and requested them to make 600 blown-mold, bead-lip, honey-amber fish bottles. These have the same mold

number and the “F” trademark, although it is not visible on some bottles because they were blown-molded instead of machine-made. The glass simply didn’t go deep enough into the bottom of the mold for the impression to show. In addition, Mr. Rau hand-scribed “1970” into a few of the bottles that he gave as gifts to friends and collectors.

As with most collectibles, it is difficult to determine what a collector may wish to spend to acquire one of these items. The “father” of fish bottles is Dr. Fisch’s Bitters bottle, which is difficult to locate. In 1970, the bottle sold for approximately \$175.



Photo from Eli Lilly and Company Archive



The base of Joe’s bottle shows the maker’s mark of the Fairmont Glass Company





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



The Robinson Jar Museum is closed, and the jars are being dispersed, but Phil's spirit shines on in each of the many people's lives that he touched and inspired over the course of several decades in the fruit jar hobby. We will miss you Phil...

Announcements

- The June 1st club meeting will be at Minnetrista at 1:30pm in the Cantina. Bring product jars and bottles with original labels (if possible) for Show and Tell. For directions or information, contact Dave Rittenhouse at 765-468-8091.
- The Cay & Erv Bettinghaus collection is currently being sold by Greg Spurgeon. Stop by Greg's new NAG website for more details at: <http://www.gregspurgeon.com>
- For those of you planning ahead, the program for the July meeting will be replaced by our annual Summer Show & Sale in Muncie, Indiana. There will be a Fruit Jar Get-Together & Auction at 1:30pm on Saturday, July 12th at The Signature Inn. The Show will be Sunday, July 13th at the Horizon Convention Center. Contact Dave Rittenhouse for dealer contracts, exhibit contracts, and general show information: phone 765-468-8091.
- Don't wait much longer to make your plans for the FOHBC 2008 Expo to be held August 8–10 at the Toyota Arena, York Fairgrounds, York, Pennsylvania. For more information contact: R. Wayne Lowry, 401 Johnston Ct., Raymore, MO 64083; phone 816-318-0161; email: JarDoctor@aol.com

