

MIDWEST
GLASS CHATTER
MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

Since 1971

Midwest Glass Chatter
December 2007

Club Officers

- *Dave Rittenhouse, Pres.*
1008 CR 900 W.
Farmland, IN 47340
765-468-8091
- *Jean Harbron, V.P.*
245 E. Oak St.
Anderson, IN 46012
765-644-4333
- *Anne Szopa, Treas.*
11199 U.S. Highway 35
Economy, IN 47339
- *Joe Coulson, Sec.*
10515 Collingswood Ln.
Fishers, IN 46037
- *Norman Barnett, Pres. Emeritus*
P.O. Box 38
Flat Rock, IN 47234
812-587-5560

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

January 13, 2008

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

Meeting Minutes December 2, 2007

The December meeting was held at Minnetrista in Muncie, Indiana. President Dave Rittenhouse opened the meeting and welcomed 17 members.

Dave told us that he has already received 50 contracts for the January Show, including 6 displays.

Dave presented the slate of nominated club officers to be voted on at this meeting: President, Dave Rittenhouse; Vice President, Mike Keith; Secretary, Joe Coulson; and Treasurer, Anne Szopa. Mike respectfully and eloquently declined his nomination this time around, but said that he will consider it again next year.

A motion was made to nominate Jean Harbron for the V.P. position, and the

motion was seconded. The vote was taken on the amended slate and approved.

Joe Coulson shared a letter he received from Dick Sorensen. Dick is undergoing treatments for colon cancer, but he has not lost his typical sense of humor. Dick writes: "I have another month of chemotherapy, then the Dr. says I'll be normal. I'm wondering what that will be like, as I've never been normal." We will all miss Dick and Connie Sorensen if they are not able to make it to the Winter Show.

Dave reminded everyone that it is now time to renew your club membership. Send in those dues for 2008 to Joe, so that we know you want to stick with us and keep getting the newsletter.



The Show headquarters is at The Signature Inn in Muncie, Indiana. The Jelly Jammers will meet at 10am on Saturday (Jan. 12th) in the hotel's 2nd floor conference room. The Fruit Jar Get-Together will follow at 1:30pm in the same location. The Show and Sale will occur on Sunday (Jan. 13th) at the Horizon Convention Center (9am-2pm, admission \$2).

See you all at the Winter Show and Sale.

Joe Coulson, Secretary

Christmas Pitch-In Dinner

As is traditional, Phil Robinson gave the blessing before everyone dove into the food at our annual Christmas pitch-in dinner.

The picture on the right shows the table full of wrapped presents for the "Dirty Santa" gift exchange that took place at the end of our meeting.



Christmas Meeting Pictures



A table full of delicious food that members brought for the pitch-in dinner. Many items were home-made.



To my knowledge, we have never had a fruit jar meeting where there wasn't a table full of yummy desserts!



A group shot of most members in attendance at the December meeting. Everyone is busy swapping stories.



Does this photo really need a caption? Kay Rittenhouse is the life of the party.



Kay was very creative in making table decorations for our dinner meeting. Look at these wonderful fruit jars with Christmas spirit. Everyone commented on what a super job she did.



Junne Barnett unwraps her gift and appears to have an eye on someone's gift that she is going to swap with!



Mike and Krystal Keith are unwrapping a gift in this photo. Not very many gifts stayed in one place. Everyone had fun "exchanging" gifts.



Phil and Meredith Robinson are examining their gift. Meredith always has a smile on her face.

Christmas Meeting Pictures, cont'd



For show and tell, Anne Szopa displays a completed cross-stitch of the "Good Times" print by Don Ensor. Ball jars are shown in it. This item was sold and distributed by Ball around 1988.



Anne also told us of her story to get what she believed was a fruit jar prize. After several trips to the store, this movie promotion item ("Ratatouille") turned out to be plastic!



Anne tightly clutched this chunk of glass in her hand throughout the entire meeting. Nobody was mean enough to pull a "Dirty Santa" exchange on her. Mike Keith said the glass originally came from a Kennard, Indiana glass company site. Many of the uncovered chunks had been used as fill for new driveways.



Marty Troxell opens this gift curiously wrapped in aluminum foil. You never know what members are going to bring for the gift exchange. This gift turned out to be a Ball Perfect Mason filled with home-made cookies.



Marty brought this old pottery wax sealer for show and tell. He would like to know more about it.



Marty also brought this item for display. It appears to be an early wooden sprayer jar attachment of some sort.



Dave Rittenhouse brought this recent purchase for show and tell. This is a scarce wooden shipping box end for Standard wax sealer jars made in Greenfield, Indiana.



A Medley of Carols

The following article was originally printed in *Ball Line* (Ball Corp.'s company newsletter), Holiday Issue 1975, and was written by Gary Demaree.

When you first see them, they look like expensive engraved crystal. They feature intricately-tooled, Christmas themes and they sparkle with transparent brilliance.

What are they?

They're the Ball Plastics Division's entry in the Christmas gift market—lightweight, unbreakable, acrylic plastic ornaments. They're perfect for holiday gift-giving, or for hanging on your own tree at home.

This new line of Ball products is being introduced to most areas of the country in time for the Christmas holidays, although complete distribution won't be possible until next season.

Francis J. Hirt, market development manager for the Plastics Division, says the new ornaments are considered the first products to be totally developed, manufactured and marketed by the division. Production of the ornaments was begun in July, with advance sales beginning two months earlier.

Hirt says the idea for producing new consumer-oriented items originated last year, as the division sought new areas in which to expand production capability. Hirt has established a distribution system utilizing independent sales representatives in major cities across the country. The

ornaments are being made available through jewelry stores, gift shops and department stores.

Eight different designs are presently available, plus one limited edition design. Each ornament carries a motif with its own significance to the Christmas holiday. Enclosed in each package is a small leaflet, detailing the history of the ornament's symbolism. Here is a brief synopsis of the history of each:

GIFTS OF THE MAGI—This ornament depicts the magi, the delegation of scholars who traveled from the East to visit the scene of the Holy Birth, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold represents a tribute to nobility, frankincense represents worship of a divinity and myrrh represents a prophesy of death. These travelers brought prophetic gifts which foretold of a divine king destined for death. With the visit of the magi began the tradition of Christmas gift-giving.

PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE—The symbolism of this ornament is a remembrance that traditionally, Christmas is not just one day; it is a season. As the old song says, "on the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree." The song carries forth an old tradition of giving gifts in sets of 12—one for each day of the holy season.

THREE CAROLERS—The traditional meaning of the word "carol" is "to dance in a ring." Today, however,

all Christmas songs are commonly called "carols." This ornament symbolizes the custom of singers going door-to-door, singing happy songs of Christmas, with the hope for a snack or drink.

I HEARD THE BELLS—The words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow are preserved in this ornament. Longfellow is considered one of America's foremost literary scholars, especially famous for his Christmas verse. The words inscribed on this ornament are excerpted from a poem he wrote in despair following the death of his son in a Civil War battle. Drawing on his faith for inspiration, Longfellow ends his poem with:

'God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!

The Wrong shall fail,

The Right prevail,

With peace on earth,
good-will to men!

THREE KINGS—This ornament symbolizes the travels of the magi, or "scientists," to the site of Christ's birth. The magi are believed to have been ancient astronomers who watched the skies and were fascinated by the appearance of a bright star. It is believed that an angel appeared to the men and told them of the birth of a new king in Bethlehem. Upon finding the infant, Jesus, the magi presented Him with gifts and soon disappeared from history.

CHRISTMAS CANDLE—This ornament ties to-



*Joe Coulson shared
this MAGIC
kerosene oil can at
the meeting. Perhaps
it contained
Christmas "magic"
at one time*



A Medley of Carols, cont'd

gether two popular Christmas symbols: the burning candle and a garland of holly. The candles comes from the Jewish tradition of the "eternal light" which symbolizes the presence of God, and an ancient pagan ritual of bearing torches to symbolize the return of the sun.

The holly garland is an old tradition adapted for Christian significance. The holly's white blossoms symbolize Mary, the mother of Christ; the red berries signify Christ's blood shed on the cross; and the prickly edges of the leaves recall the crown of thorns.

CHRISTMAS TREE—

The adoption of the evergreen tree as a Christmas tradition is attributed to Martin Luther. It is said that Luther prepared the first Christmas tree to illustrate to his children the beauty of God's creation, which he observed as he returned home one winter night.

Engraved on this ornament is the type of tree which German immigrants, known as the Pennsylvania Dutch, brought to America in the early 1800s. The first Christmas tree decorations were apples, dates, nuts, cookies and candy. Later, bits of mirror and other sparkling decorations were added, according to individual taste.

SILENT NIGHT—A line from the famous Christmas song, "Silent Night," is featured on this ornament. The song was written in 1818 by Father Joseph Mohr, assistant priest of St. Nicholas' Church in Oberndorf, Austria. Father Mohr wrote the lyrics in just a few hours, after discovering that a mouse had chewed the bellows of the church organ, rendering it unplayable. Attempting to create a musical program for the service that same evening, Father Mohr had a schoolteacher from a neighboring town set his now-famous words to guitar music. Singing in duet at the evening service, Father Mohr and the schoolteacher introduced one

of the world's best-loved and most widely-known Christmas carols.

The limited edition ornament features a rendering of the Madonna and Child and is inscribed, "Christmas 1975." Hirt says the dies for the limited edition will be destroyed on December 31.

Hirt says several new designs will be produced for sale next year, including an all-new limited edition for 1976.

Still in the planning stage is a new gift line that will utilize a similar design, but it will be intended for year-round gift-giving.

Ball Christmas Ornament Photos

The following Christmas ornaments are shown from the collection of Joe Coulson. These represent the ones mentioned in the 1975 Ball Line article above.

For those of you seriously pursuing all of the ornaments made by Ball, you will need to get a copy of Dick Cole's research booklet on the subject.

Dick includes a complete checklist of the ones known.



Partridge



Three Carolers



I Heard the Bells



Three Kings



Gifts of the Magi



Christmas Candle



Christmas Tree



Silent Night



Dick Cole's Booklet

MIDWEST ANTIQUE FRUIT
JAR & BOTTLE CLUB

A jarrific place to share and learn

Send articles and info here:

Joe Coulson, Editor

10515 Collingswood Ln.

Fishers, IN 46037-9598

Email: JCoulson@LeaderJar.com

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.FRUITJAR.ORG



The most stolen gift during our "Dirty Santa" gift exchange was this decorated Ball jar lamp—painted to look like Santa Claus. Several people talked about taking Anne Szopa's glass chunk (from a glass factory site), but they were afraid what might happen, since Anne truly wanted to keep it!

Announcements

- Our January club meeting will be replaced by the Fruit Jar Get-Together on January 12th in the Conference Room on the second floor of The Signature Inn, Muncie, IN. Collectors from all over the U.S. and Canada show off their latest finds, and put jars up for auction. Our Winter Show and Sale is January 13th at the Horizon Convention Center in Muncie.
- Doug Leybourne tells us that Red Book 10 will be introduced at the Muncie Show in January. No orders will be filled prior to the Show. The price of the book will be \$40.
- Rings & Things III is available for \$22.50 postpaid. There are 29 pages of boxes shown in full color whenever possible, as well as listings showing the old numbers as well as the new ones, title, description, size, estimated value, manufacturer/distributor, city & state. This edition only lists jar ring boxes. The books are 3-hole punched and ready for a 1" or larger 3-ring binder. Contact: Tammy Johnson, 8550 Pheasant Ridge Ln, Orangevale, CA 95662.
- The 2008 Fruit Jar Annual is in its first printing and will be shipped January 15, 2008. Jerry will have copies available at the Winter Show. The book is available for \$35 postpaid from: Jerry McCann, 5003 West Berwyn Ave., Chicago, IL 60630-1501.
- It's not too early to start planning 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

