

RED WING COLLECTORS SOCIETY



VOL. 41 #6

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2016

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF COLLECTING



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RWCS CONTACTS

BUSINESS OFFICE

PO Box 50 • 240 Harrison St. • Unit #3
Red Wing, MN 55066-0050 • www.redwingcollectors.org
651-388-4004 or 800-977-7927 • Fax: 651-388-4042
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: STACY WEGNER
director@redwingcollectors.org
membership@redwingcollectors.org

NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: RICK NATYNSKI
PO Box 198 • Pewaukee, WI 53072
414-416-WING (9464) • newsletter@redwingcollectors.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: PAUL WICHERT
W247S7000 Sugar Maple Dr. • Waukesha, WI 53189
414-731-0218 • vicepresident@redwingcollectors.org

INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT: MIKE STENSTROM
6204 Shawna St. • Weston, WI 54476
715-218-8216 • vicepresident@redwingcollectors.org

SECRETARY: ANGELA SHEFVELAND
905 Hawthorn St. • Red Wing, MN 55066
816-456-2524 • secretary@redwingcollectors.org

TREASURER: DAN BECK
2215 Hill Place SW • Rochester, MN 55902
507-398-6358 • treasurer@redwingcollectors.org

HISTORIAN: NANCY LAMBERT
17 Newcastle Lane • Bella Vista, AR 72714
785-691-7213 • historian@redwingcollectors.org

REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE: RUSSA ROBINSON
1970 Bowman Rd. • Stockton, CA 95206
209-463-5179 • repatlargewest@redwingcollectors.org

INTERIM REP. AT LARGE: RICHARD NATYNSKI
N50 W25078 William Dr. • Pewaukee, WI 53072
608-617-7424 • repatlargeeast@redwingcollectors.org

AUCTION MANAGER: SCOTT HARDMAN
430 N Manley Rd. • Ripon, CA 95366-3405
209-602-1461 • auction@redwingcollectors.org

COMMEMORATIVE MANAGER: BOB MORAWSKI
2130 S. Ridgeway Dr. • New Berlin, WI 53146
262-853-8269 • commemorative@redwingcollectors.org

EDUCATION MANAGER: MICHELLE WEISEN
605 Bluff St. • Red Wing, MN 55066
507-254-2210 • education@redwingcollectors.org

EVENT SUPPORT PERSONNEL

PRE-REGISTRATION: JIM & KAREN KEYS, HEIDI HAHLIN

SHOW & SALE: DALE ERICKSON
507-645-6771 • showandsale@redwingcollectors.org

DISPLAY ROOM: TYLER GREEN
display@redwingcollectors.org

KIDSVIEW & YOUNG COLLECTORS: LINDA WIPPERLING
651-764-2183 • kidsview@redwingcollectors.org

FROM THE EDITOR

Happy Holidays, fellow RWCS members! Since it's the season of giving, I'd like to begin by thanking all of you who gave of your time and contributed material to the *RWCS Newsletter* this year. Like most years, a lot of people sent in stories and photos in 2016. That was especially the case for this issue, so I'd specifically like to thank the Schwartau Family, Kyle Simon, Keith & Lynn Hanson, Steve Ketcham, Terry & Marilyn Moe, Nancy Lambert and Larry Lichte for their contributions. I usually provide the majority of the content for the *RWCS Newsletter*, but this is one of those times when several members provided some fun and interesting stories. I'm quite grateful for that, and I'm sure you will be, too, once you finish reading this issue.

The RWCS Facebook Chapter has also provided a lot of entertainment and interesting information in 2016. By the time you read this, it's likely that we welcomed our 2000th follower to the group. More than half of these people are not RWCS members, so we're really going to focus our efforts on recruiting them to join the Society in 2017.

Tons of cool pieces were shared on the page this year, so I wanted to feature some of them in this issue. That was easier said than done, however, as literally thousands of photos have been posted over the course of the year. I could've dedicated this entire issue to all the great Red Wing and still not had enough space. Therefore, I picked out the neatest pieces that I had never seen until collectors shared them on Facebook in 2016.

I've had the privilege of seeing some incredible collections over the years as your editor – either in person or when paging through photo albums. And just like many of you, I'm always scouring books and other resources to see and learn as much as I can. So I get excited whenever I see something good that I wasn't aware of previously. My top 10 picks of those pieces made it into this issue. The first is pictured on the cover and rest can be found on page 11.

I hope all of you have a Merry Christmas. May Santa leave a very special piece of Red Wing under your tree this year! 🍷



Rick Natynski, Editor

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Primary membership in the Red Wing Collectors Society is \$35 annually; associate membership is \$15. There must be at least one primary member per household in order to have an associate membership. Members can pay for up to two years when renewing their membership. Contact the RWCS Business Office for additional details.

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CONVENTION UPDATE

2017 RWCS CONVENTION TO BE HELD AT MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGE SOUTHEAST'S RED WING CAMPUS

The Red Wing School District informed the RWCS this fall that due to facility improvements and upgrades, Red Wing High School won't be available to host the Annual RWCS Convention in 2017 or 2018. We can't thank the district enough for its past support, as the high school has been a great facility for our event and the staff has been a pleasure to work with since we started holding the Convention there in 1996.



We've been hard at work scouring the city for alternative sites and we're pleased to report that we've contracted with an excellent replacement: the Minnesota State College Southeast's campus in Red Wing. Formerly known as the Vo-Tec School, this presented a perfect theme for the 40th Anniversary – “Back to the Future” – as the RWCS held its Convention there from 1979 to 1995.

The campus has since been renovated and will serve as an excellent venue for activities like educational sessions, hands-on pottery classes, Commemorative distribution and the always popular Convention Display Room. The only events that Minnesota State College Southeast can't accommodate are the official RWCS Convention Auction on Thursday, July 6 and the Convention Show & Sale on Saturday, July 8. We're close to finalizing a new location for these events and will provide an update in the next issue of the *RWCS Newsletter*. -Paul Wichert, RWCS President

CONVENTION 2017: GO “BACK TO THE FUTURE”

Fellow collectors – let's do some time traveling! We will celebrate 40 years of collecting during Convention this summer, but even more valuable than the pieces we collect are the friendships we've made over the years. The 2017 Convention, July 6-8 will feature a new location and a freshened itinerary as we go BACK TO THE FUTURE. Don't miss it!

Traditionally the RWCS has provided Convention attendees with a special collector pin to celebrate milestone years. This year will be no exception; the pin will be modeled after the anniversary pins that Red Wing Potteries presented to its employees. In addition, a special commemorative tile made in a beautiful rich red glaze will be offered for sale (sample above). This will be available for pickup at Convention and will be mailed to those who won't be able to attend. All RWCS members will have the opportunity to order a tile on their Convention order forms in the February newsletter. A very limited quantity will be available for first-come, first-serve purchase onsite.



Be sure to watch the RWCS website and RWCS Facebook page as we continue to plan a very special 2017 Convention that will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the RWCS. In addition, more details about “traveling” BACK TO THE FUTURE will be revealed at the 2017 MidWinter in Des Moines. May the 40th be with you. See you there!! -Nancy Lambert, RWCS Historian



ABOUT THE COVER

While many “lunch hour” pieces came out of the Red Wing Sewer Pipe Co. during the company's history, few are factory signed, and even fewer have a provenance like the one pictured on the cover of this issue.

Signed “Red Wing” at the base, the ornate umbrella stand has the tree bark look that most of these lunch hour pieces have. But the skilled potter took this one to another level by applying vines topped by flowers, the initials “S.S.” and a little owl sitting in a knot hole – all of which were done in a caramel-colored glaze to make it stand out from the dark brown color of the tree.

The impressive piece belongs to longtime RWCS Member Carol Schwartau and her husband, Chuck. Carol says it sat in the main hallway of the Sheldon Mansion at 805 W. Fourth St., which is known as one of Red Wing's most beautiful and historic homes. It was built for grain and real estate baron Theodore B. Sheldon in 1876 and he lived there until his death in 1900. His 2nd wife, Annie Langton Sheldon, lived there until she passed in 1909. Annie played a pivotal role in bringing the building originally known as the T.B. Sheldon Memorial Auditorium to fruition in 1904. Now named the Sheldon Theatre, it and the home are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Carol's grandparents, John & Florence Frieze, lived next door to the Sheldon Mansion and were friendly with the owners, who were believed to have purchased the home and its contents from Sheldon's heirs in 1909 for \$5,000 according to a January 2014 article in the *Red Wing Republican Eagle*. Carol says they gave the umbrella stand to her grandmother, likely sometime in the 1940s or 50s. It was then passed down to her in the mid 1960s.

“My mother hated the umbrella stand, but I loved it because it looked like a tree,” Carol says. “So my grandmother gave it to me when she moved out of her home and started handing down items. I believe I was only in 9th grade at the time though, so my mother had to put up with it until I was old enough to move out and get my own place.”

Limited research shows only one member of the Sheldon Family had initials close to “S.S.” – T.B. Sheldon's first wife, Mary Sturtevant Sheldon, who died in 1891. Therefore, Carol doesn't know whether it originally belonged to the Sheldon Family or if it was brought into the home by the family that moved there after Annie Sheldon died. But to her, its significance is tied more to its physical beauty and the fact that it was a gift from her grandmother. Both of those factors make it a cherished family heirloom that she hopes will be passed down for generations to come.

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CLUB NEWS

Happy Holidays, fellow members! The RWCS is 40 and so am I. How exciting! (Well, at least it's exciting for the Society, ha ha.)

As you read in the News Briefs on page 3, we've made a lot of progress since learning Red Wing High School will not be able to host the Convention in July, and we're excited by all the potential. But first things first! MidWinter is taking place Feb. 24-26 and we'll be back at the Holiday Inn in Des Moines. We have lots of exciting things going on and we hope that pushing the event back to late February results in improved driving conditions for everyone. I'm sure everyone is getting ready for the holiday season upon us, but don't forget – attending MidWinter makes a great gift. So if you haven't done so yet, you have until Jan. 23 to pre-register for \$25. If you want to set up at the Saturday Show & Sale, Sellers' Tables are just \$35. Remember, if you don't pre-register by the deadline, you can always register onsite for \$30. Registered attendees get to enjoy the food and camaraderie at the Friday Night Social and the Saturday morning breakfast, learn a lot during the Saturday educational sessions, and treat themselves to the coffee and donuts hosted by the Iowa Chapter before hitting the road on Sunday morning.

We won't have a theme at this year's MidWinter, but we will play Collector Bingo! Join the fun by finding the members who can fill your card starting at the Friday Night Social. Turn it in at the keynote the following morning to be entered in a prize drawing. Speaking of the keynote, RWCS Historian Nancy Lambert and I will present "Let's Reinvent the Convention". Other educational sessions will include "Dinnerware Mysteries" by RWCS Hall of Famers Terry Moe and Larry Roschen and "Early Colfax Springs History & Stoneware" by Mark Wiseman.

KidsView attendees will work on a cool "40" project during MidWinter to help celebrate the RWCS 40th Anniversary. Participants will also learn about the pieces Red Wing made for its 75th Anniversary. Volunteers are needed to assist with projects during the educational seminar times. Contact me at director@redwingcollectors.org if you'd like to join the fun!

New this year, we'd like to promote MidWinter room sellers on the RWCS website, programs and e-mails to members. If you plan on setting up, please provide a brief description of what you're bringing to sell and the floor/room number you will be in.

In closing, we're looking for a few folks to volunteer for registration, set up and tear down. Please contact the office to help out. As always, visit the RWCS website to learn more about MidWinter. We look forward to seeing you!



STACY WEGNER
Executive Director

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: CLIFFORD OLSON



Story by RWCS Newsletter Editor Rick Natynski



Cliff Olson

If you haven't heard the name Clifford Olson before, then you must not be a member of the RWCS Facebook Chapter page. Cliff and his wife, Alison, are consistently two of the most active RWCS members on the page. Now he's taking his involvement in the Society one step further by becoming the new stoneware contributor on the "Ask the Experts" page on the RWCS website.

The Olsons started collecting Red Wing in 1986 after Alison's aunt gave her a 10 gallon wing crock and a 3 gallon Western crock. Trips to antique shops to furnish their apartment resulted in more acquisitions, so it didn't take them long to build their collection. The couple slowed down around 1998 due to young children, work and starting a business. But Alison says they "dove back" into collecting in 2014. Now that their daughter and son are in their early 20s, they've found more time to hit malls, shops and back roads to search for new treasures.

"Facebook has really fueled the passion of collecting and finding stoneware and meeting other collectors that we might not have ever met," Cliff explains. "The power of the Facebook Chapter is really amazing, to be able to learn about stoneware, to see others' collections and seeing the possibilities of what we could add to our collection. It's really helped us make up for lost time."

Earlier this year, longtime RWCS Member Al Kohlman announced that he planned to step down from his role of stoneware contributor after tirelessly serving in the volunteer position since the Ask the Experts page got its start in 2006. Cliff, who credits Al and fellow RWCS members Sue & Jeff Tagliapietra as his mentors, says Al encouraged him to take over the role back during the RWCS MidWinter GetTogether.

"He saw how active I was on the Facebook page and thought I had a good gauge for values, but I had to think about it at first," Cliff says. "I was out of the game for awhile – I missed the big upswing in prices in the mid-2000s and then the drop in values around 2010. But I've seen things start to recover, too. So the more I thought about it, I decided it would be a fun way to help people learn about what they have."

Cliff started responding to Ask the Expert submissions in the fall. He says half of the job is identifying the maker of a piece, as many of the pieces that are submitted are MidWestern, but not Red Wing.

"I stay away from estimating values of non-Red Wing pieces like Al because it's really not my area of interest," Cliff says. "Offering up value estimates for Red Wing pieces is tough as it is, because there are a lot of factors that go into it. It's not just condition and rarity...regional availability also still plays a role. What might sell for \$200 at an auction in Minnesota or Wisconsin might bring \$400 in Kansas because it's harder to find there. So overall, I try to provide realistic estimates."

Welcome aboard, Cliff! 🍷

Do you know an RWCS member who constantly goes above and beyond in their support of RWCS events and activities? Submit their name and a description of their efforts to RWCS Newsletter Editor Rick Natynski so they can be considered for recognition in a future issue.

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POTTERY MUSEUM OF RED WING NEWS



GIVE TO THE MAX

The RWCS Foundation Board is pleased to announce that \$25,500 was raised during Give to the Max! We were only \$4,500 short from our goal. We appreciate the support from the RWCS Facebook Chapter, which raised \$2,150 during Give to the Max and all the other individuals who supported the museum. The money raised will help pay for building expenses, maintenance, improvements and educational programs.

The Pottery Museum of Red Wing was pleased to host 24 non-profits during Give to the Max. The event was successful. There was music, food and door prizes. People had a chance to visit with the non-profits and learn about all the good work they do for our community. The non-profits shared positive comments on how the room was a wonderful venue for the event.

POTTERS HALL

Speaking of the large meeting room, it now has a name! The RWCSF Board decided to call it Potters Hall. Potters Hall has been a wonderful space for the community to rent. There have been holiday parties, meetings, workshops, birthday parties, baby showers, etc. We already have bookings for 2017.

CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANT AWARDED

We are excited to share that the Pottery Museum of Red Wing has been awarded the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant in the amount of \$62,344! The grant will allow us to do an inventory collection in a searchable database. We are looking to start the project at the turn of the year.

MUSEUM FIELD TRIP

We're also pleased to report that all 2nd graders from the Red Wing School District will visit the Pottery Museum of Red Wing in spring of 2017. This comes after two very successful class trips last spring. Here is the feedback we received from one of the teachers:

"Last spring, the second grade students at

Sunnyside Elementary School in Red Wing, MN had the opportunity to visit the Pottery Museum of Red Wing. At the museum, the boys and girls were immersed into living history. They were able to interact with the clay and become pottery painters themselves. The museum volunteers brought the history of Red Wing to life in the summer kitchen and through a pottery dig. Our field trip to the Pottery Museum of Red Wing provided an age-appropriate avenue in teaching social studies standards about community, culture and history."



Above: RWCS Member Mike Becker oversees a dump digging activity during a 2nd grade class field trip last spring.

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED

The RWCSF Board thanked volunteers for all their dedication to the Pottery Museum of Red Wing at a Volunteer Celebrations Dinner on Oct. 21. Every volunteer walked away with a door prize to show our appreciation. Steve Ketcham was a guest speaker and he portrayed William Radam while thanking the volunteers for the work they do for the museum.

VOGEL DONATION

If you haven't been to the Pottery Museum for awhile, there are two interesting new plates to see. The Vogel Family donated two hand-painted

plates that family matriarch Marge Vogel received as a wedding present from Charles Murphy. Photos and a story about these impressive pieces will appear in the February RWCS Newsletter.



Above, Pottery Museum Manager Robin Wipperling (right) and her mother, Lois Wipperling, joined Arloa Bach (left) of the Red Wing Visitors & Convention Bureau and represented the museum at the Twin Cities Women's Expo in Oakdale, MN. Robin will also promote the museum at the International Expo in Chicago in January.

FESTIVE MERRIMENT IN RED WING

The Pottery Museum of Red Wing participated in Red Wing's Holiday Day Stroll Parade on Nov. 25. Pictured at right, our float was a 200 gallon crock (give or take a few gallons). Thanks to Keith Kaiser, Robin Wipperling and their son-in-law, Jeremy Sell, for all the time they put into the float. Thanks also go to Wayne Miller for pulling the float with his shiny red truck, Mike Becker for donating the awesome hay bail for our crock, and Larry Peterson for the candy that we handed out to parade-goers. We cannot forget to thank everyone who walked in the parade: Jeremy Sell, Dan Barry, Keith Kaiser, Robin Wipperling and their grandchildren and Wayne & Jean Miller's granddaughter.



The Pottery Museum Gift Store had a hut at the Yuletide Festival in Red Wing, Nov. 25-27. Thanks to Robin Wipperling, Keith Kaiser, Lois Wipperling, Vicki & Angie Stein and Michelle Kliest for volunteering their time over the weekend to promote the museum. This was a great event; the gift shop did very well and we received some wonderful exposure to the community.

AFFAIR FOR DINNERWARE SCHEDULED

The 2nd Annual Affair for Dinnerware will be held Saturday, May 13 in the Victorian Room at the St. James Hotel. Tickets will go on sale in January. Watch our website and Facebook page for details!

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!!! 🍷

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When a 5 gallon Albany slip beehive jug in mint condition double-signed "Red Wing" hammered down as one of the top pieces in the RWCS Convention Auction back in 2015, many attendees saw it being taken in the direction of longtime RWCS Members Bruce & Cindy Simon. But the keenest of observers noticed that it was actually their son Kyle who won the jug. The youngest of the Simons' two sons, Kyle is an active member of the RWCS and the Collectors of Illinois Pottery and Stoneware (COIPS) club. In fact, he became the administrator of the COIPS Facebook page in 2015.

While Kyle doesn't consider himself to be a "that young" of a collector at the age of 31, he's certainly well below the average age of your typical RWCS or COIPS member. He recently sat down and answered some questions about how he started collecting and offered some advice to others in his generation.

Q. What did you think about your parents' collecting when you were younger? Did they bring you to RWCS and COIPS events often?

A. I always enjoyed going to auctions and sales as a child. It was fun and exciting. It was always great times running ahead of my parents in antique shops to hopefully find something before them. Like watching the auctions and the excitement when my father would bid. I attended RWCS and COIPS with my parents every year up until I was in high school; they joined both clubs somewhere in the mid-1990s. There are some things that fondly stick out from attending Convention when I was younger. The first year we attended RWCS I remember going to "Run for the Roses", I can remember when Larry's Jugs was up on the hill and Houghton's auctions at the Armory.

Q. When did stoneware go from something you just grew up around to something you wanted to personally collect? What sparked that?

A. I was 27 and had moved to South Dakota for work. I had been learning the area and decided to go to the local antique shops to look for some new end tables for my place. While there, I found myself looking at all the stoneware in the two stores I visited. I was drawn to it just like I was when I was a child. It really took me back to my youth. So you can say that my parents really started the spark in me some 20 years ago, and it just took me getting out on my own to ignite that fire.

Q. What are your main areas of interest in collecting?

A. Red Wing, Monmouth and Fort Dodge. That is mainly what I'm looking for, but I really buy what I like.

Q. What do your friends think about your collecting? Have any started collections of their own after seeing the things you have?

A. Pretty sure most of my friends think I'm a little crazy. I would love to say all of them have started collecting stoneware after seeing my pieces, but they haven't. But, it has brought the value of it to their attention.

Q. As one of the younger "active" stoneware collectors out there, what do you think clubs like COIPS and RWCS can do to entice younger people into collecting stoneware and pottery and joining these organizations?

A. I believe there are a few things that clubs like RWCS and COIPS can do to help entice young collectors today. First is to embrace social media. Facebook is great way to do this. Second is real simple: keep the clubs fun. Really one of the things I look forward to for conventions is the great times that they are.

Q. What made you decide to take on an active role in leading the COIPS Facebook page?

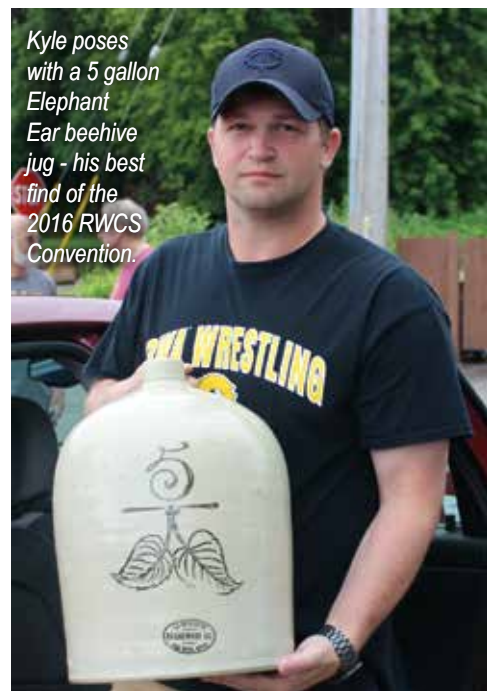
A. Taking an active role in the COIPS Facebook page was something that I never really planned on. But while attending 2015 COIPS Convention, the Board asked me if I would take an active role. A big part of me taking it on was that I knew how much having an active Facebook page would positively impact the club and help it grow.

Q. Most collectors have a list of "dream pieces" that they'd be thrilled to have. What are some of the pieces you have on your want list?

A. I have been really lucky to be able to cross off a few of the items I had on my dream list this year. But of course there are always those pieces that you want...4 gallon Elephant Ear beehive jug, Elephant Ear water cooler, 3-leaf salt glaze crocks, Red Wing transition crocks. Those are just a few items on top of the list, but I have many more.

Q. Do you have any advice for younger collectors in their 20s or 30s who are just getting started?

A. I would say to young collectors: educate yourself. There is so much information out there about stoneware. If you are going to be a collector, it's a good idea to know what makes something rare or valuable. For me, it's knowing the history of the items I'm buying. Network with others. Make connections and new friends. This is really one of the great things about collecting stoneware. 🍷





Aunt Alice's Lunch Hour Bowl

Story by
RWCS Member Keith Hanson

When the redesigned *RWCS Newsletter* came out in June, I was happy to see the picture on the upper right corner of the cover of a lady painting dishes on the Red Wing Potteries' production line. This picture also appears in the Pottery Museum of Red Wing's atrium. The lady shown is my aunt, Alice E. Johnson. Aunt Alice, my mother's sister, was an artist at the Potteries for 18 years, from 1944 to 1962. Like many other pottery employees, she created a "lunch hour" piece with some co-workers – a bowl that has been in my family for many years. Here's some history on Aunt Alice and her bowl.

Alice and my mother came from a large Swedish family. Their father, Frederick L. Johnson, was born in September 1850 and their mother, Augusta, was born in October 1853. Both born in Varmland, Sweden, they were married in Dec. 1875 and emigrated to Red Wing in 1879. They had eight children from 1882 though 1900. Frederick found work at the Red Wing gas generation plant at a wage of 50 cents – *per day*. Because the family was so poor, all of the children had to leave school after 8th grade and go to work.

Alice was born in July 1890 at the family home at 728 McSorley St. in Red Wing where she lived her entire life. Her first known job was as a telephone switchboard operator in Red Wing – probably in the 1920s. She then worked as an artist at the Red Wing Advertising Co. for many years until she joined the Potteries in 1944. Alice never married, nor did she learn to drive. So, she was dependent on carpooling, friends, relatives and whatever public transportation was available to get around town.

The story of the "lunch hour" bowl itself remains something of a mystery. It is from Red Wing's "Oomph" Bakeware pattern, which was made for a few years starting in 1943. It appears that "Sept. 44" and an illegible day is scratched on the bottom, meaning it was made shortly after she started working there. As the photos at right show, it looks to have the names and hometowns and/or addresses of seven different people. We've been unable to decipher all of the writing on the bowl, but the captions show what we were able to make out.

Due to the additional names on the bowl – none of which are familiar to me – my assumption is that Alice made it as a fun project and the other people joined in. I am not aware of any other lunch hour items that she could have produced.

I had almost daily contact with Aunt Alice during my youth. Our family home at 719 Potter St. was about 100 yards away from 728 McSorley. Since she lived alone, we included her in all of our family activities – hunting, fishing, picnics, going to the state fair, etc. She was a delight to have around. Despite never learning to drive, she was pretty progressive in other ways. I remember her being one of the first people in town to own a television and an electric refrigerator; we were still having ice delivered when she bought it. She died at age 72 at her home in August 1962.

My wife Lynette had several relatives that worked at the Potteries or the clay pits between Hay Creek and Goodhue. Lynn's father, Raymond Swanson, was a foreman at the Potteries for most of his adult life. Her aunt, Donna Swanson (nee Alms), was an artist at the Potteries for many years, and her grandfather, Otto Swanson, emigrated to Red Wing in 1889 at age 20 and worked in the clay pits.

Red Wing was a wonderful place to grow up in and we still get back to the historic pottery town as often as we can. 🍁



Alice E. Johnson, 728 McSorley; Helen Lee



Bob Kock, Goodhue



"Shorty", Red Wing, Minn



Evie Rosen, 608 No Prairie, Lake City



Bud M- - - - -, 5120 Lyndale, Mpls, Minn.



A.E.D., 722 Mc- - - - Sept - 44

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Quack Medicine History

Story by RWCS Foundation Board Member Steve Ketcham



Red Wing's earliest gallon Microbe Killer jugs had bisque tops and salt glaze bases. Above, the jug with funnel-styled top is bottom-signed "Red Wing Stoneware Co." Below, the dome-topped jug is signed "Minnesota Stoneware Co. Red Wing Minn." on the base.



Collecting early vessels, whether glass bottles or stoneware jugs, is a history lesson. These pieces of the past were often discarded after use, their first owners believing them to be empty. But in fact they are full of history, and the lessons they teach are usually not found in textbooks. These stories emerge once the hunt for the vessel is finished and the hunt for the story behind the vessel begins. Among my favorite Red Wing pieces are stoneware jugs that mesh historically with antique bottles. Together they tell wonderful tales about 19th Century nostrums and quackery. Some are short stories, some fill books. Here are a couple of stories involving a few of my favorite jugs.

WILLIAM RADAM'S MICROBE KILLER

The 19th Century saw an amazing number of quack medicines marketed to a very gullible American public. There were thousands of cures, tonics, elixirs, bitters and remedies. They were compounded and sold by large companies and corner druggists in burghs and cities across the nation. Almost always, these potions were sold in glass bottles holding anywhere from a few ounces to a gallon or more. The majority had no genuine medicinal qualities. Most contained a dose of alcohol, and many were laced with narcotics that went unregulated until the 20th Century.

There are many stories about mountebanks growing rich selling such products. One especially successful quack was William Radam, proprietor of Radam's Microbe Killer.

William Radam was a botanist. Following Louis Pasteur's experiments leading to the discovery of microbes, Radam decided to capitalize on the public's fear and fascination with the little beasties. He concocted a story of how he cured his own case of malaria. He then concocted his Microbe Killer and sold it to an unsuspecting public. In 1884, Radam even went so far as to write a book, *Microbes and the Microbe Killer*, to promote his product. At more than 300 pages, it may be the world's longest infomercial. In it, Radam tells how he treated and cured his own illness and in doing so discovered Microbe Killer. He (conveniently) claimed that the only cases his potion would not cure were those where the stricken patient started using Microbe Killer too late. He also insisted he could have cured the recently deceased Emperor Fredrick of Germany. He explained how he wrote seven letters to Germany offering to cure the emperor, but his offers were never acknowledged. Radam blamed it on the circumstances wherein, "Jealousy reigned among the physicians in attendance."

A trial held in Minneapolis in 1913 determined that Microbe Killer was fraudulently labeled, claiming to cure all kinds of diseases. According to the *Minneapolis Sunday Tribune*, the verdict was seen as "a triumph for the government and as the most important step toward the curbing of misbranded patent medicines that has ever been taken since the passage of the pure food and drug act in 1906." The government chemist who testified at the trial would later file similar charges against the Microbe Killer in New York. An 1891 copy of *Secret Nostrums and Systems* by Charles W. Oleson, M.D., revealed that Microbe Killer was nothing more than red wine, sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid and well water.

The bullet-shaped gallon jug at left is bottom signed "Minnesota Stoneware Company Red Wing Minn." Similar jugs were made with the numbers 1 and 3 stamped on the shoulder.

Pictured at right, Microbe Killer was offered in large, amber bottles. In a stroke of marketing genius, Radam's bottles were embossed with the image of a man doing battle with a skeleton, beneath which was embossed the boastful claim, "Cures All Diseases."

According to the label on a Microbe Killer bottle:

- "No. 1 for all diseases of a chronic but not malignant character, take a wine glassful four times a day, one-half hour before each meal and on retiring at night."
- "No. 2 is stronger than No. 1 and is intended for patients of stronger constitution. It should be taken the same as No. 1."



This portrait of William Radam, inventor of Microbe Killer, appears on the frontispiece of his 1884 book, *Microbes and the Microbe Killer*.



At right, a Radam's Microbe Killer advertising crate on display at the Pottery Museum of Red Wing.

• "No. 3 is very strong and is intended to give quick relief in malignant, very painful and dangerous diseases, where quick action is necessary to save a life or relieve the patient from great pain. For diseases such as Cholera, Yellow Fever, or Diphtheria, take one-half pint every one or two hours, using it at the same time as an injection and compress until improvement sets in; then take regular doses."

The amber bottles were just the beginning. Radam's company grew to the point of having 17 production laboratories throughout the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. At least a dozen versions of gallon-size stoneware jugs were ordered from numerous potteries. Three were made in Red Wing – one by the Red Wing Stoneware Co. and two by the Minnesota Stoneware Co.

DR. BOPP'S HAMBURGER STOMACH BITTERS

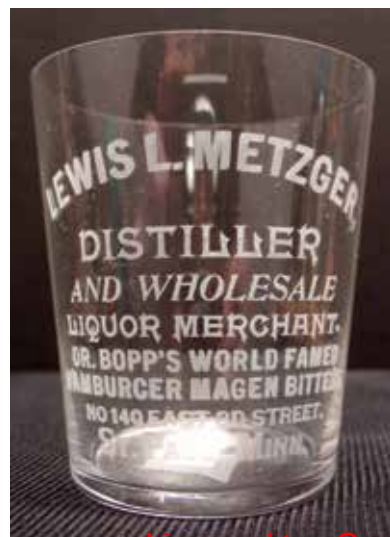
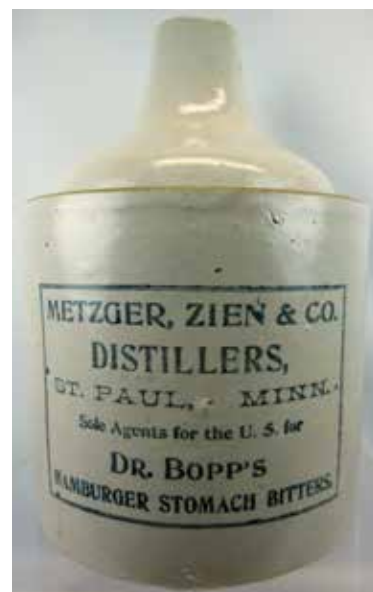
Among the most popular of the patent medicines were the medicinal bitters. The majority contained at least 20 percent alcohol, and this helped boost their popularity. The thousands of different bitters marketed during the 19th Century were concocted by large companies, corner druggists and even liquor merchants. In St. Paul, liquor dealer George Benz offered Appetine Bitters, P. J. Bowlin sold Digestine Bitters, and Lewis Metzger marketed Dr. Bopp's Hamburger Stomach Bitters.

With a good dose of alcohol being the foundation of most bitters, it follows that pre-Prohibition liquor firms would get into the unregulated business of selling booze as medicine. Just mix up some roots and herbs with alcohol and water and call it medicine. In the case of the Digestine and Appetine brands, fancy bottles were used to increase the appeal of the product and make it easier to spot on the drug store or liquor store shelf. For reasons unknown, Dr. Bopp's was offered in ½ gallon, gallon and 2 gallon stoneware jugs. Only a few bitters were ever marketed in such jugs. Furthermore, no Dr. Bopp's bottles are known at this time, making the jugs all the more interesting. All known Dr. Bopp's jugs were made by Minnesota Stoneware of Red Wing. Only a few exist today, relics with fascinating life stories.

They were born of earth and fire long ago, and their stories still burn brightly. Old bottles and jugs aren't empty. Inside them we find wonder and history just waiting to be uncorked.



Lewis Metzger, a mason, was born in Germany in 1858. He opened his St. Paul liquor business in 1902 after spending many years as a traveling salesman. He was proud enough of his Dr. Bopp's Bitters that he advertised it on his letterheads. No doubt the product contained a good dose of alcohol; most bitters did. Note that the letterhead also advertises "Cayo Coco Wine, The Great Blood Tonic." What better way to increase the sale of wine than to promote it as having great medicinal qualities?



Editor's note: This article appeared in the October 2016 issue of *Old Times* and is reprinted here with the permission of the author and the publication.

Metzger advertised his many products in flyers and on etched, thin-walled shot glasses like the example shown here. Bitters and liquor shot glasses are popular with bottle collectors.

Metzger used the 1 gallon jug (above right) for his Dr. Bopp's Hamburger Stomach Bitters, which he sold for \$2.50 per gallon. It is bottom-signed "Minnesota Stoneware Co. Red Wing, Minn." A 2 gallon jug with the same stamp also exists. Earlier than the version shown above, the jug at right is currently the only ½ gallon example known with Dr. Bopp's advertising. It is bottom-embossed "Minnesota Stoneware Red Wing Minnesota." Metzger and Zien were in business together in 1903, but Metzger is listed alone in city directories by 1905. Research by Wisconsin bottle collectors Peter Mass and Tim Wolter found that Zien was one of several brothers involved in the liquor trade in Milwaukee and Duluth. Interestingly, no bottles (embossed or paper-labeled) are known for the Dr. Bopp's brand.

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The Gypsy Trail Sticker

Story by RWCS Members Marilyn & Terry Moe

Introduced in June of 1935, the Gypsy Trail line was sold by Rum Rill and Red Wing. The original trademark for the line name was registered to Rum Rill, but it had been assigned to Red Wing by 1937. Some of the items were bottom-marked with various Red Wing or Rum Rill markings, including a few #565 Coffee Servers with Wooden Handles stamped with a "Red Wing Art Pottery" ink stamp. To date, four items have been found with a paper "Gypsy Trail" label. Three of the items are art pottery, not dinnerware; the fourth item is a dinnerware #565 Coffee Server with Wooden Handle. The three art pottery items have the label applied to the side, while the #565 Coffee Server has the label on the bottom. In addition to the Gypsy Trail label on the bottom, the Coffee Server has an art pottery foil label applied to the side. Two of the art pottery items are shown in Ray Reiss' *Red Wing Art Pottery* books and the other two labels are in our personal collection.

An ad appearing on page 35 of the June 1937 issue of the *Crockery And Glass Journal* shows the same concept as the scene depicted, so we suspect that the sticker dates from about the same time – before Red Wing and Rum Rill split.

Why did the stickers find their way to art pottery rather than just to dinnerware? We have no primary source information that describes any art pottery as Gypsy Trail. Obviously such a label had a better chance of surviving on art pottery rather than dinnerware since dinnerware was more likely to be washed, and washing would destroy the label. We don't know why the label was applied to art pottery, but we are happy that it was because it preserved three very rare labels.



GYPSEY TRAIL
the spirit of
The Golden West

FILLED with all the beauty of a lone winding trail under the great sky blanket of the West, RumRill presents this highly colored peasant table ware in five brilliant shades of Yellow, Orange, Blue, Ivory and Turquoise.

ILLUSTRATED above is the Coffee Server with wooden handle, which retails for \$2.00. The Mugs, without handles, retail for 25c each and may be had with handles. And the 15 inch Chop Plate or Sandwich Tray retails for \$2.00.

Send for Catalog

Red Wing Potteries
Red Wing, Minnesota

Rum Rill Pottery Co.
Little Rock, Arkansas

• AT ALL THE SHOWS! •

NINE PIECES I HADN'T SEEN...UNTIL 2016

Story by RWCS Newsletter Editor Rick Natynski

ALOT of unbelievable Red Wing pieces were pictured on the RWCS Facebook Chapter page this year. I had seen many of these (or at least similar examples) in the past, but not the jaw droppers on this page. These have been squirreled away in private collections, and as far as I know, only one item pictured below appears in a Red Wing book. Some of these changed hands in 2016, but most were just shared by their longtime owners for everyone to marvel over and enjoy. This is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the killer pieces that were shared though, so if you're not a member of the Facebook Chapter, you're missing out on seeing some high-powered stuff. 🍷



A lot of Eastern potteries put a cobalt wash over their side-stamped signatures, but I had never seen this on a piece of Red Wing before. But it's not "just" a wash... the cobalt is actually part of a waving flag that the decorator included on the cooler. Since it's a 4 gallon, perhaps it was made in recognition of the 4th of July? I'll salute to that!

The new owner acquired the cooler and the remarkable 3 gallon floral chum pictured below from an Oregon antique dealer this year. What a lucky dog! I've seen only two other floral chums in the past, but they are sized 4 and 5 gallons. Hubba hubba!



I might have seen this piece when visiting its owner several years ago, but he has so much high-quality eye-popping advertising stoneware that it must have blended in with everything else. I won't forget about it again though, that's for sure. He notes that advertising pieces with a 6-inch wing are far and few between. The fact that this one has Canadian advertising makes it even more appealing.



As mentioned at left, I had seen a 4 gallon floral chum similar to this one in the past. The difference? This one doesn't have a flower on top! The owner found it decades ago at an estate sale in Red Wing proper. Makes you wonder how many pieces are still residing in Red Wing, waiting to be discovered by collectors.



This beautifully painted "lunch hour" dinnerware plate was given to Alice Ohme (nee Dosdall) when she was born in April 1948. It was made by her aunt, Red Wing Potteries employee Frances Swanson. Can you imagine how special it would be to own a piece of Red Wing that was made specifically for you? Alice does!



Believe it or not, two different collectors posted a photo of the #52 Nokomis Ewer Pitcher they own. One of these is actually pictured on page 152 of Warman's Red Wing Pottery by Mark F. Moran, so I guess I must have seen it before. But I didn't remember it, so it made the cut for this pictorial.

Dang, even a Red Wing-collecting nun would start swearing like a sailor when laying eyes on this 10 gallon cooler. In full disclosure, the owner actually showed me a photo of it a few years ago, so I had seen it before he posted it on Facebook. But "shock and awe" overtook me and I had to include it in this pictorial. A-M-A-Z-I-N-G ! Can you believe he bought it off a woman's back porch in Nebraska?



You don't have to live in Minnesota to love this hand-painted "lunch hour" centennial trivet, which was acquired many years ago from Clifford Ekdahl, Red Wing art pottery and dinnerware mega collector. With Cliff's passing this year, the owner says it's a great piece to remember him by.



There are several 30 gallon butterfly crocks out there, but you just don't see 30 gallon salt glaze lids. This one has several turkey droppings and a stunning orange peel glaze because it was on the top of the stack in the kiln. The owner says she knows the lid is original to the crock because it's been passed down in the family. WOW!



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SEARCHING PATTONSBURG, MO FOR ELLIS & MEADOWS

Story by RWCS Historian Nancy Lambert



While recently paging through the book that I released in 2014 with the help of the RWCS Trails West Chapter and many others – *Kansas & Missouri Advertising Stoneware from Red Wing, Minnesota* – I reflected on all the time, effort and fun that went into its creation. We brought a lot of neat stories to life through tedious research, but as they say, I often found the journey to be more rewarding than the destination.

One such example began on the Sunday morning following the MidWinter GetTogether in February 2012. We were heading home from Des Moines to our home in Kansas. Heading south on I-35 and only half way home, I saw a road sign: "Pattonsbuurg exit 1 mile". I mentioned to my husband who was driving that I had been researching one of the advertisers from Pattonburg for the book, but had not found any information. We decided to take the exit and go take a look at the small town in northern Missouri.

It was about noon and the only business open was a restaurant, so I went inside and asked if anyone knew about Ellis & Meadows. The only lead I had so far was what information was inside the oval stamp on the bowl, chicken feeder and crocks that I had taken photos of, which read: "The Farmers Headquarters, Ellis & Meadows, Pattonburg, Mo." One could only wonder if the business provided farm supplies to the locals, such as feed, equipment, tack, etc. One waitress told me to wait while she phoned a man who was a member of the "Tree Climbers" – the local historical society. She returned to tell me that he was on his way to meet with me and would open their office, just two doors down from the restaurant. I went out to our car and told my husband that we would be getting home much later than we had planned!

A few minutes later we were inside Pattonburg's small historical society office complete with file cabinets, a store counter and many artifacts from earlier days in Pattonburg history. Because "Old Pattonburg" had flooded numerous times, the townspeople moved the entire town to higher ground in the mid-1990s, and

locals now know it as "New Pattonburg". So much information had been lost over time, but the Tree Climbers group had accumulated a small collection.

The first thing I noticed was a July 1905 Pattonburg Telephone Co. poster hanging on the wall that listed all of the residents and businesses along with their two-digit phone numbers. My eyes immediately detected the first clue, "Ellis & Meadows office, ring 59". There were also listings for an "E. Ellis, ring 29" and five different listings for people with the Meadows last name.

The gentleman who had opened the door for us searched his computer for other documents, including census records. He told us he had never heard of the Ellis & Meadows business, but was eager to help us out. While he was doing that, I browsed the glass store counter and noticed a 1913 Pattonburg Cook Book that had been put together by a local group and asked to see it. I had seen these before and they usually had advertising from local businesses inside. I was so excited to find the next huge clue – an Ellis & Meadows ad pictured below that read: "We have the recipe for selling your farm, home and lot....our loan and insurance is the best too, give us a call." So Ellis & Meadows was actually a real estate office and they also provided loans and insurance, not feed and farm supplies! I then noticed the phone numbers listed: "29, 59 or 79."

This Book is Full of the Best Cooking Recipes.
We Have The Recipe For
Selling Your Farm, Home and Lot
Or Trading What You Don't Want
For Something You Do Want.
Our Loan and Insurance
Is the Best, too. Give Us a Trial.
Phones 29, 59 or 79.
ELLIS & MEADOWS, Pattonburg, Mo.

Red Wing made advertising stoneware in a number of different shapes and sizes for Ellis & Meadows. Although the ink stamp on their pieces makes it sound like they sold supplies and equipment to farmers, they actually provided financing for farmers and specialized in real estate.



Looking back at the telephone company poster and matching up their phone numbers, I now knew that Ellis' first name began with "E" and Meadows' first initials were "C.M." I gave my contact information to the man who had so graciously met with us and we promised to continue the search and keep each other informed.

Eventually, using census information and the Missouri death database with actual death certificates, I found Elijah Ellis and Charles Meadows. The death certificates listed the occupations of both Ellis and Meadows as real estate agents. After finding the certificates, I could then locate their obituaries that had appeared in local newspapers. The obituaries revealed even more information about the lives of these two Pattonsburg businessmen.

Elijah E. "Doc" Ellis was born in Bloomington, Illinois in 1853 and came to Missouri's Daviess County with his parents in 1859. He left for Texas and then returned to Missouri to farm for about a year. He began a drug business in Coffeysburg in 1873, but returned to Pattonsburg in 1875. With a limited education and no finances, he "conquered and became well read in medicine and surgery and gained considerable property, owning a residence and business house, and doing an extensive and lucrative business." He was a member of the city council and "was spoken of as a liberal, public spirited man, and one well worthy of the high esteem in which he is held by his many friends."* He died in 1928.

Charles Merrit Meadows, a Pattonsburg native, was born in 1870. He passed away in 1951. 🐾

Editors note: The Kansas & Missouri Advertising Stoneware from Red Wing, Minnesota book is available for purchase at the Pottery Museum of Red Wing or by contacting Nancy Lambert at historian@redwingcollectors.org. All proceeds go to support the museum.

*History of Daviess County – 1882, reprint. Project of the Gallatin Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, 1972.



Main Street Looking North, Pattonsburg, Mo.

Above: A view of "Old Pattonsburg". Below, an image from one of the town's many floods. It was moved to higher ground in the mid-1990s.



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AD RATES

Classified ads are 20¢ per word for members and 30¢ per word for non-members; \$4 minimum charge and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition to appearing in the newsletter, classifieds and display ads are posted on the RWCS website.

Ads are divided into the following sections: Red Wing For Sale, Red Wing Wanted, Other Pottery For Sale, Other Pottery Wanted, Events, Auctions, Clubs & Publications and Websites, Announcements and Services. You will not be charged for these words, but please indicate which section your ad should be placed in. If ad is to run in more than one issue, please indicate at time of placement. (Note: the small number at the end of an ad tells when the ad expires, e.g., 8/16. Ads without dates are one-time ads.) Please type or print clearly and proofread before submission.

DISPLAY ADS

Display Ad Size	Ad Rate
Full page	\$425
1/2 page (horizontal or vertical)	225
1/4 page	125
1/8 page	85

Display ads purchased by non-members cost an additional 15%.

DISPLAY AD DIMENSIONS

Full Page	8 x 10.5
1/2 page (horizontal or vertical)	8 x 5.25
1/4 page	4 x 5.25
1/8 page	4 x 2.125

Display ads are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The publisher reserves the right to refuse ads for any reason.

Ads must be supplied electronically as an EPS or PDF file for PC. If you are unsure about acceptability, inquire with the editor. There is an additional 10 percent fee for design and makeup if needed (\$10 minimum).

DEADLINES

Issue	Ads	Editorial	Mail Date
February	Jan. 10	Jan. 1	Feb. 15
April	March 10	March 1	April 15
June	May 10	May 1	June 15
August	July 25	July 15	Aug. 31
October	Sept. 10	Sept. 1	Oct. 15
December	Nov. 10	Nov. 1	Dec. 15

EDITOR ADDRESS

Make checks payable to RWCS and mail with ads:

Rick Natynski, RWCS
PO Box 198
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Can also submit ads by e-mail. Send to:

newsletter@redwingcollectors.org and
send checks separately. Or, call Rick at
414-416-WING (9464).

CLASSIFIEDS

RED WING FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Beautiful orange Ceramastone pig is looking for a new home for \$70. Please e-mail donnajdummer@gmail.com if interested and would like a digital photo sent.

5 gal Red Wing churn with 4" wing in excellent condition, \$325. Comes with dasher & wooden lid. Contact Char at chark332@gmail.com for photos and more info.

RED WING WANTED

WANTED: Hamm's Red Wing Banks, Brown Bears and Unique Hamm's Red Wing items. CASH PAID. Call Kirk RWCS member #917 at 612-618-3717 or 763-252-0114 (office). 8/17

WANTED: L. Borserini, Atchison, Kansas advertising jug – contact julibug@cox.net, or 479-283-9889.

WANTED: Mini and salesman sample flower pots in any colors. Contact 402-598-1315 or cobe142@cox.net

WANTED: MOOSE JAW, Saskatchewan, Canada advertising. Will consider any condition. Please contact Greg at 307-543-2010 or ghouda@wyoming.com

WANTED: Looking for a Willow Wind pattern Spoon Rest – the last one I need to complete my collection of Red Wing spoon rests! Please call Margaret at 651-388-9729.

WANTED: NORTH DAKOTA! Looking for jugs, crocks, butter crocks and churns with advertising. Will pay top dollar for the right pieces. Contact 701-270-0242 or beehive@polarcomm.com

WANTED: Will pay strong price for Red Wing bean pot with Westby, Wis. advertising. Contact Rich at repatlargeeast@redwingcollectors.org or 608-617-7424.

WANTED: Red Wing large blue/green Chromoline vases in mint condition (#687 & M3006). Contact Rick at 414-416-9464 or newsletter@redwingcollectors.org

NEWS BRIEFS

CUSTOM-DESIGNED LEATHER COASTERS FOR SALE AT POTTERY MUSEUM OF RED WING GIFT SHOP

The RWCS Badger Chapter recently donated 300 custom-designed leather coasters to the Pottery Museum of Red Wing to be sold in our gift shop! Badger Chapter Members Gary & Bonnie Tefft designed the coasters (sample shown at right) and worked with the S.B. Foot Tanning Company in Red Wing, MN to have them manufactured. (S.B. Foot also manufactured the 2016 RWCS Convention Button for the Badger Chapter, which the Teffts also designed.)

These coasters measure 4 inches in diameter (larger than the Convention Button) and are being sold for \$5 each, or \$15 for a set of four. They can be purchased in person at the gift shop, or call the museum at 651-327-2220 to have them mailed (buyer to pay postage).

All of the proceeds will benefit the Pottery Museum of Red Wing.

These wonderful coasters will make a great gift for the Red Wing collector in your life and we thank the Badger Chapter for creating them for us! -Robin Wipperling, Pottery Museum Manager



MIDWINTER ROOM RATE CORRECTION

Please note that the lodging rates for MidWinter at the Holiday Inn on Merle Hay Road in Des Moines were incorrect in the October RWCS Newsletter. The correct rates are listed below. Call the hotel at 515-278-4755 to make your reservations!

Double Queen Room, \$84.00+ (\$94.08 including taxes, per night)
King Executive Room, \$89.00+ (\$94.08 including taxes, per night)
Junior or Extended Suites, \$124.00+ (\$138.88 including taxes per night)
Family or Parlor King Suite, \$144.00+ (\$161.28 including taxes per night)
Family Double King Suite, \$164.00+ (\$183.68 including taxes per night)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LARRY LICHTER LOVES HIS RED WING

My wife Dolores and I have collected Red Wing for 45 years and we've been members of the Red Wing Collectors Society for many of them. We enjoy sharing our collection and showing how some of these pieces were used long ago.

The photo at right shows us making sauerkraut at an annual Americana event in Cross Plains, WI, which we have done every September for 35 years. We used to make three crocks, or about 150 lbs., of kraut every year. But, we have cut back to one 8 gallon Red Wing crock, which makes about 50 pints, which we freeze. We quit processing it in quart jars 10 years ago. Freezing is quicker and produces a nicer-tasting and better-quality kraut. We let the kraut ferment 3 months in the crock before freezing it.

I use an antique box with blades to slaw into the 8 gallon crock. My wife quarters the cabbage and sets out a pre-measured amount of canning salt that I work into 20 lb. layers after kneading and stomping it. I also sprinkle a dash of sugar and caraway seed into each layer to add a little flavor and color. Sometimes we cook the kraut with different cuts of pork or enjoy it in a cold salad. We also like to share about half of it with family and friends.

These other photos show how we display our collection of Red Wing at our "museum", as some people call it, in Middleton, WI. It displays a rather full collection of the various sizes of crocks, plus chicken waterers and one-room schoolhouse water fountains. The fountain with the metal bubbler is quite interesting; my mother taught all eight grades in a one-room schoolhouse and used this type.

The 30 gallon crock partially visible on the left side of the photo was made sometime prior to 1920 and was used at the high school where I was assistant principal from 1960-64. The elderly school custodian at that time indicated that there were two crocks in the art classroom that were used for storing clay, and they were there when he started working there in 1928. The school closed in 1964 and the crocks were given to me.

The chicken waterer and feeders are interesting. On one of our poultry fountains, it suggests the use of buttermilk as well as water. They date to the 1920s and I purchased them in 1977 for \$9 and \$6, respectively. In addition to our larger Red Wing, we also display a variety of smaller Red Wing, Western, Macomb and other miscellaneous stoneware on the stairs to the second floor of our museum. I hope fellow collectors enjoy seeing these photos. 🍷

-RWCS Member Larry Lichte



RWCS Members Larry & Dolores Lichte pose while using their Red Wing to make sauerkraut at a living history festival in Cross Plains, WI.



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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

A COLLECTOR IS BORN!

Congratulations to RWCS Members Lucas & Staci Beseke, who proudly welcomed their first child into the world in September! Charlie Fritz Beseke was born at 10:06 p.m. on Thursday, Sept.15. He measured in at a healthy 7 lbs. 8 oz. and 21.5 inches long.

Staci recently shared this photo of Charlie and reports that "he's been a great baby so far. Very laid back and easy going! Fairly good sleeper, too." This is quite impressive, because it appears the Beseke's forewent the traditional baby crib in favor of using a 30 gallon crock for his bed. Ha! Congrats, Lucas and Staci!! 🍷

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REDWING THE BAND? YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT! Story by RWCS Newsletter Editor Rick Natynski

When longtime RWCS Members Steve & Barb Brown invited me over to photograph their collection a few years ago, I was shocked by two things. The first was the sheer size and quality of their collection. The other was learning that a classic rock band named Redwing put out five albums in the early 1970s, and the Browns had the four shown above.

"Wow, check these guys out!" I remember saying with excitement. "They must have had *all* the ladies back in the 70s! That first guy's Afro is fantastic!"

Seeing the layer of dust that had accumulated on these album covers, I wasn't surprised that Steve couldn't tell me much about the band. Fortunately an obscure website put together by someone who must have known the musicians back in the day told me everything I've never wanted to know about the band so I can share it with you, the loyal reader.

You know how sometimes you fall asleep watching TV at night and wake up to a Time Life Music infomercial peddling a compilation of 1970s classic rock hits? Yeah, these guys aren't on there.

As it turns out, this group's only relation to Red Wing is that they were located nearly 2000 miles away in Sacramento. Its founders were high school classmates Timothy B. Schmit, Ron Floegel and Tom Phillips; they played together in a folk trio named Tim Tom & Ron. A year later they added drummer George Hullin, started playing surfer music and changed their name to The Contenders. When the British Invasion hit, they changed their name to the New Breed and played Beatlesque music. In 1968 they changed their name to Glad, which was probably a worse name than Tim Tom & Ron. They released an album that didn't sell well and changed their name to Redwing shortly after Timothy B. Schmit left the band to join Poco, another group I had never heard of prior to researching this article.

Schmit went on to record 11 albums with Poco before leaving the group in 1977 to join a little band called the Eagles. Yes, *those* Eagles. He and fellow band members were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1998, so things turned out halfway decent for him.

But back to Redwing. The only way they're getting into the Rock and Roll

Hall of Fame is to buy a ticket like you and me. Bassist Andy Samuels joined the band after Schmit left and the group released five albums. They were popular in the Sacramento area and actually got some decent reviews – one by *Rolling Stone* magazine in June 1971. Here's what it said:

"[The] finest hard rock/country band in the business today, the finest since Moby Grape first commandeered the Fillmore stage back in '67. . . Licks that won't quit. Long lazy ones. Short hard ones. All perfect in both taste and execution, and vocals that will wrench out all the tightness in your throat after too much of shock rock. . . Redwing. . . seems to both understand and contain the mellowness of the country living with the overriding sound of the hard urbanity that now intrudes upon the farmer and his fields."

Wow. I don't know what any of that is supposed to mean. *Rolling Stone* readers mustn't have either, because the band never caught on.

I was really hoping RWCS Executive Director Stacy Wegner might have fielded a call or two over the years from misguided Redwing fans who found the Red Wing Collectors Society website and thought they'd finally found a group dedicated to their favorite rock band. No such luck there.

"I have never heard of a band named Redwing, nor has anyone ever called here to ask about them," Stacy said. "Dude, if they had, I would have told you about it and you would have written an article about it a long time ago."

So there you have it, folks. If you're interested in buying any of Redwing's old vinyls, there were some for sale on eBay last I checked. 🍷

WHICH OF THESE RED WING AUTHORS WAS ONCE A GROUPIE OF THE REDWING BAND?

- A) Larry Peterson
- B) Dan DePasquale
- C) Gail Peck
- D) Ray Reiss
- E) Gary & Bonnie Tefft

See the answer in the next issue! (Ha ha - just kidding.)

SONG TITLES YOU WON'T FIND ON ANY OF REDWING'S ALBUMS:

- Rock Around the Crock
- Oh So Fond of Fondoso
- Walk the (Gray) Line
- Rum Rill was a Gold Digger
- Belle Kogan's Boogie Nights

COMING IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE...

MORE "BACK TO THE FUTURE" CONVENTION NEWS!



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