



FAMILY HEIRLOOM

*A jug made by Charles "Lou" McGrew
passed down through generations*



Collector Q & A:
Corey & JoAnn Flick
6-7

Curt Meyer Lunch
Hour Pieces
9

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FROM THE EDITOR

This year's flu epidemic sure has been a hot topic in recent news, hasn't it? We're constantly being barraged with stories about people being hospitalized and reminders to get a flu shot, wash our hands and avoid those who are infected with the virus. Meanwhile there's been a significant resurgence of Red Wing Fever and there hasn't been a lick of coverage. What the heck is that all about? Clearly the media needs to get its priorities straight.

In all seriousness, excitement around collecting Red Wing really does appear to be on the rise amongst current members. Generally speaking, prices are up and we seem to be transitioning from a buyer's market into more of a seller's market. But is this heightened interest translating to an increase in new collectors?

I recently saw longtime RWCS members and auctioneers Jim & Jan Seeck at a local antique show, and they mentioned that the carnival glass market has also been gaining traction over the past year. The Seecks hold more than a dozen carnival glass auctions over the course of a year, and Jim notes that not only are prices on the rise, but they're also seeing new collectors entering the market.

The key to that? "You need to have a good presence on the internet," Jim says. "We still hold a few live, in-person auctions, but most of our sales are online only and that's where we're seeing a lot of new buyers."

Fortunately the interactive nature of social media is helping increase the buzz online around collecting Red Wing. A number of new collectors and even people who have returned to collecting after a long absence have joined the RWCS Facebook Chapter and they're quite active on the page – asking questions, posting photos of recent finds and commenting on the posts of others. These people are also forming friendships with longtime collectors who are taking them under their wing, sharing their knowledge and passion for collecting.

This is great for the hobby, especially when these new collectors become full-fledged members of the Red Wing Collectors Society. Whether you see an unfamiliar face buying Red Wing or one of the "newbies" from the RWCS Facebook Chapter, be sure to introduce yourself. Extend a hand in kindness and make them feel welcome them at RWCS events, local auctions, antique shows or flea markets. Just make sure you use some Purel or something. You wouldn't want to catch the flu. ☺ 🍷



Rick Natynski, Editor

IN THIS ISSUE

3	News Briefs, About the Cover	9	Curt Meyer Lunch Hour Pieces
4	Club News, Convention Preview	10	The Grange Store of Evansville, WI
5	News From Your Museum	11	About the Grange, MN Bottle Show
6-7	Collector Q & A: Corey & JoAnn Flick	12 & 16	RWCS Board Candidate Profiles
8	Red Wing's C.L. "Lou" McGrew	13	Convention Auction Submission Form

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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NEWS BRIEFS

2018 RWCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE PROFILES IN THIS ISSUE

There are five positions up for election on the RWCS Board of Directors in 2018 – Vice President, Treasurer, Historian and both Representative at Large positions. Bios for the candidates running in this year's election are featured on pages 12 & 16 of this issue. Thanks to outgoing RWCS Interim Vice President Mike Stenstrom, who decided not to run in 2018, but will remain involved through his role as manager of the RWCS Tech Committee.

Voting will begin in April and will be done electronically. Members who don't have internet access can request to have a hard copy of the ballot mailed to them starting in April. Online voting instructions will be e-mailed to members and printed in the April RWCS Newsletter. Votes must be recorded by June 30, 2018.

SHOW & SALE CHAIRPERSON UPDATE

As some may know, recent Show & Sale Chairperson Dale Erickson passed away suddenly before Christmas. It was such a pleasure to work with Dale and his family each year, and I was always very thankful for his commitment to managing the event. My heartfelt thanks go out to Dale's wife Monna, daughter Robyn Gambucci and son-in-law Mark Gambucci for their dedicated support to the Show & Sale. With Dale's passing, they decided it was time to pass the torch to another member.

It's my pleasure to announce that RWCS Hall of Famer Gail Peck and her husband Merv have offered to take over as Show & Sale chairpersons! The RWCS office will still handle the administrative aspects of the Show & Sale, but they will be the onsite contact. Thanks, Gail & Merv!



Gail & Merv Peck

AVERY JOINS GOODHUE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

Congratulations to longtime RWCS Member and former Society Auction Manager Todd Avery for being elected to the Goodhue County Historical Society (GCHS) Board of Directors on Jan. 13. Located in Red Wing, the GCHS Museum has had a long relationship with the RWCS, as the first RWCS Convention was held there back in 1977.

"We are excited to have Todd joining our Board of Directors!" says Dustin Heckman, GCHS Executive Director. "Over the last few years, I've interacted with Todd through the Red Wing Collectors Society. Every time we chatted, his enthusiasm for local history came through time and again. When the vacancy came up for election, Todd's name kept coming up in my head as someone who fit exactly what we were looking for in a board member. He is definitely going to be an asset to our organization and we look forward to working with him."



Todd Avery

On a side note, Dustin recently announced he's leaving the GCHS to become Alliance Coordinator for the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums. He notes that while he'll miss seeing everyone at the RWCS Convention as a representative of the GCHS, where he's worked since 2014, he is now a Red Wing collector himself so he can partake in the Convention from that angle and maintain the friendships he's built up over the years. The GCHS Board of Directors has yet to name his replacement.

Congrats on the new role, Dustin! 🍷



Above: A group of Red Wing Stoneware Company employees pictured in 1897, including 12-year-old Alfred Leeson sitting in the front row, 3rd from left. Cover photo and image of jug below courtesy of RWCS Member Todd Avery.

ABOUT THE COVER

Captured in 1897, the photo above shows a group of Red Wing Stoneware Company workers sitting for a photo outside the factory. The 3rd boy from left in the front row (also pictured on the cover) was Alfred B. Leeson. He was born in 1885 and worked at the Red Wing Stoneware Co. from the age of 12 until just before his passing in 1940.

In 1920, about 23 years after this picture was taken, Alfred had a 10-year-old son of his own named Emery Leeson. Young Emery often walked to the stoneware company from the family's home on Red Wing's Bench St. and brought lunch to his father. It was in that year that Alfred's talented coworker, longtime Red Wing potter Charles "Lou" McGrew, hand-turned the 7¼ inch water jug pictured on the cover and gave it to Emery. It has the same diffused blue highlights as a cherry band pitcher. This special piece has been passed down through the Leeson family and will continue to be passed down to future generations. 🍷

-RWCS Member
Todd Avery

Editor's note: To see more pieces created by Lou McGrew and learn a little more about him, turn to the article on page 8.



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CLUB NEWS



STACY WEGNER

Executive Director

Depending on when this issue of the *RWCS Newsletter* arrived in your mailbox, the 2018 MidWinter GetTogether is either just about to take place, or it just wrapped up. If you're able to attend, I hope you have/had a great time!

Either way, it's hard to believe that your summer pilgrimage to Red Wing is already on the horizon! Taking place this year from July 12-14, Convention events will once again be held at Minnesota State College Southeast and the Red Wing National Guard Armory. We're working on having AC rental equipment ready for the Thursday Night Convention Auction at the armory.

We already have a few sponsors lined up for Convention. Thank you to Larry's Jugs, Red Wing Brewery and Red Wing Framing. These businesses along with many others in Red Wing support the Convention with donations of door prizes and sponsorship dollars. We really appreciate their support!

The 2018 Convention Registration and Auction forms are included with this issue. Display and Show & Sale contracts are available online or by contacting the RWCS office.

The weather will start to improve soon, which means the outdoor antique and flea market season will follow. Remember, if you're selling at these events, we have a number of RWCS brochures and past newsletters available to put on your tables. This is a great way to help publicize the club and attract new members. Call or e-mail a request for these materials, and I'll mail them out to you. Thanks!

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2018 RWCS CONVENTION NEWS JULY 12-14 – MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGE SOUTHEAST

RWCS CONVENTION PROGRAM

ADVERTISING SPACE AVAILABLE:

As reported in the October issue, the June *RWCS Newsletter* will be replaced by the *RWCS Convention Program* (aka the *Convention Supplement*). Ever since its inception, the *Supplement* has only been available two ways during Convention Week: it could be picked up at Convention sites and it was inserted into the *Red Wing Republican Eagle* newspaper. Now that it will also be mailed out to all primary RWCS members in advance of Convention, this will be the best publication to advertise Convention-related sales and events in.

The RWCS office is excited to share that the Society is now able to sell advertising space in the program to RWCS members and the proceeds will benefit our organization! If you're holding a stoneware or pottery sale during Convention Week in the Pottery Place parking lot or somewhere else in or around Red Wing, the *Convention Program* will be a great place to advertise it. If you have an antique shop that you want to promote, or an auction or flea market occurring between July and September, advertising in the *Convention Program* will help you reach a wide audience.

If you're interested in placing an ad, please contact Stacy at the RWCS office. Advertising rates and *Republican Eagle* circulation figures will be available very soon.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE:

The RWCS board will make some tweaks to the 2018 Convention Schedule as the event draws closer. Keep checking the RWCS website and watch your e-mail for updates on events, times and locations.

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

Thanks to the success we achieved last year and the positive feedback we received from parents and participants, Young Collectors will once again be held on the Thursday of Convention Week and KidsView will be on Friday. The times will remain the same as in 2018. Program ideas are still being discussed. If you have an idea or would like to present to the

youth members of the RWCS, please contact the office. Both KidsView and Young Collectors are always eager to learn from Red Wing collectors. PLEASE REMEMBER to register your participants early. Space is limited and will be filled on a first-come first-served basis.

SHOW & SALE EXPANDING OUTDOORS:

The RWCS is planning to expand the size and scope of the Show & Sale by adding outdoor space at the Red Wing National Guard Armory. We're still working out the details, but if you're interested in setting up outside, please contact the office. Special thanks to RWCS Member and past RWCS Education Manager Glenn Beall for volunteering to manage the outdoor Show & Sale space!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

All departments for Convention are in need of volunteers: Auction, Commemorative, KidsView, Young Collectors, Show & Sale, Registration, Display, Education and more. Since we have events taking place in at least two venues, more volunteers are needed. Monday, July 9 through Wednesday, July 11 are event set-up days, so please consider volunteering to assist. Whether you want to help set up or clean up afterwards, we need your help. Volunteer information will again be available on the RWCS website and sent via e-mail. You can also sign up online on SignUpGenius.

RWCS BANQUET:

The Saturday evening banquet will once again be held at the Mount Frontenac Golf Course. Come join us July 14 for this casual, relaxing wind down from Convention. Seating is ample, but book your tickets early so we can plan for you. While you're there, you can check out the progress of the Olympic ski jump, which could be completed in time for Red Wing to host a Grand Prix Final in 2018.

CONVENTION STREET BANNERS:

Orders for new Convention street banners must be placed by May 15 to ensure it is hung in Downtown Red Wing during Convention Week. Contact the office if you're interested in doing this or need design assistance.





Story by RWCS Member Steve Ketcham, former RWCS Foundation Board member on special assignment



Jeff Vick

When the Pottery Museum of Red Wing decided to feature the various advertising stoneware once created in Red Wing for the Mittelstaedt store in Milbank, S.D. (see inset above), one large challenge became apparent. While the Mittelstaedt stoneware pieces were accessible through the museum's inventory and through generous collectors willing to lend pieces for the exhibit, few items representing an early 20th Century country store were so readily available. It was long-time Red Wing Collectors Society Member and museum volunteer Pat Stambaugh who provided the answer: call Jeff Vick.

As the Mittelstaedt store display (above) was being built in 2016, Jeff carefully chose pieces from his personal collection of American country store artifacts. He then spent several weekends at the Pottery Museum of Red Wing assembling the artifacts on the store shelves to create what has become a favorite display of museum visitors.

"The RWCS and Pottery Museum have given me a unique opportunity to share my collection with everyone who visits their wonderful museum in historic Red Wing, Minnesota," Jeff says. "I truly enjoyed assembling this 30-year collection of country store artifacts."

Jeff was in third grade when he was first bitten by the collecting bug. A cousin took him bottle digging in Florida while on a family vacation in 1972.

"WORLDLY" MUSEUM VISITORS

As was the case in recent years, the Pottery Museum of Red Wing had visitors from all over the world in 2017. It's amazing how far we reach out to people. Here are the countries people visited from:

- Sweden
- New Zealand
- Venezuela
- Thailand
- France
- Finland
- Japan
- Germany
- Guatemala

Looking ahead to 2018, we've already received the schedule for the Shore Excursions from America Riverboats, room rentals and tours for this year.

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Above: Jeff Vick poses with a small fraction of his impressive country store collection.

That led to his attending his first bottle show upon returning to Minnesota that same year.

Jeff joined the North Star Historical Bottle Association in 1984 and regularly sells at the annual Minnesota Antique Bottle, Advertising and Stoneware Show & Sale. This show is his favorite because he feels it provides a great opportunity to find the country store items he seeks. He likes the variety of goods offered and the integrity of the genuine antiques and vintage items found there.

Why collect country store? Jeff says: "I like the packaging and art work that brought the product to the attention of the public. I also have a deep appreciation for Minnesota history and the artifacts I can find that tell our story since the beginning."

Jeff also says that sharing his collection with the public, which is still on display at the Pottery Museum, enhances his appreciation of his own pieces and of the country store in general. Plus, "It feels good to share."

To get in touch with Jeff Vick, e-mail him at: jeffsgreatjunk@gmail.com.

POTTERY MUSEUM OF RED WING UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, Feb. 24 – RWCS MidWinter Auction (RWCS Foundation has consigned 150 pieces to benefit the Pottery Museum.)

Friday, April 6 – Volunteer Appreciation

Saturday, April 7 – RWCS Foundation Board Meeting

Saturday, May 19 – Affair for Dinnerware (Tickets on sale now!)

Wednesday, July 11 – Annual "Wine-ing for Red Wing" Fundraiser

Thursday, July 12 – RWCS Convention Auction (RWCS Foundation has consigned a number of pieces to benefit the museum.)

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Above from top to bottom: A grouping of the Flick's wing-decorated crocks and coolers, all of their 2 gallon water cooler lids and all 12 of their Red Wing dinnerware water coolers.

At left: JoAnn & Corey Flick pose with a few of their favorites from their collection: a striking 2 gallon Ice Water cooler with four markings, the only known 2 gallon cooler with "Hot Torn" advertising, a blue-banded 2 gallon Ice Water cooler and a 30 gallon crock with "30", wing and "30" which they purchased locally and is thought to have spent its entire life in northwestern North Dakota. If you'd like to contact the Flicks, you can reach them at cojoflick62@gmail.com.

COLLECTOR Q & A Corey & JoAnn Flick

Story by RWCS Newsletter Editor Rick Natynski Photos courtesy of RWCS Members Corey, JoAnn & Levi Flick

Q. When did you begin collecting Red Wing? What was your first piece?

JoAnn: We began actively collecting Red Wing in 1996. Our first item was a 6 gallon crock at a local auction in Harvey, ND. We bought it because we appreciated its beauty and both of us grew up around stoneware at our family farms; our parents on both sides had Red Wing and other brands of stoneware in the house that they used for making sauerkraut and wine.

Q. What year did you join the RWCS?

Corey: We didn't join the RWCS until 2010. Our children were just getting out of high school and we felt that it was a good time to expand our search for items we were having trouble locating. We haven't missed a Convention since, and have missed only one MidWinter gathering.

Q. What Red Wing stoneware do you collect?

Corey: We have a wide variety of items in our collection including the basic crocks, Koverwates, churns, jugs and mason jars. We have a few double stamped crocks and some crocks with Minnesota ovals. There is also a 20 gallon wing crock with the "Patent Applied For" stamp by the handle. We try to get nice examples of a little of

everything, including elephant ears and birch leaves in addition to the red wings. We only have a few pieces of advertising stoneware – mainly beater jars and bean pots. But we're not ruling out picking up more if the opportunity arises.

At one time, we collected 1 gallon crocks with various markings, but those became less of a priority once we started collecting 2 gallon coolers. Water coolers are our favorite pieces to collect. We have more than 50 Red Wing water coolers in total, and 29 of them are 2 gallons – 25 different variations and each with lids. We also have three Western Stoneware 2 gallon coolers.

We even have a set of 2, 3, 4 and 5 gallon water coolers with pantry jar wings. If anyone knows of a 6 gallon or larger with a pantry jar wing, we would like to hear from you.

Q. I don't think I can write that you have that many 2 gallon Red Wing coolers in this article. People will think it's a typo. What first drew you to those?

JoAnn: The uniquely small size of the 2 gallon coolers intrigued us the most. Corey's family had a badly damaged 3 gallon cooler and I always thought it was pretty being so small. Imagine

the excitement when we first saw a 2 gallon. For years they were only something we saw and read about in books. We found our first one in 2009.

Q. Wait, you've acquired 32 2 gallon coolers in only 8 years? Do you know of anyone who has more 2 gallon coolers than that? Are there any you're still looking for? And how in the heck did you find all those lids?

Corey: It really started to snowball after we bought the first one. We went from not seeing a 2 gallon cooler ever to buying a three or four a year since 2010. We really attribute that to joining the RWCS, getting to meet other collectors and networking with sellers. I believe it's probably the largest collection of 2 gallon coolers out there, but there are a few variations we're still looking for. JoAnn and I have been picking up lids for these since we bought the first one without a lid. We've found lids at flea markets, antique shops, auctions and Conventions.

JoAnn: We also have 12 dinnerware coolers, which includes all eight variations that we're aware of, plus extra Round Up coolers for our sets.

Q. Hold on, 12 dinnerware coolers and multiple Round Up sets? When did you start collecting Red Wing dinnerware?





Above: The Flick's double-stamped pieces, set of Chuck Wagon dinnerware (top), one of three complete sets of Round Up dinnerware (bottom) and their art pottery cowboys.

Corey: JoAnn and I were first attracted to the Round Up pattern in 1986 when we were going to Denver for our honeymoon and saw a nearly complete set for sale in Dickinson, ND. It was not very expensive, however it was not affordable to us just being newlyweds. Eventually years later, we had a little disposable income and started looking for it. We have since bought pieces in approximately 20 states and have taken a few road trips to pick it up. We eventually ended up with three complete 8-place settings of Round Up as well as one complete 8-place setting of Chuck Wagon, including the warmer stands and all serving pieces, plus a few extra pieces, which are possibly a start on a fourth set.

JoAnn: We have about 300 pieces of Round Up and 200 pieces from other patterns, including an 8-place setting of Bob White, minus the ultra rare pieces. I really like the colors of the Country Garden pattern, so we've collected a complete 12-place setting with all accessory pieces, as well. We also have the Pink Spice pattern, but we're missing a few pieces at this time.

We use Round Up and Bob White dinner plates and salad plates daily, just not the pristine examples. The cereal bowls especially get a lot of use. We don't have any "new" dinnerware; everything we eat off of is Red Wing. There are a few pieces of art pottery in our collection as well. I especially like Red Wing's Prismatic Line. We also have the white art pottery cowboys.

Q. Considering your mix of stoneware and pottery, you guys seem to have a pretty diverse collection. Has your collecting changed since you first started?

Corey: Our collecting has changed a little bit since we first started. We have become much more selective with the quality of our purchases. We very seldom will buy a piece with visible damage or any repairs. Our main criteria however is the item must be something that catches the eye, or something we can both look at and appreciate.

Q. What has been your biggest challenge in collecting Red Wing?

JoAnn: Our biggest challenge in collecting Red Wing is living in northwestern North Dakota. We seem to be off the beaten path and really have to go out of state to get our "fix", or find missing pieces.

Corey: That's not necessarily a bad thing though, because it gets us on the road and gives us a way to spend time together, doing something that we both enjoy. We've traveled to New Mexico, Texas and Montana to pick up partial sets of Round Up to help complete our sets, and we also get to Minnesota and Wisconsin a few times every year.

Q. Other than the 2 gallon cooler variations you're missing, are there any specific pieces you're still hunting for?

Corey: We're still looking for a 60 gallon crock with no drain hole in the bottom. We want one with the script lettering, (not block, or hand drawn) an oval and a 6-inch wing, but no one I've spoken to can confirm this combination exists with the script lettering, despite an illustration being pictured in Red Wing literature from back in the day. We're also looking for the cruet holder for our Bob White set that has the burnished gold or bronze color. We have them in the bright gold color, but haven't seen one in the darker burnished or bronze color.

Q. Do you have any kids, and do they have any interest in Red Wing?

Corey: We have three sons, and two grandkids. Our oldest, Levi, is 28 and he shares our enthusiasm for collecting Red Wing. He finally succeeded in convincing us to share a few photos of our collection on the RWCS Facebook Chapter page. He and his wife Kelsey have two daughters: Bella, 6, and Raelynn, 4.

JoAnn: Mitchel, 25, is unmarried and focused on remodeling his house. Andrew, 22, is also unmarried and waiting to be accepted into a medical school. Neither of them are really interested in Red Wing, but all three have been instrumental in carrying stoneware upstairs in our split level home. Especially the three 50 gallon crocks, the three 40 gallon crocks and the five 30 gallon crocks. Thanks, Boys!

Q. Any parting words?

We're really thankful for all of the people who have helped us learn and add to our collection by sharing their valuable knowledge and stories along the way. Collectors like RWCS members Gary Markham, Chuck Drometer, Larry Peterson, Bill Prock, Doug Perkins, Scott Spompinato, Jack May and many others, too numerous to mention.

We've also made a lot of friends and learned a lot by joining the RWCS Lewis & Clark Chapter. We really encourage everyone to join their local RWCS chapter, because the most exciting and fulfilling part about collecting is networking with other local collectors and having the opportunity to view their collections and share their stories. That's what it's all about! 🍷





Clay Running Through His Veins

Red Wing's C.L. "Lou" McGrew

Above: This circa 1936 image of C.L. "Lou" McGrew turning a pot on the wheel has graced the cover of the RWCS Newsletter since 2016, but it has long been an iconic symbol of the hundreds of people who created wares for Red Wing's pottery industry – a trade that dates all the way back to the 1860s.



This brushed ware "loving cup" trophy is one of the most impressive and ornate pieces Lou McGrew crafted. He made it in 1925 for the annual reunion of the 13th Minnesota Volunteers Regimental Association. Read more about it in the June 2013 RWCS Newsletter.



Story by RWCS Newsletter Editor Rick Natynski

Charles Lewis "Lou" McGrew's 55-year career turning pots in Red Wing made him one of, if not *the* longest-tenured employee to work in Red Wing's clay industry.

As stated in *Red Wing Potters & Their Wares* by RWCS Hall of Famers Gary & Bonnie Tefft, Lou "began the pottery trade at age 12 in Louisville, NE. There he learned hand turning in 1885. He came to Red Wing from Sioux City, IA in 1892 to become a turner at the brand new North Star Stoneware Co. After North Star closed (in 1896) he went over to Minnesota Stoneware Co. and later became foreman under Red Wing Union Stoneware Co. in 1918 after hand turning went out of use. He didn't retire until 1947, the same year that Red Wing ceased making stoneware."

A Federal Census record indicates that Lou earned about \$1800 in 1940, which equates to the buying power of around \$32,000 today.

Lou's last living grandson, 90-year-old Bob McGrew, lives with his wife Lorraine in Hudson, WI. As a birthday gift from his daughters Carolyn Leckey and Nancy McGrew, he and Lorraine joined them for visit to the Pottery Museum of Red Wing last fall, where he got to hold a piece his grandfather created in Sept. 1934 while working for the Red Wing Stoneware Co. Bob doesn't have many memories of Lou – not because of his age, but due to the fact that his father, Mac Maurice McGrew, died when Bob was only 4 years old. As a result, he and his brother and sister grew up around the family side of his mother, Frieda.

"I generally knew of my grandfather as a potter and a good guy, but I didn't know him much beyond that," Bob explains. "He lived on way down on West Main Street in Red Wing and we lived up on Central Avenue, so I never really saw him. We didn't have a car when I was growing up, so that was a 30-minute walk."

This nicely shaped McGrew piece, which appears courtesy of RWCS Members

Steve & Barb Brown, is signed on the bottom with the "Mc" stamp in the inset photo.



Well respected at the Potteries, Lou often helped family members secure jobs there. Son Lewis had a long career as a foreman and grandson John McGrew ran Johnnie's Root Beer Barrel outside the Potteries when he was a sophomore at Red Wing Central High School. (Lou made the Labriego-styled "Johnnie's" mug for him.) Lou also got Bob's older brother, Mac McGrew, Jr., a summer job at the Potteries at one point.

According to the Tefft book, Lou's "skill at the potter's wheel was often exhibited at fairs and other occasions. The *Daily Republican* of April 18, 1912 announced that McGrew would be going to Winona on Saturday to give a demonstration to the manual training students at the Normal School. One of his last demonstrations was at the Red Wing Art Association open house in February of 1952 at the age of 82." (A color film of that demonstration can be viewed at www.TinyUrl.com/RWPotters.)

Bob and Lorraine last saw Lou in the 1950s when visiting Bob's aunt at her home in Red Wing. "I remember having nice conversations with Lou," Lorraine says. "I don't remember exactly what we talked about, but I'll always remember that he said he came to Red Wing from Nebraska in a covered wagon. We don't know if that was true or not, but they certainly didn't have cars back then."

Few pieces exist today that are known to be made by Lou, whether they actually bear his full name or the "Mc" stamp shown above, or they can be directly attributed to him through stories like that of the jug pictured on the cover of this issue. That being said, he obviously turned thousands of pieces since his employment in Red Wing spanned across six decades and multiple companies. So surely, many RWCS members unknowingly own a piece of stoneware or brushed ware that came from the hands of C.L. "Lou" McGrew.

See more McGrew photos on page 14.



Curtis Meyer in 1947, a few months before he moved to Red Wing to work at the Potteries.

CURT MEYER LUNCH HOUR PIECES

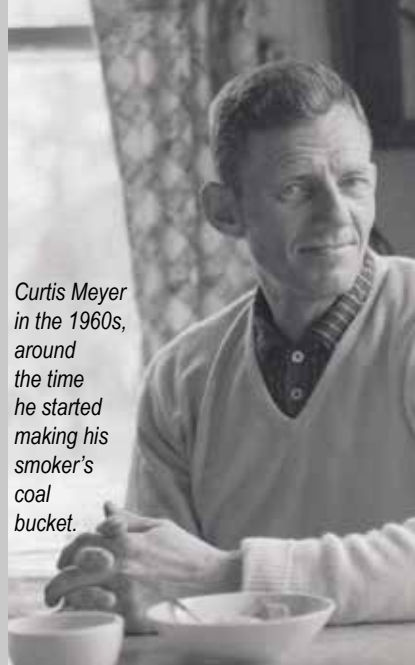
Intro by RWCS Newsletter Editor Rick Natynski
Photos courtesy of Michael W. Meyer

As covered in the December 2017 issue of the *RWCS Newsletter*, Curtis Meyer – a ceramic hobbyist and longtime Hager City, WI resident – created and sold a ceramic “smoker’s coal bucket” for pipe smokers in the late 1960s. The smoker’s bucket was one of several items he crafted in his home studio with the help of his wife, Jean, and six children (Frederick, Michael, Christopher, Sylvia, Randall and George). Although selling these items didn’t generate a huge profit, it was a fun activity for the family and it served as a creative outlet that had been missing from his regular day job since he left the Red Wing Potteries in the 1950s.

Curt moved to Red Wing from North Dakota in 1948 with his wife, Jean, so he could take a job at the Potteries. Although he eventually became a boiler engineer, son Michael Meyer believes his father started off working with glazes, which gave him the opportunity to create several “Lunch Hour” pieces that year.

At least four of those pieces still exist to this day and remain in family hands. Those pieces are pictured below, along with descriptions from Michael Meyer.

Curtis Meyer in the 1960s, around the time he started making his smoker’s coal bucket.



1



My dad, Curtis Meyer, worked at the Red Wing Potteries in the 1940s and 50s.

On his lunch break he would glaze these bowls in beautiful detail. I have this example of his work done in 1948. The year 1948 is special to me because I was born in July of that year. I call it the Wheat Bowl; he made it for his mother, who lived in North Dakota. The impressive details show what an artist he was!



2



The Wild Grapes Bowl above belongs to my sister, Sylvia. Dad made this one for his mother-in-law.

3



The Toucan Bowl and Turtle Bowl were damaged and glued back together. Having six kids in the house was not a safe place for breakable things! I’m glad they still exist though, because they reflect Dad’s amazing sense of design, color and composition. The date on the back shows that it just turned 70 years old!



4



The Turtle bowl was dedicated to Dad’s older brother, Bernard, and his wife, Paula. It too is signed in back. The border reflects an influence of Chinese art. When Dad was in the Merchant Marines during WWII, he visited China and brought back some artifacts. These pieces contain the scrolling motif he used as a border for this bowl.



As a side note, I used to watch my dad as he painted commercial logos on the sides of trucks, which was another of his side businesses.

In closing, I never gave Dad’s work much thought before, I guess because I grew up with it. But now that I am revisiting the pottery pieces, I appreciate more what a fine craftsman and artist he was. In fact, we’re now considering having the two damaged bowls restored. I hope these pictures give you a good sense of my father’s amazing talents. —Michael Meyer

WWW.REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG

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THE GRANGE STORE OF EVANSVILLE, WI

Story by Ruth Ann Montgomery, Evansville, WI Historian. (www.evansvillehistory.net)

COMPLIMENTS
OF
GIFT AND CROCKERY DEPT.
GRANGE STORE

No Red Wing Stoneware Co. ledgers are known to exist with orders placed for advertising stoneware after 1914, so it can be difficult to determine where a piece is from when a city isn't listed in the ad. This was the case with the hard-to-find Grange Store bean pot shown above (c. 1930), especially since there were many Grange cooperative stores located in the U.S. in the first half of the 1900s.

But in October 2017, collector Linda Crowley posted a photo of hers on the RWCS Facebook page and said it was from Evansville, WI. She acquired it more than 20 years ago from an estate auction in Cooksville, WI, which is less than 7 miles from Evansville and has population of less than 100 people.

Also at the auction were Bob & Joann Brunsell – second cousins of Linda's husband and part owners of the Evansville Grange Store from 1955 to 1980. They told her they wanted to buy the bean pot for their daughter as a keepsake from the store. But they quit bidding around \$40 and Linda didn't want it to get away so she jumped in the bidding and won it for \$70.

Although this doesn't give 100 percent proof that the Grange Store bean pot was ordered by the store in Evansville, it certainly provides the provenance needed to support this claim. As a bonus, Evansville historian Ruth Ann Montgomery mentions in her story at right that the large Evansville Grange Store had its own crockery department, which is included in the advertising stamp on the bean pot. Who doesn't like the word "crockery" on a piece of Red Wing?



Above: The Grocery Department of the Grange Store in Evansville, WI. Tubes carrying money and sales slips traveled between the main floor and the bookkeeping office along the overhead cables seen in the photo.

For some residents of Evansville, WI it is unbelievable that two large department stores thrived in the city, which had only 1,864 residents in 1900 and 2,858 residents by 1960 according to U.S. Census figures. Annual sales brought hundreds of people to the Grange Store and its competitor, the Economy Store for goods, services and employment.

The Grangers began organizing cooperative purchasing agencies with Montgomery Ward in Chicago as their wholesaler. In Wisconsin alone there were nearly 50 clubs. Evansville area founders formed a Grange in November 1872. Within two months there were more than 60 members, including many of the pioneer settlers. Farmers also organized Granges in the small nearby towns of Cooksville, Magnolia, Brooklyn, Dayton and Center at this time. Together the members formed the Evansville Mercantile Association, opened a store and sold to their members at a low cost.

Despite competition from other Evansville merchants, the Grange Store prospered and paid a 20 percent dividend on the capitol stock within two years. They built a store at the southwest corner of East Main and Maple Streets and soon outgrew it. As a result, they began planning to build one of the largest department stores in rural Wisconsin. In 1903 the Grange purchased land on the first block of West Main Street in Evansville.

In January 1904, the *Janesville Recorder* gave credit to Contractor William Meggott for completing "seven stores in one". The writer estimated the cost of construction at \$35,000. It was one of the largest construction projects completed in Rock County in 1903.

There was 168 feet of frontage on West Main Street and large columns decorated each entrance. The exterior columns were duplicated on the interior as the aisles were divided by the huge pillars that marked the different departments of the store. Displays could be placed in the eight large plate glass show windows. With two floors and a basement, there was more than 50,000 square feet of floor space.

The Grange Bank was located in the east end of the store and featured a floor and wainscoting of Italian marble. A fireproof and burglar-proof vault and safe were also installed. Plate glass doors separated the bank from the rest of the store.

The new store provided employment for 30 people and had every convenience of any large city department store. The bank and grocery occupied the east end of the store. The middle of the store contained the dry-goods department, which included women's, men's and children's ready-to-wear clothing. Also taking up floor space in the middle was the boot and shoe department, carpets and wall paper, jewelry, books and the crockery department. The hardware department, which included a tin shop, was at the west end of the building. The balcony held the millinery, coat and suit departments and the office.

By 1910, the Grange Store averaged annual sales of around \$300,000. Two years later an undertaking business was added. The funeral parlor was located in the second floor. The company owned a hearse and other undertaking merchandise.

The Evansville Mercantile Association was in business for more than 80 years. The store was sold in 1955 to William C. Brunsell, Nimmer Adamany, Roger S. Gray and Robert F. Brunsell. They operated the store until it closed in 1980. The building still exists and is split into multiple uses.

This condensed article and store photos appear courtesy of Ruth Ann Montgomery, Evansville, WI historian. To read the article in its entirety, visit www.evansvillehistory.net.

ABOUT THE GRANGE

An Advocate for Rural America for 150 Years

Article courtesy of Wikipedia*

The Grange, officially referred to as The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, is a fraternal organization in the United States that encourages families to band together to promote the economic and political well-being of the community and agriculture.

Founded in 1867, it is the oldest American agricultural advocacy group with a national scope. The Grange actively lobbied state legislatures and Congress for political goals, like regulating the rates charged by railroads and grain warehouses, and providing free rural mail delivery by the Post Office. It also claimed credit for the ideas of the Cooperative Extension Service and the Farm Credit System. The organization was unusual at this time because women and any teen old enough to draw a plow were encouraged to participate.

Membership increased dramatically from 1873 to 1875. This rapid growth infused the national organization with money from dues, and many local granges established Grange Store consumer cooperatives, initially supplied by the wholesaler Aaron Montgomery Ward. Members pooled their money to make shared purchases of machinery, supplies and insurance.

Poor fiscal management, combined with organizational difficulties resulting from rapid growth, led to a massive decline in membership. But by the turn of the 20th century, the Grange rebounded and membership stabilized.

Grange membership has declined considerably over the years since the percentage of American farmers has fallen from a third of the population in the early 20th century to less than 2 percent today. But with family values, grassroots activism and community service leading its core values, the Grange continues to play an important role in rural America. Many rural communities in the United States still have a Grange Hall and local Granges still serve as a center of rural life for many farming communities

At least one other Grange Store commissioned Red Wing to make advertising stoneware bearing its name. This 7-inch spongeware panel bowl, which has been offered for sale on eBay for awhile, was made for the Grange Store in Gothenburg, NE.



through educational programs, service projects, social interaction and networking. Headquartered in Washington, D.C. the national level of the Grange focuses on legislative issues that impact agriculture, transportation and infrastructure.

*en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Gränge_of_the_Order_of_Patrons_of_Husbandry

At right: 1873 "Gift for the Grangers" promotional poster.



MINNESOTA ANTIQUE BOTTLE, ADVERTISING AND STONEWARE SHOW & SALE SLATED FOR APRIL 8

The 47th Annual Minnesota Antique Bottle, Advertising and Stoneware Show & Sale will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 8, 2018, at the Knights of Columbus Bloomington Event Center, 1114 American Blvd, Bloomington, MN 55420. Admission is \$2.

Nearly 60 dealers from across the Midwest will join members of the host club, North Star Historical Bottle Association, for this special event. A huge variety of pre-1920 bottles and related memorabilia from yesterday's brewery, distillery, saloon, barbershop, country store, pharmacy and soda fountain will be offered for sale. Red Wing stoneware and a variety of antique advertising items, from beer trays to country store coffee and tobacco tins, will also



be for sale. Many fine Red Wing advertising jugs and crocks have been found at this show in past years.

The North Star club is pleased to host this popular event again in 2018. Although more than 100 antique bottle and advertising shows are held across America and abroad each year, few bottle collecting clubs have hosted 47 such events. Patrons often remark that the diversity of antiques and collectibles offered at this show is amazing. Each year brings new dealers and attendance continues to grow. These numbers reflect the popularity of this event.

Please call 651-500-0949 or e-mail springer_associates@yahoo.com for additional details. Information is also available at www.northstarbottleclub.com.



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RWCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE PROFILES

There are five positions up for election on the RWCS Board of Directors in 2018: Vice President, Treasurer, Historian and both Representative at Large positions. Each position carries a term of four years, which will begin during the 2018 Convention at the RWCS Annual Business Meeting on Friday, July 13. Profiles for the candidates running in this year's election are featured below.

Balloting will be done electronically in accordance with RWCS by-law Article V, Nominating Committee and Voting Procedure. A link to the online RWCS election ballot will be e-mailed to all primary and associate members in good standing as of April 15. All members in good standing can refer to these instructions and login with their own membership number to vote. Please e-mail director@redwingcollectors.org if you're unsure whether we have your e-mail address on file. Votes must be recorded by June 30, 2018. RWCS members who do not have internet access can request a ballot by contacting the RWCS Business Office.



RUSSA ROBINSON

Candidate, RWCS Vice President

I've been part of this wonderful organization a long time. Having been an RWCS member and collector since 1982, I've grown close to the Society and what it stands for. I joined the RWCS Board of Directors in 2006 when I was elected as one of the Representatives at Large. I've really enjoyed being a conduit between

the chapters and the RWCS Board and helping the chapters address any challenges they've encountered.

I feel the time has come for me to step up to the position of Vice President and that my background and knowledge will help the President, give me a stronger voice in the organization and create an opening in the Society for a new Rep at Large. That will bring in some new blood to the Board of Directors, allowing us to continue our growth into the future.

Since I've been on the Board for the past 12 years, I'm very familiar with the past direction of the Society and the challenges it faces today. I've served on many committees within the organization over the years, so I have a good feeling of how things work, what's needed and how to get things done. I've also volunteered at events ever since becoming a member, so I'm well acquainted with a large portion of our membership and I usually know who to contact whenever a situation arises so we have "go to" people when we need input on particular subjects.

One of the most important jobs of the Vice President is to serve as the head of the Nominating Committee for the Board of Directors. With my member knowledge base, and with the personal knowledge of so many of our members, I feel I would be in an excellent position to be able to put together a strong ballot for future elections and handle the overall voting process for the Society.

I enjoy working with other members of the Board to get things done. I'm not afraid to bring up my opinions and fight for what I think is best for the Society. I'm not bashful and will bring my ideas and feelings to the group in a manner that is understandable and useful. I've

been called a "peacemaker" and I do everything I can to fit that description. In times of conflicting ideas and different viewpoints, I have always tried to solve problems, relieve tensions and keep the Society fun.

On a personal note, my husband Mike and I have raised three children on our family farm in Stockton, CA. Our house is filled with everything from stoneware to dinnerware, and all of our family vacations seem to revolve around Red Wing. It has been a wonderful hobby to share with our family. Our children grew up scouring antique stores and flea markets, and even my parents caught the bug. We helped to charter the Golden State Chapter in 1987 and continue to travel the state of California to attend our quarterly meetings. We have made many happy memories and met many great friends in sharing our love of pottery.

RWCS is not just about collecting. A new piece is always fun, but the real excitement comes from seeing all of the friends we have made over the years, and making new ones. As your Vice President, I will be committed to sharing that excitement with others.



DAN BECK

Incumbent, RWCS Treasurer

My wife Lorraine and I became Red Wing collectors and RWCS members in 2010. Much of our interest stems from two Society members that cared enough to teach us about Red Wing. As we attended our first Convention with the buzz of all of the activities, it is the friendships built that continue to spark our interest. Yes, the love

of the stoneware and pottery is there. But would it be as much fun if it were not for the glue of the Society that brings these people with diverse backgrounds together with a common passion? You see, I have continued to believe it is not the collection itself that keeps my interest. It is the sharing of this common passion with other people that makes the hobby fun.

I've been the RWCS Treasurer for four years or so. It's been interesting to understand the workings and the needs of the Society. There are a lot of great people that volunteer for the Society and do the major share of the work. The Society along with the many great chapters and in conjunction with the RWCS Foundation keep this hobby interesting for 3,000 plus people. When I see the hard work of the folks that do the work, it's tough to say no when they ask me to run for treasurer again. Yup, it's a bit of work. Not nearly what some of you do, but it's a way to give back to the people that make the Society happen. The RWCS Board works hard to balance the financial needs with incoming revenues and I've been honored to serve alongside of each and every one of them. That's why I am running again this year.

Lorraine and I live in Rochester, MN and am a lifelong Minnesota resident. For fun, we often sneak off to Wisconsin (while avoiding Packer Fans). I work as the Chief Financial Officer at a \$1.8 billion mutual bank. I have held my CPA certificate since 1979 and have been counting beans ever since. I've served on multiple not-for-profit boards including the Gamehaven Boy Scout Council and the Rochester Area Economic Development Inc. – an organization designed to grow business in the Rochester area. Thank you for considering me for the RWCS Board!

Profiles continued on back cover.

2018 AUCTION - INFORMATION & SUBMISSION FORM

Thursday, July 12

Red Wing National Guard Armory

Red Wing, MN

RETURN FORM BY MAY 1, 2018

The 2018 Auction will be held at the Red Wing National Guard Armory, 885 E 7th St, Red Wing, MN.

THE RWCS AUCTION IS OPEN TO THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP. EVERY MEMBER MAY SUBMIT ITEM(S) FOR THE AUCTION. ALL ENTRIES ARE STILL SUBJECT TO THE LOTTERY.

COMMISSION STRUCTURE IN 2018

Items selling up to \$100 will be assessed a \$20 minimum commission, all other items will have a 12% commission.

RESERVE OPTION for submissions minimum value of \$1,000 conditions:

1. \$1,000 minimum price on reserve items
2. 12% commission on those items that sell. If items does not hit reserve the seller fee is \$100 to the RWCS.
3. The Auction Manager can reject the reserve option, if the item has a value greatly less than \$1,000.

Second Submission Piece Process: Members submitting a second piece to the auction must use a separate auction form and check the "Second" box on the form. The Auction Manager will randomly choose from these submissions until the auction is filled. **If space permits, members may submit a third piece, please contact the Auction Manager to learn more.**

A limited number of RWCS Commemoratives will be allowed from 1977 to 2016, no 2017 Commemoratives will be allowed. Chapter Commemoratives can only be submitted by Chapter Presidents for the most recent year.

You or another RWCS Member registered for Convention must bring your piece to Convention. You cannot ship your item(s) to the Convention site, RWCS Executive Director, or the Auction Manager.

Once your item(s) is drawn in the lottery, no substitutions, altered or otherwise not in their original form will be allowed. Multiple item lots allowed include RWCS Commemoratives or Dinnerware Sets.

Acceptable items are American Pottery including: Red Wing art pottery, stoneware, dinnerware, or Red Wing memorabilia. Modern-day reproductions are not allowed. Example: New Water Cooler Lids, etc.

Lot Numbers: The lot number lottery will be conducted in May. A **POST CARD** will notify you by **June** the status of your submission including the lot number. If your item(s) were not selected in the lottery, a **POST CARD will be sent.**

Please remember, you are sending a registration form far in advance of the July Auction. Be prepared to hold your piece until you are notified in **June** that it has or has not been selected. **BE CAREFUL!** If your item has been confirmed for the Auction, but does not show up at Convention, you will forfeit your Auction privileges for 2019.

We strive to prevent NO-SHOWS. If you are in doubt about whether or not your piece has been selected in the lottery, please call the Auction Manager **DIRECTLY** at 209-602-1461 or email at auction@redwingcollectors.org. Do not call the RWCS Business Office. We would rather have phone calls than no-shows.

SCOTT HARDMAN, Auction Manager

Submission Form Check list:

1. Make sure your RWCS **membership is current**. Expired membership will NOT be allowed to have a piece in the Auction.
2. ONE FORM for each submission. DO NOT put additional submissions on the same form.
3. Please submit a digital photo to director@redwingcollectors.org. Include your name and member number with photo.

Remember to bring your SASE (self addressed stamped envelope) **with you when you drop off your auction item.** Auction checks will be mailed out after Convention. Auction Check not cashed within 90 days after Convention will be voided.

PLEASE READ THE AUCTION GUIDELINES ABOVE BEFORE YOU COMPLETE THIS FORM!



2018 AUCTION ITEM REGISTRATION FORM

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018

RED WING NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY RED WING, MN

SUBMISSION #

LOT NUMBER

MAIL TO: RWCS AUCTION SUBMISSION 240 HARRISON ST UNIT 3 RED WING MN 55066

QUESTIONS: Scott Hardman, Auction Manager: AUCTION@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG 209-602-1461 (text ok)

☐ **CHECK HERE IF THIS IS A RESERVE ITEM (ITEMS THAT DON'T MEET RESERVE ARE SUBJECT TO A \$100 FEE)**
RESERVE PRICE (\$1,000 minimum)\$ _____

☐ **CHECK HERE IF THIS IS A SECOND PIECE SUBMISSION**

NAME: _____ **MEMBER #:** _____

ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____ **PHONE:** _____

ITEM DESCRIPTION: _____

CONDITION: _____

SUBMIT PHOTOS VIA EMAIL: DIRECTOR@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG (INCLUDE YOUR NAME & MEMBER NUMBER.)

INTERNAL USE ONLY

☐ **FIRST PIECE**

☐ **PHOTO**

DATE RECEIVED _____

☐ **SECOND PIECE**

ENTRY ENTERED _____

DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2018

13

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.

DISPLAY ADS

Display Ad Size	Ad Rate
Full page	\$500
1/2 page (horizontal or vertical)	275
1/4 page	150
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

Ads must be supplied electronically as an EPS or PDF file. 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

E-mail your ad to newsletter@redwingcollectors.org. Make your check payable to "RWCS" and mail to: Rick Natynski, P.O. Box 198, Pewaukee, WI 53072. If you don't have e-mail, you can mail your ad with your check or call Rick at 414-416-WING (9464).

CLASSIFIEDS

RED WING FOR SALE

FREE TO PICK UP: Almost all RWCS Newsletters from 1986 to 2017! Bloomington, MN 952-830-9657.

FOR SALE: Selling my collection of Red Wing Trivets – some rare. Call Bob at 303-771-0480.

FOR SALE: 2 gal brown top "Deer Park Co. St. Paul" adv jug, \$260; 1 gal "Morris Fink St. Paul" adv jug, \$340; 1 gal "Banner Liquor Co. Winona, MN" ad jug, \$300; 1 gal "Sandell Bros. St Paul" adv jug, \$300; Hamm's Bear Bank, \$800; Hamm's salt & pepper shakers, \$200; Cherryband Lake Benton, MN adv. pitcher, \$280; 20 lb. butter crock w/wing, \$900; 1 gal large wing crock, \$600; 1 gal small wing crock, \$600; 8 gal butter churn w/4" wing, \$2000; Red & Blue Sponge Umbrella Stand, \$2500; 3 gal wing beehive jug, \$425; 4 gal wing beehive jug, \$500; 5 gal wing beehive jug, \$550; 2 gal wing brown top ball lock jar, \$800; 1/2 gal wing brown top shoulder jug, \$250; 1 gal wing brown top shoulder jug, \$200; 2 gal wing brown top shoulder jug, \$725. Cal Sid at 701-749-2586. 2/18

RED WING WANTED

WANTED: 1986 RWCS Convention SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE – Acid Proof Pitcher with blue sponging. E-mail grandmagretah@yahoo.com or call or text Greta at 847-372-1000.

WANTED: Bob White: 4 oz. juice tumblers and supper sets; Delta Blue: coffee mugs & beverage mugs; Capistrano: 2 dish tidbit tray; Roundup: 2 mugs; Water Cooler bar petal lids, winged 2, 8 & 10 gal; Wing crocks: 40, 50 & 60 gal with or without lids. Contact Herb at hdaniels000@gmail.com or 417-876-7104. 12/18

WANTED: Red Wing Brewing 3-4 color glass, any etched glasses, tokens, signs, ball tap knobs, foam scrapers, letterheads, etc. from Remmler, Midwest, Cokins or RW Brewing. Contact 651-564-0200 or minnbeer@gmail.com.

WANTED: 155 vases, white/ivory, 9" & 12" tall. E-mail ralphryan@charter.net.

WANTED: Green Iris Pitcher, any size. Also need 6 inch size Iris Pitcher in Burgundy and yellow. Contact Lee at Lee.elder47@gmail.com or 785-738-8363.

WANTED: Still, and always looking for jugs and crocks with Montana advertising. Working hard to improve my collection. Contact Aaron at adbliss@3riversdbs.net or call (406) 788-7851. 12/18

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

WANTED: Red Wing Daisy Chain dinner plates and salad/cereal bowls serving pieces. Contact Nancy at nancy194805@gmail.com or 785-691-7213.

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

WANTED: Looking for a Willow Wind pattern Spoon Rest – the last one I need to complete my collection of RWS spoon rests! 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: #687 Blue Chromoline vase & RW adv. bear pots from Shamokin, PA & Frazer, MT. Contact Rick at newsletter@redwingcollectors.org or 414-416-WING



Lou McGrew photos continued from pg. 8.



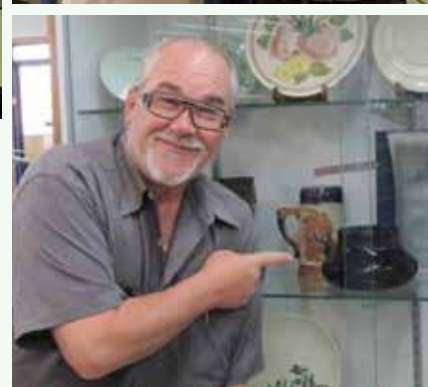
Above: This Albany slip jar signed "C.L. McGrew" and "Sept. 1934" is on display at the Pottery Museum of Red Wing. The two striking Lou McGrew pieces at left appear courtesy of RWCS Hall of Famers Gary & Bonnie Tefft.



More pieces made by Lou McGrew can be seen on pages 13, 85 and 194 of Red Wing Potters & Their Wares, including a Rockingham glaze dog door stop inscribed to "Miss Tina Seiz". According to Lou's grandson and granddaughter-in-law, Bob & Lorraine McGrew, Lou made it when he was courting his future wife, Martha "Tina" Seiz.



Above: Lou McGrew's grandson, 90-year-old Bob McGrew, visited the Pottery Museum of Red Wing last fall with his wife Lorraine and daughters Carolyn Leckey and Nancy McGrew (above right). Each got to hold the piece Lou turned in 1934. At right, Bob's son John McGrew was the first of the family to visit the museum last summer.



RECENT FINDS & DEALS

Did you find a rare piece or a great deal worth sharing? Briefly describe the item, date purchased, city and venue (store, auction, etc.) and price paid. Send to editor Rick Natynski via e-mail or mail (contact info on page 2). Multiple submissions result in multiple entries in the Newsletter Special Commemorative drawing. All submissions received between July 2017 and June of 2018 are eligible whether published or not. Please keep submittals with purchase dates within six months of the newsletter issue.

ITEM	LOCATION	DATE	VENUE	PRICE
1 gal bottom-signed North Star Albany slip storage jar, mint.	Central GA	9/17	Antique shop	\$24.14
RW 7C Cap Bowl w/Lid and 6-inch sponge panel bowl.	Central MN	12/17	Antique shop	\$5
Red Wing 6-inch shoulder bowl w/experimental glaze and "2344" ink-stamped on bottom.	Wildwood, FL	1/18	Antique mall	\$40
Red Wing 5-inch spongeware panel bowl, mint.	Wildwood, FL	1/18	Antique mall	\$42



ONE-OF-A-KIND MURPHY PLATTER SELLS ON EBAY

Hand-painted by Red Wing designer Charles Murphy himself, this impressive 15-inch platter was listed on eBay with an opening bid of \$9.99 and no reserve back on Jan. 8. When the 10-day auction ended on Jan. 18, it hammered down for \$1,403, plus shipping. Of the 39 bids that were placed, 25 of them came on the final day of the auction. The large size of the piece surely contributed to the value. These kinds of pieces rarely come up for sale publicly, so it was nice to get a semblance of current market value. 🍷



AMERICAN ART POTTERY ASSOCIATION

2018

CONVENTION



Ames, Iowa

APRIL 25-28

Welcome Reception
Seminars • Banquet
Tour • Online Auction
Pottery Show & Sale

For more information please [view our website](#) or contact Mark Latta at 563-506-0429 or zona@netwtc.net

Host hotel: Gateway Hotel and Conference Center at Iowa State University.

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aapa.info
aapa.info/convention



NANCY LAMBERT

Incumbent, RWCS Historian

I will never forget my first RWCS Convention in 1997. I had joined the Society earlier that year and can still remember the excitement of seeing so much pottery! I remember reading the special insert in the Red Wing newspaper and I saved that and other pieces of memorabilia I found that year (and each year since then). I enjoyed the "red" book we received that pictured

the first 20 RWCS Commemoratives – it included a brief history of what had happened in the Society since it began in 1977.

I believe we need to document our past and in 2012 I put together an additional book about Society commemoratives from 1998 through our 35th anniversary along with a brief history of each year's events. In 2014 I published a book, *Kansas/Missouri Advertising Stoneware, made in Red Wing* and I was elected to my first term as RWCS Historian in the same year. I was honored to serve as chairperson for the 40th Anniversary of the RWCS in 2017. I enjoyed designing the logo, the commemorative tile and other ephemera for the celebration, as well as organizing the keynote presentation and the Friday Night "Crock Hop" celebration.

I am currently working on a booklet that will be sold as a fundraiser for the RWCS titled *Our Stories*, which is a compilation of memories of RWCS members who sent stories to me about how they started collecting pottery. Preorders will be offered at MidWinter and there will be more information about how to order a copy in the April *RWCS Newsletter*.

I am also working on a concise index of stories that have appeared in the *RWCS Newsletter*. It will allow members to quickly locate information about specific pottery items and historical events.

The passion for pottery is why I joined the RWCS, but the wonderful friendships made over the years is my reason for being an active member and volunteer. In addition to being elected RWCS Historian in 2014, I served 10 years as treasurer of the Trails West Chapter and I have served on the RWCS Foundation Board since 2013. I was a printing sales representative for 35 years and served on a local school board for four years. I hold a masters degree from the University of Kansas. My husband Wayne and I live in Bella Vista, AR and truly enjoy attending the annual Convention in Red Wing and the MidWinter GetTogether.



DIANA BAILEY

Candidate, RWCS Representative at Large

I've been a member of the RWCS since 1997 and I'm a Charter Member of the RWCS Badger Chapter, for which I currently serve as treasurer. If elected as RWCS Representative at Large, I look

forward to the opportunity to contribute to the Society. I take a great sense of pride in talking with all of our members, but I'm particularly interested in what attracts the new members to collecting and to our organization. They are a vital part of maintaining our club's energy and carrying forward the depth of the history we have to share regarding Red Wing wares and the American clay industry as a whole.

I've had a 35-year career in sales and account management in a number of different areas of the insurance industry. I also remain active in the Wisconsin professional organization for public risk managers; I currently serve as membership director. My husband Bill and I live in Cedarburg, WI.



RICHARD NATYNSKI

Candidate, RWCS Representative at Large

I bought my first piece – an 8 gallon large wing crock – while on our family vacation in St. Germain, WI back in 1986. But I didn't start "collecting" until I started building a set of wing and birch leaf crocks in 2000. In 2001 my oldest son, Rick (the *RWCS Newsletter* editor) suggested we join the RWCS and go to

our first Convention in Red Wing. Since then I haven't stopped, but I have slowed down since my wife Monica and I downsized a couple of years ago. While we sold most of the crocks, I still have more than 100 Wisconsin advertising spongeware bowls and nearly 140 different Wisconsin advertising bean pots. I'm missing only one...if anyone has or knows where I can find a bean pot from Westby, WI, please stop reading this and call me immediately.

I was appointed as interim Representative at Large in December 2014 and I would be honored to continue serving on the RWCS Board of Directors in this capacity. One of the main responsibilities of the position is to be a voice for all RWCS members and chapters and bring their concerns, questions and ideas to the RWCS Board. Chapters are vital to keeping people engaged in the RWCS, as they are often easy for members to attend due to their proximity and the frequency at which they meet. I will continue to keep the lines of communication open to the RWCS Board and work with chapter presidents to make sure they have what they need to not only maintain membership levels, but also to help them grow.

I served in the U.S. Air Force and spent a tour of duty in Vietnam. I am a retired educator; I started as a high school social studies teacher. In my career progression I became a guidance director, athletic director, assistant principal and lastly a principal. Monica and I live in Pewaukee, WI and have two sons, an outstanding daughter-in-law and three precious granddaughters.

Lastly I am a member of the RWCS Wisconsin and Badger chapters. I prize the friendships that I acquired while attending our meetings, national Conventions and MidWinter GetTogethers. I have also learned so much more about Red Wing and realize there is still a lot to learn. 🍷