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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2006

ART POTTERY Q&A

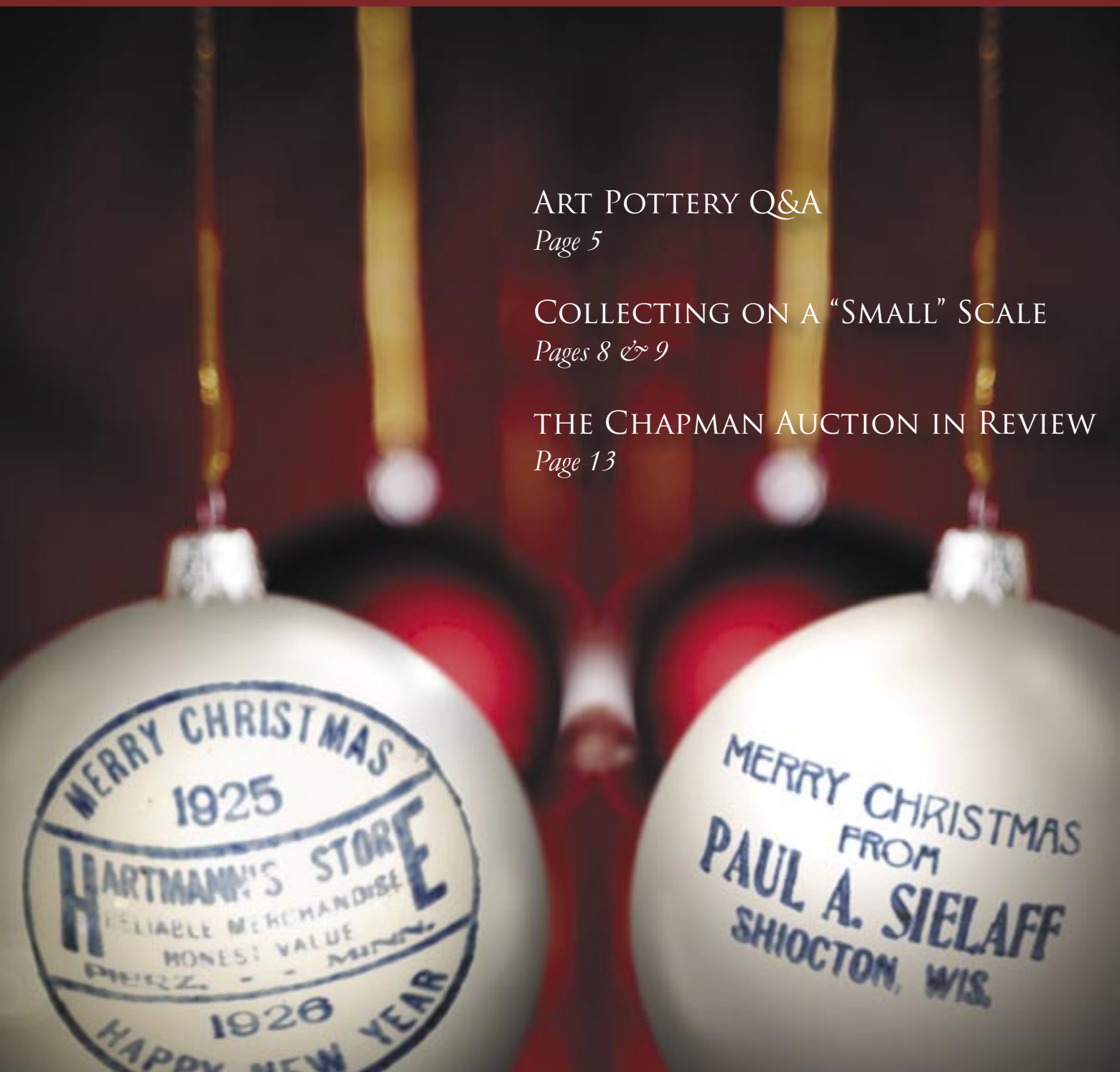
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RWCS CONTACTS

RWCS BUSINESS OFFICE

PO Box 50 • 2000 Old West Main St. • Suite 300
Pottery Place Mall • Red Wing, MN 55066-0050
651-388-4004 or 800-977-7927 • Fax: 651-388-4042
BUSINESS/CONVENTION MANAGER: STACY WEGNER
rwcs1@redwing.net

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: LORI ANDERSON
rwcsmem@redwing.net
Web site: www.redwingcollectors.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT: SUE JONES TAGLIAPIETRA
2219 Lakeland Ave. • Madison, WI 53704-5636
608-241-3072 • rwcssjt@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT: JOLENE McKOON
3124 4th St., Unit 8 • Moline, IL 61265
309-797-3894 • jmckoon@att.net

SECRETARY: PAULETTE FLOYD
208 E. Somonauk • Yorkville, IL 60560
630-553-9234 • pjfloyd@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER: MARK COLLINS
7312 Lake St. • Omaha, NE 68134
605-351-1700 • markcollins@cox.net

HISTORIAN: STEVE BROWN
1816 Sakenda Rd. • Buffalo, MN 55313
763-684-2400 (after 5 p.m.) • bigpaws@charter.net

REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE: RUSSA ROBINSON
1970 Bowman Rd. • Stockton, CA 95206
209-463-5179 • rrusa@aol.com

REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE: JERRY ERDMANN
W15416 Fair-Morr Rd. • Tigerton, WI 54486
715-535-2094 • jjerd@frontiernet.net

AUCTION MANAGER: JEFF FLOYD
208 E. Somonauk • Yorkville, IL 60560
630-553-9234 • pjfloyd@sbcglobal.net

CO-COMMEMORATIVE MANAGERS: JOHN TREMBLE
942 Becky Circle • Hudson, WI 54016-7509
715-381-0006 • rwcscommemorative@hotmail.com

MATT HUEPFEL
rwcscommemorative@hotmail.com

INTERIM EDUCATION MANAGER: TERRY SPEEDY
5079 S. Seymour Rd. • Swartz Creek, MI 48473
810-938-3228 • thespeedys@tcwireless.us

JULY CONVENTION SUPPORT PERSONNEL:
Pre-registration – DONNA & CHUCK HANSON
Computer Registration – LORI ANDERSON
Show & Sale – CINDY & PETE MAY
Display Room – JULIE & GLENN BEALL

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MEMBERSHIP

A primary membership in the Red Wing Collectors Society is \$25 annually and an associate membership is \$10.

There must be at least one primary member per household in order to have associate membership. Members can pay for more than one year when renewing their membership. Contact the RWCS Business Office for additional details.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

RICK NATYNSKI
GENERAL DELIVERY: USPS • 13425 WATERTOWN PLANK ROAD
ELM GROVE, WI 53122-9998
RWCSNEWSLETTER@WI.RR.COM 414-416-WING (9464)

The Red Wing Collectors Society, Inc. Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Red Wing Collectors Society, Inc. Suite 300 • 2000 West Main Street Red Wing, MN 55066.
Phone: 651-388-4004 Fax: 651-388-4042
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NEWS BRIEFS

THE 30TH RWCS CONVENTION: JULY 11-14, 2007

The Red Wing Collectors Society Business Office needs your help! We're looking for any and all pictures taken in 1978 at the first RWCS Convention. Whether you have photos of commemorative distribution, displays, items for sale or activities and events, please share them! These items will be used for a Convention history display, as well as a project that the 30th anniversary committee is working on. Any pictures or items provided will be returned to the owner.

In addition to the history display, the business office is challenging all chapters to create a small display using a cardboard project display board. Tell your story at the 30th Convention by showing pictures, providing newsletters and meeting information and giving details on your activities. This will be displayed in the locker area near each chapter's banner. The business office will store them and they will be used annually.

And finally, show us your stuff! We're looking for members to contribute pictures of their collections to be displayed around the high school during the big event. This will be a great way for members to share their stoneware, dinnerware and art pottery for all to enjoy. To respect your privacy, we won't include names with the photos.

30TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK UPDATE

The 30th Anniversary Book is almost complete! Thank you to everyone who submitted material. For those members who still have not ordered a book, you can contact Turner Publishing at 800-788-3350 or order online at WWW.TURNERPUBLISHING.COM. Each book costs \$47.95 plus \$6.95 for shipping and handling. Limited quantities will be available at Convention so ordering in advance is the only way to secure your copy.

FUTURE MIDWINTER LOCATIONS SOON DECIDED

At its November meeting, the Board of Directors discussed options for future locations of the MidWinter GetTogether.

In April, per the direction of the Board, Business Manager Stacy Wegner began developing a contract with the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel and Convention Center in Appleton, Wis. for the 2008 RWCS MidWinter GetTogether. The Board will vote whether or not to approve that contract at its next meeting during the 2007 MidWinter GetTogether in Des Moines.

The MidWinter GetTogether was originally designed to be a moving event so more collectors from different regions of the Midwest would have a better opportunity to attend. After much discussion, most Board members generally agree that rotating the location of the event would be in the best interest of the Society as a whole, mainly because it will help attract new members and keep interest high throughout the Midwest. At the same time however, Board members have recognized that Des Moines has become a favorite spot for many collectors and attendance there has been strong over the past few years.

With that in mind, one idea that was well-received by some Board members during the November meeting was to retain Des Moines as the location for odd-numbered years and rotate between locations such as Appleton, Wis. and Sioux Falls, S.D. in even-numbered years. For example: 2007–Des Moines; 2008–Appleton; 2009–Des Moines; 2010–Sioux Falls; 2011–Des Moines, etc.

To share your thoughts on the matter, please contact RWCS Representatives at Large Jerry Erdmann or Russa Robinson, or any other Board members. Their contact information is on page 2.



ABOUT THE COVER

How better to say "Merry Christmas" to a Red Wing collector than to give them a piece of advertising with a Christmas slogan?

Advertising pieces that display holiday greetings have long been popular with collectors. Considering most items for use in the kitchen such as beater jars, bowls, pitchers and bean pots were premiums given away by stores during the holidays to reward patrons for their loyalty, it's a surprise more pieces with holiday messages don't exist today.

Also desired by collectors are pieces that have a specific year included in the advertising, so consider yourself fortunate if you have a couple pieces in your collection that have dates and holiday greetings combined.

On behalf of the Red Wing Collectors Society, its business office and Board of Directors, we hope all members enjoy the holidays, and best of luck in collecting in 2007!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR MUSEUM?

Story by Ron Linde

The November 4 meeting in Red Wing was a day filled with a whirlwind of activities for the Red Wing Collectors Society Foundation.

The Foundation Board was delighted to learn that KidsView will provide a Museum diorama that will be set up in 2007. This effort will be lead by Society President Sue Jones Tagliapietra and the KidsView Committee.

During our morning meeting, the Foundation Board gave a special "thank you" to Kathryn Schleich Beer for her efforts in getting our Web site going at WWW.RWCSFOUNDATION.ORG. The Web Site Committee would like to hear your input, comments, and suggestions, so please look at the site and e-mail committee head Dave Kuffel at davekuffel@sbcglobal.net.

The Pottery Park development with the City of Red Wing is moving forward quickly. Plans are nearly in place for building a shelter and displaying interpretive fossil boards in the newly developed park at the pottery dump site behind the RWCS Foundation Museum and Pottery Place mall. The Foundation will raise at least \$5000 toward benches in this effort. The Golden State Chapter has already committed a \$500 donation to help fund the park project.

Speaking of the Golden State Chapter, Russa and Mike Robinson presented a \$1000 check on behalf of the club to the Foundation, which is earmarked for preserving the Hutchson collection. The donation was timely, as the Foundation Board met in the morning with the owner of a business that works with duplication and preservation of fragile documents. The Board wants all Society members and interested parties to be able to access this material, which shows stoneware orders made across the country for three or four years, starting in 1909.

To heighten your curiosity, here is one partial order from June 8, 1909:



Making a difference: Russa and Mike Robinson present Ron Linde (left) with a \$1000 donation to the Red Wing Collectors Society Foundation on behalf of the Golden State Chapter.

"FOR W. L BARKERS, GRANGER, WASH.

12 - 1 GAL CROCKS

6 - 2 GAL CROCKS

9 - 3 GAL CROCKS

9 - 4 GAL CROCKS

6 - 5 GAL CROCKS

3 - 2 GAL CHURNS

4 - 3 GAL CHURNS

4 - 4 GAL CHURNS

2 - 5 GAL CHURNS

1 - 4 GAL WATER COOLER

1 - 6 GAL WATER COOLER

12 - HALF GAL BANDED JARS

12 - ONE GAL BANDED JARS

36 - ONE PINT MASON JARS

36 - HALF GAL FRUIT JARS

6 - FIVE POUND BUTTER JARS

ALL STAMPED"

I understand the book contains advertising stoneware orders placed from several states. We can hardly wait until the tedious process of getting these materials preserved and archived is complete, and all the materials become available.

Recently the Foundation received a \$1000 check from the Nebraska Redwingers Chapter. These chapter donations are highly appreciated. As I have mentioned before, donations from the Society and chapters in combination with personal donations have been instrumental as we move forward with Museum expansion and Foundation projects. Each year, a total of more than \$10,000 in cash, items

and travel has been donated by current Board members in their efforts to build the Museum and Foundation.

At the afternoon annual meeting, Chuck Paton completed a three-year term on the Board and stepped down. He was thanked and recognized for all his planning and physical labor, as he served as museum director and was responsible for many of the fine Museum build-outs. Wayne Burk, president of the Iowa Chapter, was elected to replace Chuck on the Board. The Board knew that any retired superintendent who could run around at the MidWinter GetTogether and raise money wearing a harlequin suit has a lot to offer when it comes to Foundation development.

The day finished with the Foundation Board hosting members of the Society Board for a November picnic at Colvill Park, a great time for "catching up" and socializing with other Red Wingers. Fortunately the park's pavilion was heated!

In 2007, RWCS Foundation meetings are planned for Feb. 10 at MidWinter in Des Moines, July 9 at the summer convention in Red Wing, and Oct. 6 in Lincoln, Neb. Additional Museum work meetings will be scheduled throughout the year.



ASK THE EXPERTS:

ART POTTERY Q & A

The "Ask the Experts" section on the Red Wing Collectors Society Web site is up and running! If you haven't logged on at WWW.REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG in awhile, come see what you've been missing. There you have the opportunity to post questions about specific stoneware, dinnerware or art pottery and get answers from one of three sets of experts specializing in those areas.

Steve and Rose Splittgerber answer the art pottery questions, and they're well-versed on the topic. In addition to being longtime collectors of Van Briggles and Red Wing art pottery themselves, they're also the curators of the Schleich Red Wing Pottery Collection Museum in Lincoln, Neb. Steve is also president of the Nebraska Redwingers Chapter.

The questions covered here are just the tip of the iceberg compared to the rest of the information already available on the site, and new questions are posted regularly.

Question:

I have a bowl that I believe is from the square based crackle series. It stands 5¼ inches tall



and the bowl rim is 7 ¾ inches across. It has a brown mottled base and turquoise crackle bowl. It's marked on bottom "RED WING USA 1333". Can you tell me more about this, such as year made, designer and value?

Answer: You are correct with the glaze. Crackle turquoise with bronze, listed as a special glaze. The design was introduced in 1947 by Charles Murphy, we believe. Its value is about \$80. There is a pair of candleholders that go with the bowl. This bowl makes a nice centerpiece!

Question:

I got this Stenwick Indian Maiden in the 1960s from a great uncle. What is its estimated value? Were they all this color glazing? We grew up about 20 miles from Red Wing.



Answer: Stenwick items are fairly rare, although they do show up from time to time. We think these were done on his own, not associated with the Red Wing Potteries. They are considered Red Wing because he was their most famous mold maker. Most items are a bisque type, and then painted. There is a chief figure that goes along with her. Value is around \$300.

Question:

I have a burgundy B2004 vase with a creamy grey interior in excellent condition. It has the original Red Wing Art Pottery sticker on the front of it. I



believe it was received as a wedding gift in June of 1950. I have read that there is a difference in value based on whether it is a typical glaze color or not, but have no idea what is "typical" for this piece. Could you tell me the approximate value I might get for this piece if I were to sell it online or at auction?

Answer: What you have is a vase in the Tropicana series designed by Belle Kogan in the Dubonet glaze. Nice vase, but the glaze is nothing out of the ordinary. Value is around \$70.

Question:

My mother recently passed away and among her things I found what appears to be a Red Wing donkey ash receiver. It's a brownish-orange color and 4¾ inches tall. At



the widest points of its base, it is 2¼ inches by 2¾ inches. On the base, "RED WING" is carved into it, as well as the number "876". It is in perfect condition with no chips or scratches.

Answer: Your #876 donkey belongs in a series of six different animals, circa 1939. Originally they were thought to be ash receivers, but recently it has come to light they were actually small bud vases. They are prized by collectors, and average a price around \$150.

Question:

I would like some information on a pottery umbrella stand purchased at a garage sale. We do know that the lady we purchased this from moved to South Dakota from California. The piece has no markings on the bottom other than three or four lines – can't make out what it is, if anything. The stand is 18 inches tall, 8¾ inches wide at the top and 8 inches wide at the bottom. No chips or cracks.



Answer: We believe your umbrella stand was made by Western Stoneware. It's not Red Wing, but still nice. We'd give it a value of around \$80 to \$100.



IS THE COLLECTION OF

Story by Marsha Watkins, Watkins Collectors Club Newsletter Editor

Charter members of the Watkins Collectors Club met August 8 & 9, 1998 in Winona, Minn. for their first convention. Displays included half gallon and one gallon Red Wing jugs that had two different variations of the oval-shaped Watkins advertising ink-stamped in black on the sides. That afternoon, visitors Jim and Diane Kerkenbush, who are also Red Wing Collectors Society members, reported they had a jug at home that had a different advertising oval on it and they agreed to come back that evening with it.

Eyes opened and jaws dropped when the half gallon jug was shared that evening. No one present had ever seen one like it. Pictures were taken and a photo of the jug with the unique advertising oval was published in the club's newsletter. The club had a miniature replica of it made by the "new" Red Wing Stoneware Company as its second commemorative which was sold to the members at their 1999 convention. The jug needed a brown top so it became the first item ever made by the new Red Wing Stoneware Company using a brown glaze. The 1999 Watkins Collectors Club commemorative has been highly prized ever since, as it regularly sells for more than \$100 when one becomes available.

The advertising oval on the visitor's jug is different from the two known ovals in three major ways. First, it is blue rather than black. Second, it features "THE J.R. WATKINS CO." instead of having "THE J.R. WATKINS MEDICAL CO." that is on the black ovals. Third, it lists the names of cities only. The two earlier known black ovals share several similarities but they differ in that one lists the names of several cities whereas the other one features CAPITAL \$2,000,000.00.

Now that we have described the three different advertising ovals, let us review the different jug sizes that are known. Red Wing jugs with advertising that hold two gallons or less never had a numeral on them with but one known exception. Three gallon jugs or larger usually have a numeral that indicates its capacity. Jugs with the Watkins black advertising oval variations on them are most commonly found in the half gallon and one gallon sizes. Rumors have been heard about the existence of a 2 gallon jug bearing Watkins advertising and an ad was once placed by someone wanting 2, 3, 4, and 5 gallon jugs but no evidence of a 2, 3, or 4 gallon jug has yet been seen. The 5 gallon jugs are fairly rare as only four of them are known at this time. They feature the five, the red wing, and the oval with the "CAPITAL \$2,000,000.00" reference.

We know that the half gallon and the one gallon jugs with one or the other of the black ovals periodically become available on the market as they are the most common. We assume that there are more half gallon jugs with the blue oval and we wonder

if Watkins ever had any made using this oval on the one gallon jug or any other size. We wonder also if any other oval variations were used on the 5 gallon jugs.

Since the Kerkenbushs shared his jug with the grateful members of the Watkins Collectors Club, it had been more than seven years since the next one appeared recently on eBay. The new one has made it possible to photograph all the known variations of the Watkins Red Wing advertising jugs.

If you can document the existence of Watkins advertising jugs that are different in size or ovals, the members of the Watkins Collectors Club would greatly appreciate hearing from you. We can promise you publicity or privacy, whichever you prefer. The main interest of the club is to expand its knowledge of this great company's history and products, which have been around since 1868. The club has no ties to the current Watkins company, but we do appreciate their fine products.

Watkins advertising jugs are only one small segment of the collecting opportunities available to Watkins collectors. Types of containers other than stoneware include metal, glass, cardboard, paper and cloth and contained medicinal, food, cosmetic, household and agricultural products. Almanacs, booklets, calendars, pamphlets, photos, postcards, recipe books, salesman carriers, auto products such as spring oilers, spark plugs, tires and tubes, and a large variety of advertising items round out the wealth of material available to the serious or causal collector. Highly recommended is a visit to the Watkins Museum which is part of the Watkins Administration Building, located at Third Street and Liberty Street in Winona, Minn. The museum houses an extensive display of Watkins items that have been produced through the years as well as an area where current products are for sale.

Anyone with knowledge about currently unknown Watkins jugs can contact the Watkins Collectors Club Newsletter Editor: Marsha Watkins, 9467 Ketch Rd, Plain City, Ohio 43064, phone number 614-873-1656 or e-mail: marshawatkins@yahoo.com. ■



This article originally appeared in the Watkins Collectors Club Newsletter, Volume 9, Issue 2, April 2006.

WATKINS JUGS COMPLETE?

A WATKINS SALESMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Story by Charlotte Ackerman, Wolverine Chapter Secretary

My dad, Curtiss Chriss, was a "Watkins man" from about 1957 to the early 1960s. Even then, especially in northern rural Minnesota, many farm families depended on the Watkins salesman, the Fuller Brush man, or other traveling salesmen to provide many necessities by coming to them. There were no Wal-Mart stores or giant supermarkets that we are familiar with today. People couldn't make a quick run to the store when it was 30 to 50 miles away.

Taking the product to the consumer was especially important during the winter months when heavy snow kept people close to home. I remember my mother was always concerned Dad would get stuck, but I think his big old Dodge station wagon was almost as good as many of today's SUVs when it came to handling bad roads. The only time he couldn't drive his route was mud vacation time in early spring, when rural schools had to close because frost-out on the roads created huge mud holes that school busses couldn't navigate.

For my father, the key to being a successful salesman of everything from the world's best vanilla to fly spray for the cows, was creating an instant connection and rapport with the farmer and his wife. This was easy for him because the area around Bemidji was well-stocked with Norwegian families. That was his heritage and his second language. If the name on the mailbox was even remotely Scandinavian in origin, he greeted the people at the door in their native tongue. This was like magic for him, and as he described his wares in Norwegian, he had them eating out of his hand...as he sat at their table and ate cake, lefse, or any manner of special cookies if it was Christmas time.

I am sure many of the old-time Watkins salesmen benefited from the custom of feeding guests that was so common. Anyone coming to your house had to be offered coffee...but it wasn't just coffee. It was coffee plus whatever baked goods were in the pantry and no proper Norwegian housewife (or any Scandinavian, I'm sure) would be without freshly baked bread, pastries, cake, cookies – all of that good stuff. If my dad arrived at lunch time, "coffee" turned into a full meal.

It wasn't only the products that made the Watkins man a valued asset to the rural community. It was the fact that he became a friend at a time when getting out and socializing wasn't as easy as it is today. I will always remember Henry Johnson, one of Dad's long-time customers. Long after my dad had left the Watkins route for full-time farming, Henry would come to visit, always bringing with him a loaf of bread and a ring of bologna. "Let's have lunch" would be the first words out of his mouth. ■

1999

Watkins counts over 350 products and 45,000 Watkins men and women in North America. Heart-healthy Grapeseed Oil is introduced and quickly becomes a favorite.

1978

Ownership of the 110-year-old industry leading and innovative company is transferred from the Watkins family to Minneapolis entrepreneur Irwin Jacobs and his family.

1955

Watkins' first major national advertising campaign captures the imagination of a new generation of consumers. The ads appeared in magazines such as Better Homes & Gardens, the Saturday Evening Post, Ebony, Reader's Digest and McCall's.

1940

Watkins counts 200 products and 10,000 sales associates.

1928

Watkins receives Gold Medal honors at the Paris International Exposition for vanilla, black pepper, cinnamon and other ground spices.

1920

Product line reaches 100 selections.

1915

J.R. Watkins Medical Company becomes the world's largest direct selling company.

1913

International expansion begins with branch office in Winnipeg, Canada.

1895

Watkins enters the gourmet specialty food market introducing vanilla extract, black pepper and cinnamon. Tins from the early 1900s are popular collectibles.

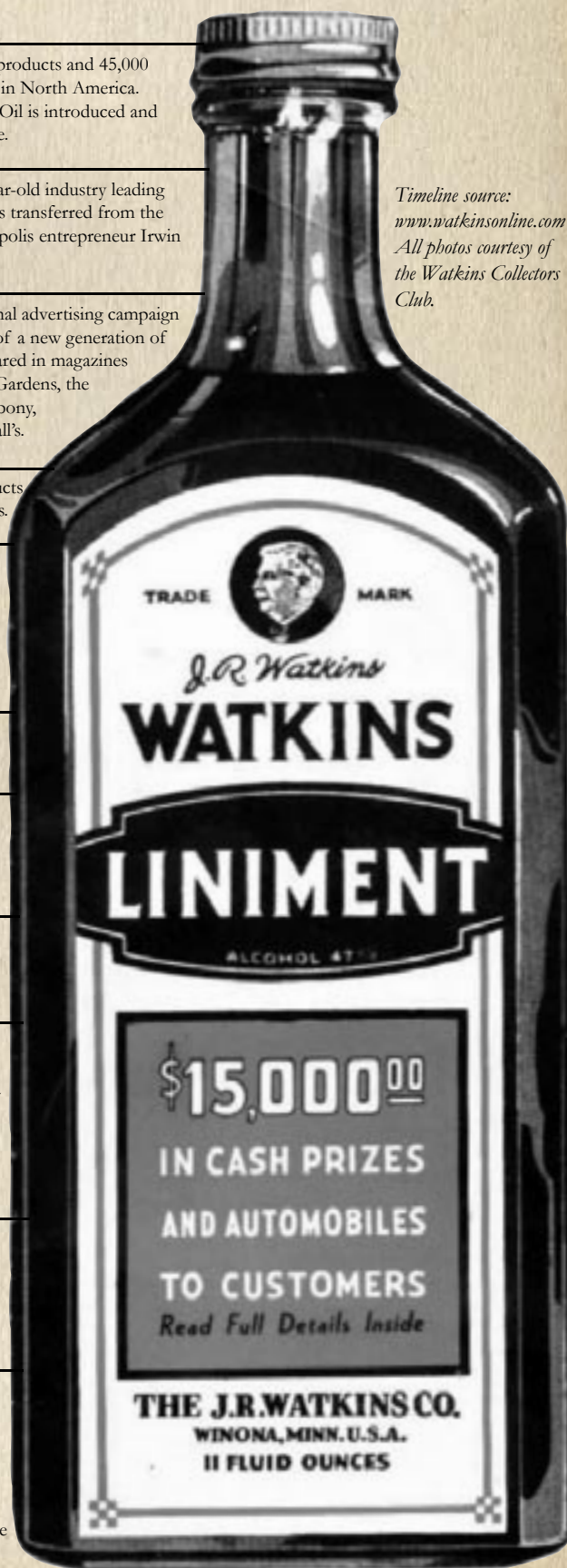
1885

J.R. Watkins moves his company to Winona, Minn., a booming logging town on the banks of the Mississippi River.

1868

At 28 years old, entrepreneur J.R. Watkins founds the J.R. Watkins Medical Company in Plainview, Minn., giving birth to one of America's first natural remedies companies where associates market directly to consumers.

*Timeline source:
www.watkinsonline.com
All photos courtesy of
the Watkins Collectors
Club.*



My dream is to have a killer collection of 20 gallon crock, from a basic wing crock to salt glaze beauties with butterflies, flowers and birds. But unless I win the lottery, my dream will continue to be just a dream, for two reasons. First of all, my budget won't allow it, and secondly, I just simply don't have room for a collection of large size pieces.

Two years ago, I moved from a big old three-bedroom home with a country kitchen, living room, formal dining room, family room, full basement and a big screened-in front porch to a small, two bedroom condo – with a deck that might be all of three feet deep and five feet wide. Even though I lost a lot of square footage in living space, it was the best move I've made in my life in a long, long time. My son had gotten married and moved to his own home, and I was roaming around in a lot more square feet than one person needed. I had closed off the second story of my house and was living on just the main floor.

Also, I am not ashamed to say, I hate yard work. Mowing, trimming, gardening, weeding, shoveling snow, etc. are all activities I could live very happily without. So, I decided to go “condo”, and haven't looked back. But going from over 3,000 to 1,000 square feet of living space definitely changed my lifestyle, and my collecting habits. Needless to say, “downsizing” became an important word in my vocabulary. I sold some of my belongings through an auction and some directly to other collectors. It was tough to see some of my long sought after collections sold (particularly my 200+ collection of Village Green), but turnover is just part of the collecting process.

However, moving to smaller quarters has given me the opportunity to start collecting pieces that fit my new lifestyle, turning me into a “small time” collector. These days, I collect a variety of items that take up limited space, many of which are also functional pieces. I collect a variety of stoneware bowls from potteries including Red Wing, Minnesota Stoneware, Western, White Hall, Macomb, Peoria and some unknowns, most of which I actually use in my kitchen and store on an old buffet and hutch which one of my uncles who was a carpenter made about 75 years ago. Also displayed in the hutch and on a small wall shelf are my RWCS and Chapter commemoratives. Inside the buffet and on the top shelf of the hutch is my collection of Country Garden dinnerware.

In my living room, I have a collection of all white art pottery pieces. Due to my space limitations, I had to limit my art pottery collection somehow – so I chose to primarily collect pieces of one color. Many of them are displayed on my fireplace mantle, including a prized Belle Kogan 100 piece. On each side of my fireplace, I have a 3 gallon salt glaze crock that I use to hold magazines and books.

Also in my living room is a 15 gallon four birchleaf crock, which I use as an end table. Throughout my home, I have 2 and 3 gallon crocks that I use as trash cans and plant holders, and on my deck I have a variety of crocks holding potted plants and an 8 gallon crock being used as a table. I may not have room for a lot of pottery pieces, but I try and make good use of the ones I do display.

There is a lot of company in the “small time” collecting world. Kathleen and Wayne Johnson of Eden Prairie, Minn., are also condo dwellers and have limited space for their collections. One way Kathleen has adapted is to collect miniature Red Wing flower pots of all colors.

One area of small-scale collecting to which many Red Wing collectors are devoted is the world of mini jugs. Terry Speedy, the RWCS Interim Education Manager, started out collecting Red Wing by getting all the wing crocks up through the 30 gallon size. He then went looking for something else of which he could collect a set of, and because he is a huge Michigan football fan, decided on collecting a set of the different Minnesota-Michigan mini jugs.

Terry says, “I think part of the attraction for me was that they all seem to tell a story.” Most of Terry's minis have advertising of some sort and he enjoys trying to find out more about where they came from and why. Terry says that being able to complete a set gives him a sense of accomplishment. He has almost 40 mini jugs, including a 1/8 pint mercury jug which he bought on eBay from a seller in England. He says he couldn't resist buying it and returning it across “the big pond” back to the country where it was made. One thing he likes about collecting

minis is that they don't take up a ton of room, and that no matter how much he ages, he can still lift them, which of course makes displaying them much easier.

Terry is now watching for the mini shoes that have “MINN. S.W.Co.” etched into the stitching on the heel, and at Convention last summer picked up a gopher on a football. “I guess the attraction to minis comes from their versatility in display, as well as the ease in moving them,” he adds. “There are bunches to choose from, and that keeps the interest level and passion in high gear!”

Over the years, the various Red Wing potteries made many diverse and prolific lines of smaller items including things such as mini jugs, bowls, animals, mini vases, mugs, pitchers and dinnerware items such as cream & sugars or salt & pepper shakers – and that's just touching the surface. So, there is something out there for every Red Wing collector, even the “small time” ones.

Story by Jolene McKoon, RWCS Vice President

THE “ S M A L L T I M E ” COLLECTOR



I'm sure there are many other collectors out there who have many more suggestions about how to collect Red Wing when you have space and budget limitations. I hope I have at least given some new collectors, or those looking to downsize their collections, some ideas on possible directions they can take. But I'll still keep playing the lottery every once in awhile, though. Who knows, with a lot of luck, someday that killer collection of 20 gallon crocks might be more than a dream. ■



Mini display: A portion of Terry Speedy's prized mini jug collection.



Rustic charm: Dave Kuffel's mini jug and commemoratives display.



A nice accent: Jolene McKoon's all-white art pottery collection displays perfectly on her fireplace mantle.



This Old Shelf: Terry Speedy nicely displays small items on antique shelves. The shelf in this photo and in the photo at the top of the page were once used by postal employees for sorting mail.



Fits just right: This small shelf in Jolene McKoon's kitchen proudly houses commemorative pieces made by different manufacturers.

The Story Behind the Plates

RWCS member Craig Bell recently purchased these four lunch hour dinnerware plates from Judith Hansen, the daughter of the plates' original owners, Curtiss and Betty Hansen. Here she shares her family's history in relationship to the Red Wing Potteries.

by Judith Hansen

My grandfather, Emil Birl Hansen, was born in Chicago in 1891. His parents immigrated to the US from Denmark in the late 1870s. When living in Ellsworth, Wis., Emil met and married my grandmother, Gladys Mae Harp. In search of more lucrative employment, they moved to Red Wing and Emil was hired by the Union Stoneware Company in 1910.

The couple (pictured at left) lived on a shanty street along side the pottery called Smoky Row, where the first two of their three children were born – Eleanor and Ramona. Eventually they saved enough money to purchase a small house in the city of Red Wing. Shortly after moving there, my father, Curtiss Emil Hansen, was born Nov. 15, 1919.

My grandfather lived in that house until his death in 1974. Due to highway construction in the 1930s, the house was moved down to West Third Street, where it still stands today. He worked at the Red Wing Potteries for 53 years, retiring in 1963. My grandmother worked at the pottery as a painter part-time during the 1940s.

My parents had World War II to thank for bringing them together. My dad served in the US Army on two fronts – two years in the Aleutian Islands and two years in Europe.

Prior to the invasion of Germany, he was injured in Italy and sent back to the States. He was assigned to Cook County General Hospital near Camp Grant. The nurse in charge of his ward was a 2nd Lt. in the US Army Nurses Corp. Her name was Elizabeth (Betty) O'Brien and she was from Detroit. Following the war,

they were married in July of 1946. I was born 10 months later in May of 1947.

At first my parents sought to make a life in Red Wing. My mother worked at the local hospital and my dad got a job at the pottery. It was during this time period that he asked my grandmother and a couple other painters at the pottery to paint some things that his new wife was fond of. Four plates were created: one with two bluebirds, one with Bambi, one with two cocker spaniels and one of a lady hula dancer. Having met my mother on several occasions, the painter created her likeness for the hula dancer.

My parents eventually moved to Detroit where they purchased a house and raised two children. In addition to a lot of other Red Wing dishes, these four plates were used on a regular basis by my family.

My mom passed away September 2005 and my dad recently turned 87.

I was recently browsing though the Wing Tips Web site, www.REDWINGNET.COM, when I found three photos of unidentified pottery workers on their break behind the factory. My breath was completely taken away when I realized one of the men was my grandfather! The photos were taken around 1930, when my dad was 12 years old. He got all teary-eyed when he saw them.

Pictured at the far left is a photo of my parents in 1947. See how the hula dancer on the plate resembles my mom? This photo was taken about 5 months after the plate was painted. Although you can't tell, mom is pregnant with me – I was born less than 3 months later. So I'm in the photo, too!

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to share my family's special connection to the Red Wing Potteries. ■



CHAPTER NEWS

TRAILS WEST CHAPTER

Chapter Vice President Larry Birks reports "the October meeting of the Trails West Chapter featured a scrumptious Oktoberfest lunch at the lovely home of Wayne and Nancy Lambert in Baldwin City, Kan. The meeting was attended by 23 regular members and four guests. The regular business meeting was followed by presentations by Dennis Hostetler on transition crocks, Nancy Lambert on the history of Baldwin City and Larry Birks on dealing with the U.S. Post Office on broken stoneware. The regular Show & Tell was filled with a number of recent finds and long-held treasures, but the biggest surprise was the Red Wing mixing bowl brought by new member Boone Jeffers that was bottom marked with an advertising oval. Everyone agreed this was a rarity, as none of us had ever seen a bowl marked in this manner." The Trails West Spring meeting will take place at the home of Doug and Joan Arth in Kearney, Mo.



Making a transition: Dennis Hostetler discusses transition crocks at the Trails West meeting.

INDIANA WINGERS

The Indiana Wingers welcomed two new members and Board member Terry Speedy to its fall meeting on Sept. 28. "Hosted by Shirleen and Cleo Dimmitt, everyone had a great time looking at Shirley's collection and all enjoyed her terrific lunch," reports Chapter President John Ingwersen. "Topics covered during our business meeting included membership dues, our first commemorative and making a square for the Trails West quilt project. Our membership is open to all members in good standing of RWCS. Dues are \$15 per year and joining before Dec. 31, 2006 qualifies members to order our first commemorative. Commemoratives are \$37.50 each with a maximum order of two. Delivery is promised at our next meeting on April 28 or can be shipped to you. To join and/or order a commemorative, contact Susan P. Cox, 2210 Brewster Rd., Indianapolis, In. 46260."

GOPHER CHAPTER

The Gopher Chapter met October 15 at Billy's Bar & Grill in Anoka, Minn. The meeting featured a delicious Sunday brunch and was followed by browsing through the local antique shops. The November meeting was held on the 11th at the Leduc Estate in Hastings, where members toured the old mansion. On December 10, the chapter's annual Winter Social was hosted by Beryl & Gary Geisinger of Annandale, Minn. "Plans are underway for our 2007 commemorative, which will be a brown top jug with a paper Gedney label," says Chapter Secretary Larry Roschen. "We are fortunate to have available to us scans of several unused vintage Gedney labels; photos of Red Wing jugs with Gedney labels can be seen on page 35 of Red Wing Collectibles."

SOUTHWEST REDWINGERS

The Southwest Redwingers will hold its Christmas meeting and party at noon on Saturday, Dec. 16th at the Union Hills Country Club, 9860 Lindgren Avenue in Sun City, Ariz. Call 623-583-4178 for further information.

The January meeting of the Southwest Redwingers is slated for Monday, Jan. 29 at 6:30 p.m. It will be hosted by Bev Winchell and Wally Spence, 432 South 113th Place in Mesa, Ariz. Visitors are welcome. Call 480-986-5928 for more information.

NEBRASKA REDWINGERS

The Nebraska Redwingers met in Lincoln on Oct. 7. After the business meeting, the educational program for the evening was given by Professor of Art and Art History at the University of Nebraska, Pete Pinnell. With the help of slides from the Schleich Red Wing Pottery Collection, Pete explained the methods used to create, decorate and glaze items from the smallest pieces to the very large crocks. "All in attendance were amazed at his knowledge," says Rose Splittgerber. "This was Red Wing 101 at its finest."

"Our revised bylaws take effect Jan. 1 and newly elected officers will take their posts," she adds. "The bylaws have been adjusted to make things easier for members to acquire a commemorative and meeting attendance is no longer required, so any member in good standing with the club will be allowed to purchase a Nebraska Commemorative."

Contact Chapter President Steve Splittgerber at rsplittger@hotmail.com or 402-770-7600 for more information.



**TERRY
SPEEDY**

Interim Education Manager

Well, it's that time of year again. The leaves have fallen, the skies darkened, and Christmas is on its way. The 2006 Summer Convention has become another fond memory, and now our thoughts turn toward the MidWinter GetTogether coming in February. Even though it seems like a long way away, we know it will come quickly, and will provide us with that much-needed break from the winter doldrums!

Plans for MidWinter for the Education arena have been coming together nicely. There will be an opportunity to spend some time learning a little more about different areas of our passion, and you'll also have the opportunity to get some first-hand knowledge about the pre-planning for the 30th Anniversary Convention.

Seminars this year will be diverse, from new age eBay ideas to old-school salt glaze. There will be something for stoneware lovers, pottery lovers and even something for those of us who like to dive headlong into the dump! The Keynote address will give us the chance to hear from the 30th Anniversary Committee that is working hard and fast to give you the best anniversary Convention ever.

I'd like to send my gratitude and immense appreciation to those who helped make the 2006 Summer Convention an educational success. The seminars that were presented had terrific attendance, and the presenters did a wonderful job of entertaining and educating their fellow members. If you have thought about presenting a seminar, or presented sometime in the past but haven't had the opportunity lately, I'd love to invite you to contact me and plan for the 30th Anniversary seminars.

As always, I look forward to seeing everyone at MidWinter and welcome the chance to meet new friends! See you in Des Moines!

MIDWINTER 2007 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

"IT'S CHINESE NEW YEAR!"

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2007

HOLIDAY INN & SUITES - DES MOINES, IOWA

Deadline for pre-registration: January 19

Sellers Table request deadline: January 11, returned by the 29th

Friday, February 9

Board of Directors Meeting	1-5 p.m.	
Registration	1-8 p.m.	Lobby
Room Sales	All day	
Social Reception	7-11 p.m.	Heartland Ballroom

Saturday, February 10

Registration	7-10 a.m.	Lobby
Continental Breakfast	7-8:30 a.m.	Heartland Ballroom
Welcome/General Session	8:30-9:30 a.m.	Heartland Ballroom
Education Seminars Session 1	9:40-10:30 a.m.	Room TBD
Education Seminars Session 2	10:40-11:30 a.m.	
Show & Sale	1-4 p.m.	Heartland Ballroom
Auction	6 p.m.	Heartland Ballroom

Sunday, February 11

Continental Breakfast	7-9 a.m.	Room TBD
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MIDWINTER 2007: KIDSVIEW AND CHINESE NEW YEAR ARE IN!

Hey, RWCS members! You still have plenty of time to make your plans to attend the February 9-11, 2007 MidWinter GetTogether in Des Moines. We've already received many registrations by mail. Online registration is now available on our Web site at WWW.REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG.

Since last year's Mardi Gras MidWinter theme was so well-received, we're continuing with a party atmosphere in 2007. Beware the dragon, people! It's a Chinese New Year at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Des Moines! We welcome everyone to decorate your rooms in the Chinese New Year spirit. Also, if you still have a plastic name tag holder from past events, we ask that you bring it with you to reuse at MidWinter.



New to MidWinter this year: KIDSVIEW! Yes, for the first time, we're holding a KidsView session during the already jam packed Education Sessions. Bring your creativity, kids – we're going to paint and have fun! The business office is in need of a few volunteers to help with this session, so if you're interested, please contact Stacy Wegner at rwcs1@redwing.net or 800-977-7927.

"Thank you" to the wonderful responses from all the members who have volunteered to help out with registration for MidWinter. For the first time, you will be able to pay for MidWinter registration using a credit card onsite in Des Moines. This new service will also be available at the July Convention.

For the latest information on the MidWinter GetTogether please visit our Web site at WWW.REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG. For reservations, call 800-HOLIDAY or 515-278-4755 and indicate you are a RWCS MidWinter attendee and/or a room seller. The hotel is located at 4800 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, IA 50322.

A LOOK BACK AT THE CHAPMAN AUCTION *Story by Rick Natynski*

Every July, Houghton's Auction Service holds Tuesday and Wednesday night auctions at the armory in Red Wing during Convention week that play runner-up only to the Thursday night Collectors Society auction in terms of the excitement generated and dollars spent.

But this year the tables were turned, as the Houghtons were pleased to offer the Wayne and Sue Chapman Collection, which was one of the best Red Wing stoneware auctions held in several years. Collectors definitely responded, spending well into six figures by the time the night was over. In addition to owning a significant number of rare and difficult-to-find pieces, most items in the Chapmans' approx. 450-piece collection were in excellent condition.

The collection appealed to stoneware collectors of all interests. Whether you collect salt glaze, zinc glaze, spongeware, greyline, saffron ware or RWCS Commemoratives, there was something for everyone...provided your budget could handle it. But advertising collectors were especially treated to some exceptional pieces, especially those who specialize in Nebraska advertising.



Salesman samples (left to right): Salt glaze spittoon—\$5,000; zinc glaze crock—\$150; salt glaze crock—\$275; salt glaze target crock—\$1,400; salt glaze single 'P' crock—\$3,500.



2 gal. straight-sided birch leaf Ice Water coolers: Blue—\$3,500; black—\$3,300. 4 gal. elephant ear Ice Water cooler with oval—\$6,000; 3 gal. button lid with petals—\$150.



3 gal. transition Ice Water cooler with oval—\$5,400. Elephant ear crocks with "MSWCo" script initials: 3 gal.—\$2,900; 2 gal. (not pictured)—\$2,300. 2 gal. Ice Water cooler with wing and oval—\$7,700.



Salt glaze coolers front-stamped "Red Wing Stoneware Company": 5 gal. double leaf—\$10,500; 6 gal. salt glaze drop—\$7,000. 8 gal. salt glaze butterfly crock—\$2,200.

One of the most interesting aspects of the auction was the impact it had on the rest of the Convention sales. As expected, many collectors kept their wallets in their pockets at the Pottery Place parking lot sales on Wednesday in anticipation of that night's auction.

However, some really nice pieces surfaced around town during the week that you normally wouldn't see for sale, because many sellers had their sights set on buying at the Chapman Auction and they wanted to pack an extra punch. So, there were collectors who shrugged off the Chapman sale and instead made some great buys off the street.

Although total sales at the Collectors Society Auction at the high school on Thursday night were slightly lower than 2005 numbers, they were still strong and comparable to average sales in recent years.

Then again, attendance at the Saturday Show & Sale was visibly lower than in years past. It's difficult to know exactly why Show & Sale traffic was down. Many people cited high gas prices as a factor. But when it comes down to it, Convention 2006 will always be remembered by collectors as the year of the Chapman Collection sale. Here are some of the top highlights from the auction.



West Point, Neb. advertising (l to r): 5 lb. butter crock—\$1,300; half gal. crock—\$500; 1 qt. fruit jar—\$3,200; 1 gal. crock—\$2,700; half gal. crock—\$1,300. 8-inch blue tinted pitcher—\$900.



Dome-top fruit jars with shield: 1 gal.—\$5,200; half gal.—\$4,200; 1 qt.—\$2,700. Salt glaze crocks with "Siegel, Cooper & Co. Crockery Dept. Chicago, Ill." stencil.



Half gal. advertising jug—\$1,800. 1 qt. advertising jugs (l to r): \$700; \$1,400; \$2,000. Greyline stacking refrigerator jars with lid: 5-inch—\$450; 4-inch—\$215; 3.5-inch—\$600.



Transition leaf churns: 5 gal. front-stamped "Red Wing Stoneware Company"—\$4,800; 4 gal. back-stamped "RW/SCO"—\$4,600. Eddy Bros. Valley, Neb. advertising pieces: 4 gal. churn—\$7,000; 1 gal. crock—\$1,000.

Classified ads are 15¢ per word; \$3 minimum charge.

Ads are divided into the following sections: Red Wing For Sale, Red Wing Wanted, Other Pottery For Sale, Other Pottery Wanted, Events, Clubs, Auctions, Publications & Web Sites, 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., 12/06. Ads without dates are one-time ads.) Please type or print clearly and proofread before submission.

DISPLAY ADS

Display Ad Size	1x	6x
Full page	\$400	\$360
1/2 page (<i>horizontal or vertical</i>)	200	180
1/4 page	100	90
1/8 page	60	45

Display Ad Dimensions

Full Page	7 1/2 x 10
1/2 page (<i>horizontal or vertical</i>)	7 1/2 x 4 7/8
1/4 page	3 5/8 x 4 7/8
1/8 page	3 5/8 x 2 1/4

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

The Newsletter is produced on a PC in Adobe InDesign. Ads must be supplied electronically as an EPS or PDF file for PC. Be sure to include all fonts used. If you are unsure about acceptability, inquire with the Editor. There is an additional 10 percent fee for design and makeup if needed. Camera-ready ads are not accepted. Unformatted or unreserved ads will be treated as classifieds.

DEADLINES

Issue	Ad Deadline	Editorial Deadline
February	Jan. 10	Jan. 1
April	March 10	March 1
June	May 10	May 1
August	July 25	July 15
October	Sept. 10	Sept. 1
December	Nov. 10	Nov. 1

EDITOR ADDRESS

Make checks payable to RWCS and mail with ads to:
Rick Natynski
General Delivery: USPS
13425 Watertown Plank Road
Elm Grove, WI 53122-9998

RED WING FOR SALE

Handles and wooden lids. Send SASE for flyer to Larsen's Collectibles, 757 120th Street, Hampton, Iowa 50441-7555. Phone 641-866-6733. 12/06

Commemoratives: 1977, \$2,300; 1979, \$2,100; 1988, \$80; 1990, \$75; 1992, \$65; 1993, \$80; 1994, \$90; 1995, \$80; 1996, \$80. Call Art at 515-987-4635. 12/06

Complete Commemorative set through 2006. A great investment. \$6,950. Call Grace at 507-645-4660.

AUCTIONS

5th Annual Stoneware/Pottery Auction Sunday, March 4, 2007 at 12:30 p.m. at Storden School City Center - Storden, MN. 500+ pieces Stoneware & Art Pottery, Roseville, Red Wing, Hull, McCoy, Watt, RumRill, much, much more! Croatt Auction Service, John Croatt 17-32 at 507-445-3919 or 507-830-1984 Visit www.rrcnet.org/~croatt or www.midwestauctions.com for more information. 2/07

RED WING WANTED

Advertising bowls/stoneware from Mineral Point, Dodgeville, Darlington, or Shullsburg, Wisconsin. Also interested in any other southwestern cities. Call Darlene at 954-560-9622 or e-mail ssrw@bellsouth.net 2/07

4 gal Red Wing Success Filter top and lid. Must be blue sponge. Call Art at 515-987-4635. 12/06

Want to learn about the existence of any advertising pieces from Knapp, Wisconsin. To sell or share information, please contact Tim at twyss@clearlake.k12.wi.us or 715-263-2118. 2/07

Looking to buy quality stoneware - one piece or entire collections. Also wanted: beehive jugs, unique pieces with ski ovals, salt glaze Success Filter tops or bottoms and RW advertising from Galena, Illinois. Contact Scott at cobe142@cox.net or 402-598-1315.

Family member looking for Red Wing bean pot and/or milk pitcher from Ormsby, MN with Myron or Olaus Syverson name on it. Also looking for other collectibles with these names on them. If interested in selling, please call Tim at 507-537-0701. 2/07

Racine, Wis. advertising wanted, especially Red Wing advertising from Racine stores. Call Jim at 262-554-0488 or e-mail horlick@wi.rr.com 2/07

CLUBS & PUBLICATIONS

New stoneware book (*Antique Trader Stoneware Price Guide*); includes Red Wing; Monmouth-Western; Blue/White; Eastern U.S. 288 pages; colored photos; \$20 postage paid. Gail Peck, 2121 Pearl, Fremont, NE 68025; 402-721-5721. 12/06

NEW 2006 values for both *Red Wing Stoneware* and *Red Wing Collectibles*! \$9.95 each or \$17.95 for both plus \$1.50/\$2 postage, respectively. Quantity discounts available. Gail Peck, 2121 Pearl, Fremont, NE 68025; 402-721-5721. 12/06

SHARE YOUR STORY

Every Red Wing collector has a story to tell. Whether it's your first piece, a rare find, family ties to some aspect of Red Wing or the reason you collect, please consider submitting your story and/or photos for fellow collectors to enjoy!

EDITOR CONTACT INFO ON PAGE 2.

RECENT FINDS & DEALS

Did you find a rare piece or a great deal worth sharing? Briefly describe the item, where it was sold, date purchased, venue (store, auction, etc.) and price paid. Send in on a post card, or if you'd like to include a photo for publication, e-mail rwcsnewsletter@wi.rr.com, or enclose in an envelope. Multiple submissions result in multiple entries in the Newsletter Special Commemorative Lottery at the 2007 Convention. Send to the editor at the address on page 2. All entries received between July 2006 and June of 2007 are eligible whether published or not. Please keep submittals with purchase dates within six months of the newsletter issue.

ITEM	LOCATION	DATE	VENUE	PRICE
Bean pot w/adv. for Brookings, SD and Goodyear Tires, mint	Rochester, Minn.	6/06	Garage sale	\$1
1989 RWCS Greyline pitcher Commemorative	Fairmont, Minn	9/06	Auction	\$80
3 gal. salt glaze leaf churn, chip	Oconomowoc, Wis.	9/06	Auction	\$380
12 gal. salt glaze leaf crock, hairline	Blue Earth, Minn.	9/06	Yard sale	\$80
5 gal. wing crock w/handles, mint	David City, Neb.	10/06	Garage sale	\$35
10 gal. elephant ear crock, no oval, hairline	Elm Grove, Wis	11/06	Estate sale	\$20



NEWS BRIEFS CONT'D FROM PG 3

MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER UPDATE

Due to the overwhelming popularity of the Red Wing Retro exhibit at the Minnesota History Center, the exhibit has been extended until April 8, 2007. In addition to this great news, the museum will hold Red Wing Retro Family Day on Sunday, March 11. The event will include a lecture series, a book signing by Ray Reiss, plate painting for the kids, and similar to the Antique Roadshow on PBS, a few RWCS members will be on hand to offer estimated values of Red Wing pieces brought in by the public. Those attending the Red Wing Retro Family Day that identify themselves at the door as RWCS members will receive a discounted admission of \$4 instead of the normal \$8 to see the exhibit and participate in the activities.

SO YOU WANT TO BE PUBLISHED?

Beginning in March, the *Red Wing Republican Eagle* will publish a bi-monthly article series sponsored by RWCS for the 150th Anniversary of Red Wing on the history of the Red Wing Potteries. Article topics will be divided into topics on a chronological basis starting with stoneware and ending with dinnerware. We're looking for members to write these articles! Each author will receive credit in the paper for writing their article. Please contact Stacy Wegner at 800-977-7927 or rwcs1@redwing.net to volunteer.

RED WING STONEWARE & ART POTTERY

AUCTION

MidWinter Auction

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2007 – 6 PM

Holiday Inn & Suites - Des Moines, Iowa

2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15 Gal. Wing Cocks – 6 Gal. Elephant Ear Union Crock – Crock Lids, - 3 Gal. Salt Glaze Churn w/Target – 3 Gal. Oval over Elephant Ear Churn Churn Lids – Assortment of Jugs (some with advertising) Bean Pots – August Becker Pitcher - Sundberg Grocery Grayline Pitcher – Shoulder Bowls – Cookie Jars – Mini Jugs – 1965 Twins World Series Ashtray – RW Sheep Hen on Nest – Molded Green Frog – Black Bull Dog Brown Calf & Cow – Commemoratives – Small Cattail Vase Cattail Lamp Base – Dasmask Dinnerware Artware – Plus much more – 300 plus items!
Visit Web site for pictures.
Catalogs available at \$5.00 each after Jan. 1.

HOUGHTON'S AUCTION SERVICE
1967 LAUNA AVE. RED WING, MN 55066
651-388-5870 WWW.HOUGHTONAUCTIONS.COM

UNIQUE FINDS

I bought my first Red Wing Crock in Pine River, Manitoba in 1991. It was a 2 gallon crock with blue birch leaves. I didn't know where it was from, because it did not have an oval. That got me started and a few years later at an antique show and sale in Paris, Mo., a dealer suggested I go to the Red Wing Collectors Society Convention.

My husband John and I went to Red Wing and loved everything about it. I now have approximately 250 pieces not including my Bob White dinnerware, which is a complete 16-piece place setting with numerous serving dishes.

Here's an unusual 2 gallon Red Wing crock I have that has flowers on each side of the two. I've never seen another one like it. Any input anyone can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Billie Kramer
573-672-3372

23435 Monroe Rd. 579
Stoutsville, Mo. 65283



I recently found a chartreuse Town & Country teapot that is bottom marked. This is the only marked piece of Town & Country dinnerware I've ever seen, and to my knowledge no other marked piece has been found. I purchased it on eBay in October for \$39.99 – a real steal.

Larry Roschen
Coon Rapids, Minn.



Do you have a unique piece you'd like to share with other collectors or try to learn more about? Send pictures and the story about your treasure to newsletter editor Rick Natynski, contact info on page 2.

It was really a fun adventure to find such a rare piece of Red Wing Nokomis art pottery on eBay and it was even better that the seller listed it in the wrong category. My wife and I sat in anticipation as the seconds ticked off and we realized we had won the auction at a very low price. A few years ago, I found a salesman sample salt glaze spittoon on eBay that was also improperly listed, so there's always a chance for anyone to find a prized piece for a steal in you look hard enough.

Todd Avery
Red Wing



Nokomis bowl and candle sticks as found on eBay in October – total cost less shipping: \$89

This damaged 20 gallon salt glaze crock with primitive flower decoration and "Red Wing Stoneware Company" back-stamp was found by one of my auction helpers on Sep. 30 in a Milwaukee basement cleanout. He brought it to my Oct. 1 country auction 20 minutes before the start of the sale. As we had little Red Wing in the auction with no reserves, I decided to put it on eBay for him at the suggestion of several of the auction attendees.

We listed it at no reserve with an opening bid of \$1999. Seven days later, the auction ended at \$5700. Results: Happy consignor.



Tom Burbey, Town Crier Auctions
East Troy, Wis., 262-723-8000

COMING IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE...



FLOWER
POWER

WHO MADE
THIS CROCK?

