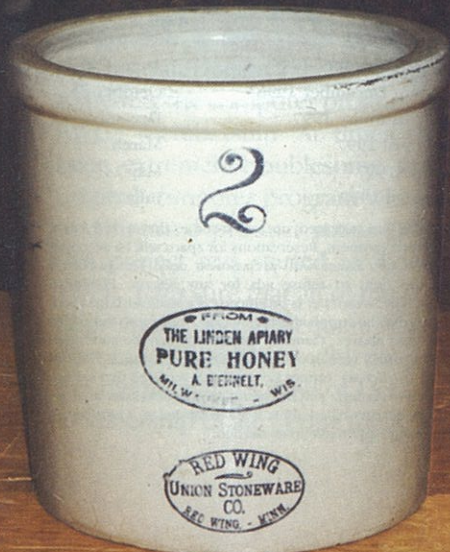
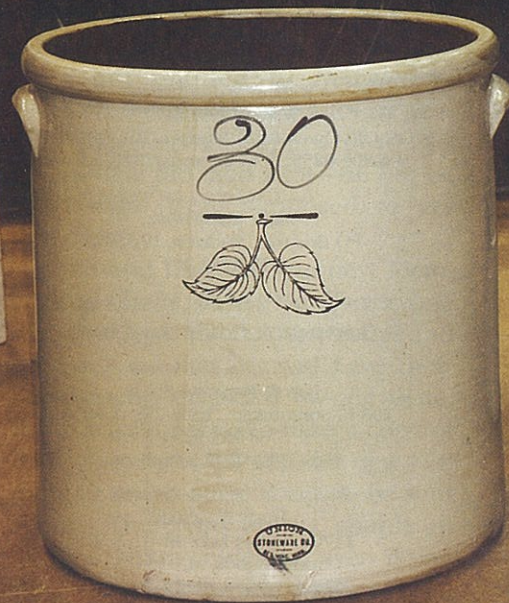
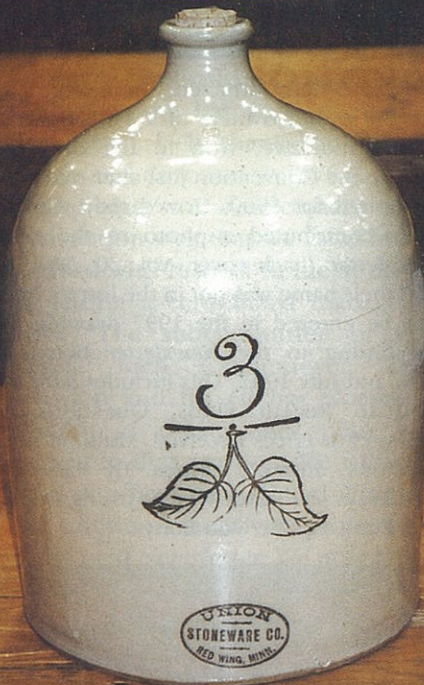
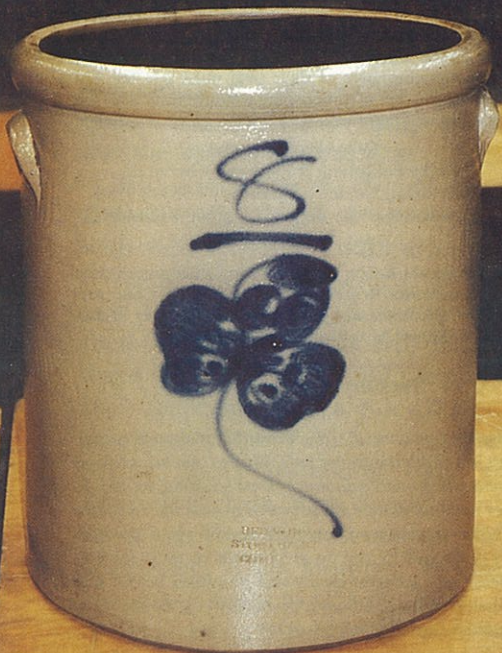




**Red Wing
Collectors Society Inc.**
Newsletter Founded 1977

Vol 20, No 4 July-August 1996



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Dave and Betty Knutzen, Waunakee, WI, are the proud owners of a 1996 Special Commemorative, won in the drawing held at the Convention just after one was auctioned for \$900. How'd they win it? They contributed a photo to the new *Newsletter* (back cover, Vol. 20, No. 1), and their name was put in the lottery. You can be entered in the 1997 drawing by submitting to the *Newsletter* between now and July 1997. This includes submitting to Recent Finds, Questions & Answers or Prices Received. Multiple submissions, multiple entries. By the way, Betty says she never won anything in her life. Dave says he won Betty.

Exp. 8/1/96

John & Kim Key
PO Box 50
Red Wing, MN 55066

Please renew by August 24, 1996.

Front cover: 1996 Convention auction items. What did they go for? See Recent Prices on page 5.
Back cover: Some of the rare items on display at the Convention.

**RED WING COLLECTORS SOCIETY, INC.
NEWSLETTER**

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DAVE NEWJRK

The Red Wing Collectors Newsletter is published six times per year as a medium of exchange for collectors of Red Wing pottery and stoneware. It is available to members of the Red Wing Collectors Society, Inc. on a subscription basis. Subscription and membership in the Society is \$15 per year. Additional family members living at the same address may register at no additional cost. Family members wishing to purchase a convention commemorative of their own must pay the \$15 membership fee. Members may communicate with the editor by writing or calling

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NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

Classified

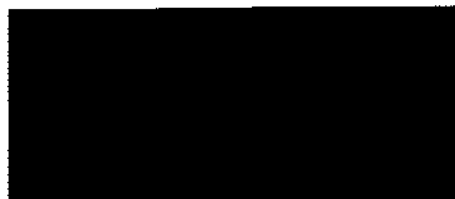
Classified ads are 15¢ per word; \$2 minimum charge. Ads are divided into *For Sale*, *Wanted*, *Events*, *Clubs & Publications* and *Announcements* sections, so you do not need to include those words in your ad. You may want to run ads for a year at a time: run up to 25 words six times for \$15, run up to 35 words six times for \$20. Please type or print clearly and proofread before submission. Send all ads with payment to the Editor at the address above.

size	Display	1x	6x
1/8 page		\$ 30	\$ 25
1/4 page		50	42
1/2 page horizontal		75	65
1/2 page vertical		75	65
full page		150	NA

Deadlines

September / October 1996	August 30
November / December 1996	October 25
January / February 1997	December 30
March / April 1997	March 7
May / June 1997	May 14
July / August 1997	July 19

DISPLAY ADS are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Please include payment. Reservations for space will be accepted for the next two issues with prepayment only. The publisher reserves the right to refuse ads for any reason. FORMATS: *Electronic* The Newsletter is produced on a Macintosh in Quark XPress. Ads may be supplied electronically; inquire to the editor at the address above. *Camera ready* Ads may be submitted camera-ready at a resolution of 600 dpi or greater. A 300 dpi laser print (or Xerox), cannot be used. Ads received that do not meet the above criteria will be reformatted as necessary and the appropriate charges billed; there is a \$50 minimum. Quotes supplied on design and makeup as needed.



The 1996 Red Wing Collectors Society Convention was a huge success. The new Red Wing High School is a superb facility that will serve the needs of our membership for many years to come. While there were some "new facility" glitches, basically everything went well. There is always room for improvement and as we approach our 20th Year celebration next year I challenge all of the Committee Chairs to double their efforts to be completely organized for this upcoming special event.

As you will read elsewhere the auction produced a new record total. The quality and diversity of things entered into the auction was excellent.

Two members of the Board of Directors decided not to continue with their activities. I want to sincerely thank Chuck Drometer (Publicity) and Larry Peterson (Education) for their service on the Board. Each of them contributed in a unique way to their respective duties. Sue Gilmer is taking over the Publicity Chair and Sandy Short is taking over the Education chair. With Sandy's resignation as West Representative, Wally Armstrong, from Monroe, Washington, was elected to that position.

There was a contested election with respect to Membership. John and Kim Key from Red Wing were elected to this position over the existing Membership Chair, Deb Olson. Deb had taken over Membership at the time of the Gorgans' resignation a few years back. During that time she has worked tirelessly to try to perfect the computer program for the RWCS membership. At times this has been extremely troublesome since the original computer program was still not in a finished product status (although this project was started in November, 1995). I am sure that all of the computer problems and subsequent *Newsletter* distribution problems did not help in the membership's view of Deb's job as Membership Chair. I hope the Keys have

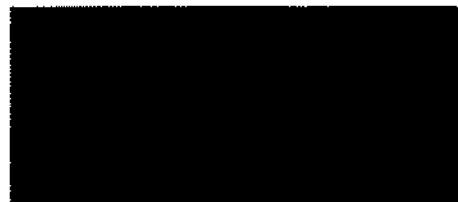
success—quickly—in getting the existing program for Membership into a totally finished product. Membership is a crucial position to the Society, because it coordinates the distribution of our *Newsletter* and keeps our records with respect to our members for use by the Society. Deb has served on the RWCS Board for ten years, first Auction Chair in conjunction with myself and then as Auction Chair by herself when I became President. She then took over Membership duties when the membership rolls—and prior computer program—of the Society were in total confusion. I commend her for her efforts on behalf of the Society and hope that she will consider other Society-related responsibilities in the future. As her husband, I know all too well what she has gone through in this regard. Deb, thank you for your efforts and devotion to RWCS.

The biggest announcement of the Convention was that we have moved forward with respect to the approach to getting a centralized manager in place. The subcommittee of Jerry Flicek, Rich Cronmeyer, Larry Peterson and myself has worked to develop a preliminary plan with respect to that position. We will soon have an office space in Red Wing and that announcement will probably be in the next *Newsletter*. We now have a phone number which will be in place as of August 1. This telephone number is 1-800-977-RWCS (7927). A voice mail system will be utilized over the course of the next several months to take messages from the membership and route the message to the proper areas of responsibility. Please begin to use this number, rather than calling individual Board members directly in order to begin the process of centralization of our activities. If you have any questions concerning this process, please call the number and leave a message for me and I will be happy to return your call to discuss this procedure with you.

We also need a volunteer to be appointed to work with the Hallstroms as the Chairperson of the MidWinter GetTogether. This position

will eventually (July, 1997) become a Board position.

Again, thank you to all of the Board that worked so well in this transitional year of our Convention.



Despite my promises, last issue's *Newsletter* mailing was a disaster. Because of a misinterpretation of a direction from the Membership Secretary, the mail house used the disk supplied *unselectively* for the mailing. Because the disk held the entire membership database and included hundreds of names of people who were not entitled to *Newsletters* (expired memberships), a lot of people who weren't supposed to get *Newsletters* did, and a lot—467 to be exact—who were supposed to get one didn't.

John and Kim Key, the new Membership Chairs, have a list of everyone who didn't get the last *Newsletter* and everyone on that list will have their membership extended by one issue. If you would prefer to have a copy of that issue, however, call the new 800 number and request that one be sent to you. There are only a couple of hundred extra copies, so even if you were entitled to multiple copies, please, only request one. Hopefully, this way, everyone who wants one will get it.

Do I need to say it? We now have a new mail house. Keep your fingers crossed.

Some people have called to say they get their *Newsletters* late. I feel this is because some local post offices mistook the envelope for third class mail, which has a low priority. Thus you will now see a large 'First Class Mail' marker on the envelope. Hopefully this will alleviate most of the problems.

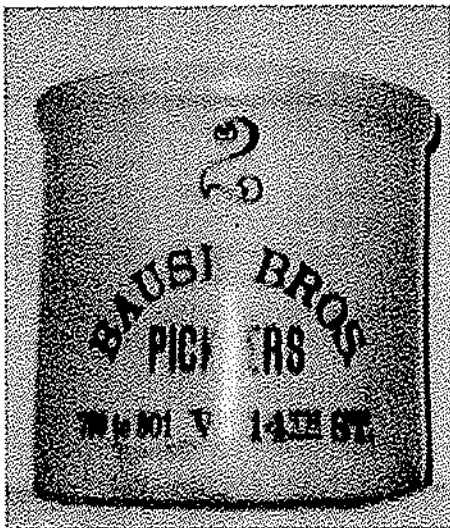
On July 1, the post office changed its classification system for bulk mail.

(continued on page 5)

Questions

Answers

Need help identifying something? Or is there something about Red Wing that you've always wanted to know but didn't know who to ask? Here's your chance—and you may win a Special Commemorative for your efforts. See the inside front cover for details. Good 35mm photos help, but Polaroids are better than nothing. If you want your photos returned, enclose a SASE.



Q I came across a 2-gal pickle crock imprinted BAUSE BROS. PICKLERS, 790 TO 801 14TH ST with a large number "2" above the name. The lettering is black. On the bottom it's signed MINNESOTA STONE WARE CO., RED WING, MINN. Is this 2-gal size rare?

—Roy Robinson, Chicago, IL

DAN DEPASQUALE: I am not sure that a 2-gal size is any more rare than a 3- or 5-gal advertising crock. 4-gals may be more rare. However, the advertising on the crock is rare, and, with the bottom mark, combine to make this a great find. This certainly would be a piece that should be in our forthcoming *Red Wing Encyclopedia* that Larry Peterson and I are now working on. Can you send us a better quality photo?

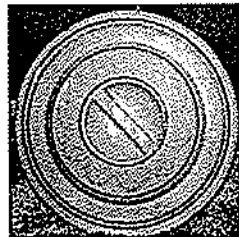
Q While on vacation in March, I came across this salt glaze stoneware piece and was excited about it, but couldn't find a Red Wing book to look it up. Based on the asking price, I thought that when I returned home I would look it up and then call them to



ship it if I wanted it. Having not seen a Red Wing item with this type top area in the past, I decided to go back the next day and give them an offer which was accepted. The dimensions are: 7" lid area, 11" body width and 16" tall. After returning home I pulled out all my Red Wing books and could not find any pictures of items which were similar. Now I am more excited in that it could be a "one and only"—is it? —Paul Trent, Stoughton, WI

LARRY PETERSON: Sorry—it's not a one of a kind—I have seen others like it. Still, it's a great find. We could safely call this a very rare piece.

Q Help, please. My wife and I bought this 3-gal water cooler lid at auction (paid \$4). It is fully glazed including space between the outside and middle blue circles. The glaze is cracked and the



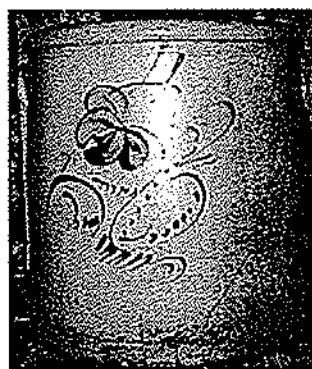
underside shows wear from use. It appears to be quite old, but is not chipped or cracked. This lid measures out the same as a 2-gal crock lid, but has the 3W on the top. We sure would like to know the value—and locate a cooler for it.

—James Irvin, Springfield, OR

DAN DEPASQUALE: Once again, it's difficult to determine a value of an item from a photo. But, if the lid is in good condi-

tion, it should bring \$350. Okay, all you Red Wing collectors out there, let's find Jim a 3-gal cooler!

Q This old 4-gal crock has been around the house for many years.



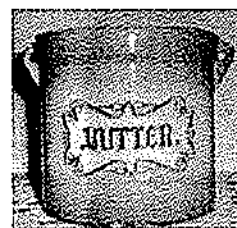
Obviously it has seen some rough times. I've not found any designs similar to this in the Red Wing books I've reviewed. What can you tell me about it? Do you know the name of the design, it's age, or if it's rare?

—Ross Hanson, Waconia, MN

LARRY PETERSON: I don't believe this beautiful and rare crock is Red Wing. I'd say it dates from the 1880s, but I've never seen this design.

DAN DEPASQUALE: It is not Red Wing in my opinion. If I saw the crock I could be more certain as to its manufacture. Just a guess, but it could be from western Pennsylvania. It is a wonderful item with a great design. In good condition, it should be worth \$300-\$350.

Q I bought this butter jar (missing cover) at auction. It's stamped with



#3 on the bottom and it's a perfect match to the bailed blue and white refrigerator jar on p. 132 of the Red Wing Stoneware catalog. I'd like to know if it's Red Wing and its value.

—Roland DeLong, Garrison, ND

DAN DEPASQUALE: Your "butter" is not a Red Wing item. It was produced in the 1920s by the Western Stoneware company and is a pretty blue and white piece. Without a lid it should be worth about \$110, depending on selling location.

(continued from page 3)

There is no longer second class mail, only first class and third class and a new category called Publication rate. Publication rate is treated the same as first class rate, but it's about half the cost. The rule is that when a local mail carrier leaves on his or her route, they are not allowed to leave behind any first class mail or any Publication mail. Thus, Publication rate equals first class.

We plan to inaugurate Publication rate in January 1997. This will save us a bundle and allow us to eventually

increase the size of the *Newsletter*.

I love the tunnel vision of Red Wing collectors. At the Convention I was invited to dinner at the St. James by a couple of the well-heeled collectors who frequent this dining room. We were having a pleasant evening recounting pottery adventures when my hostess (the doctor's wife) excitedly told me about once finding a great piece of "maa-jell-eek." Some variation of *Belleek*, I wondered? I asked her to describe it. Oh. Majolica.

By the way, an aside to the St. James: lose the Muzak. . .

In Memoriam

Milton Scholer passed away June 27, 1996 at the age of 90. Milton and his wife were charter members of the RWCS, holding #22. The Scholers ran the "Summer Kitchen" antique shop in Lake City, MN for 22 years. Scholer is survived by his wife Bernice, who served as Secretary of the RWCS for nine years.

Tell us about the price received for a Red Wing product. Briefly describe item, where sold, date, venue (store, auction, etc.) and price received. Send in on a post card (the post office ones are fine) as often as you like. Multiple submis-

sions mean multiple entries in Newsletter Special Commemorative Lottery to be held at the 1997 Convention in July. Send your postcards or letters to the Editor at the address shown on inside front cover.

ITEM	LOCATION	DATE SOLD	VENUE	PRICE RECEIVED
Pair plain ball S&P shakers, one bottom-marked impressed RW	Genoa, IL	7/96	flea market	\$ 6
mint 20 lb butter crock w/ 4" wing	Warren, IL	7/96	auction	\$ 650
three 10-gal self-draining jars w/ 6" wings w/ button top lids and one 5-gal self-draining jar w/ 4" wing; w/ wooden stand to hold jars	Warren, IL	7/96	auction	\$1,300
5-gal 4" wing churn w/lid; hairline on churn, chip on lid	Mineral Point, WI	7/96	auction	\$ 150
Shield fruit jar	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$4,000
13 Commemoratives ('77, '78, '79, '81, '82, '84, '87, '88, '89, '90, '91, '92, '94)	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$5,500
3-gal elephant ear beehive jug	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$2,800
1977 RWCS Commemorative, (the first)	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$2,000
8-gal pantry jar	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$2,450
20-gal salt glaze crock, signed, with butterfly	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$1,500
20-gal birchleaf crock with stylized "MSWCO"	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$1,200
Sponge umbrella stand	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$1,750
Giraffe planter #896	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$ 600
2-gal crock double-stamped with 2 wings	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$1,500
#3019 Silver Green vase	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$ 800
Nokomis lamp with lion head handles #963	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$1,600
2-gal crock with advertising LINDEN APIARY PURE HONEY, MILWAUKEE, plus "ski" oval	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$1,050
24" Mulberry urn, bottom-signed	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$1,175
Silver Green vase marked M-3015	Red Wing, MN	7/96	Conv. Auction	\$ 500
7" cap bowl, full panels and ridges, no lid	Grand Rapids, MN	6/96	auction	\$ 10
10-gal 4" wing crock	Grand Rapids, MN	6/96	auction	\$ 50
6-gal "Drop 8" salt glaze crock	Grand Rapids, MN	6/96	auction	\$ 55
Small wing water cooler #6, perfect cond., orig. lid	Prairie du Chien, WI	6/96	auction	\$ 500

Convention 1996

When she wasn't flying around the new Red Wing High School, Convention Co-Chair Diane Hallstrom wrestled with pesky computers and unfailingly polite late registrants. Both Hallstroms broke away from a busy schedule to attend the dedication of the North Star Memorial near Pottery Place. Not quite done, but done enough to dedicate, the memorial features the star from the old North Star factory and two plaques that enlighten one about the Red Wing pottery industry in general and North Star in particular. Later on Wednesday, John Schwartau MC'd the dedication ceremony for an historical marker at the clay pits that supplied the Red Wing pottery industry. Schwartau led the process for the marker, and put on an interesting show with speakers, dignitaries and even a concertina player! Friday morning saw commemorative recipients lined up early to get their miniature cookie jars. Larry Roschen and his crew were also in early, boxing commemoratives and generally getting prepared for the onslaught. Talk about a production—these lines look like the New Jersey DMV. I find it amazing that Kathy Roschen is seen here smiling away while in the eye of the storm. I suspect that by this time she's actually brain dead. And did I see one fellow walking away with a 16 commemorative boxes? One for each member of a *very* extended family that includes Rover and Fluffy? The commons area, handily next to the cafeteria, was a well-used rest spot. Just the right place to find old friends and preach the gospel. Here we see Geneva Trutman pontificating while husband Reuben looks on.

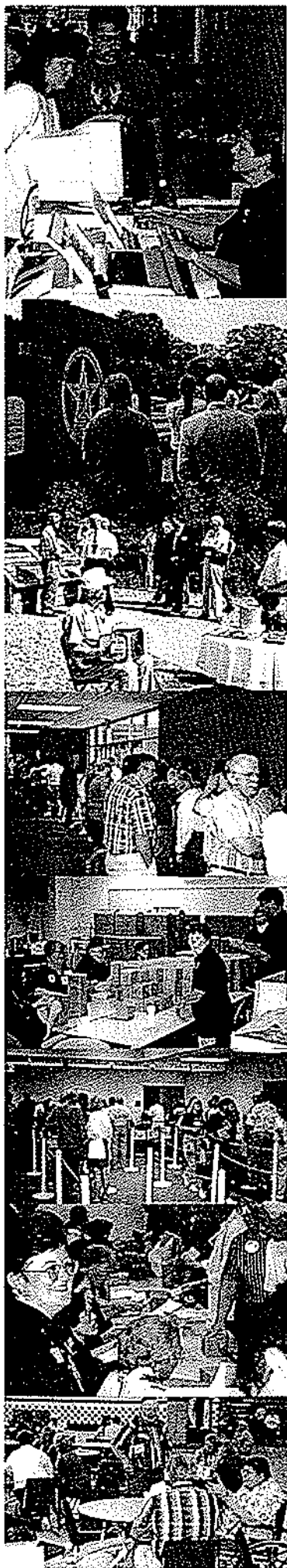
RWCS Vice President Rich Cronemeyer and new Education Chair Sandy Short are seen here inaugurating newcomers into Convention mysteries. The Thursday night auction pulled in the crowds. The inspection began at 1 pm and continued right up until auctioneer Dick Houghton's gavel came down for the first time. Just so you know, it wasn't necessarily the high prices raising your blood pressure—it *was* hot in there.

I know it's a new facility, but for \$30 million dollars, couldn't they have given some lessons on how to work the controls?

The RWCS Auction had its first female "ringperson" this year—Pam Wolf—although that's not her you see behind Todd Houghton—it's Marv Osterholz. Pam's hair is shorter.

Friday's education seminars were well-attended, some, as usual, with standing room only. Here we see Ron Linde holding an audience spellbound with tales of RumRill, and former Publicity Chair Chuck Drometer and former Education chair Larry Peterson identifying stoneware.

If you've never had the extreme fun of getting your hands into a big messy pile of wet clay, you don't know what you're missing. You could have got an idea of what it's like, though, by watching Scott Keith of Red Wing Pottery demonstrate the fine art of pot throwing. This too was an educational seminar. There were fewer displays this year than in years past, but every single one was first rate. The quality of pieces and execution was just great. Here we see Jeff and Sue Tagliapetria making a mental inventory of Ron Linde's "Black and



Convention 1996



White Pottery Made in Red Wing." Did you spot the fish in the fishbowl? Ron rented it just for this occasion, evidently begrudging the space a fish would take up in his household. The displays seem to have a constant stream of lookers going through and with good cause. It's wise to take a good hard look, I find. You learn a lot and you see things you've never seen before and will likely never see again. Friday evening saw the Red Wing Chamber of Commerce's gift to the Red Wing Collectors Society—the Potter's Picnic. That's indefatigable Mistress of Ceremonies Susan Gilmer holding one of the prizes awarded during the evening. This is one of the best deals going in town. Hamburgers, chicken, ice cream, etc. And I believe you can get in line more than once—at least some people did. It's a nice time to stop your inveterate pottery hunting and just relax—or commiserate—with fellow collectors. And entertainment is provided. There was a DJ playing top hits of the 70s, 80s and 90s, and Miss Red Wing and her court singing karaoke. That was a treat. A question: is it possible to eat a meal in Red Wing *without* music? One of the more fun activities at Potter's Picnic is the clay modeling contest. Here we see a determined RWCS member putting the finishing touches to his piece entitled "Wrestling Snowmen." Or maybe it was "The Embrace." I forget. Saturday morning sellers got to the area outside the gymnasium early, though the doors didn't open for them till nearly 8 am. Then there's a rush inside and it's like Beat the Clock to set up with one hand and shop with the other

until the hoi polloi is let in. And was there ever a lot of polloi. Diane says that 3,683 people registered for the Convention, and I suspect the photo at top right shows every single one of them. The term 'feeding frenzy' is often used to describe the first hour or so of these events but I'm not sure that term is adequate any more. . . . That's Barb Smith there in her booth with a *big* wing. I neglected to ask

her where she got it. Sometimes it's better not to know these things. Not all the pottery pigs were walking around. George Hansen brought this Red Wing zinc-glazed beauty to the show, but was willing to sacrifice it for \$2,200. That's dinnerware maven Mary Bang holding a one-of-a-kind dinnerplate painted by Charles Murphy. And that's the plate's former owner Steve Shoneck buying it back from her before I could even put my camera down and ask the price.

When I saw the Murphy-designed *Peasant Couple* among the rare items in the Display room, I thought, gee, those are really nice. I think I'm going to look for them. Well, Leo and Wendy Frese had one half-the pair at the show, but I hadn't realized that just one would set me back the price of a used car. Instead, I decided to start saying prayers to Our Lady of the Garage Sales. The banquet Saturday evening was enjoyed by all. That's Master of Ceremonies Stan Bougie at work. The program included presentations to the Goodhue Historical Society, a raffle for a special commemorative, and a thoroughly enjoyable comedian who stuck to the safe topics of driving, Tupperware, and Beach, North Dakota.





DIANE & DAVE
HALLSTROM

It was a great Convention! We had record numbers again this year, with 3,683 members attending. The new facility we now have is large enough to handle our Convention for years to come. We would like to thank all of the committees and their volunteers who helped make this year's Convention a huge success. I know that Dave and I could never do what we do without all the help from our friends. *Thank you to all!* Next year's celebration will be a week long—July 6 through July 12. The actual Convention will remain the same Wednesday to Saturday schedule, July 9–12. Watch the October issue of the *Newsletter* for details about the week-long celebration next year.



LARRY
PETERSON

Thanks to all the members who made the Educational Seminars and the Shared Interest Groups another great success. As I look back on the last four years, I'm excited to realize that as Chair of the Education Committee we added the Shared Interest Groups on Thursday, more than doubled the Educational Seminars on Friday, and also added the MidWinter GetTogether. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this possible. It's been a great experience and opportunity to work with the Board and be on the Vision Committee during these last four years.



JEFF & RUBY
BENSON

Where did the time go?! Had so much fun at Convention, it just flew by. Hope you had a fantastic time too. It was great to see everyone!

We hope that you all got a chance to go through the Display Room at least once. It's amazing how they always get those displays to look so terrific. We want to thank everyone that took the time to share a display. They were all wonderful, and you were great to work with! Thank you to the people who contributed to the special Dinnerware Water Cooler display. It was fun to see all those pieces together. Thanks too to the members who brought in those spectacular Rare Items. It's so educational and fun to see all those special items that were produced.

And a great big thank you to our committee. We really appreciate you giving up time from Convention activities to volunteer. Without the efforts and help of all of these people, there wouldn't be a Display Room for everyone to enjoy. We also wish to thank the membership for electing us to another term for the Display Committee. It's a lot of fun, and it's great knowing how everyone appreciates the display that members put together each year. Thank you all very much!

Here are the winners of the 1996 Convention Display Special Commemoratives. ART POTTERY: People's Choice, Ron Linde with Black & White Art Pottery Made in Red Wing; Best of Show, Jennifer Keding with Red Wing Animals. DINNERWARE: People's Choice and Best of Show, Lynn Huppert with *Gypsy Trail*. STONWARE: People's Choice, Lowell Reed with Colfax Mineral Springs; Best of Show, Ferris Hundertmark with Plymouth Stoneware of Fort Dodge, Iowa. DENNIS YAEGLI RARE ITEM AWARD: Dan Gustafson with Jug and Tumblers with 49 signatures.



LARRY
ROSCHEN

The 1996 RWCS Convention commemorative is a miniature *Gray Line* (sponge-band) cookie jar, produced by Western Stoneware. It is no longer available from RWCS as all pieces have been sold.

Prepaid commemoratives not picked up at the Convention will be mailed upon receipt of \$7 per commemorative. Checks should be made payable to "RWCS" and sent no later than August 31, 1996 to the Commemorative Committee address listed on the inside cover of this *Newsletter*.



JEFF & PAULETTE
FLOYD

We are pleased to report to the membership that the 1996 RWCS Convention Auction set another record. The Auction had total receipts of \$134,535. Top selling item this year was a group of 13 RWCS Commemoratives. The group included the first three Commemoratives, and sold for \$5,500. Second highest item was a 1-gal Dome Top Canning Jar with shield emblem selling for \$4,000. This year's "Special" Commemorative (All-Sponge *Gray Line* Cookie Jar) sold for \$900.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who worked so hard volunteering to help make this Auction a success. If you would like an Auction catalog with prices realized, send us a check for \$2 (made payable to the RWCS) at our address on the inside cover.

The RWCS met July 12, 1996 at the RWHS for its Annual Business Meeting. Pres. Olson called the meeting to order at 3:38 p.m. Pres. Olson appointed Dan DePasquale as Parliamentarian and Dan Allers as Sergeant-at arms. Pres. Olson requested a moment of silence for deceased and hospitalized members. *Announcements:* Special thanks to Dave Kuffel for preparing the floor plan of the gym for the Auction and the Show and Sale. A location for a RWCS office has been secured in Red Wing, and a toll free phone will be set up. Moved by Roger Blohm, seconded by Diane Hallstrom to approve the minutes of the July, 1995 Business Meeting as printed in the *Newsletter*. Motion carried. Jerry Flicek presented the Treasurer's Report. Moved by Dick Houghton, seconded by Dave Kuffel to approve the report. Motion carried.

Commemorative Report: Larry Roschen reported the 1996 commemorative was produced by Western Stoneware Co. Approximately \$70,000 profit. 2,049 mail-outs and 5,041 prepaid. Larry thanked all his volunteers. *Auction:* Floyds thanked their volunteers and reported a gross revenue of \$134,535. *Membership:* D. Olson reported there were 368 new members over the last two days. 6,165 members as of 7/12/96. Members thanked Deb for her hard work. *Newsletter:* Nicol Knappen reported on the Post Office changes re periodical rate for mailing newsletter. It would reduce postage and be delivered the same as first class. There are periodical watch forms to track late publications. Question regarding the *Newsletter* mailing were addressed. Knappen will pursue the periodical rate per the BOD's request and member support. East/West reps: Marv Osterholz and Sandy Short (respectively) requested members to utilize their services as their BOD representatives.

Old Business: Ruby Benson reported on the activities for the 20th Anniversary Convention in 1997. The theme is "Collecting the Legacy" The 20th

Anniversary Committee will meet the first Saturday of each month beginning September, 1996. Chapter certificates have been signed by the respective presidents and the Secretary will see to their distribution. Jerry Flicek presented the proposal for the restructuring of the RWCS BOD. The goal is a centralized office and business manager to handle the affairs of RWCS.

Article IV by-laws change: Moved by Dave Kuffel, seconded by George Williams to approve by-laws change as published in the *Newsletter*. Discussion. Motion carried. *Article VI:* Pres. Olson explained the by-law change for Art. VI. Moved by Roger Blohm, seconded by Ken Gorgan to approve the by-law change as published in the *Newsletter*. Discussion. Motion carried.

New Business: The Fall BOD meeting is in Red Wing, Oct. 26 and 27, 1996. Marion Pitzon, #14, suggested a special commemorative for charter members. The 20th Anniversary Committee has already addressed this for next year. *Elections:* Moved by Roger Blohm, seconded by Jeff Floyd to cast a unanimous ballot for Jeff and Ruby Benson as Display Chair. Motion carried. Moved by George Williams, seconded by Mike Rice to cast a unanimous ballot for Sandy Short as Education Chair. Motion carried. Moved by Gail Peck, seconded by Steve Muelleck to nominate Wally Armstrong to complete Short's term as West Rep, expires in July, 1998. Motion carried. Moved by Joyce Anderson, seconded by Wally Armstrong, to cast a unanimous ballot for Sue Gilmer as Publicity Chair. Motion carried. Moved by Roger Blohm, seconded by Pam Wolf to cast a unanimous ballot for Jeff and Paulette Floyd as Auction Chair. Motion carried. Moved by Wally Armstrong, seconded by Donna Hanson to cast a unanimous ballot for Larry and Kathy Roschen as Commemorative Chair. Motion carried. Moved by Dave Kuffel, seconded by Jewel Peterson, to cast a unanimous ballot for Diane and

Dave Hallstrom as Convention Chair. Motion carried. Otto Bang withdrew his nomination of Wally Armstrong for Membership Chair. Moved by Bob Bremer, seconded by Durand Ward to nominate John and Kim Key as Membership Chair. Nominations closed by Pres. Olson. Both Keys and Deb Olson spoke to the membership regarding the position. John and Kim Key were elected as Membership Chair. Convention dates for 1997 are July 9-12. With week long activities beginning July 6, 1997. Adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
ANN E. BUSSE, *Secretary*

Wisconsin Chapter Meeting

38 members of the Wisconsin Chapter met at noon on July 11, 1996, at the Convention. President Pete Pavloski informed the members of topics that were discussed at the chapter presidents meeting, which preceded the chapter meeting. Plans for the fall meeting were finalized. The fall meeting will be held on September 14 in Princeton, Wisconsin, with lunch, speaker, commemorative distribution and show and tell. The meeting will be held at Chipman's Restaurant, which is three miles east of Princeton on Highway 23. Reservations need to be in by September 1. Cost for the luncheon is \$7.50 per person and should be sent to Pete Pavloski, 1417 Rapids Trail, Nekoosa, Wisconsin 54457. Checks should be made out to the Wisconsin Red Wing Chapter. Commemoratives should be paid for at the meeting and will only be available to members who attend. Further information may be obtained by calling Pete or Barb Pavloski at 715-325-3715 after 6 pm.

Claybank Dedication

On Wednesday, July 10, 1996, an historical marker placed at the Claybank clay pits was dedicated to the public. RWCS member John Schwartau, the motivating force behind the placement of this marker, hosted the ceremony. RWCS President Barney Olson spoke to the group assembled, as did Cliff Ekdahl, representing the Cannon Valley Chapter. Also addressing the gathering were Dave Nystuen from the Minnesota Historical Society, Bob Maybaw and Kermit McRae from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Fred Johnson who grew up near the clay pits, and the family of Reynold Strusz, who donated the land on which the marker stands. Fred Johnson's remarks at the ceremony are printed here, as is an essay by John Schwartau about his quest for the markers.

FRED JOHNSON I am delighted to be a part of this dedication ceremony. I would like to thank John Schwartau for the invitation, and for his persistence and energy in bring this project to a successful conclusion.

I was born about a quarter mile south of here in a small wooden house located on pottery property. I am the son of a Swedish immigrant who made a living digging clay. Clay made slippery in summer by rain. Clay frozen so hard in winter that he had to set off charges of blasting powder or dynamite to loosen the clay. Although nature oftentimes made the work difficult, clay had to be produced to fill the needs of the potteries in Red Wing.

He worked with a shovel. The need for quality clay required a labor-intensive process that prevented the inclusion of dirt or other contaminants. The overburden of good black soil had to be removed to get at the underlying clay. It was accomplished by two methods that varied widely in productivity. In the beginning, area farmers and their teams were hired to move dirt by walking scrapers. Later, steam-powered engines were used. I was told that one machine of this type was moved here from the Panama Canal after completion of that project. It was a ponderous piece of equipment resting on pads under the rig. To get around the site, the

machine moved each pad alternatively, thus creating a sort of mechanical duck walk.

In the earliest days of operation, area farmers hauled clay to Red Wing with horse-drawn wagons. Later, a railroad spur was laid from the Twin City-Rochester branch line of the Chicago Great Western. During Christmas week, 1925, the owners decided that the supply of high-grade clay had diminished to a point that made further digging impractical. Without advance notice or ceremony, the Claybank pits were closed.

About a decade later, the coming of high production equipment made feasible the mining of lower-quality clay suitable for the manufacture of sewer pipe. That material was trucked to the sewer pipe plants in Red Wing. The pits and piles we see in this area are mute reminders of that operation.

Digging clay by hand was not an easy way to make a living. Employee turnover was high. European immigrants arriving in the Twin Cities were often shipped by employment agencies to the pits where laborers were usually needed. Many, after trying the pits, moved on in the hope that America had something better to offer. My father stayed to the end, and became a sort of counselor to these men who came and went from Claybank. I marvel now at the ability

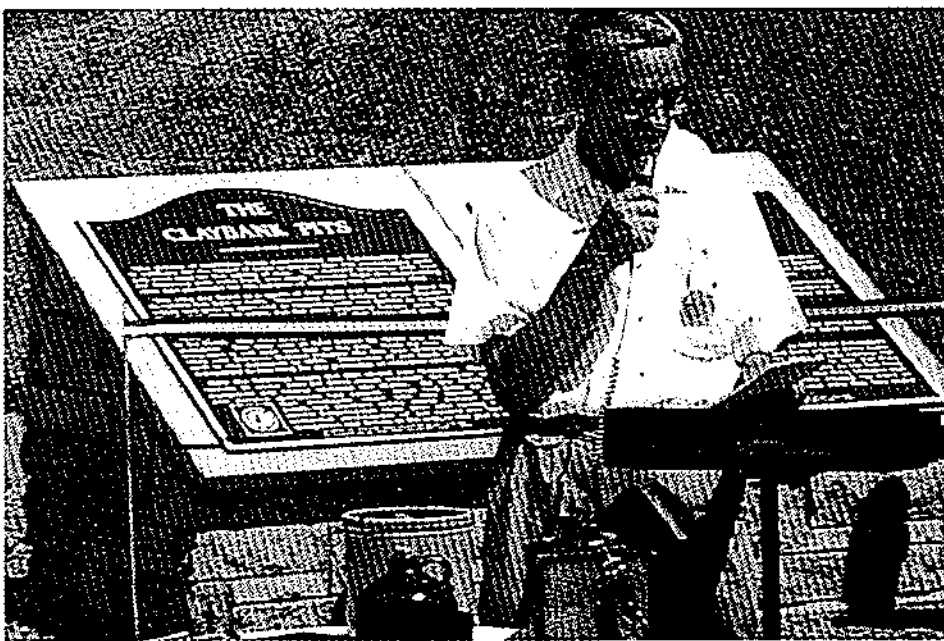
of my father to provide a living for my mother and three children from his meager earnings.

In May of 1926 we moved to Red Wing where he spent many years working at the sewer pipe plant, finally retiring in 1951 from the Red Wing Potteries. He spent almost his entire working life with clay and never had an easy job. In those days, the mining of clay and the production of clay products was dirty, hard work.

Goodhue County has its share of ghost towns that failed due to changing economic conditions and the coming of the automobile. I do not think that Claybank would qualify as a ghost town. It would be more appropriate to call it a ghost community. The farms that were here before the digging started remain. But, the two boarding houses and many small homes are gone. The Claybank general store is reduced to a ruin. The railroad tracks have been moved, only the scars left in the search for clay remain.

I believe it is appropriate to place plaques or monuments where ghost towns or settlements once were. Failing that, a day may come when most of these communities will vanish without trace and another bit of our heritage will be lost. A day may come when all of our ghost communities and towns will exist only on records housed in courthouses or museums. But, many of us prefer not to look for our roots in public museums. We look for the landmarks of our youth and find that fast disappearing.

Perhaps oblivion is a fair price to pay for what we call progress. However, except for the plaques we dedicate today, about all that is left of what was Claybank then is in the memories of those who lived here, and soon, we too will be gone.



For a few ticks of history's clock, people made a living supplying raw material for products, that have become valuable beyond their wildest dreams. Speaking for those who once called Claybank home, I can say it is appropriate to commemorate the fact that the unique products of Red Wing Potteries had their beginning here.

Because of these plaques, unborn generations will know that once there was a community called Claybank. It is monument enough; we thank you.

JOHN SCHWARTAU I have always lived southwest of Red Wing and northwest of the clay pits. As a small child I lived directly between the Claybank clay pits and where John Paul had his pottery and the Joseph Pohl farm which were six miles apart. As a small child I learned of the clay

pits. I toured the stoneware plant before I started school and everytime we went to Red Wing we passed the sewer pipe plant. I have always had an interest in history, and after I joined the Red Wing Collectors Society I became interested in the placement of an historical marker commemorating the clay pits. I was intrigued by the number of local histories that referred to the first area potter. Of twenty-seven accounts, twenty credited John Pohl and seven John Paul. I accepted the theory that they were the same person but I wanted proof before a marker would be placed.

The search began at the Goodhue County Historical Museum. I found the brief message written by Caroline Margan at the request of the Goodhue County Historical Society. She called him John Paul and wrote

that he arrived in 1861. Trained as a potter in Germany, he knew at once that the clay in the area was of good quality for earthenware. She wrote that he bought the school property in 1862 and a new school was built a half mile further south. She wrote of passing his shop going to and from school and stopping to watch him at work. She described his labor in some detail.

I still proceeded to pursue Joseph Pohl but after getting his military discharge papers from the Wisconsin Historical Society and checking the deed to his farm I concluded that he was a farmer. He was a farmer before he enlisted and he farmed and added to the original farm. He also threshed for my grandparents and other relatives. I visited with his granddaughter and she assured me that he was never a potter.

One day I stopped at the Goodhue County Abstract Company and asked if a John Paul owned land in Goodhue Township at the time of the Civil War. The answer was yes, and the gentleman there furnished me with a description of the three-quarter acre piece of land.

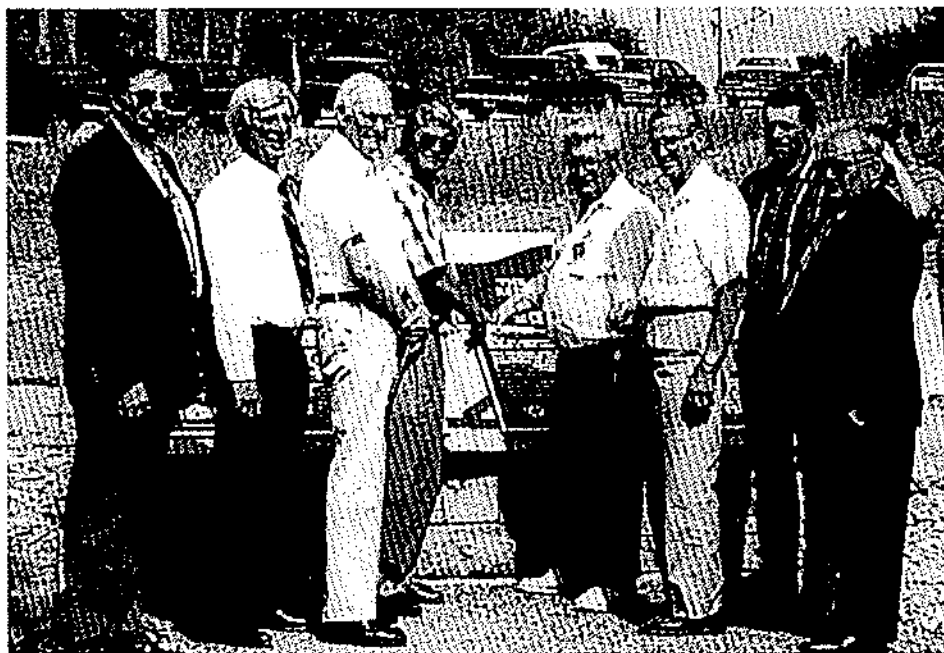
We were on the way and the census of 1865 showed that John Paul was a close neighbor of the family of Caroline Morgan. The 1870 census listed his occupation as potter. A real estate mortgage signed by John Paul and wife Magdalena called for the payments to be made with earthenware at 12¢ per gallon.

The birth of a daughter on September 27, 1871 against listed his occupation as potter and that was the last official record of the family in Goodhue. These official documents were sufficient to prove that John Paul was indeed our first potter. Another child was born in Shakopee in 1873 and his occupation was still potter.

This is just a brief summary of the search for evidence. The search took us as far afield as Washington, D.C., but the mission was accomplished.

ABOVE John Schwartau speaking at the dedication ceremony

BELOW The ribbon cutting. From left to right, Bob Mayhew, Kermit McRae, Fred Johnson, Barney Olson II, Cliff Ekdahl, John Schwartau, Reynold Strusz, and Dave Nystuen.



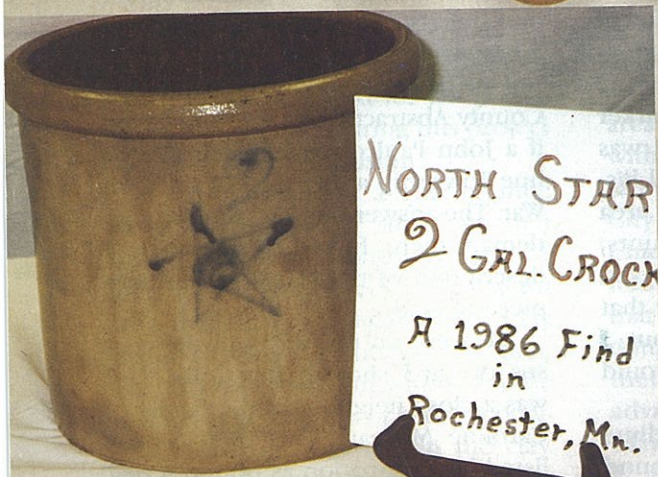
The following 46 names of Red Wing Union Stoneware Company employees appear on this jug, along with the date March 16, 1933...

Richard Adler	John Kleist
Art S. Anderson	Verneale Krie
Wm. Beckler	Russ Lyda
Florence Benson	Reita McCusker
Carl Carlson	Milton Mewhorter
Clutch Colstrom	Harold Nelson
Lester Eastman	E.A. Palm
Ed Edquist	Maurice Paulsen
Ed Engeldinger	Louis Peterson
B.B. Evans	H.W. Rolfe
John Fischer	Hilmer Roslund
Olie Gard	Bob Seeley
Phyllis Goyer	Frank Seeley
Frank Graff	Chester Skogan
Florence Greske	Dorothy Stark
Ned Harp	Chas. Straub
Otto Hartnagel	Charlie Swanson
Adeline Hasenbush	Red Swanson
Clarence Hilden	Lucille Tebbe
Monte Hindman	Guy Thoen
Russell Hutchison	Beulah Vance
Ethel Johnson	James A. Williams
Reuben Johnson	Christ Willis



Of the 46 names listed on the jug, three former employees are still living:
Florence Greske Larson
Adeline Hasenbush Kohn
Dorothy Stark Weseman

All nine tumblers are different; each contains song titles from the



NORTH STAR
2 GAL. CROCK
A 1986 Find
in
Rochester, Mn.



Stenciled advertising was labor-intensive, time-consuming and probably more expensive than normally decorated ware. Therefore, not many were produced and few remain. The word 'crockery' is especially interesting for stoneware collectors. This rare crock is also bottom-signed.

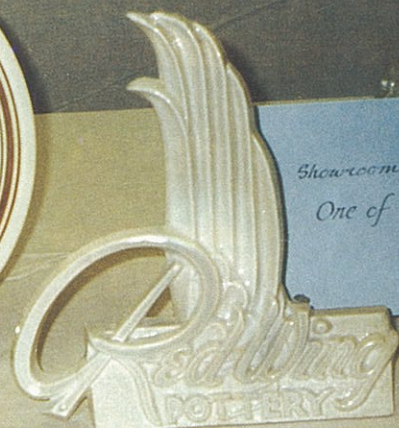


ART POTTERY
by
CHARLES MURPHY

A short-lived, more expensive Art Pottery line was created in the early 40's to be sold in jewelry stores and exclusive retail shops.

There were 6 hand-painted figurines including this Peasant Couple (and a pair of baseball players).

The blue single-slipped Boy figurine may have been a later attempt to market these at lower prices, or, is it a ONE-OF-A-KIND!



Showroom display sign
One of two known

Rare Items on display at the 1996 Convention included an unusual jug and tumbler set, signed with names of workers and popular songs of the 1930s. Only three of

the signers survive. An unusual Wreath casserole, lunch hour dinner plate and Nokomis lamp are also pictured, along with some interesting stoneware.