



VOL. 25 NO. 3

N E W S L E T T E R

JUNE, 2000

RED WING HAND PAINTED COWGIRL AND COWBOY FIGURES

During the 1960's, the Red Wing Potteries attempted to expand their markets. They created ceramic tile, casual dinnerware, specialty pieces and even tried selling dinnerware as a promotion in supermarkets.

Belle Kogan designed the cowgirl figure (B1414) and the cowboy figure (B1415) for Red Wing Potteries in 1951.

(continued on back cover)



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RWCS 2000 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

RED WING HIGH SCHOOL, RED WING, MN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
9:00-12:00	Board of Directors Meeting	L-100
12:00-3:00	Auction check-in, catalogs for sale	Gymnasium
5:00-6:00	Volunteer Orientation	Courtyard Café

THURSDAY, JULY 6

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:00	Courtyard Café opens	
8:00-4:00	Set up the Display & Rare Items	J 106, J 107, J 108
8:00-7:00	Membership/Registration	Courtyard Café
8:30-11:30	Auction check-in	Gymnasium
8:30-???	Distribution of bid numbers	Gymnasium
	Auction catalog for sale	
9:00-9:45	Orientation for First Timers	H 215
9:00-10:00	Chapter Presidents meeting	H 206
8:00-10:00	Commemorative Distribution	H 106
10:00-3:00	Free tour Goodhue County Historical Society Museum	Red Wing, MN
	Free shuttle bus; must wear Convention badge	
10:30-12:00	Keynote Speaker	Auditorium
12:00-1:00	Chapter meetings and Hospitality Rooms	To be announced
12:45-4:45	Auction Preview	Gymnasium
1:00-1:45	Orientation for First Timers	H 215
1:00-3:50	Shared Interest Groups	H 200 rooms
1:00-4:00	Commemorative Distribution	H 106
5:00-???	Auction	Gymnasium
5:30-8:00	View Displays	J 106, J 107, J 108

FRIDAY, JULY 7

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
8:00	Courtyard Café opens	
8:00-3:20	Membership/Registration	Courtyard Café
8:00-11:00	Commemorative Distribution	H 106
8:00-3:20	Sale of Educational Material	Auditorium Hallway
8:30-3:20	Displays open	J 106, J 107, J 108
9:00-9:45	Orientation for First Timers	H 215
9:00-10:00	Transport Show & Sale/Souvenir Items	Gym/Hall
10:00-10:50	Educational Seminars	H 200 rooms
11:00-11:50	Educational Seminars	H 200 rooms
11:50-12:50	Lunch on your own	Courtyard Café
12:30-1:20	Educational Seminars	H 200 rooms
1:00-3:00	Commemorative Distribution	H 106
1:30-2:20	Educational Seminars	H 200 rooms
2:30-3:20	Educational Seminars	H 200 rooms
2:30-3:20	Transport Show & Sale/Souvenir Items	Gym/Hall
3:30-5:30	Business Meeting	Auditorium
6:00-8:30	Potter's Picnic (serving food until 7:00pm)	Colvill Park
	In case of rain it will be held at the Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical	

SATURDAY, JULY 8

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:00	Courtyard Café opens	
8:00-9:00	Set up of Show & Sale	Gym/Hall
8:00-10:30	Membership/Registration	Courtyard Café
8:00-1:30	Displays open to public	J 106, J 107, J 108
8:00-10:30	Commemorative Distribution	H 106
9:00-10:30	Show & Sale open to Registered Members Only	Gym/Hall
9:00-11:00	Auction prices-realized catalogs for sale	Courtyard Café & Gym
10:30-1:30	Show & Sale open to public	Gym/Hall
10:30-???	Commemorative Lottery (while supplies last)	H 106
	Watch monitors for lottery numbers	
1:30-3:00	Show & Sale removal	Gym/Hall
1:30-3:30	Display removal	J 106, J 107, J 108
6:00-???	Convention Banquet	Treasure Island Casino

SUNDAY, JULY 9

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
10:30	Brunch, St. James Hotel	5th Floor

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO CONVENTION

(Please note, for the following examination, there is only one correct answer)

Who designed the most popular (arguably) RW dinnerware pattern?

What designer of only one Red Wing dinnerware pattern was imprisoned and then ousted from Russia?

The answer, of course, is Eva Zeisel, designer of Red Wing's immensely popular Town & Country dinnerware. This remarkable woman has been a successful designer for 31 firms, and at age 93 is still going strong!

We welcome Ms. Eva Zeisel as the special guest and keynote speaker at the July convention.

Ms. Eva Zeisel, 93, will be the Red Wing Collectors Society featured speaker on Thursday, July 6, at the Red Wing High School. Ms. Zeisel was born in Budapest in 1906 and began designing ceramics in Europe in 1925.

She went from being the art director of the China and Glass Industry to being imprisoned and eventually thrown out of Russia, going to Austria, England and then to the United States in 1938.

Recognition as a leader by other artists in her field, it is only now



Eva Zeisel

©1999 Talisman Brolin

becoming known to the general public the influence of her designs as modern art. Everson Hall, historian for the Hall China Company, states "she was so far ahead of her time that it's not surprising that people are just now catching up."

Ms. Zeisel designed the highly recognizable Town and Country line and will speak about her experience designing for the Red Wing Potteries and her accomplishments. She is now introducing new designs in ceramics, furniture and even a trash compactor.

Additional information can be found in her book, *Eva Zeisel: Designer for Industry*. Contact Eva Zeisel Collectors Club at EZCCLUB@AOL.com.

Pat Moore is the president of this club. 🐾

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Issue	Text/Editorial	Advertising
February	January 1	January 10
April	March 1	March 10
June	May 1	May 10
August	July 1	July 15
October	September 1	September 10
December	November 1	November 10

ADVERTISING RATES

Classified and Display Ad rates are located in the back of the Newsletter in the Classified Ad section.

CONVENTION NOTES

Early badge pickup at the Brat Feed on Wed. July 5th from 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m. at the Pottery Place Mall. (No early pickup at the Red Wing High School). Please note that there will be no registration available at the Brat Feed, only those who have pre-registered for the convention may pick up their badges.

CLUB NEWS

from the
President



CORRINNE REED

Wow! Have we got news for you! The RWCS Board of Directors is delighted to announce that Eva Ziesel, former designer for the Red Wing Potteries, has graciously agreed to be the keynote speaker at our Year 2000 RWCS Annual Convention. Designer of the Town and Country line of dinnerware and now in her 90's, Ms. Ziesel resides in New York City. The Metropolitan Museum of Art recently honored her work by reproducing the line and making it available for sale through museum shops around the country, as well as through their catalog.

As all of you know, Commemorative Managers, Kathy and Larry Roschen, have chosen not to run for another term of office. Their departure brings to a close eight years of unselfish, dedicated service to the Society, not only as Commemorative Managers, but as members of the Board of Directors. On behalf of the members and the Board, I extend our thanks to two terrific, wonderful people. The Society is deeply grateful for all that they

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A VISIT WITH MARY MURPHY FOR RWCS ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Wally Armstrong shares with us his visit with Marie Murphy, daughter of Charles Murphy.

This is a picture of Marie Murphy having her first look at Ray Reiss's new book. She thinks it is great. On the 23rd of March, Jessie and I stopped in Sedona, Arizona to interview Marie for the Societies Oral History Program and to have lunch with Marie. We extended an invitation to Marie to come and speak at the convention in July but she declined, citing poor health. At 12:30 PM President Corrinne Reed and her husband Lowell arrived to video tape and record the interview. We talked to Marie for about two and a half hours about her time in Red Wing and her life in Sedona after the closing of the Potteries. Marie celebrated her 88th birthday on the 18th of April this year.

After leaving Marie's, we continued to Phoenix for the "Fling in the Spring" hosted by the Southwest Red Wingers. There were 21 Southwest Red Wingers and 17 guests representing the Gopher Chapter, Iowa Chapter, Nebraska Red Wingers, Puget Sound Chapter, and seven from Golden State Chapter. The meeting was held at Kent Williamson's home. Last year there was six people from four chapters. A great time was had by all. We hope for an even bigger turnout next year. 🐾

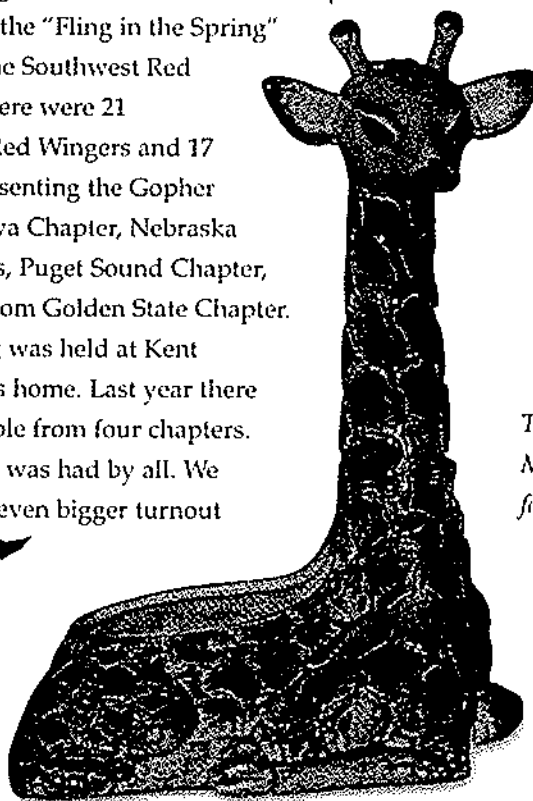


Marie Murphy

A bust of Charles
Murphy done
by Marie.



The giraffe was one of
Marie's and Charlie's
favorite pieces.



PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES AT RWCS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

A number of bylaw changes were approved at the annual business meeting in Red Wing last summer. Among those were changes to Article V, Nominating Committee and Voting Procedure. The RWCS Board of Directors will be proposing two minor revisions to Article V at the 2000 Annual Business Meeting on Friday, July 7th.

Currently the fourth and fifth sentences of the first paragraph say "Ballots will be mailed to all members and must be received in the RWCS Business Office by the 30th day of June of the year of the election in order to be counted. A member must be in good standing as of the June 30th closing date to have his/her ballot count". The proposed change is to insert the phrase "in good standing at the time of the mailing" after the word "members" and delete the fifth sentence.

The second proposed change involves

the last sentence of the first paragraph which currently reads "The officers, managers, and representatives at large shall be elected by a simple majority vote of those members mailing in their ballots who are members in good standing as of the closing date." The proposed change will be that the words "simple majority" be replaced with the word "plurality" and the phrase "closing date" be changed to "mailing." If there are three or more candidates, it is possible that no one would have a majority. Thus, there would be a necessity to run the election over again. Such an event could be averted by changing the words "simple majority" to the word "plurality." The word "majority" is defined as being the greater part or number, a number larger than half the total, whereas the word "plurality" is defined as the excess of votes received by the leading candidate over those received by the next candidate. 🐾

CLUB NEWS

from the
Education Manager



SANDY SHORT

The educational part of the convention will start Thursday morning with our keynote speaker, Eva Zeisel. Eva was the designer of the Town & Country dinnerware line. We feel fortunate she will be with us to talk about her time at Red Wing. Thursday afternoon will feature 15 shared interest groups. These are a "brag" time and a time to meet and visit with people who share your collecting interests. Bring your pictures.

Five time slots are set aside for educational seminars on Friday. Seminars will start at 10 am and continue through to 3:20 pm. Filling the 40 sessions will be a variety of seminars on art pottery, dinnerware, stoneware and salt glaze. Two new seminar subjects will be brushware and Red Wing lamps. Others will be mugs, mini jugs, ways to identify RW stoneware, collecting by color (featuring a new collection) and many more. Identification seminars for art pottery, dinnerware and stoneware will also be held. If you have something you aren't sure about,

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SHARE YOUR TREASURE

We would like to extend a personal invitation to you during the RWCS convention in July. You are invited to stop by and share your favorite Red Wing story or show your treasured Red Wing item. This is a great opportunity to meet the Editors of this newsletter and share your thoughts. Your Red Wing experience may end up in a future edition of the RWCS newsletter.

There will be signs posted at the Red Wing High School and information in the convention packets on the exact location and times that you can meet with the Editors. We are planning to schedule several hours during the day on Thursday, July 7th so we can talk to as many people as possible.

If you have a question or would like to set up a specific time, please contact us ahead of time. We look forward to seeing you in person at the convention!

CLUB NEWS

from the

Auction Managers



JEFF & PAULETTE FLOYD

If your item was drawn in the Auction lottery, you should have received a letter informing you of your selection. Those members not selected should have received a postcard notification. Any member that may be unsure of the status of their Auction submission, please call the Auction Committee directly. Do not call the RWCS Business Office.

If your item is in this year's Auction, please use the Wednesday check-in if at all possible. (12-3pm). This will give us the maximum amount of time to grade all the Auction Pieces. If necessary, you may also use the Thursday morning check-in. (8:30-11:30am)

Remember that the RWCS Auction Committee will have final say in any and all matters regarding authenticity or condition of the Auction Items.

If you cannot make it to Convention this summer, but would like to receive a catalog with the Auction Prices Realized, send the Auction Committee a check for \$2 (made payable to RWCS) after the Convention. See you in July!

FETCH DE JUG!

As I was growing up, I regularly read a comic strip known as "Gasoline Alley." The strip has long departed my local newspaper, but the Internet web site of Tribune Media Services indicates that the comic strip is still going strong in other papers across the nation. Though I cannot recall too many of the characters in that strip, I do remember fondly the misadventures of three: Joel, Rufus, and their mule Becky. Since my memories of these characters are from the past, I will speak of them in the past tense, despite their continued appearances.

Joel was the ringleader. He was a grizzled old fellow, world-wise for the most part. Joel was in the junk business, and this fact alone gave me a strong affinity for him. I delighted in his appearance within the daily strip. Rufus was Joel's sidekick. He was slow of step but loyal. Becky the mule pulled the company wagon and at times displayed the best sense of the three. Alternately, these lovable characters would either create or solve problems for themselves or others.

With some regularity, the doings of our trio involved crossing a certain bridge. I do not recall exactly what the bridge spanned- perhaps a creek or ravine. No matter. The point of the bridge was that it was just barely a bridge. It was beyond rickety and always in a state of disrepair. I can recall no time when Joel, Rufus, and Becky crossed its width without incident. That the bridge was unreliable was seldom a consideration. When haste was necessary, the three would attempt to cross it regardless of past experiences.

Once the party was well on its way across the shaky structure, something would occur to impede their progress. All would be surprised by the development, and Joel would exclaim, "I declare!" He would alight from the wagon, ponder the problem a moment, and order, "Fetch de jug, Rufus!"

I have no doubt that Joel's jug is somehow buried deep in my psyche today. When the memory of the jug is combined with a family heritage, which is easily traced to Red Wing and the potteries, it is not difficult to understand why I collect old jugs. I must even confess that a voice from within has sometimes been heard as I ponder the purchase of yet another jug for the collection. It advises, "Fetch de jug, Rufus" and I obey.

I cannot testify to the contents of Joel's jug. Perhaps it was filled with Kickapoo Joy Juice, borrowed from the Dogpatch characters of Al Capp's Li'l Aber. Whatever the jug's contents, the potion always seemed to play a role in concocting a remedy to the problem the trio faced. It is the topic of remedy jugs which we consider here today.

While jugs which are marked with a liquor dealer's name are comparatively plentiful, those which feature the name of a medicine, or a medicine company, are quite scarce. They are, however, available and can form an interesting grouping within a larger bottle or stoneware collection. Over the years, many "Gasoline Alley" readers probably suspected that Joel's jug held some sort of alcoholic beverage. As it happens, so did the jugs which once purported to contain medicine. Bitters jugs are a good example.

BITTERS IN BULK

By most reports, nearly every bitters on the market during the 1800's contained a substantial amount of alcohol. It served as the agent in which roots, barks, herbs, and the like were suspended in the making of bitters. Once the medicinal properties were extracted into the alcohol, the liquid was strained and packaged without the particles of medicinal plants. Of course the alcohol remained, and the whole concoction was advertised as being beneficial to the kidneys, liver, stomach, and bowels.

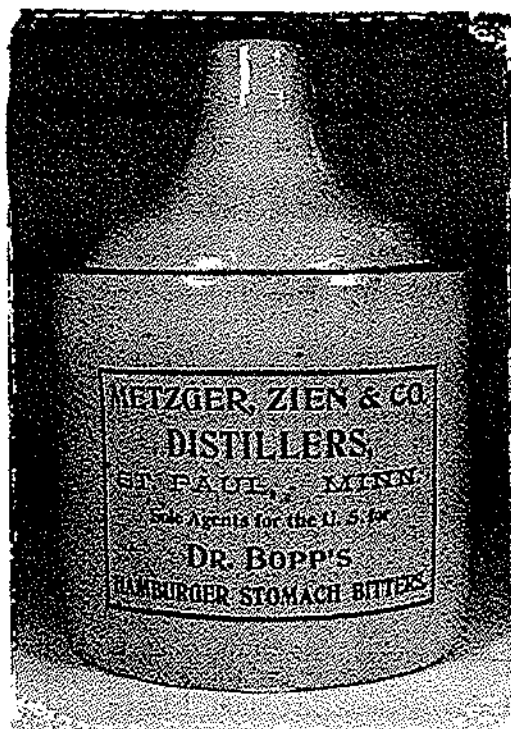
Not surprisingly, drug companies weren't the only ones manufacturing bitters. Liquor companies and dealers were also producing such potions. Two bitters jugs which fit this category are from St. Paul, Minnesota. The first is stenciled:

METZGER, ZEIN, & CO.
DISTILLERS
ST. PAUL, - MINN.
Sole Agents for the U.S. for
DR. BOPP'S
HAMBURGER STOMACH BITTERS

The base mark indicates the jug is a product of the Red Wing Stoneware Company. Research conducted for "The Bottles, Breweriana, and Advertising Jugs of Minnesota, 1850-1920, Volume 2" suggests that a city directory listing for this business appears in 1903.

From 1905-1908 the firm is known as Lewis L. Metzger. A second jug reads:

LEWIS L. METZGER,
DISTILLER,
ST. PAUL, MINN.
SOLE AGENT FOR THE U.S. FOR
DR. BOPP'S
HAMBURGER STOMACH BITTERS



Two versions of the Dr. Bopp's bitters jug exist. Both were made in Red Wing for St. Paul liquor dealerships.

The base of the second jug indicates it is also a product of a Red Wing company. Although most bitters were offered in bottles rather than by the jug, no Dr. Bopp's Bitters bottles are known to exist at this time.

EXTRACTS AND MORE

Two more medicine jugs, which were likely made in Red Wing as well, once held the products of the Watkins Company. One was marked:

THE J.R. WATKINS MEDICAL CO.
WINONA, MINN., U.S.A.
WATKINS EXTRACTS
ESTABLISHED 1868
NEW YORK, BOSTON, MEMPHIS,
SAN FRANCISCO, WINNIPEG

The second jug is similarly marked. Obviously, such jugs might have held a number of different products, from vanilla extract to liniment.

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CLUB NEWS

from the
Commemorative Managers



LARRY & KATHY ROSCHEN

Congratulations to RWCS member Curtis Hammer, winner of the "Early Order" drawing. His prize will be a 2000 special commemorative, which he will receive at the upcoming RWCS Convention. Thanks to all who sent in their orders early.

The May 31st deadline for prepaid orders has now passed. Members who did not prepay may attend the July RWCS Convention and purchase a commemorative there, but cannot purchase one for other members.

Please remember that membership dues must be current at the time of the Convention in order to receive a commemorative. Memberships that expire before July 2000 must be renewed. Prepaid commemoratives will be held until dues are current; this includes mailed commemoratives as well as those picked up at the Convention. To avoid delays and complications, please pay your dues or resolve any dues-related issues BEFORE the Convention. All membership payments and questions are now handled by the RWCS office.



Perhaps Joel kept a jug of Watkins Liniment in Becky's stable to treat after yet another encounter with the bridge. Corresponding Watkins bottles are plentiful, but the jugs are not common.

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH THEM

All four of the jugs mentioned thus far have come from towns along the Mississippi. The Dr. Bopp's jugs hail from St. Paul and were made in Red Wing. Both are Mississippi River towns. The Watkins jugs were probably also made in Red Wing and their contents were manufactured in Winona on the Mississippi river. The last jug to be considered also follows the course of the mighty river, though it begins its journey far to the south. United States Patent Office records indicate that George H. Smith of New Orleans, Louisiana, registered patent number 63,567 on April 2, 1867, for an Improved Medical Compound. The patent document reads in part as follows:

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
Be it known that I, George H. Smith, of the city of New Orleans, parish of Orleans, and State of Louisiana, have invented a new and useful composition of matter, which I distinguish by the name of "Miss C.J. Smith's Infallible Cure for Consumption, Scrofula, Asthma, Croup, Coughs, Bronchial Affections, Colds &c., &c." and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of my method of making, using and compounding the same.

A second patent, numbered 102,980 and dated May 10, 1870, was also

assigned to Mr. Smith and Stephen Gay, of New Orleans, for a very similar product.

I am unaware of any jugs marked as containing Mr. Smith's products from New Orleans. However, I have in my collection an ovoid jug with flattened sides. It bears the following primitive cobalt stenciling, which is so thick it feels as if the words are embossed:

DR. G. H. SMITH'S
LIFE
TONIC
ST. LOUIS, MO

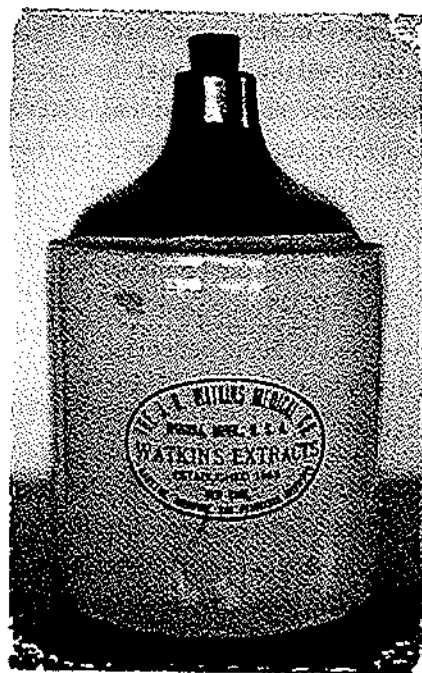
Is this the same G.H. Smith, once of New Orleans, now of St. Louis? I suspect so. During his move north, Mr. Smith became a doctor. He also devised a far better product name. Life Tonic. It says it all. Here is the very essence of life-saving in a jug. Joel and Rufus may have kept such a vessel in the wagon, but I have never seen another example of this jug.

Other medicine jugs also exist. The Dime Remedy Company Vegetable Tonic Bitters is among the rare, and it is also stamped as being a product of Red Wing Stoneware Company. Numerous Radam's Microbe Killer jugs are known, and several variants were made in Red Wing. The opportunity to add such prizes to the collection are not common, but the diligent search for them can be rewarding. Even if we never have to cross a rickety old bridge to get one, we ought to take old Joel's advice on such matters. Fetch de jug, Rufus!

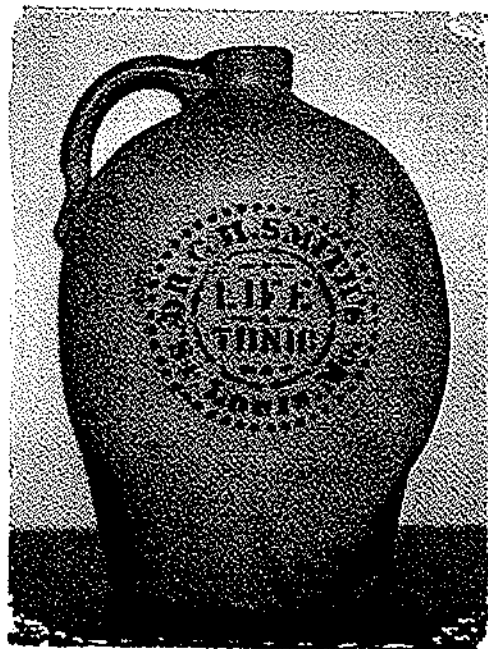
Sources: Feldhaus, Ron, Editor. The Bottles, Advertising Jugs, and Breweriana of Minnesota, 1850-1920, Volume Two. Minneapolis, Minnesota. 1987.

A special thanks to Steve Ketcham for contributing this article /photos.

J.R. Watkins peddled his wares through agents who traveled the countryside in wagons. Jugs such as this one might have held extracts, liniments, or any number of remedies.



Dr. G. H. Smith's Life Tonic was concocted in St. Louis, but a G. H. Smith of New Orleans had patented similar products in 1867 and 1870. Could Mr. Smith have traveled up river and found a medicinal degree somewhere along the way?



THE CREATION OF A MEMORABLE LINE: TOWN AND COUNTRY

In 1946, Red Wing's president, H.H. Varney requested the following: . . . an informal, inexpensive, earthenware service. According to Eva Zeisel, he wanted one that would be "Greenwich Villagey;" that is, he wanted something colorful and boldly modern that would capture the fancy of the more adventurous members of mid-America. Certainly the commercial success of Russel Wright's American Modern had proven that there was a demand for modern, informal dinnerware. Once the war was over and many domestic production resumed, many potteries moved into this market.

Apparently the Red Wing designs were ready by the spring of 1946, but the product was not presented commercially until the spring of the following year. It was baptized Town and Country, like the name of the popular magazine, to emphasize its intended use for casual dining, informal family meals, and buffet parties. Thus there were beanpots, large and individual casseroles, and a profusion of serving platters; coffee mugs were the alternate cup form, not demitasses. The informality of Town and Country was also underscored by its color. Offered in five different

combinations with a range of blues and greens or yellows and browns, some glazes mat, other glossy, the set was a colorful potpourri. Even the lids could be a different color than the vessel.

In her designs, Zeisel sought a sturdiness appropriate for informal meals. Because the ceramic body is not particularly refined, the walls are intentionally thick. The handles on the casseroles are robust stumps, modeled to fit the hand. Unlike the classic calm and refined elegance of the Castleton service, Town and Country was meant to be humorous and even eccentric. The dinner plates and saucers depart from the norm of circular symmetry; the central depressions are off center and one side is higher than the other. Perhaps the most daring components are the pitchers and the salt and pepper shakers. The flaring, sculpted handle of the pitcher responds to the contour of the spout and crates a sensation of a young bird opening its beak. Zeisel's zoomorphic impulses are clearly registered in the amusing salt and pepper shakers.

Town and Country was manufactured for seven years. 

**From Red Wing Art Pottery by Ray Reiss*

FROM THE EDUCATION MANAGER *(continued from page 5)*

bring the item or a picture for our "experts" to identify.

There will be three first time convention attendee orientation sessions. Vice president Wendy Callicoot and Russ Johnson will give tips about the convention and answer questions.

I'm always looking for presenters!!! I really appreciate the members who have willingly shared their knowledge and expertise through the years. I know some of you are just as knowledgeable or have collections that could be shared. It's time for you to take a turn!! Are you happy with the shared interest and seminar topics? I would welcome any suggestions.

Check the supplement and your convention packet for the specific seminars. Again this year, the shared interest groups and educational seminars will be held in the H pod. (Upstairs from the commemorative distribution area.) 

FROM THE PRESIDENT *(continued from page 4)*

have done. Their presence on the Board will be sorely missed.

The Board of Directors welcomes Jerry Schleich, President of the Nebraska Chapter of the RWCS, to the Board as interim treasurer, to serve until such time as treasurer, Jerry Flicek, has fully recovered and can return, or until the 2002 elections. Appointed as per Article XVII of the Bylaws, the Board is grateful for his willingness to serve the Society in this capacity. 

POTTERY STONEWARE AUCTION • JULY 4-5

At Red Wing National Guard Armory

Refer to ad in classified section for listing.

Contact Houghton's Auction Service, 651-388-5870

OUR MINNESOTA

FOCUSES ON POTTERY FROM RED WING

This article is a continuation from the April, 2000 Newsletter. It was originally published in November, 1940 and written by Kenna MacKenzie.

In the beginning, the American Indians made their pottery by lining baskets with clay (the primitive idea of a mold) and hardening it in the sun. One day a careless Indian wife left the pot too close to the fire. Probably the other women said all along that she was a very poor teepee-keeper. She undoubtedly thought she had ruined the vessel, but why worry, the old man would make another one, he just got into mischief if he wasn't busy, anyway. Imagine her surprise when the fire died down and she found that the basket had been destroyed but the clay pot was hard as stone. After that they deliberately hardened the new pots in the fire. Of course there is a good deal more to making pottery than merely shaping and baking clay.

The material must be carefully prepared, the pot properly dried, fired, and glazed under the right conditions. Even then you have a piece of pottery that is neither decorated nor colored. Lets start at the beginning as they do it at the Red Wing Potteries. The clay is thrown into a round vat, mixed with water, and beaten to a pulp. The beating removes impurities such as iron and magnesium. The clay is then flattened out into thin round cakes like big phonograph records and forced through filters to wash out any remaining impurities. All those flat cakes of clay are dumped into a machine that takes out all the air. If even the tiniest bubbles of air were left

in, the pottery might blow up in the baking. The clay comes out of this machine like giant toothpaste and goes right into the chaser mill where it is kneaded into smooth gray dough ready for the bat boy.

The bat boy is a specialist. He knows at a glance how much clay is required for a jar, just as his mother before him knew how much dough she needed for a pie. He bats out a hunk and passes it to the potter, who stands at the potter's wheel, a flat disc that spins like mad and under his guidance turns that lump of clay into a big jar, still soft but perfectly formed and ready to be dried and fired. In the drying process, the air circulation must be absolutely even, for if one side dries faster than the other, the jar will be lopsided.

Practically all the men in the plant are specialists. There's Ed Edquist, the man who turns out those big jars. He has done that one job in the Red Wing plant day in and day out, year in and year out, for 33 years. Another specialist is Reuben Johnson, whose job since 1908 has been to put handles on. His lightening precision is fascinating to watch. He lines up the jugs in front of him and with unerring judgment bats out the exact amount of clay for each handle and lays it across the mouth of the jug. Then he goes down the line, shaping the handle and fastening it to the jug with the accuracy and speed of a robot. He might be pulling taffy; it is so effortless and casual, yet every handle is the same size and shape, each one attached to the jug at exactly the same point.

All decorative pieces, in fact all articles not quite circular, are made in moulds and even the moulds are made right there at the plant with a special fast-hardening plaster. It hardens so fast that our photographer barely had time to get a picture as it was being poured.

For the firing, new tunnel kilns have replaced the old beehive type and the raw pottery is wheeled into them on cars, like flat-cars into a mine, progressing through a gradually increasing heat that is pure white in the center of the kiln and then slowly cools off at the other end to a mere 600 degrees. That matter of temperatures is work for a specialist, too. Pottery glaze is like a prescription that you take to your druggist. Each type of glaze requires a different formula, and some require different temperatures than others. The man who controls those temperatures is just as much of a specialist as your chemist or your pharmacist.

After 26 hours in the kiln, the pottery is ready for color, which has been worked out by a ceramic engineer at the plant, is put on with an airbrush. The Red Wing Potteries have a palette of 6,200 different colors, beating the rainbow by 6,193. They keep adding colors and new designs dreamed up by Belle Kogan, a well-known industrial designer of New York.

Hundreds of new designs are added each year to make the choice more and more varied. Actually there's a piece of beautiful Red Wing pottery for every purse, starting as low as a quarter. No home is too humble to

afford at least one piece. A woman I know was forced by circumstances to make her home in a trailer for two years with her husband and two young daughters, traveling all day, then cooking, washing, and cleaning for the family when they stopped at night. It was a hard life, but the family lived it gaily, making the most out of simple pleasures. To the youngsters it was a lark; they look back on it now as the most exciting time of their lives, not fully realizing how much of the fun was due to their mother's flair for making life gracious wherever she is. She says, herself that she could never have done it without the lift she got from her colorful set of Red Wing Pottery, the Gypsy Trail hostess ware. When the children set the table, they made a game of deciding how they would distribute the different colors, and those bright plates, cups, and saucers made every meal lively and gay. When the trailer days were finally over and they settled down in their own house, they decided to keep their trailer pottery for gypsy meals in the garden. They have a real affection for it, and when Christmas time, anniversaries, or weddings call for a very special gift, they solve it by unanimous agreement with a piece of Red Wing artware, both decorative and useful.

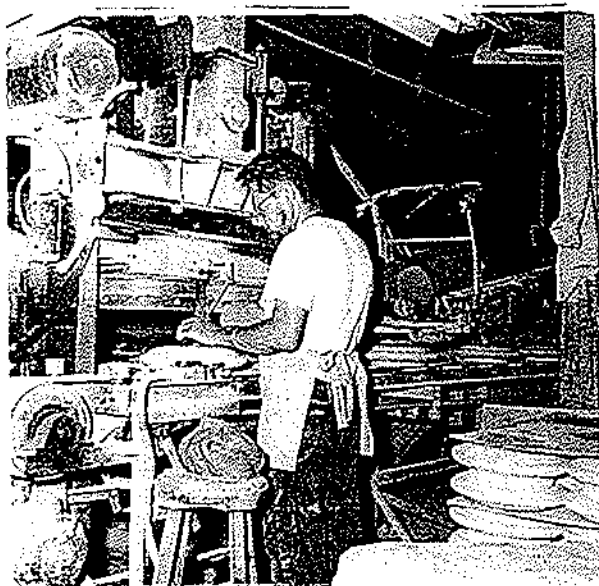
It might be Terra Craft, an exquisite design with a satin-stripe finish, crafted by hand and available nowhere else. Or it might be Magnolia, the newest design in a group of 24 pieces: vases, bowls, candlesticks, an ashtray and

cigarette box, and so on. The Red Wing people are a bit smug about Magnolia, and point with pride to its unusual finish and lovely embossed design reproducing the magnolia, romantic flower of the South.

There is a reason why Red Wing Pottery is famous from coast to coast as not only good but better. The high standards established 65 years ago have never been lowered by the most infinitesimal fraction. In 1875, when

the first stone crock took shape in the Red Wing Potteries, the idea of cheap material and sweatshop labor was a shameful thing. In 1940, when drab crocks and jars have given place to beauty of line and color, the same ideals prevail. There cannot be anything but fair play and honesty in a plant where the same men have worked lovingly with beauty for a lifetime. There is C.L. McGrew, a hand-thrower by profession and a foreman by promotion. Mac started working in the plant a quarter of a century or more. There is an honest, simple dignity in their kind of work, and like the Red Wing Potteries itself, where in 65 years there has never been a strike, they are full of years and honor.

Our thanks go to Jim Stiller of Excelsior Coin & Collectibles in Excelsior, Minnesota. Jim discovered the Red Wing Pottery article in the "Our Minnesota" magazine while going through the items from an estate that he had purchased. The estate belonged to the elderly neighbor lady who lived next door to him. According to Jim, the lady was "truly the person who never threw anything away." She had saved the magazine because there was an article about Lake Minnetonka in it, he believes. Jim is an avid collector of Red Wing pieces, specializing in advertising butter crocks. He also buys, sells, and trades Red Wing stoneware at his store. If you are interested, you may contact Jim at 612-474-4789 or email at rwnut@uswest.net.



Red Wing Pottery employees (above) working on a dish press and (below) trimming greenware. Photos courtesy of the Goodhue County Historical Society, Red Wing, Minnesota.



RIVERFRONT CENTRE'S ANNUAL STONEWARE SALE

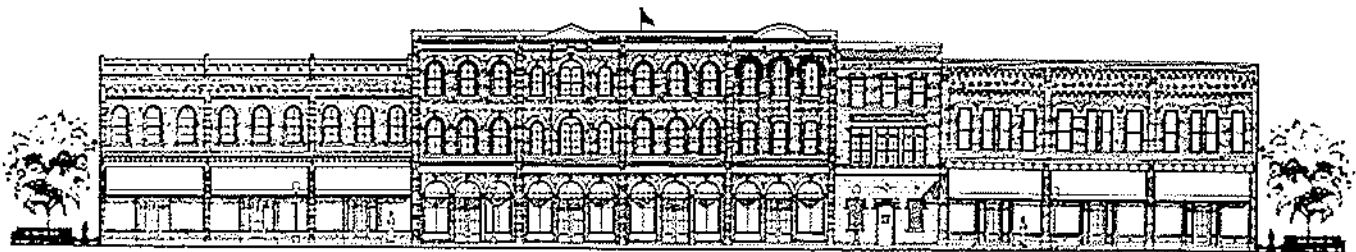


Monday, July 3rd through
Friday, July 7th, 2000

9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Dealer Space Available

(Call 651-388-5963 or 651-385-0667 ask for Peg)



RIVERFRONT CENTRE • MAIN STREET, RED WING

What: **Stoneware
Sale**

Consisting of Red Wing,
Blue/White and miscellaneous
stoneware in addition to
Red Wing memorabilia

Who: Gail Peck
Dan DePasquale

Where: Super 8 Motel
Conference Room
(Pool Entrance)

When: Wednesday, July 5, 8am to 4pm
Thursday, July 6, 8am to 12 noon

DICKE AUCTION SERVICE
AUCTION

Located at Goodhue Lion's Community Center
Goodhue, MN Watch for auction signs.

12:00 Noon - Sunday, July 2, 2000

Approx. 200 pcs. of RW and other pottery plus other collectibles
Cookie Jars - Crocks - Vases - Art Pottery - Dinnerware, etc.

Auctioneer's Note: For a free catalog send your name and address
on a stamped self addressed envelope to
Keith Dicke, 806 Joyce Avenue, Goodhue, MN 55027.
Catalog available after June 10, 2000.

VARIOUS OWNERS

CLERK: Dicke's Auction Service
TERMS: Cash or Good Check
LUNCH: Goodhue Lion's Club

AUCTIONEERS: Registered Minnesota and Wisconsin Auctioneers
KEITH DICKE, MN Lic. #25-44, WI Lic. #633, Goodhue, MN - 651-923-4725;
Casey Klindworth, MN Lic. #79-38, Lake City, MN - 507-753-2931;
Lance Quam, MN Lic. #25-57, Wamamingo, MN - 507-824-2445.

Pottery Place Mall Has It All!

Show & Sale Begins Wed. July 5th at 8am

4th Annual Brat Feed • Wed. July 5th • 11am-3pm
Food • Fun • Entertainment

2000 Pottery Place Commemorative on Sale Wed. July 5th • 1pm

Commemorative is a replica of the North Star Monument located on Old West Main Street in Red Wing

For Pottery Place
preregistration, contact:
Arlene Crowson
Pottery Place Antiques
2000 West Main St.
Red Wing, MN 55066
651-388-7765



Pottery Place Mall
2000 West Main St.
Red Wing, MN 55066
651-388-1428

As unique as our history.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

CLASSIFIED ADS

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, 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., 12/00. Ads without dates are one-time ads.) Please type or print clearly and proofread before submission.

DISPLAY ADS

Display Ad Size	1x	2x
Full page	\$400	\$360
1/2 page horizontal or vertical	200	180
1/4 page	100	90
1/8 page (includes typesetting)	60	45
Display Ad Dimensions		
Full Page	7 1/2 x 10	
1/2 page horizontal or vertical	7 1/2 x 4 1/2	
1/4 page	3 1/2 x 4 1/2	
1/8 page (includes typesetting)	3 1/2 x 2 1/2	

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 Macintosh in Quark XPress. Ads must be supplied electronically as an EPS or TIFF file for Mac. Be sure to include all fonts used. If you are unsure about acceptability, inquire with the Editor. Quotes supplied for design and makeup if needed; there is a \$50 minimum. Camera-ready ads are not accepted. Unformatted or unreserved ads will be treated as classifieds.

DEADLINES

Issue	Advertising Deadline
February	January 10
April	March 10
June	May 10
August	July 15
October	September 10
December	November 10

EDITOR ADDRESS

Send all ads with payment. Make checks payable to Cindy Taube and mail to: Creative Communications, 27950 Bayview Drive, Red Wing, MN 55066.

C L A S S I F I E D S

RED WING FOR SALE

25 Gal. Red Wing Crock \$250.00; 30 Gal. Red Wing Crock \$300.00. Red Wing Dinnerware: Bob White 206pcs.; Blossom Time 22pcs.; Country Garden 28pcs.; Capistrano 90pcs.; Driftwood 52pcs.; Desert Sun 12pcs.; Granada 7pcs.; Golden Viking 5pcs.; Kermis 2pcs.; Lute Song 61pcs.; Lexington Rose 45pcs.; Lotus 133pcs.; Magnolia 151pcs.; Northern Lights 18pcs.; Pepe 95pcs.; Pink Spice 13pcs.; Pompeii 6pcs.; Random Harvest 37pcs.; Red Wing Rose 7pcs.; Tampico 6pcs.; Brittany 26pcs.; and Turtle Dove 13pcs. Call 701-255-0332 after 6:00 p.m. 2/01

Handles and Wooden Lids. Send SASE for flyer to: Larsen's Collectibles, 757 120th Street, Hampton, Iowa 50441-7555. Phone 515-866-6733. 4/01

Red Wing Collectors Society
Commemoratives. 1977 crock \$3,000. 1979 butter churn \$1,500. 1981 jug \$600. 1982 mug \$800. All are in mint condition. Also have RWCS newsletters from 8/78-6/82 and 1977 price guide from the book "The Clay Giants". Will take best offer. Please call 651-388-7737.

Downsizing 25 year Red Wing Collection. Brushed Ware, RumRill, Ivory Antiqued Brown, and other selected pieces. Some with paper labels. Send SASE for list of approximately 100 pieces to Maxine Brubaker, 206 E. 19th St. N., Newton, IA 50208. 515-792-2665. 6/00

10 gallon water cooler 6" wing, no oval - excellent shape, 10 gallon water cooler lid - excellent shape, 6 gallon Birch Leaf Ice Water Cooler - excellent shape, 1965 All Star Game Home Plate - Metropolitan Stadium - Bloomington Minn. - excellent. Phone 406-656-1709.

Red Wing 8 gallon Pantry Jar Lid \$2,800. Call 507-835-2386.

1998 and 1999 RWCS Commemoratives \$50.00 each; 1993 spongeband reamer souvenir - \$25.00; 1996 spongeband RWSCO batter bowl commemorative - \$25.00; 1997 spongeband RWSCO shakers set commemorative - \$25.00 pair. Call 507-526-5966.

Our 2nd annual dinnerware and artware sale in booth 62, Superior Antique Depot 933 oaks on 15' x 8' shelves and booth 62, Allouez Antiques 4101 E. 2nd Street also with a good selection. Don't miss our display cases with nice pieces in both shops. Sale June 23 - July 13, 10-5 daily (closed July 4). Stop and see us going to or coming from convention.

Full set of Red Wing Collectors Society Commemoratives 1977 thru 1999 - \$8,000. Call 763-750-1950 or 218-927-6645.

NOTE: This year the Red Wing Downtown Council will not be holding the Antique Rendezvous during Convention week.

RED WING WANTED

Iris Pitchers in Yellow, Green, Burgundy, Blue, Sponge or White. Any size. Pete May at rw3pcmay@sprintmail.com, 612-955-3699. 6/00

Lid for a Red Wing "Bob White" water cooler and also the lid for the Red Wing "Happy" cookie jar. Call 507-376-6753.

Two gallon Birch Leaf Churn, with or without lid, mint/excellent condition. Call 406-656-5836.

Red Wing Stoneware with advertising from Wisconsin Rapids, WI; Centralia, WI or Grand Rapids, WI. Jerry Erdmann, W15416 Fair-Morr Road, Tigerton, WI 54486. 715-535-2094.

AUCTIONS

July 4th, 2000 Red Wing Stoneware Auction at 4:00 p.m. at the Red Wing National Guard Armory, Red Wing, MN. 350+ pieces to include side stamp salt glaze butterfly crock, beehive jugs, butter churns, water coolers, set of spongeware bowls, cookie jars, poultry feeders, advertising pieces, commemoratives, salt glaze beehive, birch leaf beehive with bung, art pottery and many more items, catalogs available June 1st for \$5.00 each. Houghton's Auction Service, 1967 Launa, Ave., Red Wing, MN 55066. 651-388-5870.

July 5th, 2000 Red Wing Stoneware Auction at 4:00 p.m. at the Red Wing National Guard Armory, Red Wing, MN. 350 pieces to include salt glaze crock and jugs, marked albany slip jugs, elephant ear crocks, MN oval crocks, good assortment of shoulder jugs and bail handle, gray line, assortment of commemoratives, some rare jugs, North Star pieces, plus more. Catalogs available June 1st for \$5.00. Houghton's Auction Service, 1967 Launa, Ave., Red Wing, MN 55066. 651-388-5870.

CLUBS AND PUBLICATIONS

Two great books: Red Wing Stoneware (new 2000 values) and Red Wing Collectibles (1997 values). \$9.95 each or \$17.95 for both plus \$1.25/\$1.75 postage, respectively. Quantity discounts available. Gail Peck, 2121 Pearl, Fremont, NE 68025. 402-721-5721. 12/00

Red Wing Art Pottery TWO by Ray Reiss, the ultimate companion to my first book. Set up in numerical order, an easy to use format identifying every known shape number! \$39 plus \$5 shipping & handling. I also have a few copies of my first book left, Red Wing Art Pottery (\$50 plus \$5 s&h). Both books come with a separate price guide. Also available Red Wing Dinnerware Price & Identification Guide for \$12.95 (plus \$2 s&h). Send checks to Ray Reiss 2144 N. Leavitt St., Chicago, IL 60647. I will be at the summer convention!

BACKGROUND ON *R*ED WING HAND PAINTED COWGIRL AND COWBOY FIGURES

(continued from front cover)

In addition to the hand painted figures, the pair was also introduced in 1952 in the following solid colors: matt white, luster gray, canary, copper, champagne, and Gypsy brown.

Variations occur in the hand painted figures, and other solid colors might be found.

The hand painted cowgirl and cowboy originally cost \$2.50 each. The solid colored figures sold for \$1.50 each.

Production of the cowgirl and cowboy figures stopped by the end of 1953.

