



VOL. 39 NO. 1

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2014

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RED WING POTTERY

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MEMBERSHIP

A primary membership in the Red Wing Collectors Society is \$35 annually and an associate membership is \$15.

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.

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NEWS BRIEFS

2014 RWCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

There are seven positions up for election on the RWCS Board of Directors in 2014. All Board positions usually have a term of 4 years, but last year the Society voted to stagger the president's term to increase continuity in leadership and reduce the potential for a large turnover every 4 years. Therefore, the next term for president will be for only 2 years; it will return to a 4-year term in the 2016 elections.

Serving on the Board since 2010, Society President Dan DePasquale and Vice President Ann Tucker have decided not to run for re-election. The same holds true for longtime RWCS Representative at Large Jerry Erdmann and Historian Steve Brown, both of whom have served on the Board for 16 years. We thank each of these members for the many contributions they've made during their tenures.

Therefore, we will have at least four new Board members in 2014. Bios for the candidates running in this year's election are featured on pages 10-12 of this issue. Balloting will be by mail in accordance with RWCS by-law Article V, Nominating Committee and Voting Procedure. Ballots will be mailed with the April *RWCS Newsletter* to all primary members in good standing and must be received by the RWCS Business Office no later than June 30, 2014. Associate members must request a ballot by contacting the RWCS Business Office.

RWCS ENEWSLETTER TO GO LIVE IN APRIL

A new feature is being launched on the RWCS website in April: password-protected electronic access to the current issue *RWCS Newsletter*! While past issues of the newsletter have been online for many years, this will be the first time that members can log on and see the newest issue on the day the printed copy gets mailed.

The e-newsletter is an exact electronic image of the printed newsletter in a PDF (Adobe) format. It is a searchable document, meaning you can enter a word or phrase and Adobe will search the entire document for it. (Note that some words in the newsletter are imbedded into pictures. Words within a picture are not searchable.)

Both primary and associate members will have access to the e-newsletter via computer, tablet or smart phone. It will be available to all members on the RWCS website on the same day at the same time. While you can print the e-newsletter for your own personal use, no distribution is allowed. Any other use is strictly prohibited and violates copyright laws. Each time the e-newsletter is printed, the printed copy will include your name and membership number.

All primary members will continue to receive a hard copy of the newsletter unless they'd prefer to "go green" and cancel their paper copy. To do so, contact the RWCS office.

RWCS BUSINESS OFFICE HAS MOVED!

Here's a fun fact. Did you know the RWCS Business Office has been located in the historic main building of Pottery Place— the former home of the Red Wing Potteries — since the RWCS first hired a business manager back in 1997? Now the RWCS has a new home...the Pottery Place Annex building across the parking lot! You'll find RWCS Executive Director Stacy Wegner in the Society's new office located in the Red Wing Pottery Museum space owned by the RWCS Foundation. All contact information remains the same except for the street address, which is now 240 Harrison St., Unit #3, Red Wing, MN 55066-0050.

KIDSVIEW NEEDS HELP!

KidsView is still in need of members to help plan and operate the program. Whether you're interested in helping with one part of the program like "Paint Your Plate" or simply volunteering for one of the days during Convention, please contact the RWCS Business Office. **At this time, the KidsView program has no chairperson.**



ABOUT THE COVER

As anyone living in the Great Lakes region, the Dakotas and Central Canada can attest, this winter has been brutal. Although spring is still a couple of months away, hopefully the photo on the cover serves as a reminder that warmer weather will come...eventually.

We featured a pictorial of the impressive floral-decorated salt glaze made by the Red Wing and Minnesota Stoneware companies in the February 2013 *RWCS Newsletter*. Since a year has passed, this seemed like a good time to talk about the even scarcer grape cluster decoration.

Unfortunately there's no 2-page photo spread to share for this one, as there are only three Red Wing pieces with this decoration known to exist at this time. In addition to the churn on the cover, the 4 gallon churn pictured at right was listed on eBay more than a decade ago. That one is front-stamped "Red Wing Stoneware Company" and is pictured on page 218 of Lyndon Viel's *Clay Giants 3* and page 15 of David Newkirk's *A Guide To Red Wing Markings, Book 2*. The unsigned 3 gallon churn pictured at right sold in the Pottery Place parking lot during the 2009 RWCS Convention for a reported \$17,000! We've heard rumors of an 8 gallon crock bearing this decoration, but have yet to see a picture of one.

Grape clusters are often seen on Eastern salt glaze stoneware made by the likes of Cowden-Wilcox out of Pennsylvania, A.K. Ballard of Vermont and others. Why Red Wing didn't use this decoration more often will forever be a mystery.

If anyone out there has a Red Wing piece with this decoration, we'd love to hear about it. Please contact *RWCS Newsletter* Editor Rick Natynski (info on page 2).

Editor's Note: If you weren't able to attend the 2014 RWCS MidWinter GetTogether, fear not! As usual, we'll feature lots of news and photos from the event in the April issue.



DESTINATION RED WING: 2014 CONVENTION, JULY 10-12



STACY WEGNER

Executive Director

As you read this newsletter, it's only 20 weeks until Convention! Can you believe it?

The 2014 Convention Registration and Auction forms are available in this issue. Display and Seller Contracts are available online or by contacting the RWCS office. I am very excited to announce that Red Wing Pottery and Red Wing Stoneware will once again sponsor the RWCS Convention. We appreciate their continued support this year!

As you read on the previous page, we're still looking for a person or a small committee of people to head-up the KidsView educational program. If you've been giving this some thought, please give me a call. This is a great opportunity for kids to learn about Red Wing and meet new friends during Convention and it's a very rewarding experience for participants and volunteers alike.

Read below for more 2014 Convention news. Remember, the RWCS website is your best source for constantly updated Convention information.

- **6th Annual Crock Hunt:** The crock hunt will begin the Friday before Convention and the forms will be available online and in the RWCS office. If you're interested in helping with this event, the office could use a volunteer photographer in Red Wing.

- **RWCS Banquet:** Unfortunately Provenzano's closed at the end of last year. The Convention Banquet will be held in the Pottery Place Annex in one of the large meeting spaces and a caterer is in the process of being selected.

- **Volunteers:** All departments for Convention are in need of volunteers: Auction, Commemorative Room, KidsView, Young Collectors, Show & Sale, Registration, Display, Education and much more. Whether you want to help set up or clean up after, we need your help. Please contact the office!

- **Crock Fest:** The RWCS will again partner with the Red Wing Arts Association. Food vendors, live music and activities will be featured. Be there on Friday, July 11.

- **Hands on Education Continues:**

Potter Richard Spiller is returning to demonstrate his craft and offer pottery classes at Convention in the high school cafeteria area. Members can sign up for these sessions with Stacy Wegner in the office for just \$40, which includes materials and shipping your creation to you after Convention.

- **Shared Interest Groups:** We are looking for members interested in being the discussion leader on any topic for shared interested groups. If you'd like to meet other collectors who share your interests, consider hosting a table. Visit the website or contact the office or RWCS Education Manager Glenn Beall with your questions.

- **Red Wing Guest Pass – sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce:** The Chamber has many of last year's Guest Pass participants returning this year. Guest Passes will be distributed at registration.

- **Housing:** The 2014 hotel rates are once again available on the RWCS website as provided by the Red Wing Visitors and Convention Bureau. Thank you to Kathy Silverthorn and her staff for continuing to provide this information for our members.

- **Welcome/Information Table:** Registration is looking for members interested in staffing the Welcome/Information Table at the high school. If you're interested in volunteering for a few hours, especially in the morning, your experience will help members find their way and you'll be able to meet more members.

- **Little Brown Jug:** Thank you to all the members who have referred members to RWCS Chapters. Don't forget that you are all in the running to gain bragging rights to the Little Brown Jug trophy at Convention. Get out there and talk about the RWCS at auctions, flea markets, shows, etc. Remember, members are our best marketing team! Speaking of that, we just printed an updated RWCS membership brochure, so contact the office if you set up at flea markets, attend auctions or plan to travel to antiques shows. We will send you a batch of RWCS marketing materials to hand out to prospective new members.

- **RWCS Business Office:** The office needs local members to help with member mailings, Convention forms and other office projects. Many tasks can be done in the comfort of your own home. Interested in volunteering? Contact the office!



WHO WAS VAPORKING C.B. JENSEN?

Thanks to a longtime RWCS member who sent in photos along with the following description of these interesting pieces.

The green pieces measure 6½" by 5½" and the inserts are 5½" by 4". There is a hole for an electrical cord and on the underside of the inserts is a depressed area for the cord to run to reach the hole and attach to whatever metal components that would have been inside. Both inserts say "VAPORKING, PAT'D - 1931, C. B. JENSEN."

The insert on the right has an address that reads either 341 or 841 St. Peter St. in St. Paul, Minn. Neither address exists today, but 345 St. Peter St. does. The inserts are unglazed, so they would not clean up very well.

I'm unsure if this item ever made it to market. It's possible that C. B. Jensen owned the patent. I wouldn't consider these to be art pottery, but the one that has an unglazed bottom has the "RED WING ART POTTERY" mark. These are hardly things of beauty, but still a significant discovery. 🍷

Editors Note: In the time since this information was submitted to the newsletter, the author reported that these pieces sold for only \$20 each at a Luther Auction in St. Paul, Minn.





Left: It was indeed a Merry Christmas and it is a Happy New Museum Year! The move from the former location in Pottery Place was completed on Dec. 14, 2013. This view is enjoyed from the main museum door looking in to the new space. Above: Many showcases have been moved in and temporarily arranged to keep the Red Wing Pottery Museum open while the rest of the construction is completed in the main room. The museum will continue to be rearranged as the final remodel is completed and more showcases and items arrive.

Preserving the Past... ENSURING OUR FUTURE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE RED WING POTTERY MUSEUM

Story by Nancy Lambert,
RWCS Foundation
Fundraising Chairperson

Photos by RWCS Foundation
Board members Diane
Hallstrom and Larry Peterson

What a great time to be a member of the Red Wing Collectors Society and witness the reality of the new Red Wing Pottery Museum!! More than 6,000 hours of volunteer work along with generous financial support from many RWCS members is ensuring that the passion for collecting Red Wing stoneware and pottery will thrive for generations to come. The new museum location is much more visible and will be a “must see” for those who visit Red Wing.

Twenty volunteers showed up on Dec. 13 to move pottery and display items from the old museum location in Pottery Place to the new museum. Most of the building improvements are finished, but the display cases are arranged “temporarily” so the museum can remain open. The Schleich Museum will be moved from Lincoln, Neb. to Red Wing this spring after the space is finished and display cases are ready for the large collection of pottery donated by Louise Schleich and her family.

The new Red Wing Pottery Museum website is under construction and will be launched soon; members will be able to check out current information and activities of the new museum. The newly designed museum logo, displayed above, will be used on communication material and collectible items.

The RWCS Foundation Board launched a 3-year fundraising campaign at the Midwinter GetTogether in Des Moines on Feb. 8. The campaign slogan “Preserving the Past, Ensuring our

Future” sums up the ultimate goal of the museum. Celebrating and preserving the history of the clay industry in Red Wing and attracting new pottery enthusiasts are key elements that will help attract new members for the Society. New passionate pottery enthusiasts and new members to the RWCS will keep the passion alive and help our pottery collections maintain value.

The RWCS Foundation Board delivered the keynote address and recognized many individuals who have contributed financially, made item donations or donated their talents and time to help make the Red Wing Pottery Museum a reality. It’s important for EVERY MEMBER to support the museum, even if they have never been to Red Wing. The first “balloon” payment on the building is due July 1 this year and ***we must raise \$112,000 by that date.***

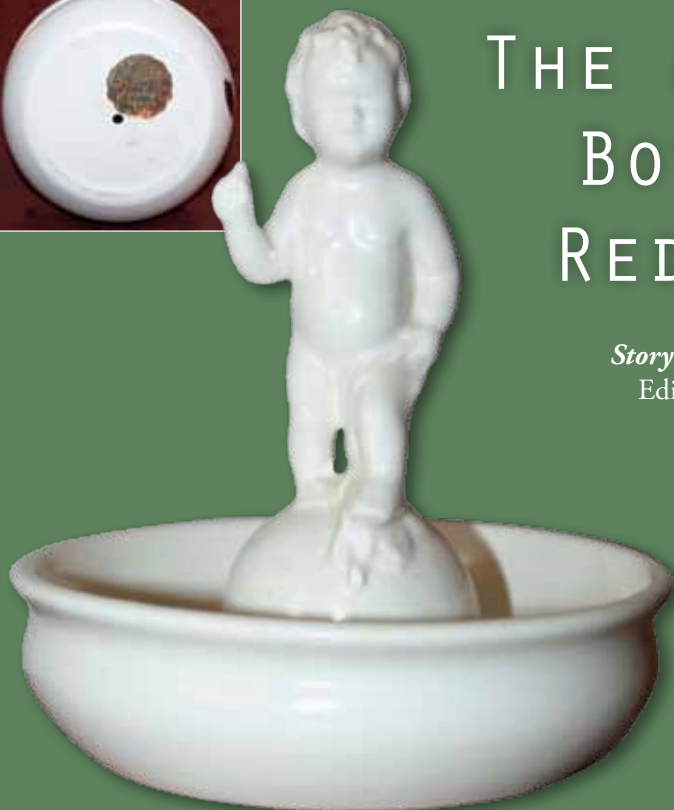
All RWCS members should receive a special mailing by March 1 so they can easily respond with their donation to the Museum Fund. Every donation is important, whether it’s a large amount or small, so please give some thought about how much you are able to contribute. Once the building is paid for, the only cost to run the museum will be overhead costs. If everyone does their part, the goal will be easily attained. The museum is important to everyone – it will help keep alive the passion for Red Wing.

Thanks to everyone for their past generosity and continuing support of the new Red Wing Pottery Museum! 🍷



THE ASHTRAY BOYS OF RED WING

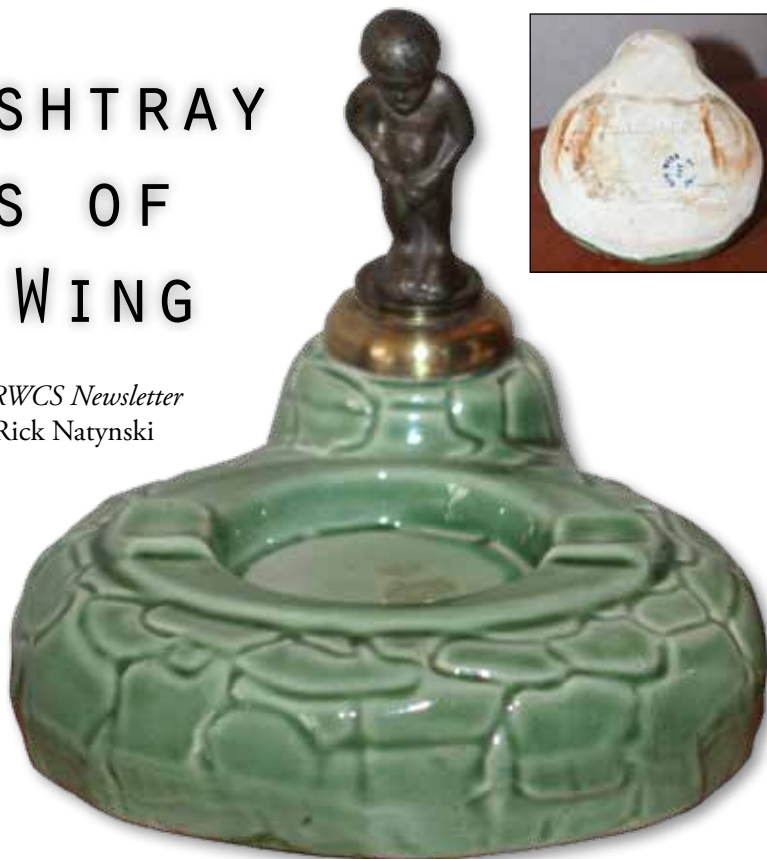
Story by *RWCS Newsletter*
Editor Rick Natynski



Listed in the 1938 *Red Wing Art Pottery Catalog*, this RumRill-designed ashtray is bottom-signed “Red Wing 727”. Pictured in the Eggshell glaze, this piece also came in a few addition glazes, including Ocean Green. It measures 5¾” tall and 5” wide. In addition to the wing-shaped “Red Wing Art Pottery” sticker on the side, it also has a paper label on the bottom from the shop it was originally sold from that reads “H. Novich Waco, Texas”.

Incidentally, this ashtray shares its shape number with a 48” 727 Red Wing Garden Ware Pedestal that came with a glass “Gazing Globe”.

The RWCS member who owns these two pieces, a die-hard Red Wing ashtray collector, asked that their name not be published. We thank them for allowing the items to be photographed.



Very little is known about this rare and impressive 1930s ashtray, which is bottom-signed with the “Red Wing Art Pottery” ink stamp; “PAT PEND.” is also stamped into the clay. When the pump behind the metal boy is pressed, he shoots out water from the pottery base reservoir to extinguish cigarettes. This particular ashtray, which sold on eBay for several hundred dollars a few years ago, is missing only a flat metallic disc that screws on the top of the metal pump, which obviously wasn’t made by Red Wing. Because the bottom of the base is unglazed, water leaks through the porous clay.

The ashtray measures 5½” tall when assembled. The pottery base measures 5½” long, 5⅛” wide and 2⅜” tall. The “pool” where cigarette butts are extinguished measures 2¼” wide and ⅜” deep.

The owner of this ashtray showed it to some fellow collectors at the 2013 MidWinter GetTogether and learned that only a couple other complete units are known to exist. A few bases that are missing the metal boy are also floating around. This ashtray has only been seen in the Light Green glaze.

It’s unknown why such a limited number of these ashtrays were made, but one theory is that it was too expensive to produce. If anyone has any information about the history of this ashtray, please contact *RWCS Newsletter* Editor Rick Natynski for a potential follow-up story. 🍷



KEEPING THE TRADITION ALIVE

RED WING STONEWARE AND RED WING POTTERY REUNITED AFTER MANY YEARS

Red Wing Stoneware will produce the 2014 RWCS Commemorative

Story by RWCS Newsletter Editor Rick Natynski

Things got pretty hectic for Bruce & Irene Johnson back in November. Two days after closing their purchase of the Red Wing Stoneware Co., they learned that longtime Red Wing Pottery owner Scott Gillmer was looking to sell or close his business by the end of 2013.

"It was pretty shocking at first," Irene says. "The thought of buying Red Wing Pottery right after we bought Red Wing Stoneware was overwhelming. But the more we thought about it, the more we felt that we should consider it."

The Johnsons were well-suited to buy Red Wing Stoneware. Irene has managed the company's human resources and finances for the past 7 years, so she knew the company inside and out. With a background in Information & Technology (IT), Bruce specializes in data architecture and warehousing. While that's far from being pottery-related, running a business is right up his alley. He started a health care analytics company in 2008 and sold it to Deloitte, one of the top consulting firms in the nation, in 2012.

They also have some family connections to pottery and antiques. Bruce's father was an art teacher who routinely brought in large gobs of clay for his kids to form, and then he'd fire the pieces they made. Irene's grandmother was an antique dealer and always had Red Wing for sale in her shop located south of Grand Rapids, Minn.

"She would be absolutely ecstatic to know that we now own the potteries in Red Wing," Bruce says.

Red Wing Stoneware was resurrected by John Falconer, who acquired the technical records, name and legal rights to the business in 1984. He sold it to Tom Woodruff in 1998, who owned it until selling it to the Johnsons.

"When Tom learned that I had sold my business to Deloitte, he said to us, 'You know, you guys could have a lot of fun running Red Wing Stoneware,'" Bruce recalls. "That was in late 2012, so we were able to put a lot of thought into how we would run the company before we finalized everything in November."

The decision to buy Red Wing Pottery, however, had to be made in a much shorter time-frame due to Gillmer's desire to sell the company before year's end.

"With Irene's insight into the stoneware business and my background in leveraging technology to increase production and sales, we're excited about the potential," Bruce says. "We're going to rely a lot on Tom (Woodruff) and Scott (Gillmer) for their industry and



Photo by RWCS Executive Director Stacy Wagner

***Making history:** Barely a month after purchasing Red Wing Stoneware Co., Irene & Bruce Johnson acquired a second iconic Red Wing business – Red Wing Pottery.*

business knowledge. We're also excited about developing a close relationship and collaborating with the Red Wing Collectors Society, because support from collectors will be instrumental in our success."

They're starting off on the right foot, as RWCS Commemorative Manager Bob Morawski selected Red Wing Stoneware to manufacture the 2014 RWCS Commemorative. Red Wing Pottery will assist with the manufacturing process and will also turn out cobalt-decorated 2 gallon salt glaze water coolers as the special pieces that will be auctioned off to benefit the Society.

"I'm excited to work with Bruce and Irene this year," Bob says. "Keeping Red Wing Stoneware and Pottery alive and in Red Wing is huge for the community, so this is the perfect time to have them create our Commemorative."

Bob says this will be only the second time in RWCS history that the Commemorative is produced in Red Wing; the Johnsons hope it is the first in a long line of pieces that they make for the club.

"We want to build a long-term relationship with the Society by creating a high-quality Commemorative that's on time and on budget," Irene says. "We're also going to do everything we can to promote the club, because the Society's success directly impacts us."

Story continued on back cover.

RED WING CEMETERY GRAVE MARKERS & HEADSTONES

Story & photos by RWCS Member Steve Ketcham

Like many small towns across America, Red Wing, Minn., values its rich history. Figuring large into that history is the long legacy of the stoneware industry, woven deeply into the fabric of the community and its families.

Hundreds of Red Wing families, even today, can recount stories of their relatives working in the town's clay industry. Many will point with pride to a piece of stoneware or pottery that has been in their family for generations. Some such pieces were made as part of the general product line of one of the factories. Other pieces, sometimes known as "Lunch Hour" pieces because workers made them in their free time, were unique creations. They were made specifically for personal use or as gifts for family and friends.

Of all the crocks, jugs, pitchers and plates made for personal use and toted home by the potters of Red Wing, those made in remembrance of a family member hold the greatest importance. Remarkably, some of these pieces have quietly been on display in Red Wing for decades. They are found in the city's cemeteries.

Oakwood Cemetery, located in the heart of the city and high on a bluff, holds more than a dozen gravestones and/or flowerpots made specially to mark the site of a family member's grave. Nearly all were made using the forms and glaze used at the Red Wing Sewer Pipe Company. But while various sewer pipe molds were used for the foundations of these grave markers, each marker was further fashioned into a unique and lasting work of art by its maker.

Some of the pieces were never marked with a name; these were meant to simply hold plants or flowers at a gravesite. Others were clearly meant to mark the grave of a family member; they bear the name, birth date and date of death of the individual interred there. Many were children.

Johanna Grothe, Collections and Exhibits Manager at the Goodhue County Historical Society in Red Wing, conducts tours of the historic cemetery. During the tour she talks about, "the history of the cemetery itself, Victorian era mourning practices, gravestone symbolism and family histories of some of the plots we look at."

"Oakwood Cemetery was established in 1854," Grothe explains. "Thirty five acres of land were deeded to the city of Red Wing in 1857 at the cost of \$3.50 per acre. It was platted around 1863-1864. The Betcher Memorial Chapel and the Blodgett Memorial Gateway were designed by well-known architect Clarence H. Johnson of St. Paul and were dedicated in 1908."

The gravestone symbolism Grothe addresses during her tour is in strong evidence on the Oakwood Cemetery stoneware markers. The foundation of each of these hand-crafted memorial



Above: This Oakwood Cemetery stoneware gravestone was created for infant Francis Meritt Olson. Born May 17, 1899, Died June 9, 1899. It is full of Victorian gravestone symbols, including oak leaves (strength of faith, eternity) and grapes (sacrifice, blood of Christ, immortality).



Above: An ivy and flower decorated marker for 12-year-old "Clara Genevieve, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. Larson. Born 1900. Died 1912."

Below: A simple stoneware flower pot created for the grave site of Carl Lindberg (left), a tree stump planter (center) and a tree stump planter created for the grave site of an individual whose "JCP" initials were applied to the piece.



sculptures is a pre-formed piece of sewer pipe. Careful examination reveals that the artists often added a layer of clay to the exterior of the basic form and then carved it to appear like tree bark. Individual appliques in shapes such as grape clusters, oak leaves, vines and flowers were then attached. All carried symbolic meaning.

Tour groups learn that Victorians were big on gravestone symbolism. A tree stump symbolizes a life cut short. Grapes and grape vines stand for sacrifice, the blood of Christ and immortality. Oak leaves mean strength of faith and eternity. Ivy may be interpreted as standing for immortality, protection, dependence or friendship.

The lily denotes purity and resurrection. The rose may stand for beauty, motherhood, or brevity of earthly existence. Such symbols may be found on several of the stoneware grave markers within the historic cemetery.

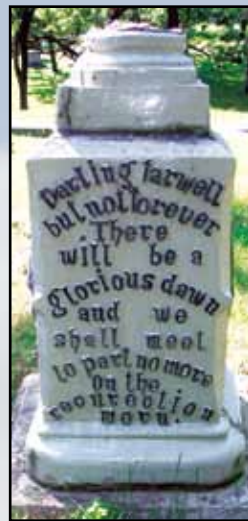
Those wishing to view these remarkable reminders of Red Wing's past are free to do so. Oakwood Cemetery is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the summer. Winter hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For cemetery tour information, visit the Goodhue County Historical Society at 1166 Oak Street, Red Wing, MN 55066, call 651-388-6024 or log on to WWW.GOODHUEHISTORY.MUS.MN.US.

A similar version of this story first appeared in the October 2013 issue of *Old Times* and is reprinted with the author's permission. To see photos of more Red Wing stoneware gravestones, check out *Red Wing Potters & Their Wares* written by longtime RWCS Members Gary & Bonnie Tefft.



Left: Among the most artistic markers is this example which reads, "Carl Oscar Shogren. Born Jan. 5, 1897. Died July 31, 1897. Right: A tree stump-style grave marker for Mrs. Samuel Haner. The anchor symbolized hope and life eternal, the tree stump a life cut short.



The inscription on the back of Louise's stone speaks beautifully of the day her loved ones would join her in heaven. The sides of the marker are adorned with angels and cherubs under the moon, stars and a night sky done in cobalt. In Red Wing Potters & Their Wares, Gary & Bonnie Tefft say "the memorials to lost children...show a labor of love and a personal statement of faith." That couldn't be more true.

Portrait of Louise Morley and two images directly at left appear at WWW.FINDAGRAVE.COM.

LOUISE M. MORLEY: DEC. 1, 1897 - JAN. 5, 1903

One of the most impressive headstones in Red Wing's Oakwood Cemetery is that of Louise M. Morley, who died of peritonitis when she was only 5 years old.

The decorations and glaze used for Louise's headstone indicates that it was made at the Red Wing Stoneware Co. rather than at the sewer tile company. Portions were also done in marble. It might have even been made by Louise's father, William Morley, who worked at the pottery. If the Morley name sounds familiar, it's because a one-of-a-kind 30 gallon beehive jug in the Red Wing Pottery Museum bears the name of her uncle, Red Wing liquor dealer F.A. (Frank) Morley, who died serving in the Spanish-American War in 1898.

Louise's marker originally had a large cross on the top with an image of Jesus as shown in the upper left photo from *Red Wing Potters & Their Wares*. Sadly, this portion has since been either stolen or destroyed by vandals.



Louise Morley

RWCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION BIOS



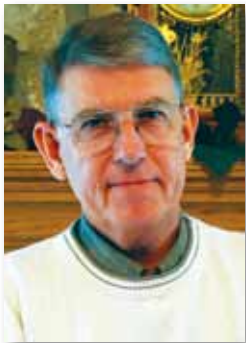
GLENN BEALL
Candidate, RWCS President

I started collecting Red Wing one cold day at an auction more than 20 years ago. The last item on the auction was a 25 gallon wing crock. Since my wife, Julie, thought the piece was “neat”, I started coming home with more and more crocks. The stoneware collecting eventually led

into art pottery thanks to another auction find, and that ended up leading into dinnerware. So now we collect everything. I joined the Red Wing Collectors Society in 1989. My four daughters are usually at Convention, too. The oldest, Laura, is the Display Room chairperson at Convention and she’s also active in the Siouxland Redwingers Chapter. The youngest, Elizabeth, is a member of the Trails West Chapter. Amy and Catherine are usually helping out somewhere around Convention wherever they’re needed that year.

In 1997, I joined Nebraska Redwingers as a charter member. When a move to South Dakota became necessary, I missed the chapter feeling. A few months later, a few other collectors and I started the Siouxland Redwingers, which was chartered at the July 2000 RWCS Convention. My family and I took on the Display Room at Convention in 2003.

I was elected as the RWCS Education Manager in 2008 and re-elected in 2012. If you’ve been to a MidWinter GetTogether or Convention, you’ve probably seen me running around there at some point. I believe my longtime interest in Red Wing pottery and my support of the Society makes me a strong candidate to hold the position of President.



LARRY BIRKS
Candidate, RWCS President

My wife Linda and I started collecting stoneware in the late 1970s and joined the RWCS in the early 1980s. Back then, I was product manager for an insulator factory, and loved to visit the factory to see the clay turned into insulators. The manufacturing process was similar to the production of stoneware in Red Wing and I’ve been chasing clay ever

since. Most of our first trips to Red Wing were simply to acquire stoneware and go to the seminars. In 2002, a handful of collectors in Missouri and Kansas got together to form the Trails West Chapter of the RWCS. Since then, I’ve served as Vice President for two years and President for the past 6 years. During the last 6 years I’ve also presented a number of seminars discussing the rise of “fake” stoneware advertising pieces that have been flooding the market. I’ve carried this story to Red Wing, eBay, antique magazines, the Collectors of Illinois Pottery and the Collectors of Blue & White Pottery conventions. I was involved in the production of the “President’s Guide” – a document to help new RWCS chapter presidents know what to do as they take over the reins of a chapter.

I’m a strong advocate of volunteerism at the RWCS Convention and MidWinter. I’m also an avid backer of the Red Wing

Pottery Museum. The RWCS and the RWCS Foundation exist fundamentally to help the collectors of Red Wing pottery enjoy their collections through education and fun. Working between the Society and Foundation, I hope to provide the membership with improved communication of what’s going on in both areas.

I’m a strong supporter of KidsView, the Young Collectors Club, the RWCS Auction, Show & Sale, Convention, MidWinter and maintaining close ties with the city of Red Wing. I will work with the RWCS Executive Director and chairperson of each event to make them both educational and fun.

I believe the strength of the Society comes from dedicated, knowledgeable Representatives at Large. I feel these positions need to be strengthened to allow more time for them to work with the individual chapters to help them grow, establish new chapters where pockets of collectors exist and seek out Red Wing collectors who have not joined our Society. If elected to serve as the RWCS President, I will work diligently to see that the continuing education and fun of belonging only gets better.



PAUL WICHERT
Candidate, RWCS Vice President

Little did I know when I came to Red Wing for my wife’s 4th of July family reunion in 1992, how it would impact my life...and basement...and garage. It seemed like there were people selling crocks on every corner. I made the mistake of making several stops and eventually ran into a gentleman named Larry Peterson. As I learned then and as

we all know now, when Larry gets you, there is no escape. I bought his book and joined the RWCS.

As an avid collector and an active member of the RWCS, I’d like to apply the knowledge and skills I have from my professional experience as a business and systems analyst (computer geek) to continue to move our Society forward.

As chair of both the Membership and Technology committees and a 20+ year Commemorative Committee member, I have a unique understanding of the daily operations of the RWCS business office, our primary revenue sources, membership and the Commemorative. I’ve served on the Society’s 2000 and 2010 Vision committees, the RWCS office move committee and I’ve been a seminar speaker for 10 years. I also provide technical support for the RWCS office and I create the “Welcome” and “Business Meeting” presentations for our Convention.

I have worked closely with our newsletter editor to develop and implement an online version of our newsletter. As technology chair, I have worked with our executive director, Stacy Wegner and our website database designer/webmaster to expand our database and develop membership trend information and demographical information to ensure that we are meeting the needs of current and future members in this web-based world we live in.

I’ve devoted many hours to various committees and the general support of the RWCS, but there’s so much more to do. I’m asking for your vote. I would be honored to serve as your next RWCS Vice President. Thank you!



DAN BECK
Candidate, RWCS Treasurer

My wife Lorraine and I have been interested in antiques for many years. We became Red Wing collectors and RWCS members in 2010. Much of our interest stems from two fellow RWCS members that cared enough to teach us about Red Wing. As we attended our first Convention with the buzz of all of the activities, it is the friendships built that continue to spark our interest. Yes, the love of the stoneware and pottery is there. But would it be as much fun if it were not for the glue of the Society that brings these people with diverse backgrounds together with a common passion? You see, I have come to believe it is not the collection itself that keeps my interest. It is sharing this common passion with other people that makes the hobby fun.

Why run for Treasurer? My belief is that a person needs to give back to the Society if they wish for it to continue successfully. Running for Treasurer is my way of giving back. Certainly my financial background qualifies me for the position, however a Board member first needs the passion for the Society. I have that passion. The passion boils from my friends in the Society. My belief is the Society, along with the RWCS Foundation, needs to work in tandem to spread the interest in the hobby. We know if there is no money, there is no mission. However, it is the mission, not the money that comes first. We must find ways to make the product we sell more appealing. The Society needs to find more ways to promote the friendships and camaraderie. The Society needs to promote the beauty and the history of a piece, not the value of a piece. Combining our efforts with the museum is a start. Appealing to all levels of collectors is huge. Connecting people with a common passion is bigger yet.

I currently live in Rochester, Minn. and am a lifelong Minnesota resident. I work as the Chief Financial Officer at a \$1.5 billion mutual bank. I have held my CPA certificate since 1979. My 4 years as the president of the Board of the Gamehaven Boy Scout Council of SE MN is expiring. I serve on the Board of Rochester Area Economic Development Inc. – an organization designed to grow business in the Rochester area. Thank you for considering me for the Board.



MARK COLLINS
Incumbent, RWCS Treasurer

Greetings fellow RWCS members! I am running for re-election as your treasurer. I was first appointed Treasurer following the untimely death of Jerry Schleich in 2005, and I have been re-elected twice since that time. I primarily collect Red Wing stoneware and Cahoy Pottery (a South Dakota product) and prints by South Dakota artist Oscar Howe. What I enjoy most about collecting is the thrill of the hunt and learning what I can about each piece.

As Treasurer, I oversee the Society's finances and serve on the RWCS Board of Directors and its Executive Committee. I have been responsible for overseeing all aspects of the Society's finances, developing and maintaining the RWCS annual budget and ensuring

that we stay on a responsible financial course. The RWCS remains on solid financial footing, even in the face of declining membership and revenues over the past several years. I will continue to see that we stay on a responsible course with the Society's finances.

I am an attorney by profession. My "day job" is serving as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Nebraska and chief of the office's health care fraud section. I specialize in financial, white collar and health care litigation. My legal and finance training put me in a good position to serve as Treasurer of our Society.

My former board service includes 11 years as a vice president and board member of the Sioux Council Boy Scouts of America and 2 years as a board member of Volunteers of America/Dakotas, a large social service organization. Professionally, I have served as the President of the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units, an organization made up of state health care fraud and patient abuse units throughout the country.

I am thankful for your past support and would again appreciate your vote for RWCS Treasurer.



NANCY LAMBERT
Candidate, RWCS Historian

I will never forget my first RWCS Convention in 1997. I had joined the Society earlier that year and can still remember the excitement of seeing so much pottery! I remember reading the special insert in the Red Wing newspaper and I saved that and other pieces of memorabilia I found that year. I enjoyed

the "red" book we received about the first 20 Commemoratives – it included a brief history of what had happened in the Society since the beginning in 1977.

In 2012 I put together a new book about RWCS Commemoratives from 1998 until our 35th Anniversary along with a brief history of each year's events. The longer we wait to gather memories, information and historical data about the pottery made in Red Wing and about RWCS, the more difficult it will get in the future.

Our new Red Wing Pottery Museum will have a treasure trove of information and it will be important that Society members know what is available to them and how to access it. We need to be creative about how to present the wonderful photographs, interviews and films we have in our files and move the media forward using new forms of technology. Capturing the data accurately and documenting the events of RWCS is important and is an on-going process; keeping it organized and in good form is imperative. I believe good communication is one of the most important elements needed for an organization to continue to grow and remain strong.

The passion for pottery is why I joined RWCS, but the wonderful friendships made over the years is my reason for being an active member and volunteer in RWCS. I served 10 years as Treasurer of the Trails West Chapter and was invited to serve on the RWCS Foundation Board earlier this year. I am currently writing a book about Kansas and Missouri Advertising Stoneware made in Red Wing, sponsored by the Trails West Kansas/Missouri Chapter. I was a printing sales representative for 35 years and served on a local school board for four years. I hold a masters degree from the University of Kansas. My husband Wayne and I live in Bella Vista, Ark. and have attended every Convention and MidWinter GetTogether since 2004.

Election bios continued on next page.



JOHN SAGAT
Incumbent, RWCS Secretary

Although I've had contact with Red Wing dinnerware since the 1950s (my parents received a set of Orleans as an engagement gift from my grandparents), I didn't start collecting it until the early 1980s. When I set up my first apartment, my mother gave me the Orleans sugar bowl, one of the few remaining pieces

of her set. After getting married in 1982, my wife Marilee and I decided to find more pieces to use as everyday dishes. However, there wasn't much Orleans to be found way back then. In the course of our searching, we stumbled upon the RWCS and joined in 1986. Like many others, we became actively involved in no time. And although there are Red Wing crocks and art pottery pieces around the house and cabin, we remained surprisingly focused on collecting Provincial dinnerware. That is until I became your Secretary in 2010; then I had to expand my collecting in order to have new items to discuss with friends.

My involvement to date with RWCS includes being your Secretary from 2010 to present. In 2003, I served as a member of the Vision 2010 Committee. I was Gopher Chapter Vice President from 1988-1990, President from 1990-1996 and became President again in 2010 (to present). In 1990, Marilee and I presented a seminar at the RWCS Convention on "Researching Dinnerware" based on our visits to the Minnesota Historical Society. I also joined forces with the real dinnerware experts, Terry Moe and Larry Roschen, to present seminars at the 2005 and 2006 RWCS Conventions. Lastly, I have done displays in 1990 and 2012, winning "Best of Show" both times.

Being your current Secretary has satisfied my goal of contributing to the Society, and I have been rewarded with the development of many more friendships. I trust you feel the RWCS Board has served your interests to your satisfaction and I ask that you support my election again so I can continue serving you.



JERRY MOUNTS
Candidate, RWCS Rep. at Large

My wife Kris and I retired in 2006 from the work-a-day world. We visited Red Wing for the first time in May. We joined the Society, after having a brief, providential encounter with new Executive Director, Stacy Wegner. We were quite impressed with the RWCS Museum, as we really did not know anything about Red Wing products.

Our very first Red Wing piece was purchased later in the day in Hudson, Wis. – a green incised peasant munch jar. And the 'race' was on.

We attended our first MidWinter GetTogether in Des Moines in 2007. The Trails West folks kindly invited us to participate in their potluck and chapter meeting and we joined the chapter so we could purchase a Trails West bird bath Commemorative.

Convention 2007 was a blast. We haven't missed a Convention or MidWinter since. Even though we spend our winters in SW Florida, we still manage to fly home to make the drive to Des Moines.

I enjoyed serving as Trails West Chapter Vice President and Membership Chair until we moved to Florida for the winters. Then I resigned that post and was voted in as the Sunshine State President.

I am learning first-hand the challenges that are facing our chapters as members age or move on. We must somehow be more creative in attracting new members. I hope to help do this as one of your reps-at-large beginning in 2014. While working at GE for over 17 years, we instituted a new program called 'Best Practices.' I would like to implement a similar program throughout the chapters, at the Board level and with the Foundation.

I was a founding member of the RWCS Membership Committee along with Bob Morawski, Paul Wichert and others. I have manned the Membership Tent/Booth at multiple Conventions. I plan to assist Stacy Wegner with emcee duties at MidWinter 2014, my second appearance in this task.

In a prior life, I ran for the Missouri House of Representatives, the Missouri State Senate, the Grandview School Board and was elected President of our Homes Association while living in Missouri. Currently, I am a Board Member of our Community Association in Kansas. I covet your vote for Rep. at Large in our 2014 election.



RUSSA ROBINSON
Incumbent, RWCS Rep. at Large

I am a wife, mother, grandmother, teacher and an avid Red Wing collector of everything. My husband Mike and I have raised three children on our family farm in Stockton, Calif. We are now trying to pass on the addiction to our 6 grandchildren.

We have collected antiques for many years; we were introduced to Red Wing in an antique store parking lot many years ago. Now, our house is filled with everything from stoneware to dinnerware. We have been RWCS members since 1982, when we brought our young family out to the beautiful city of Red Wing for our first Convention. We have not missed a Convention since.

We started volunteering with the KidsView program at its inception, and believe that getting the kids involved is a wonderful way to keep our organization healthy and growing. In 1987, we helped to charter the very active California Chapter, and now spend the year traveling the state to attend our quarterly meetings.

State chapters are an important part of the RWCS, as they are vital to the growth of our society. The chapter meetings are a fun time for the membership to get together to share the love of collecting and history of American pottery. Many members were introduced to the RWCS through a chapter meeting, and continue to invite others to join them there. Chapter meetings also provide a convenient location for communication between the membership and Board of Directors.

As Representative at Large, one of my main goals has been and will continue to be "helping RWCS help you", the membership. Some chapters have been meeting for a long time. Others are just forming, and could use the help of the RWCS to get up and running. Each chapter has its specific needs, and could benefit from the resources of the RWCS. I am proud to be proud part of that process. I am committed to the RWCS and care deeply about the issues that are facing our society's future.

The RWCS is not just about collecting. A new piece is always fun, but the real excitement comes from seeing all of the friends we have made over the years, and making new ones. As your Representative at Large, I will continue to be committed to sharing that excitement with others. I have enjoyed every minute of being your Rep-at-Large and will continue to do if re-elected. 🍷



2014 Auction

INFORMATION AND SUBMISSION FORM

July 10-12, 2014

Red Wing High School
Red Wing, MN

RETURN FORM BY MAY 15, 2014

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

COMMISSION STRUCTURE IN 2014

Items selling up to \$100 will be assessed a \$20 minimum commission, all other items will have a 10% commission.

NEW in 2013 — **RESERVE OPTION** for submissions minimum value of \$2,000 conditions:

1. \$2,000 minimum price on reserve items
2. 10% commission on those items that sell, to the RWCS or \$150 fee to the RWCS in lieu of commission if the item does not hit reserve price and does not sell.
3. The Auction Manager can reject the reserve option if the item has a value greatly less than \$2,000.

Second Piece Submission Process: Members may submit a second piece to the auction by marking as "SECOND" on their submission form. In the event that the auction lottery results in remaining lots, the Auction Manager will randomly choose from the "SECOND" submissions until the auction is filled.

A limited number of RWCS Commemoratives will be allowed from 1977 to 2012, no 2013 Commemoratives will be allowed. Chapter Commemoratives can only be submitted by Chapter Presidents for the most recent year.

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

Once your item is drawn in the lottery, no substitutions will be allowed. Multiple items allowed include RWCS Commemoratives or Dinnerware Sets. No altered pieces may be submitted. All items must be in their original form.

Acceptable items are American Pottery including: Red Wing Art Pottery, Stoneware, Dinnerware, or Red Wing Memorabilia. Modern-day reproductions are not allowed. Example: New Water Cooler Lids, etc.

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

When mailing your submission, make sure your membership is current. No member with an expired membership will be allowed to have a piece in the Auction.

The lottery will be conducted the end of May and you will be notified by mid-June by **EMAIL OR POST CARD** if your item(s) has been selected; the number your piece has been assigned in the Auction Catalog will also be provided. If your item was **not drawn** in the lottery, you will receive an **EMAIL OR postcard** advising you of such.

REMINDER! PLEASE INDICATE ON THE CARD IF YOU PREFER YOUR NOTIFICATION VIA EMAIL OR MAIL!

Please remember, you are sending a registration form far in advance of the July Auction. Be prepared to hold your piece until you are notified in mid-June that it has or has not been selected. **BE CAREFUL!** If your item has been confirmed for the Auction, but does not show up at Convention, you will forfeit your Auction privileges for 2015.

We strive to prevent NO-SHOWS. If you are in doubt about whether or not your piece has been selected in the lottery, please call the Auction Manager **DIRECTLY** at 707-477-8968 or email at auction@redwingcollectors.org. Do not call the RWCS Business Office. We would rather have phone calls than no-shows.

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO INCLUDE A PHOTO WITH YOUR SUBMISSION FOR MARKETING AND PROMOTION THE 2013 AUCTION.



2014 Auction Item Registration Form

July 10-12, 2014 Red Wing High School

Red Wing, MN

POST MARK BY:

MAY 15, 2014

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

A.1.#

☐ CHECK HERE IF THIS IS A RESERVE ITEM (Items that don't meet reserve are subject to a \$150 fee)
RESERVE PRICE (\$2,000 minimum)\$ _____

☐ CHECK HERE IF THIS IS A SECOND PIECE SUBMISSION

NAME: _____

MEMBER #: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS/CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE (CIRCLE ONE): ☐ EMAIL (ADDRESS ABOVE)

☐ POST CARD

ITEM DESCRIPTION: _____

CONDITION: _____

AUCTION MANGER: BRUCE SELFRIDGE

PO BOX 1266

HEALDSBURG, CA 95448

AUCTION@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG

707-477-8968

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

Ads are divided into the following sections: Red Wing For Sale, Red Wing Wanted, Other Pottery For Sale, Other Pottery Wanted, Events, Auctions, Clubs & Publications and Websites, Announcements and Services. You will not be charged for these words, but please indicate which section your ad should be placed in. If ad is to run in more than one issue, please indicate at time of placement. (Note: the small number at the end of an ad tells when the ad expires, e.g., 4/12. 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	\$425	385
1/2 page (<i>horizontal or vertical</i>)	225	205
1/4 page	125	115
1/8 page	85	70

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

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.

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

DEADLINES

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

EDITOR ADDRESS

Make checks payable to RWCS and mail with ads:

Rick Natynski
PO Box 198
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Can also submit ads by e-mail: send to NEWSLETTER@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG and send checks separately. Or, call Rick at 414-416-WING (9464).

RED WING FOR SALE

Sponge band salt shaker in excellent condition \$575; special Version B 2011 RWCS

Commemorative salt glaze butter churn with cobalt butterfly, \$100. Also have Tampico dinnerware: Four each: 10 1/2 inch plates, 6 1/2 inch plates, tea cups and saucers, cereal bowls; one 13 inch platter and one nappy. All in excellent condition, \$175. Contact Cindy at 612-961-1872 (Buffalo, MN).

5 gal RW Purex advertising jug w/Los Angeles adv. Excellent condition - no damage. \$275 plus shipping, OBO. Contact Fern at 503-868-7932 or FERN414@PEOPLEPC.COM.

Commemoratives: 1981-\$400; 1982-\$525; 1984-\$300; 1988-\$95; 1989-\$200; 1990-\$70; 1992-\$40; 1994-\$55; 1995-\$55; 1996-\$80; 1997-\$80; 1998-\$80; 1999-\$45; 2000-\$70; 2001-\$70; 2002-\$70; 2003-\$60; 2004-\$65; 2005-\$80; 2007-\$80; 2008-\$75; 2009-\$75; 2010-\$65. Call evenings - 320-253-2696.

Selling my Clay Giants! I still have two 50 gal crocks (wing & birchleaf) and a 40 gal wing (hairlines in bottom). Contact Richard at 608-617-7424 or RNATYNSKI@FRONTIER.COM.

White/green 10" vase, Luster DuBonnet, #1283, \$35 OBO; 4 gal water cooler w/4" wing, \$325 OBO; Hazel butter crock, \$225 OBO; 6 1/2" Sleepy Eye pitcher, \$85. Shipping extra. Call 309-781-6834.

RED WING WANTED

Wanted: I want to buy a Red Wing Hamm's Bear Bank in the brown bear version or other versions. Call weekdays at 763-252-0114 or e-mail me at KIRKSCHNITKER@GMAIL.COM 4/14

Wanted: Nokomis Elephant #236C, 5 inches tall, in mint condition. Please contact Steve at SPAUL@MCHSI.COM or 563-380-6784.

Wanted: "Early" Normandy, the first version of the Normandy pattern, with maroon and blue bands at the outer edge of the plates. Will buy or trade. Any condition considered. Also wanted: Ivanhoe pieces. Contact John at SECRETARY@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG or 612-861-0066. 6/14

Wanted: Red Wing Kashmir bread tray and covered butter dish; North Star 4 gallon churn; 6 gallon crock and 1/2 pint Albany tall butter; also 2 gallon salt glazed target "squatty" crock. Contact Wayne at 785-331-9339 or NANCY194805@GMAIL.COM.

Wanted: Collector seeks Red Wing pitcher, shape/mold #1580. Prefer black, whiter metallic silver, but will consider other colors. Please contact Richard at 510-233-3396 or JRINTL@COMCAST.NET.

Wanted: Red Wing 2 gallon Salt glaze Ribcage crock, any condition considered. Also interested in 4 or 5 gallon Ribcage crocks with turkey droppings. Contact 570-239-5259 or BMATTMANDI8@AOL.COM. 4/14

Wanted: RW Albany cat. Also interested in complete birdbaths with RW ink stamp on pedestal or bowl or individual birdbath pedestals or bowls with ink stamp. Looking for Contact Bob at MORAWSKIB@YAHOO.COM or 262-853-8269.

Wanted: Mini and salesman sample flower pots. Contact COBE142@COX.NET or 402-331-4749.

RWCS MEMBER PASSINGS

RWCS Charter Member #6 Mildred Heins passed away in Fargo, ND on Sept. 10, 2013 at the age of 89. She was an operating room nurse at St. Lukes Hospital in Fargo for more than 40 years. After retirement, Millie continued to reside in Fargo and remained busy doing volunteer work for the Salvation Army, Heirloom Hospice Services, Bethany Retirement Home and at Roger Maris fund raising events for a number of years. She always loved Red Wing pottery and the history behind it. She is survived by many nieces and nephews.

RWCS Member Gary Anderson of Waterloo, Ia. died of lung cancer on Dec. 16, 2013 at the age of 72. A tool & die maker for 51 years, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, traveling, woodworking and golf. Most of all, he loved his family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Becky, three sons, three daughters, 19 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Gary will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Roschen-Stroot

Longtime RWCS Member Eleanor Roschen-Stroot passed away on Jan. 14. An RWCS and Gopher Chapter member since 1980, Eleanor volunteered at the lottery table in the RWCS Commemorative Room for many years. She is survived by a daughter and five sons, including longtime RWCS Member Larry Roschen. She is also survived by 14 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and numerous in-laws, step-children and step-grandchildren. She will be sorely missed by family, friends and her Red Wing family.



Anderson

Large One Owner Firearms, Ammunition, Advertising, Stoneware & ANTIQUE AUCTION

Owner- Pam & Perry Jensen



9 a.m. Saturday, March 29 2014 • 1625 Butts Ave. Tomah, WI 54660

No Minimums - No Reserves - NO BUYERS PREMIUM! Cash or Check, 5.5% Sales Tax

Contact 715-299-2543 or wisconsinjunk@yahoo.com for details.

Visit WWW.MILLERSAUCTIONCO.COM for photos.

Stoneware 400 pcs- Mostly Red Wing Some Western & Monmouth. Crockers from 30 gal, Crock Covers from 30 Gal, Butter Churns, Beehive Jugs, Jugs, Water Coolers, Chamber Pots, Pitcher & Bowls, Chicken Waterers, Spongeware, Mixing Bowls, Greyline, Saffron, Hamms Set, Many Bottom Signed Pieces, North Star, Blue & White, Plus Much more. Check website for 100's of photos.

Sporting Goods- 100 Full Ammunition Boxes, Ammo Crates, Recurve Bows & Quivers, Wood Arrows, Firearms Co Advertising Signs, Gun Cleaning Kits, Deer Mounts, Etc. **Firearms-** 38 Guns, Shotguns & Rifles, Most in Excellent Condition, See website for photos & gun list.



Reg. Wis. Auctioneer Tim Barnum #1284. Auction Conducted & Clerked by Millers Auction Co #347-053, N8779 Hwy 95 Hixton, WI 54635

Vote LARRY BIRKS PRESIDENT Red Wing Collectors Society

- Excellent communication skills
- Passionate about Red Wing
- Great organizational skills
- Works hard - gives 150% in everything he does
- Decisive decision maker



Larry possesses all the needed skills to govern an organization like RWCS

Larry served as Trails West Chapter Vice President for 2 years and President for 6 years. He is able to present a variety of ideas and remain neutral while leading a group to make a decision. Larry is able to listen, make good decisions, and knows how to bring the best out of people. His attention to detail is unmatched. He has been instrumental in bringing needed items to the table, like the need for a Chapter Presidents handbook, which he co-authored. He has volunteered in many areas since joining RWCS in the late 80s, gave the keynote speech at Mid Winter 2011, and seminars at Convention in 2010 about Fake Stoneware.

VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE - VOTE FOR LARRY BIRKS

AD PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT BIRKS



Elect Dan Beck Treasurer

"It is not the collection itself that keeps my interest...it is the sharing of this common passion with other people that makes the hobby fun."

Dan has passion for RWCS and the financial background to be a tremendous asset to the operation of the Red Wing Collectors Society!

- CPA since 1979
- Chief Financial Officer \$1.5 billion mutual bank
- Lifelong Minnesota resident
- President of Board of Boy Scout Council SE MN 4 years
- Board member Rochester Area Economic Development Inc.

RE-ELECT MARK COLLINS RWCS TREASURER

As your Treasurer for the past nine years, I have helped to keep the Society on firm financial ground, always with an eye toward strengthening its future. I appreciate your continued support!



- 25 years experience as an attorney – specializing in fraud and financial crimes
- RWCS Treasurer since 2005

25 YEARS OF NON-PROFIT BOARD EXPERIENCE

- RWCS Treasurer (9 years)
- Vice President of Operations, Sioux Council Boy Scouts (11 years)
- Board and Executive Committee, Nebraska AIDS Project (8 years)
- Board Member, Volunteers of America/Dakotas (2 years)
- National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units President (2 years), Finance Committee (5 years) and Exec. Committee (6 years)

Keeping the Tradition Alive *Cont'd from pg. 7*

"We strongly feel that working with the Collectors Society will enhance the club's growth just as it will ours," Bruce adds. "We include a company flyer with every product that we ship out, and we see a lot of benefit in including information about the Society. Making customers aware of the club's existence can only increase their interest in pottery and stoneware, which is good for all of us."

The Johnsons admit that buying the companies was a risky venture, considering both businesses lost money last year. But they have a lot of new ideas and a seemingly unlimited amount of passion for creating an American-made – make that Minnesota-made – product. The native Minnesotans live just outside Red Wing and plan to bring back many of Gillmer's former employees when they reopen the Pottery Salesroom doors to retail customers around March 1. They plan to keep both brands as separate businesses, as there is enough uniqueness and difference in what they do.

"As Scott Gillmer said when he announced his plans to sell Red Wing Pottery, these businesses cannot compete with the big-box retailers like Wal-Mart and Target," Bruce says. "We're going to continue differentiating ourselves by putting our focus into creating high-quality stoneware and increasing salt glaze production. We're completely retooling our websites to give our product lines a lot more exposure and increase web sales. We want the businesses to be known on a national scale like they once were."

A large part of Red Wing Stoneware's business has been creating custom stoneware products to promote the brands of large companies like Xcel Energy, Hormel and Cabela's, and commemorate anniversaries and events for towns, churches and organizations, etc. Recently, the company has created beer steins and wine goblets with custom logos that local pubs serve beverages in and sell to patrons. As big sports fans, the Johnsons would also like to add Minnesota's professional sports teams to their list of clients.

"We're going to reach out to teams like the Twins and Wild and we'd love to make a piece to mark the opening of the Vikings' new football stadium," Bruce says.

So what can RWCS members expect when they visit the two businesses during Convention? The popular factory tours will continue at Red Wing Stoneware and the Johnsons found a lot of unique pieces when cleaning out storage space, which they plan to sell during Convention Week.

As for the Red Wing Pottery Salesroom, the Johnsons are remodeling the interior and exterior to give it more of a "stoneware and pottery look and feel". The candy shop will reopen along with the Salesroom on March 1, but a coffee shop will also be incorporated into the space by the time Convention rolls around. The Loons and Ladyslippers gift shop will reopen around May 1.

The future of the bicycle shop and the Smokey Row Café is unknown, as that part of the property was sold to different investors.

"We're going to have a lot going on at both sites during Convention Week," Bruce says. "We'll use this time to unveil our companies' annual commemorative and perhaps our annual Christmas ornament. In addition, we'd like to set up an area in the Pottery Salesroom to serve as an Antique Roadshow for people to bring in their Red Wing items and we'd also like to have some activities going on in the parking lot."

The Johnsons also plan to open a pottery classroom at the Pottery Salesroom so customers can try their hand at making their own pieces after watching the potters at work.

"We've noticed during the factory tours at Red Wing Stoneware that people really enjoy watching the potters hand-turn pieces, and they will often buy a finished example of a piece they watched being made because they're amazed by all the skill and patience that goes into creating it," Irene explains. "We're going to carry that over to the Pottery by giving visitors the chance to try it for themselves."

"People are really impressed by the level of difficulty that goes into making pottery," Bruce echoes. "I know I am. We think people will enjoy the opportunity to make a piece of their own, and we also think it will help customers understand why our high-quality product has a higher price point than the mass-produced pottery sold at big-box stores."

The Johnsons feel their potters have a lot to teach, so they also want to offer continuing-education classes for local university and high school students who are studying pottery.

"We're also talking about starting an internship program where students can learn from all the experience our potters have," Bruce adds. "At the same time, we want to give them an outlet where they can share their ideas with our potters and possibly even assist in designing new products."

The Gillmer Family ran Red Wing Pottery for more than 45 years. Looking far into the future, the Johnsons hope to do the same with both businesses. With a background in production and construction management, the couple's 26-year-old son, Adam, recently began working at Red Wing Stoneware. They'd like him to run the production side of the business in a year or two so they can shift their entire focus on marketing and promotions. The Johnsons also have a 29-year-old daughter, Andrea, who has a master's degree in architecture and a bachelor's degree in art.

In the meantime, the Johnsons have spent a lot of time learning about the history of the potteries in Red Wing and they plan to join the RWCS, which begs the question: do they collect the wares that made the city famous long ago?

"Not yet," Irene says, smiling. "But I'm sure we're going to start." 🍷

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MIDWINTER REVIEW

