



VOL. 36 NO. 5

OCTOBER 2011

35 YEARS of COLLECTING

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THE BAR HIGH

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## MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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# NEWS BRIEFS

## SHOW & SALE CHAIRPERSON STILL NEEDED

We're still seeking a new Show & Sale Chairperson(s) for the 2012 MidWinter and Convention. This position is responsible for managing the Show & Sale at both events; an honorarium comes with this position. Interested members should contact RWCS Executive Director Stacy Wegner at the business office.

## RWCS WEBSITE GETS A FACELIFT

Stacy Wegner has worked with the Society's contracted web programmer to make improvements to the RWCS website, so be sure to check out all the new changes next time you log in. And while you're there, don't forget to register online for the MidWinter GetTogether!

## CONVENTION BUTTONS STILL AVAILABLE

The Iowa Chapter has about 150 35th Annual RWCS Convention souvenir buttons remaining for sale. Buttons are \$2 each and shipping for one or two buttons in the same padded envelope is \$2.50. Anyone wanting more than two can e-mail Linda Stewart at LINDAKAYSTEW@YAHOO.COM and she'll provide a price based on package weight. To order, specify how many buttons you want and send payment to Terry & Linda Stewart, 2875 177th St., Charles City, Iowa 50616.

## LAPSED MEMBERSHIP DRAWING RESULTS

The RWCS Membership and Technology Committee is pleased to announce the winners of the lapsed membership drawing that was conducted before the Convention. To be eligible, participants had to be former members whose memberships expired at least a year before the 2011 Convention, they had to renew their memberships and register for Convention and/or order a Commemorative to be mailed. Prizes went to the following renewed members:

- First Prize (Convention registration, picnic ticket and Convention Tile): Emilie Joan Turner
- Second Prize (Convention registration and picnic ticket): William Schlink
- Third Prize (Convention registration): Connie Banitt

The RWCS Business Office wishes to welcome back all of the people who participated in this drawing by renewing their lapsed membership.

## 2012 CONVENTION STREET BANNER ORDERS

Did you miss out on ordering a Street Banner for this year's Convention? We are taking orders for 2012 now. Need help with your design? We can do that too. Call the RWCS Business Office today!

## GIVE THE GIFT OF RWCS MEMBERSHIP

Do you know someone who should be a member of our great organization? Consider giving the gift of membership this holiday season. We can send the membership packet and a welcome card to you in time for Christmas or to give as a host/hostess gift. Contact the business office and we can assist you.

## RECENT RWCS PASSINGS

We were saddened to hear about the loss of three RWCS members who recently passed away: Paul Stokke of River Falls, Wis. (husband of longtime collector Marge Stokke); Audrey Solberg of Hendersonville, NC (RWCS charter member); and George Stein, Jr. of Tracy, Calif. (father of RWCS Representative at Large Russa Robinson). Our thoughts are with the families and friends of these three members who were so dearly loved.



## ABOUT THE COVER

When salt glaze collectors first caught a glimpse of the 2011 Version C Commemorative – a 4 gallon Red Wing salt glaze churn with a bird – most agreed that it was a neat piece, although no one believed a real one was ever created. As it turned out, RWCS Commemorative Manager Bob Morawski looked like a modern-day Nostradamus when the real deal came up for auction only a week after Convention.

Although the unsigned churn has a hairline, the damage was mild when considering the rarity of the piece. Obviously any piece of Red Wing salt glaze that bares a bird decoration is highly desirable, but this bird was perched upon a branch with four leaves and a nest containing three eggs. In addition, the bird decoration had been started on the other side of the churn, but the artist must not have liked the direction it was going in, so he started over on the other side.

A fairly small number of collectors found out about the churn before the auction took place on July 17. That would have been a different story had it been auctioned in Minnesota, but the sale took place in California – about a three-hour's drive east of San Francisco.

Nonetheless, the selling price still dipped into five figures by the time all was said and done. ■



## CHAPTER EVENTS

### Wisconsin Chapter

10:45 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30 at the Mustard Museum in Middleton, Wis. Museum tour (\$5 per person) beginning at 11 a.m., followed by lunch, show & tell, business meeting, and commemorative distribution at the Hody Bar & Grill. For more info on the meeting or the chapter, contact President Pete Pavloski at PBPVAV@HOTMAIL.COM or 715-325-3715. Members were sent more meeting info in the mail.

### Badger Chapter

A 2nd chapter is being formed in Wisconsin, with meetings to be held in southern Wis. and scheduled to not conflict with Wisconsin Chapter meetings. The next meeting is slated for noon on Saturday, Dec. 3 at the home of Diana Bailey in Cedarburg, Wis. Bring a dish to pass for a potluck lunch. RSVP to Diana at DBAILEY45@WI.RR.COM.

# ELECTION UPDATE



ANN  
**TUCKER**  
*Vice President*

The RWCS Board needs you!!!

There are many ways that members can help strengthen the Red Wing Collectors Society and further its mission. One way is to serve on the RWCS Board of Directors. One of my duties as Vice President is to serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee, which consists of four other members – at least three of whom shall not be members of the Board of Directors. In this capacity, I ask any members who might have an interest in serving on the Nominating Committee to please contact me.

In Spring 2012, elections will be held for the three RWCS Manager positions: Auction, Commemorative and Education. Two of the three current managers have decided to run for reelection in 2012. Bob Morawski is running again as Commemorative Manager and Glenn Beall is running again as Education Manager. However, Todd Avery is not pursuing another term as Auction Manager.

If you have the urge to serve on the Board in the capacity of Education or Auction manager, please contact me or anyone on the Nominating Committee once they have been appointed. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have about what each position entails. I can tell you that all three positions receive a stipend and serve as voting members of the RWCS Board of Directors.

Nominations and resumes of candidates for the election of Auction, Commemorative and Education managers shall be published in the *RWCS Newsletter* at least four months prior to the election. Balloting will be by mail. Ballots will be mailed to all members in good standing at the time of the mailing, 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 30 closing date to have his/her ballot count.

Balloting by mail will commence in the spring of each election year with the Representatives at Large being responsible for the auditing and counting of ballots. Successful candidates will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting during Convention in July. Thank you for your interest...I look forward to hearing from many of you!!

Ann Tucker, RWCS Vice President  
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## NEWS FROM THE RWCS 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

SAVE THE DATE  
JULY 12-14, 2012



The RWCS 35th Anniversary Celebration Committee: (left to right) Brenda Schwab, Wendy Callicot & Ann Tucker

The Red Wing Collectors Society is celebrating 35 years of fun, friendship and most of all, collecting the wares of Red Wing!

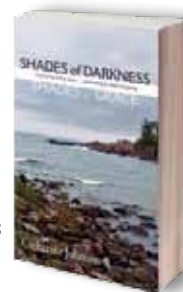
If you haven't been to Convention lately, don't miss this event. Bring the family, grab a friend and come to Red Wing next July. There will be lots of new activities and exciting changes for our traditional activities in celebration of our 35th anniversary. Watch the *RWCS Newsletter* and website for the latest updates.

If you are interested in helping with the planned activities, contact Wendy Callicot at [CROCKS701@AOL.COM](mailto:CROCKS701@AOL.COM) to volunteer. We would love to have you!!

## RED WING POTTERY MAKES FICTION DEBUT

Red Wing collectors have several books to turn to when looking for information about their favorite pottery and stoneware, but there aren't many fictional stories that have Red Wing pottery involved in the key plot. But there is now, as a novel recently released by author Catherine Johnson discusses Red Wing pottery.

Set in Minnesota, *Shades of Darkness, Shades of Grace* centers around the wealthy Pierson family. Beverly Pierson collects Red Wing pottery and has gone into the antique business, opening Previous Treasures Antiques in downtown Wayzata, Minn. In the story, Beverly and her husband, Bill, give their son and daughter-in-law a Red Wing blue tinted lily bowl and pitcher, and the narrator of the story notes that Red Wing Pottery is an integral component of Minnesota's background. Other Red Wing pieces mentioned in the book include Nokomis vases, cherry band pitchers and cookie jars. For more information about the book, visit [WWW.CATHERINEJOHNSONNOVELS.INFO](http://WWW.CATHERINEJOHNSONNOVELS.INFO).







## GOLDEN STATE CHAPTER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

*Story by Rick Natynski,  
RWCS Newsletter Editor*



*At left, Golden State members celebrate their chapter's 25th anniversary. Above, a photo of members taken at the group's first meeting, several of whom are still actively collecting.*

Individually speaking, charter members of the Golden State Chapter had a lot stacked against them when they began collecting Red Wing pottery back in the early 1980s. The sheer distance from Red Wing – more than 2,000 miles for many members – was the biggest factor. But it's also that distance and their shared love for everything Red Wing that's helped bring them close together.

The Golden State Chapter got rolling shortly after the 1986 Convention, when chapter charter member Denny Decker obtained a list of other RWCS members who lived in California and invited them to meet at his home that fall. Fellow charter member Mike Back, who joined the RWCS with his wife, Judy, in 1983, says they were surprised and encouraged by the interest and excitement others had in Red Wing at that first meeting. The kinship formed that day continues to resonate and keep Californians pumped about Red Wing.

"Seeing the treasures that other Golden State members have found keeps it exciting and encourages us to continue the hunt," Back says. "Because Red Wing is harder to find on the West Coast, it makes it more exciting when you do find a piece, especially if it's something you collect or if the seller doesn't know what they have. We wonder sometimes how the larger stoneware we find originally made it here."

Collecting Red Wing on the West Coast has changed quite a bit since the advent of the Internet. While sites like eBay have made it a cinch to find Red Wing with their fingertips, Californian collectors now have a harder time finding pieces when physically scouring antique shops, says Golden State Charter Member Mike Robinson.

"It was easier to find things in California before eBay; there were actually treasures to find," Robinson explains. "Nobody here knew what it was, so it sat on a shelf for many years and was forgotten. We found stuff under the counters, way in the back room, dusty and sometimes cheaply priced. But eBay dried up the supply of Red Wing in California; it is easier to sell on eBay with a customer base of perhaps thousands per day rather than consign to a store or mall."

As many RWCS members say, the pottery is what got them to join the Society, but the lifelong friendships they make is what keeps them coming back. Perhaps the distance from Red Wing helps magnify that a bit for Golden State members, because they're one of the most closely knitted chapters in the RWCS. Despite the long trip, about a dozen couples travel to Convention every year; half as many attend MidWinter. Most members reside in Northern Calif., but one lives as far south as San Diego – an 8-hour, 500-mile drive from members in Sacramento. The group is 70 members large and meets five times a year.

Robinson and Back say every meeting includes plenty of good California wines and great food. (The chapter just published its

collection of winning recipes from the past 25 years.) Each meeting takes place at members' homes, but field trips have also been taken to places like the Gladding-McBean Terra Cotta plant in Lincoln, Calif. and a tile factory in Healdsburg, Calif.

The chapter has taken on some impressive projects over the years, such as the creation of a stoneware button for Convention one year and the three puzzles it created and sold featuring a variety of Red Wing pieces.

But the chapter is probably best known for how high it has set the bar when it comes to giving back to RWCS educational efforts. Back says they feel they have "a responsibility to further RWCS causes and interests." Clearly they're following through; since 2006, the Golden State Chapter has donated more than \$14,000 spread across KidsView, the RWCS Foundation and the new RWCS Young Collectors Club.

Robinson says the chapter raises most of these funds through the auctioning of donated items at its meeting every June. Fellow chapter member Dave Huisman, who has an auction business, calls the sale and does a great job of getting every last dollar out of an item.

"Everyone recognizes that it's for a good cause, so sometimes bids are a little on the generous side," Robinson says. "We sometimes get the checks written for more than what is owed to support these causes."

"I've been involved with the KidsView program for over 10 years," Robinson adds. "In reality, the kids are the future of our Society. We need to get them involved and keep them interested in Red Wing for the future. Our support of KidsView has grown each year."

Back credits the chapter's leadership for keeping the group going strong. Golden State member Russa Robinson serves on the RWCS Board of Directors as a Representative at Large, and member Carmen Selfridge serves on the RWCS Foundation Board of Directors.

"Bruce Cameron has been our chapter president forever and we plan on keeping it that way," Back says. "The Robinsons are born leaders and so talented. Having our own potter in Mike Robinson has given us such an advantage. He creates a new chapter commemorative each year. So many of our members make major contributions to club projects, giving their time, money and most of all, talent."

Asked if they could offer advice to younger chapters, Back recommends utilizing a group's natural leaders and those with talent and dedication. Robinson reminds collectors that the purpose of the RWCS and its chapters is to appreciate and learn more about Red Wing.

"Make the meetings fun," he concludes. "I think it comes down to all of our members really like Red Wing and really enjoy our meetings, friendships, special projects and outings. We're just a fun group!" ■

# CROCKING

## *A Stoneware Trip to Remember*

Story by RWCS Member Linda Bottom



*It didn't take long for Michael Bottom to become a hard-core Red Wing collector. He quickly developed his vehicle-packing skills, too.*

Five years ago I had what you would call a normal, calm, uncluttered home. Little did I know that it was about to change.

During a visit to Kansas, my husband, Michael (*at left*), was introduced to the world of Red Wing stoneware by a dear friend.

Michael was intrigued by the crocks, water coolers and churns, so he ordered a book and started reading and learning everything he could about Red Wing. He then decided that he needed to find some antique shops and start his own collection.

Our first travels were to Colorado and Nebraska, where Michael purchased stoneware at various antique shops. During this time he was getting more and more excited about each and every find, but within a year he had bought everything around here and needed to find some new antique shops.

So, we decided to take a week-long vacation and do some "crocking". The first state we hit was South Dakota, which is only five hours from our home in Southeastern Wyoming. Michael found some of the larger crocks there and asked the shop owner if he could hold onto them so we could come back the following weekend and pick them up. That turned out to be a great move because before the trip was over, we needed every inch of space we could find.



*Believe it or not, this is only a small portion of all the stoneware Michael Bottom purchased on his week-long vacation with wife, Linda.*

As we headed up through the Dakotas, Michael was finding all kinds of Red Wing. Some of the antique shop owners were getting as excited as Michael when he told them what he was looking for. Some even sent us on side trips to some old barns, where we found some old crocks and were able to purchase them (cow manure and hay included).

Now I might have forgotten to tell you that we were traveling in a Chevy half ton truck and we needed to leave the back free because we were picking up a snowmobile for Michael's brother in Iowa. After the first few days we had filled the toolbox in the back. A few months earlier, my son, Nicholas, and I had traveled to Minnesota where we found the Country Side Antique Mall in Cannon Falls. We knew Michael would love this store, so while browsing the aisles we made the mistake of calling Michael and handing the phone over to Country Side's Chuck Drometer, a fellow RWCS member. Chuck helped Michael find all the items he was looking for; some of which joined us on the plane. Chuck shipped the larger items for us.

So of course I had to take Michael to meet Chuck in person and see what else he might find. Oh my gosh – Michael was like a kid in a candy store! But the problem was that he was finding so many items that we didn't know where we were going to put everything. By this time, Larry Peterson had come up to the shop to meet Michael, who explained what he was collecting and why he was so taken by Red Wing. It seemed like Larry found our excitement refreshing and enjoyed watching and listening to Michael.

Things were going well; everyone was excited and carrying items out and sitting them beside the truck where Michael then started packing. This is when things started to become quite comical. Michael folded the back seat down and everyone watched as he put the large crocks in and started filling them with smaller crocks, lined with yesterday's clothes for padding and any other item that could be placed inside to keep anything from getting broken.

From there we drove to Red Wing and stayed the night because we wanted to see the Red Wing Pottery Museum and visit the Pottery Place Antique Mall. There we met Stacy Wegner and hit Memorial Day sales. Wouldn't you know it; we continued to fill the truck.

The truck was just about packed from top



*After unpacking all the Red Wing items pictured at the left of the page, which the Bottoms acquired on their "crocking" trip, Linda took this photo of the truck, which was still pretty full by most people's standards.*



to bottom and side to side, and we still had to shop for stoneware in Iowa and Nebraska. By this time I only had about 12 inches of the passenger seat to sit on and I could hear Michael talking, but I couldn't see him. One of the items we bought at the Country Side Antique Mall was the *Red Wing Potteries Ledger*. While Michael drove, I read the orders that were placed for advertising stoneware.

As we continued the last leg of our "crocking" trip, we stopped in Grand Island, Neb. Michael found one more crock that would make one of his sets complete. I'm not sure if it was a wing, birch leaf or elephant ear. However, the only space that remained in the truck was where my feet went. Laughing, Michael said, "Can't you put your feet into the crock?" So guess where my feet rested for the rest of our trip?

This week-long "crocking" trip was the trip of all trips for a new Red Wing collector. Michael and I had so much fun, and sometimes while on date nights we still laugh and talk about all the things we purchased during that trip and how we couldn't even see each other in the truck after we left Minnesota.

We still have not attended the RWCS Convention in July or a MidWinter GetTogether in February, as Michael doesn't know if he can control himself. We've talked about him flying out so that he wouldn't be tempted to buy everything he saw, but then Michael says, "I could just ship things home."

I guess we'll just have to wait and see, because at this point, we really need a bigger house. ■



*There are many definitions of what it takes to be considered a "serious" Red Wing collector, but if you have stoneware stacked to your ceiling like Michael & Linda Bottom, you're probably on the right track.*



## WHEELING & DEALING

*Saw you there!*

RWCS MEMBERS AT THE  
WISCONSIN POTTERY ASSOC.  
ART POTTERY SHOW  
MADISON, WIS., AUG. 27, 2011





Many RWCS Convention attendees were in for a treat back in July when they attended the educational presentation given by Hannes Kuehn. A former Red Wing Potteries employee who rubbed elbows with the likes of Charles Murphy and Teddy Hutchson, Hannes hadn't even turned 17 when he immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1956 and began his brief stint at the Potteries. The following is Hannes' story, in his own words...

# Memories of Red Wing

Story by Hannes Kuehn, former Red Wing Potteries employee

Actually, this story starts before Red Wing, in Ulm, Germany in 1956.

At age 16, I had just gotten used to working every day at Ulmer Keramik (a well-known German pottery) and attending school twice a week. I was now senior modeler/designer – apprentice and had recently won firsts in two national model designing contests.

Memories of recovering from meningitis were fresh in my mind; I spent almost six months in a hospital and the possibility of lifelong after effects was a significant concern. And now came the reality of leaving forever – leaving behind everything that I knew.

My mother, my two brothers and I were leaving Germany. We were boarding a plane of the Flying Tiger Line – not a jet, but a four prop plane. This was not a vacation. This was it! We were moving to Minnesota, USA. I wanted to go to the open wilderness of Canada, but I had no vote in this.

Anyway, I was full of doubts. What about talking to people? My English was barely beginning, not even close to adequate. They all expected me to continue in pottery, because it was a family tradition.

**My grandfather produced tile furnaces.** He had a small factory in Wittenberg – Martin Luther's town. In his day, people heated their homes with these furnaces. Many of my uncles were modelers also. Some worked at world-renowned German potteries Meissen and Rosenthal.

Since I showed promise in this field, my mother expected me to follow in the family tradition. So when I was 12, she arranged for me to spend a summer with my uncle, a retired modeler for Meissen, where I learned the basics in free-hand and model making. Yes, they started them early. Brainwashing is similar.

**My dad was artistic in many ways.** He worked as a set designer and play-write in theater and stage. He also painted all sorts of scenes, portraits, still-life and landscapes. But leading up to the war, when things got disturbing, it was troubling for artists who wanted to be creative and not fighting wars. There

*The Minnesota Centennial Trivet was one of Hannes' assignments at Red Wing. He made the model in its entirety, including the joke of picturing Red Wing and the state of Minnesota much larger than it actually is compared to the other states. The faces were already specified, but not in detail. Later, after he left the Potteries, they used the piece with other detail.*



At left: Hannes in Red Wing in 1956.

At right: Hannes with his mentor and friend, Ted Hutchson, during a visit to St. Paul's Como Zoo.

were good guys and bad guys. He was a good guy. A little like Schindler. But he had no factory to employ colleagues. Just a pen and pencil and a passport. We think that he used them to try to get people out of the country. In the end he got drafted; he just made it through the war and survived until 1950. He was only 40 years old. I'm pretty sure that's why my mother decided to leave. It was something he wanted, I guess.

I am not sure that I agreed with their plans, but after my bout with meningitis, I had no vote.

**But back to leaving Germany.** As we took off, we occupied ourselves with plans for the coming days. First New York, then the train to Minnesota. My older brother, Klaus, did not take part in planning anything.

He was quite airsick – even when we stopped in Iceland for fuel. As mentioned, this was a four engine prop plane that took its time. More time for us to enjoy the trip, but not him.

**Finally the Statue of Liberty came into view.** The airport and lots of English speaking...the great train station...the long trip to Northfield, Minnesota...and finally, greetings by officials from the Lutheran Church Organization, our sponsors. We were given temporary quarters in a Quonset hut. Yes, the same ones that were used for prisoners of war. Church officials knew of my family's background in pottery and made initial contact with Red Wing, but it was unclear if an employment opportunity would exist.

The next day we went to church, met the congregation and other young folks like us. I was one month shy of 17.

The next morning, my brothers and I were picked up for work. It was 6 a.m., maybe earlier, and we were going to work in the onion fields. There, we met other young German boys who showed us what to do. The most verbal of them told us to simply say "Is OK" whenever a boss wanted us to do something. The pay was around 40 cents an hour, I think. This continued for a few weeks.

Klaus soon went to St. Olav's to continue pre-med and later went to medical school at St. Paul University. My younger brother, Dietmar, got into Northfield High School and played football. As the one with the practical talents, I needed to work to help support us all.

**Just in time – there was news about the Red Wing Potteries!** Around the same time that church officials contacted Red Wing on my behalf, head designer Charles Murphy asked for some help for the modeler, Mr. Ted Hutchson.



Above and below: Examples of Hannes' early work in Germany.





Ted needed someone to assist with models, conversion from design to master model, etc. When the CEO, Mr. Richardson, heard about me and my background, he sent me a note to interview. They were surprised about my age, but my drawings and some models I made in a practical there at the shop convinced Ted. They asked if I wanted to work with Ted as an apprentice modeler/designer. OK, that was what I wanted, right?



*The stairs Hannes climbed everyday when working in the Red Wing Potteries model room.*

I knew that before you can cast, fire, paint, glaze, display and sell a piece, you have to have a design, model, master mold and case and block. Then you need to make many molds to produce a piece, a set, a service, or a line, to use, collect and keep. This is what I had learned. That was a job I wanted to have for some time.

**Ted turned out to be the nicest, kindest, most understanding person I had ever worked with.** And I really worked with him, rather than

working for him. He was always ready to help and praise, not point out what might be wrong. We learned from each other. We made new models for new designs that came in from Murphy, and improved or updated other models to make them work better for mold making and production. Many models existed, but they needed refinement and slight modifications; this was an area that Ted never had time for while supervising the mold department. I think Ted was very happy to have the help, as I gave him more time to spend with the mold makers, etc.



*While in town for Convention, Hannes spotted this Tampico cake plate, which is his original design and model. It was used with a variety of hand-painted patterns. The same holds true for a tri-looped vase that he designed and modeled at Red Wing.*

**I also had the opportunity to develop some designs of my own.** I remember some, but not all. But there was always Mr. Murphy to please, and approval was not automatic. He was not as easy as Ted to work with – not by a long shot. Murphy was a well-known artist who needed to be pleased if at all possible. Ted would say, “Look sharp, everyone, Mr. Murphy is coming up,” when he came up the stairs to the modeling area.

But don’t misunderstand – I think Murphy was on the very leading edge of the Potteries. His designs were really up there – approaching the limits of Red Wing. He could have worked for Rosenthal or Meissen (my early ambition and what others expected from me).

Meanwhile, how does a 17-year-old German live in a strange, new American town? Well, I lived in a small room at a boarding house; I don’t think it was the YMCA. The bathroom was down the hall and there was no TV – just me.

For awhile I went to Boy Scout meetings, since I was a scout in Germany. But they were all school kids and they had families to go home to after the meeting. Thank God I had a standing invitation at the Hutchsons’ house once a week or so for dinner and TV and family. I looked forward to those evenings. The Hutchsons – Ted, Alice and David – were so nice and helpful. It was a chance to talk and watch TV. This was kind of new to me, as we never had a TV at home in Germany. “The Mickey Mouse Club” and “The Honeymooners” were my favorites.

**I remember one early visit when Ted introduced me to his son, David.** He must have been around 10, I guess. Ted said, “This is my friend Johannes, from Germany. He works with me now at the shop.” He pronounced my name rather like “Johaaanes”, as I recall. I noticed that his son seemed very impressed and kept looking at me a lot and kept very quiet all evening. Later, when it was time for me to leave,

he ran to the door ahead of me, opened it and said, “Good night, Your Highness.” I think he also tried to bow as one would before royalty. It took awhile for me to understand what he was thinking. Ted and Alice laughed, so I figured they would explain to him that my German accent didn’t make me a king.

My brothers, Klaus and Dietmar, had summer jobs at the plant, and helped with green ware and other assignments. One day I was told that one of them had caused an accident involving a fully loaded cart slipping in the elevator. The entire load was lost! After that, my brother was demoted to cleaning bathrooms.

That summer we drove to work in our 1946 Chevy from Northfield to Red Wing and back, listening to the newest songs on the radio and learning English. This went on all summer. After that, they went back to school and I continued at the Potteries.

**Ted often said that I would take his place someday, but it wasn’t meant to be.** He was so disappointed when my mother decided to leave Minnesota after being there only a year. He and the front office tried unsuccessfully to convince her to allow me to stay. I had no choice, and had to go with the family. At 17, you get no vote. When I left Red Wing, it broke my heart for the second time in two years. But my mother had other plans...first Illinois and then California.

The opportunity to work in pottery was less than promising in these places. I intended to return to Red Wing a year or so later when I would be old enough, but as they say, everything happens for a reason. Although there was a lot of prompting from my family, pursuing a career in dental technology was my own decision.

There is a profound sadness about something you leave behind forever, when you know it is gone, never to be recovered. But there also is a powerful feeling of hope about what is ahead, just over the horizon and not quite yet in sight.



*Hannes visited with Ted Hutchson’s son, Dave, for the first time in many years at Convention. (Left to right: Dave Hutchson, Hannes & Rosi Kuehn and Bonnie Hutchson.)*

As far as my family is concerned, they have all found great success in life in the United States. My mother, a pioneer at heart, was a kindergarten teacher. She died at age 90 in California. Klaus became a doctor specializing in Ophthalmology and was a surgeon in his own clinic until he retired. Dietmar became a graphics artist working for Martin Marietta and other firms; he worked on the space shuttle designs and still works in Colorado. My sister, Gerlinde, who joined us in the United States in 1957, was a teacher. She spoke seven languages. She died at age 54 of Cushing’s syndrome, a type of cancer.

My career in dental technology was a good one, ending with 12 years at UCLA where I taught and participated in innovation and creativity. Esthetic Dentistry and Implantology are fascinating and benefit patients immensely. I am happy to have been part of it. I developed some new techniques, had a chance to study with some of the great ones in the field and served as an officer and later president of the Southern California Dental Laboratory Association. Throughout my adult life I designed things in wood, ceramics, gold and silver. Now I am almost 72 years old and enjoy amateur astronomy, photography and model trains. But my best achievement is my terrific family: three great kids – all solid, well educated people – nine wonderful grandchildren, and my wife – my one and only Rosi. ■



*Although the design for the Hannes Bear existed, one of Hannes’ assignments was to define the aloof expression on the bear’s face, bring out details of posture, legs and arms, and to make sure molds could be easier produced.*

# Red Wing Advertising Stoneware

Story by Kelly Wilson, RWCS Member

The Exchange District – the original core of the City of Winnipeg where many of the following businesses were located – was declared a National Historic Site on September 27, 1997.

Winnipeg was the third largest city in Canada back in 1916 and became one of the fastest growing cities in North America due to the wave of immigration. Located in the southern region of the province of Manitoba, Winnipeg was also known as the “Chicago of the North” due to its climatic, economic and geographic similarities to the great American city.

With Minnesota being a neighboring state and having a thriving North-South trade corridor linked by oxcart and corduroy roads, it made sense that Red Wing pottery was popular in Winnipeg’s early days. Early settlers travelled through North Dakota and Minnesota purchasing many provisions along the way for the long, harsh winters that awaited them. Manitoba’s growing population was partly due to the thriving liquor and pharmaceutical trade. The reprint of the *Red Wing Potteries Ledger* provides a glimpse into some of these early businesses in Winnipeg, Manitoba.



Albert Bright moved to Winnipeg in 1881 to open a grocery store. Taking advantage of Winnipeg’s growth as a trade and



distribution center, Bright switched to a wholesale fruit business in 1896 with his colleague Kenneth Johnston. Bright & Johnston supplied hundreds of customers between Manitoba and British Columbia in a three-story warehouse at 137 Bannatyne Avenue. Due to their success, they bought a larger facility in 1903 a few doors down the street. After Johnston’s departure in 1908, Bright and his sons formed a new company and stayed at 141 Bannatyne Avenue until his business was taken over in the 1920s. Although “A. Bright & Sons” jugs are not mentioned in this ledger, a mini jug is pictured on page 209 in the book *Red Wing Stoneware Encyclopedia* by Dan DePasquale & Larry Peterson.



George Frame Stephens arrived in Winnipeg in 1882 from Owen Sound, Ontario and established a wholesale paint manufacturing business. G.F. Stephens & Co. Ltd. was located at 170-176 Market Street from 1911 to the late 1960s



when the building was torn down to make room for the Manitoba Theatre Centre. Stephens was very involved in the community. He served as President of the YMCA from 1903 to

1911. He was a member of the Canadian Club of Winnipeg, the St. Charles Country Club and the Manitoba Club. He helped advance the objectives of these organizations and sought after the welfare and betterment of the entire community. Camp Stephens, a YMCA summer camp located south of Kenora, in Lake of the Woods, is named after him and commemorates his contributions.

*From the Ledger: April 9, 1907 - (200) 1 gal jugs, July 30, 1907 - (200) 1 gal jugs*



Edel Brotman, along with his family, immigrated to Montreal, Canada in 1886. In 1889, Brotman and three of his oldest sons settled in Wapella, found in what is now known as the Saskatchewan province. Brotman acted as farmer and Rabbi of this pioneer community. He was fluent in seven languages, which led to his employment as an Immigration Agent in the district. In 1905, Brotman’s third son, Phillip, left for Winnipeg where he apprenticed in a private liquor business. In 1911, Phillip started his own liquor store, making wine in 100 gallon kegs and bottling into smaller containers. The liquor business prospered. When Edel retired from farming, Phillip brought his father and younger brother Moses into the business. Since it was customary in those days to put the patriarch at the head of the masthead, they named the business “E. Brotman & Sons”. Despite the name, Philip remained the principal owner. They operated a liquor store on 221-223-225 Logan Avenue. In 1916, Prohibition ended their retail business, but the Brotmans continued to operate since Prohibition did not outlaw interprovincial trade. During the 1920s, Phillip and Moses manufactured YUMA ORA ZABA invalid port. The picture above of Edel Brotman is from around 1915 in the store on Logan.

Jugs stored on the top shelf. Were they Red Wing?



*From the Ledger: The 3 gallon jug pictured isn't listed in the Ledger, so we know more orders were placed. Nov. 10, 1913 - (144) 1/2 gal jugs and (144) 1 gal jugs. Also listed in that order are (288) 2.5 oz jugs. I've never seen one of those!*



# are from Winnipeg, Manitoba



David Wesley Bole came to Winnipeg in 1890 and in 1898 formed the Bole Drug Company at 70 Princess Street.

The various departments, each supervised by qualified chemists, were efficiently organized for production and distribution. They were outfitted with a system of "speaking tubes" for communicating between departments and the firm's business office. In 1905, the company merged with 19 other companies to form the National Drug Company. Bole was elected president and within a few short years, NDC was recognized as Canada's preeminent drug wholesaler and manufacturer, as well as one of the largest drug companies in the British Empire. More than a century later, NDC (now McKesson Canada) remains Canada's leading drug wholesaler. NDC remained in the building until 1932. Bole, who also served as a school trustee (1896) and Member of Parliament (1904-1908), moved to Montreal as the first President/Chairman of the organization. He returned to Winnipeg in 1922 and died in 1933. Bole Street in Winnipeg is named in his honor. For years, jugs bearing the BDCW logo were misidentified as "Brown Derby Corn Whiskey," but findings from the Ledger helped clear up the mystery. On many of the orders, the logo of the "Bole Drug Company Winnipeg" was drawn out (below).

From the Ledger:  
There are at least 13 separate orders for BDCW jugs listed, including the samples below:

Aug. 11, 1908 - (300) 1 gal jugs, (25) 2 gal jugs and (40) 5 gal jugs  
April 30, 1910 - (72) 1/2 gal jugs, (36) 1 gal jugs and (36) 2 gal jugs  
Sept. 29, 1911 - (200) 1 gal jugs, (100) 2 gal, (30) 3 gal and (50) 5 gal jugs

Reliance Ink Co. Ltd. was in operation from 1908 to the mid 1950s at 520 McGee Street. They produced ink and water glass. Water glass was designed specifically for the storage of eggs. They produced a solution in which the eggs would have their pores sealed, thus keeping oxygen and moisture out. The lack of oxygen prevented bacterial growth and spoiling. It was said that "fresh" eggs could be kept up to two years.

From the Ledger: Feb. 6, 1909 - (500) 1 gal jugs, March 4, 1912 - (100) 1 gal jugs, Jan. 17, 1913 - (200) 1 gal jugs, Oct. 8, 1913 - (100) 1 gal jugs, Feb. 28, 1914 - (100) 1 gal jugs



Little research material exists regarding the Great West Wine Co. Ltd. and Winnipeg Wine Co. Ltd. Great West Wine was located

at 295 Portage Avenue and its phone number was simply listed as "M3708". The Winnipeg Wine Co. was located at 585 Main Street with phone number M-40. Perhaps with Prohibition occurring in Manitoba in 1916, these two companies only existed for 2 to 3 years at most. There is one Ledger entry for the Great West Wine Co. Ltd. From the Ledger: March 13, 1914 - (72) 1/2 gal jugs and (48) 1 gal jugs



Douglas & King Ltd. was founded by T.J. Douglas and James A. King. They operated at 47 Higgins Avenue from 1923 to 1944. As the Ledger only runs up to 1916, orders from Douglas & King are not present. They made a variety of products including aerated water and King's Old Country Stone Ginger Beer. They used a wide variety of stoneware bottles, jugs and cooler dispensers. Red Wing made some of the most sought after pieces bearing the Douglas & King name - 3 and 5 gallon water coolers adorned with a small wing and oval advertising. The jugs have the advertising stamp upside down, as they were placed upside down in dispensers.



Special thanks to Cyril Leonoff (grandson of Edel Brotman), Manitoba Archives, Manitoba Museum, RWCS members (Rick Natynski, Gary & Deb Noto and Doug Perkins for supplying photos for this article) and Winnipeg Public Library. *Story of Manitoba*, a collection of biographies of Manitobans published in 1913, has also made this article possible. The Manitoba Historical Society has placed this book online at [www.mhs.mb.ca](http://www.mhs.mb.ca).

If anyone has pictures or information on other Red Wing products with Canadian advertising, please contact me at [CCCLECTOR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CCCLECTOR@GMAIL.COM). Anyone looking for information on Canadian Red Wing advertising stoneware can also contact me and I will do my best to help you out. ■



# THE MIDWINTER SPEAKEASY

## FEBRUARY 10-12, 2012 • DES MOINES, IOWA

Greetings, RWCS Gangsters & Flappers. Here is the rumble on the MidWinter GetTogether in Des Moines – February 10-12, 2012. To sign up, you can get on the horn with Stacy, the office skirt, at 800-977-7927, register at [REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG](http://REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG) or send in the form. Lookin' to make some C's this MidWinter? The Sellers Hock Shop tables are just \$35.

For the little mobsters we have KidsView so they can learn all about Red Wing's wares from the roaring 20s. More information on who's gonna spill their beans about Red Wing will be coming soon.

The RWCS Business Office is in need of some look-outs to make sure everything goes according to plan and spread the password at the door ("collector"). If you have some decorations to liven up the joint, we sure could use some. Call the dame in the office or e-mail her at [SWEGNER@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG](mailto:SWEGNER@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG) with whatever you can give up. The office also seeks a chapter to sponsor door prizes.

MidWinter is sure to be swell, Kid, so pack your case with flapper dresses, pearls and necklaces, zoot suits, spats and fedoras. We can't wait to see everyone in their best gangster and flapper garb!

Don't be a Patsy or a Mark – call your mob, load your iron and don't miss the party or we may have to call the fuzz to track you down and haul you to the Pen. Ya follow?

*-Stacy Wegner, RWCS Executive Director*



## LODGING

**Location:** Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 4800 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, IA 50322. Phone: 515-278-4755

**For reservations:** Call 515-278-4755 and indicate you are a RWCS MidWinter attendee and/or a room seller.

**Deadline:** January 17, 2011 for the room block (up to 4 guests per room). Floors 1-4 are designated non-smoking and floor 5 is smoking.

### Types of Rooms:

**Standard:** 2 queen beds or 1 king bed at \$69 per night + 12% tax

**Junior Suite:** king bed and sleeper sofa at \$99 per night + 12% tax (About 1½ rooms with large bedroom and small living room)

**Extended Stay Suite:** king and sleeper sofa at \$99 per night + 12% tax (About 1½ rooms with small bedroom and large living room)

**Family or Parlor Suite:** king and sleeper sofa at \$147 + 12% tax (The size of two rooms with a big dining room table and kitchen area)

**Whirlpool Suite:** \$167 + 12% tax

## SCHEDULE

### Friday, February 10

Board of Directors Mtg.	8 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Iowa Boardroom
Registration	1-8 p.m.	Lobby
Room Sales	All day	
Speakeasy Reception	7-9 p.m.	Ballroom

### Saturday, February 11

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

### Sunday, February 12

Continental Breakfast	7-9 a.m.	Room TBD
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### Deadlines:

**Pre-registration**  
Jan. 13

**Sellers Table Contract:**  
Jan. 20



Red Wing in the 1920s.  
Photo courtesy of the Goodhue County Historical Society





# Pre-Registration

## MIDWINTER GETTOGETHER

**Feb. 10-12, 2012**  
Holiday Inn & Suites  
Des Moines, IA

*Submitting Member Information...*

**Member Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name

☐ CHECK HERE IF YOUR ADDRESS HAS CHANGED.

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Deadlines:

**Registration Form**

January 13, 2012

**Sellers Table Request**

January 20, 2012

### Member Registration 1:

Number Last Name First Name

**Registration:** Adult: \$25 Child: FREE \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Renewal:

**Primary** \$25 (1 yr) \$50 (2 yr) \_\_\_\_\_

**Associate** \$10 (1 yr) \$20 (2 yr) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Reg 1**

### Member Registration 2:

Number Last Name First Name

**Registration:** Adult: \$25 Child: FREE \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **KidsView Registration** **DOB** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Renewal: Primary** \$25 (1 yr) \$50 (2 yr) \_\_\_\_\_

**Associate** \$10 (1 yr) \$20 (2 yr) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Reg 2**

### Member Registration 3:

Number Last Name First Name

**Registration:** Adult: \$25 Child: FREE \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **KidsView Registration** **DOB** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Renewal: Primary** \$25 (1 yr) \$50 (2 yr) \_\_\_\_\_

**Associate** \$10 (1 yr) \$20 (2 yr) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Reg 3**

**Grand Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**SELLER'S TABLE:** ☐ Please send me a Seller's Contract for Saturday's sale. (\$35/table)

☐ **Antiques** (90% Antiques) ☐ **Souvenirs** (90% souvenirs)

Due to limited space, all tables are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. You must enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope to get your contract by mail. You can also download the form from our website or email the office. **Signed Contracts must be received by January 20, 2012.**

### Easy Ways to Register

#### 1. Online:

[www.RedWingCollectors.org](http://www.RedWingCollectors.org)

#### 2. Phone:

800-977-7927  
P.O. Box 50  
Red Wing, MN 55066

#### 4. Fax:

651-388-4042

### Method of Payment:

☐ MC ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ CHECK (enclosed payable to RWCS)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Card Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last 3 digits on back:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions? Call or email us at 1-800-977-7927 or**  
**[director@redwingcollectors.org](mailto:director@redwingcollectors.org)**

Classified ads are 20¢ per word; \$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., 12/09. 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 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](mailto:NEWSLETTER@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG) and send checks separately. Or, call Rick at 414-416-WING (9464).

## RED WING FOR SALE

Quarter-sawn oak frame custom-made for displaying your 35th Annual Convention Tile – only \$29.50! Save on shipping – free delivery to Convention. Additional tile frames available:

4x8 \$35.50, 4x6 \$31.50, 6x6 \$37.50, 6x8 \$39.50 and 8x8 \$41.50. Call or email: John Mathews [DOVETAIL@LIVE.COM](mailto:DOVETAIL@LIVE.COM). or 608-764-1454. 4/12



Handles and wooden lids. Send SASE for flyer to Larsen's Collectibles, 757 120th Street, Hampton, IA 50441-7555. Phone 641-866-6733. 4/12

Commemoratives: 1983-2011 (29 pieces), individually boxed. Will deliver free within 100 miles of St. Paul, MN. Asking \$3,000. Call Bob at 651-494-0661.

Town & Country China: 12 10-inch plates (6 rust and 6 sand); sand: 2 large oval bowls; rust: 12 cups & saucers, 12 sauce dishes, 2 platters, 2 vegetable bowls, milk pitcher, syrup pitcher, teapot, creamer & sugar bowl. Call Helen Kohl at 219-751-3250 or 480-766-8849 or write her at 1010 Anne St. NW #217, Bemidji, MN 56601.

Red Wing Lotus pattern (bronze): 6 cups & 5 saucers (1 saucer broken); 6 sauce dishes; 6 dessert plates; 6 dinner plates; 1 large serving bowl (divided) and 1 creamer; \$250. Contact June at [TJOR3510@AOL.COM](mailto:TJOR3510@AOL.COM) for more information.

## RED WING WANTED

Wanted: Monroe, Wis. advertising pieces. Call Scott at 608-558-7372 10/11

Wanted: Looking for any advertising pieces from Knapp or Clear Lake, Wisconsin. To sell, contact Tim at 715-263-2118 or [TWYSS@CLEARLAKE.K12.WI.US](mailto:TWYSS@CLEARLAKE.K12.WI.US). 4/12

Wanted: 14-inch Magnolia vase #1316, cream with brown wash. No cracks or chips. Contact Marlene at [MMP@REA-ALP.COM](mailto:MMP@REA-ALP.COM) or 320-834-3188.

Wanted: These Chromoline pieces: #680 & #681 in orange and rust; #675, #687 and #M3006 in blue and green. Contact Rick at [NEWSLETTER@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG](mailto:NEWSLETTER@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG) or 414-416-9464.

Wanted: Version B, Version C, Triple Version and Special RWCS Commemoratives from any year. Also looking for advertising crocks, jugs and churns – especially pieces with a decoration & ad. Scott at [COBE142@COX.NET](mailto:COBE142@COX.NET) or 402-331-4749.

Wanted: These Chromoline pieces: #680 & #681 in orange and rust; #675, #687 and #M3006 in blue and green. Contact Rick at [NEWSLETTER@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG](mailto:NEWSLETTER@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG) or 414-416-9464.

## CLUBS AND PUBLICATIONS

New! 2012 price update for *Red Wing Dinnerware Price & Identification Guide*: \$6 plus \$2 postage. Dinnerware book & 2012 price update: \$18.95+\$3 postage. Call 773-384-3245 for ordering info. 10/11

Blue & White Pottery Club – Visit the club's website at [WWW.BLUEANDWHITEPOTTERY.ORG](http://WWW.BLUEANDWHITEPOTTERY.ORG).

Collectors of Illinois Pottery & Stoneware – Visit the club's website at [WWW.COIPS.ORG](http://WWW.COIPS.ORG).

McCoy Pottery Collectors Society – club's website: [WWW.MCCOYPOTTERYCOLLECTORSSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.MCCOYPOTTERYCOLLECTORSSOCIETY.ORG).

## A DONATION TO THE RED WING POTTERY MUSEUM... A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!



Please send your donations to and visit:  
Red Wing Pottery Museum  
Pottery Place Mall ~ 2nd Floor, East  
2000 Old West Main Street  
Red Wing, MN 55066

For more information, contact the RWCS Foundation at [RWCSFOUNDATION@GMAIL.COM](mailto:RWCSFOUNDATION@GMAIL.COM) or

Diane Hallstrom at 612-247-9876. All donations are tax deductible.



# RECENT FINDS & DEALS

Did you find a rare piece or a great deal worth sharing? Briefly describe the item, where it was sold, date purchased, venue (store, auction, etc.) and price paid. Send to editor Rick Natynski on a post card, e-mail [NEWSLETTER@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG](mailto:NEWSLETTER@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG), or enclose in an envelope if you'd like to include a photo for publication. Multiple submissions result in multiple entries in the Newsletter Special Commemorative Lottery at the 2012 Convention. All newsletter submissions received between July 2011 and June of 2012 are eligible whether published or not. Please keep submittals with purchase dates within six months of the newsletter issue.

ITEM	LOCATION	DATE	VENUE	PRICE
RW #808 orange Decorator Line flower pot, mint		8/11	eBay	\$49. <sup>88</sup>
RW Spruce covered casserole, mint		9/11	eBay	\$128. <sup>50</sup>
RW Gypsy Trail Cocktail Server, small base chip		9/11	eBay	\$255. <sup>00</sup>
2 gal jug w/Petty's Hog Tonic, Sioux City, Ia advertising, mint	Rock Island, IL	9/11	Auction	\$1500. <sup>00</sup> Not including 15%+ buyer's premium
Set of 3 RW saffronware blue-banded bowls – mint	Fairmont, MN	9/11	Rummage sale	\$15. <sup>00</sup>
10 gal RW birchleaf churn, crack in back	Staplehurst, NE	9/11	Auction	\$825. <sup>00</sup>



## JD JORGENSEN NAMED RWCS FOUNDATION AWARD WINNER

In August, the Northern Clay Center named JD Jorgenson as the recipient of the 2011 Red Wing Collectors Society Foundation Award. This is the seventh year of the award, which is given to a deserving individual pursuing a career in pottery, or studying or researching the historical aspects of the pottery industry.

Originally from Bismarck, ND, Jorgenson developed his passion for clay during high school. He went on to earn his B.A. in Ceramics from the University of Iowa in 1999. After completing his degree, he moved to Minneapolis to teach and work at the Northern Clay Center. Jorgenson is also a recipient of the Jerome Foundation Emerging Artist Grant at the St. John's Pottery in Collegeville, Minn.

Jorgenson maintains a studio, Jorgenson Pottery, in St. Joseph, Minn. Intended for everyday use in the home, Jorgenson sells his wood-fired pots in St. Cloud, Minn. and Bismarck, exhibits nationally and was a presenter at the International Symposium on Wood-Fired Ceramics at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Jorgenson uses local clays and glaze materials, draws inspiration from nature and his surroundings and incorporates them into his work.

"I believe that the line between functional work and art objects should be blurred," he says. "I strive to approach that line as often as possible by creating pieces, which through their everyday use, are also experienced as a ceramic art object. My specific interests lie in the raw clay, how its surface changes do to atmosphere, flame and ash to create a new form."

Jorgenson lives in St. Joseph with his wife, Sara, son, Micah, and daughter, Ofelia. Congratulations, JD!

Visit Jorgenson Pottery online at [WWW.JORGENSENPOTTERY.COM](http://WWW.JORGENSENPOTTERY.COM).



# DID NORTH STAR MAKE ZINC GLAZE?

Story by Rick Natynski, RWCS Newsletter Editor

In 1977's *Clay Giants*, author Lyndon Viel showed a number of zinc glaze pieces with an ink-stamped star in a circle – all of which he believed at the time were made by North Star. But as he continued to dig deeper, he learned they were made by other potteries, such as the Star Stoneware Co. in Crooksville, Ohio and the Star Pottery Co. of Elmendorf, Tex.

Viel corrected much of that information in *Clay Giants 2*, which he released in 1980. He also he showed what everyone at the time considered to be undeniable proof that North Star produced white-glazed wares. Pictured on page 72 is a bottom-signed North Star zinc glaze jug, just like the one shown here.

So there you have it. It's an open-and-close case, right? North Star definitely made zinc glaze stoneware.

Well, not so fast. Yes, these North Star-signed white-glazed pieces certainly exist, but many collectors believe North Star wasn't capable of producing zinc glaze by the time it closed its doors in May of 1896. Instead, they believe the pieces were made by the Minnesota and Red Wing stoneware companies, as they absorbed North Star's molds and remaining equipment.

As a side note, it's clear that Viel was understandably fed up with non-Red Wing stoneware bearing stars by the time he wrote his second and third books. Amusingly, he dedicated a few pages of *Clay Giants 2* and *Clay Giants 3* (released in 1987) to "Stars I Have Known" and "Stars I Wish I Never Knew", which showed the pieces he had previously believed were made by Red Wing.

Anyway, as discussed in the "From Salt to Zinc" article in the February 2009 *RWCS Newsletter* that covered Red Wing's transition to white-glazed stoneware, small zinc glaze pieces were sold as early as 1895 by the Union Stoneware Co. – the selling consortium that represented and farmed-out orders to Red Wing's three stoneware companies.

On page 107 of *Clay Giants 3*, Viel cites an article from the Jan. 1, 1896 *Red Wing Republican* that lists the capital each of the three stoneware companies invested in improvements in 1895. Minnesota Stoneware Co. topped the list with \$12,000, which included the upgrade to oil-fired kilns. Coal- and wood-fueled kilns produced soot and ash, which ruined zinc glaze, but oil-fired kilns could efficiently produce zinc glaze on a large scale.

Since North Star and Red Wing Stoneware spent only \$2,000 each on improvements in 1895, it's likely that most if not all of the zinc glaze turned out in 1895 was produced by Minnesota Stoneware. Knowing that North Star closed its doors on May 20, 1896 makes it feasible that the company was never in the financial position to convert to oil-fired kilns.

That being said, Viel makes reference to a newspaper article that said North Star closed down for two weeks in September 1895 to install two new slip mills. Although the article didn't state what type of slip would be produced, Viel made the reasonable assumption that North Star was trying to shift towards white-glaze coatings and this was one of the first steps that could be taken on a limited budget.

Furthermore, as stated in Viel's *Clay Giants 3* and Gary & Bonnie



Although faint, the "N-O-R-T-H" letters can be made out in the points of the star when closely inspecting the bottom of this 1 gal wide-mouthed jug.

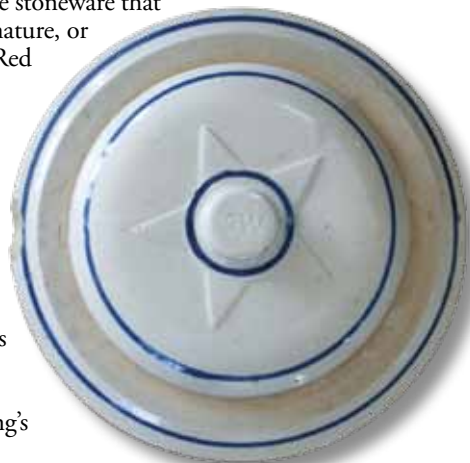
Tefft's *Red Wing Potters & Their Wares*, small pieces of zinc glaze could be successfully produced in the early wood- and coal-fueled kilns, provided they were placed inside "larger jars or into saggars, protective fire clay containers used to keep the ware out of the direct draft of the kiln fire."

Although there's no record of North Star ever installing its own oil-fired kiln, Viel believes they did due to the existence of the 4 and 5 gallon zinc glaze lids that have stars on them. However, in the 25 years that have passed since he wrote *Clay Giants 3*, it's become clear to collectors that while the salt glaze versions of star lids might have originated with North Star, the molds were used to make zinc glaze versions long after North Star closed up shop. The lid pictured below is proof, as Red Wing didn't introduce blue-banded lids until North Star was long gone.

If you're the kind of person who prefers a concrete ending to a story, we're sorry to disappoint. The reality is that we'll likely never know with absolute certainty whether North Star produced the limited amount of zinc glaze stoneware that exists with its company signature, or whether the Minnesota or Red Wing stoneware companies produced these after North Star closed.

But in the grand scheme of things, it doesn't really matter. The clay came from the same place, the molds were made by North Star and it's more than likely that at least a few employees of the defunct North Star Stoneware Company went to work for one of Red Wing's remaining potteries.

North Star zinc glaze pieces are definitely few and far between hard to find. Should every serious North Star collector try to find one for their collection? That's up to the individual collector, but considering the rarity, it certainly wouldn't detract from a collection. ■



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