

RED WING MIXER BOWLS

Story and photos by RWCS Member Brent Mischke,
with contributions from RWCS Hall of Fame
Members Terry Moe & Dennis Nygaard



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Red Wing *mixer* bowls? That's right! At the 2013 RWCS Convention, longtime Red Wing pottery digger Dennis Nygaard showed shards of a previously unknown bowl during his education seminar on his dump finds. This large, 9-inch bowl exhibited a "Petals" design similar to other known Red Wing bowls. Later in 2013, Dennis showed me shards from a similar 6-inch bowl. This bowl had narrower petals and a raised foot rather than the flat bottom of the larger bowl.

Before we knew it, we located several complete examples of this style of bowl, but only in the 6- and 9-inch sizes. Questions about these bowls were answered by an eBay listing in early 2014. This listing showed a countertop electric food mixer paired with a set of these Red Wing "Petals" bowls. The company that produced the mixer was the Kwikway Mfg. Co. of St. Louis (see next page). So far, "Petals" mixer bowls have been found in off-white, yellow and medium blue glazes.

Other shards that Dennis had dug from the Pottery Road portion of the dump led to the discovery of a second style of mixer bowl. These have four "Rings" below the bowl's rim. Another eBay listing from September 2014 showed another Kwikway countertop mixer paired with a set of these "Rings" bowls. The glazes found so far in the "Rings" style of bowls are off-white, pale yellow and royal blue.

Many countertop mixer sets from the 1930s era included a reamer or juice extractor. Dennis, longtime dinnerware collector Terry Moe and others have dug shards from reamers that match both styles of RW mixer bowls. An example of a "Rings" style reamer was recently found, but the search continues for a complete reamer in the "Petals" style.

Documentation regarding the business relationship between the Red Wing Potteries and Kwikway has yet to be discovered.



"Petals" Bowls: The blue 6-inch and yellow 9-inch Red Wing "Petals" mixer bowls shown above are pictured with shards that Dennis Nygaard found when digging in the Pottery Road portion of the Red Wing Pottery Dump.

"Petals" Reamer: Reamer shards dug from Pottery Road match the Red Wing "Petals" mixer bowl set.

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"Rings" Bowls: A white 6-inch and blue 9-inch Red Wing "Rings" mixer bowl set pictured with a yellow sherd from Pottery Road.



"Rings" Bowls & Reamer: A yellow Red Wing "Rings" mixer bowl set with a white reamer.



KWIKWAY MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The Kwikway Manufacturing Co. was based in St. Louis, Missouri. During the 1930s, this firm produced a wide variety of small electrical appliances including irons, toasters, hair dryers and fans. They also produced countertop electric mixers. The newspaper ad from the *Salt Lake City Tribune* shown above shows a Kwikway mixer with a set of Red Wing "Petals" style mixer bowls. These sets have been found in newspaper ads from several different states between 1934 and 1938. The newspaper ad from the *Jefferson City Post-Tribune* on the opposite page shows a Kwikway mixer with the Red Wing "Rings" style of bowls. These sets have been found in ads from three different states dated 1939.

Other newspaper ads show that another St. Louis-area company, Knapp-Monarch, also may have paired their countertop mixers with both styles of Red Wing bowls. The "Petals" style bowls have been seen in ads from 1934 and 1936, and the "Rings" style bowls have been found in ads dated 1939, 1940 and 1942. A Knapp-Monarch mixer set still needs to be found to confirm this association. 🐾