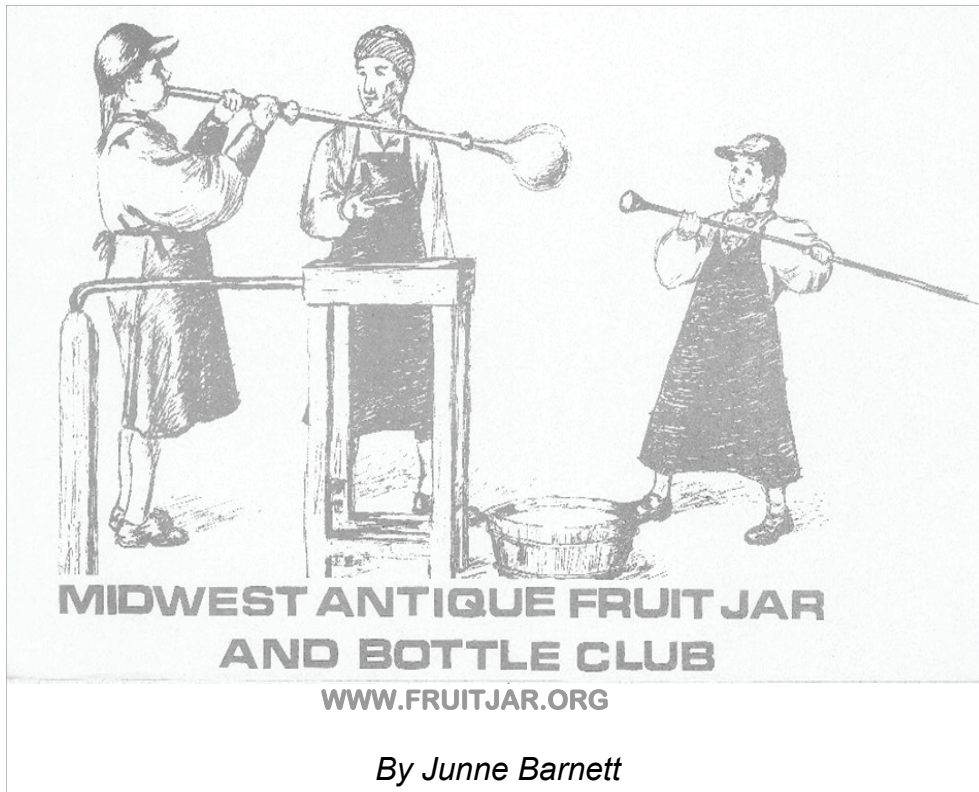


History of



The idea for forming a bottle and jar club in Indiana was born at the St. Louis show in the spring of 1972. Roger Emery of Hagerstown, Indiana and Norm Barnett of Flat Rock, Indiana were discussing the fact that there were no clubs in the area for collectors. After a discussion with several other dealers and collectors they decided there was a definite interest in forming a club.

Neil Wood, the publisher of "Bottle Trader" printed notices in his magazine for interested people to contact the Emerys. On November 12, 1972, twenty-two collectors and dealers met at the fire station in Flat Rock, Indiana. The name Midwest Antique Fruit Jar and Bottle Club was selected as the majority of the members were jar collectors and the bottle people were antique bottle people. The first year's dues were set at \$10.00 per family, and the second Sunday in the month was set for meeting date as there were members from Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio.

The first stated meeting of the new club was held January 14, 1973 and the following officers were elected:

President - Norm Barnett, Vice-President - Louis Pavey and Virginia Cowden, Secretary - Joan Emery and Treasurer - Roger Emery. By-laws were presented and a motion was made to affiliate with the Federation of Historical Bottle Clubs.

In May, letters were sent to our Congressman making known our feelings about marking reproduction glass.

As early as June, 1973, members began thinking about a show and sale for the club and in September, voted to hold their first show January 13, 1974 in Richmond, Indiana.

The first show as declared a success - very little profit but lots of fun and great experiences. It was decided immediately to do it again. A "first" try at the banquet was when Hal Wagner, Treasurer of FOHBC was "roasted".

A slide program on "Rare Fruit Jars" was compiled by the club to be used as one of the programs available thru the Federation program suggestions.

Charles and Jean Goff started the club's first newsletter in March, 1974.

Members of our club have served

on both regional and national offices. Roy Brown was Federation Chairman 1975-1976 and at the same time, Randy Haviland, served as treasurer. Hal and Vern Wagner have both served as Federation Treasurer and Norm Barnett was Regional Chairman 1975-1976.

During discussion and plans for the 1974 show it was decided to have non-competitive displays and give ribbons for Peoples Choice and Most Educational. Special pottery award jars were given to each displayer and have since become a tradition with the award jars depicting some type of canning jar.

In 1975, it was decided that as we had a comfortable balance in the treasury, we would lower the dues to \$5.00 per family.

Bill Brantley, Muncie, Indiana, author of "A Collectors Guide to Ball Jars", autographed copies of his book at the July picnic attended by 60 members and friends.

The new idea tried during the 1976 show as a special raffle, where \$25.00 worth of tickets were sold and then a winner picked. The winner had to spend the \$25.00 at the show, thereby, helping dealers as well as the winners. This idea was accepted with great enthusiasm.

Much discussion has been held on the pros and cons of moving our show to a larger place and another date. It was decided we would lose our identity. As of now, we are an established show with a national reputation as a fruit jar show. People who come to our show during what has so far been "lousy weather" really want to be there.

Fifty-three members of our club attended or participated in the 1976 Bi-Centennial show. Norm Barnett was responsible for organizing and conducting the first nationwide fruit jar get-together held prior to our Richmond show in 1977. Jar get-togethers are also being held in conjunction with other club shows and will again precede our show in Richmond in 1978.

In March 1977, the slide program made in 1974 was updated and upgraded. This program is available for



Pottery and Bodine barrel

club uses by contacting Barnett, PO Box 38, Flat Roc, IN 47234. A \$5.00 charge is given to the FOHBC.

Early in 1977, the club decided to change the format of the newsletter. Previously our editors had done a splendid job with a very low budget, however, we were ready to expand and Rick and Becky Norton took on the project. It proved more expensive than thought so the club purchased a Potter and Bodine barrel to use as a raffle jar at the 1978 Richmond show. Proceeds to offset the newsletter expenses.

In April, 1977, the club held its meeting at the Ball Brothers Museum in Muncie, Indiana. Gary Demaree, club Vice-President and Editor of The Ball Line magazine, conducted a tour of the museum and Ball Corporate headquarters.

We are a club of dedicated collectors. Our membership includes beginners, middle of the roaders, as well as advanced collectors, however, we extend to each of you our invitation to join and enjoy with us the fellowship, education, travel and just plain all-around good times.

1980s

During the 1980s, the club began to hold a summer show on the weekend nearest to July 4th. This was a successful venture in that some people could attend the summer show that could not attend the winter show.

At the 1988 Expo, sponsored by the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors, held in Las Vegas, Nevada, Norm Barnett was asked to chair a "Fruit Jar Get-Together". Other bottle collectors were amazed that the fruit jar people, 1245 strong, would meet at 7:30am (the only time available). There is a camaraderie amongst jar collectors that is very good.

Reproduction jars began showing up at flea markets and antique dealers. The club was kept aware of these jars through the efforts of our club members making it known where and what jars were for sale.

1990s

The club was still holding shows in the Indianapolis area and became known as the Indy show.

A few good jars were still showing up at flea markets such as a Fridley & Cornman pint (no closure) for \$5.00 and a Griswold jar for \$25.00. These were both in New Jersey.

Auction houses began to sell fruit jars, and this practice had mixed feelings among collectors. The Glass Chatter prints the listing as a service to our members.

As an added attraction to our Fruit Jar Get-Together on the Saturday before the show, was an auction. Members and guests could put 2 - 3 jars in the auction. Seller and buyer exchanged money between themselves, the club was only involved with the auctioneer and helpers.

Rev. Phil Robinson of the Fruit Jar Museum in Muncie, Indiana, has given a jar program for many clubs. He calls it the "Parable of the Jars" and using jars such as the Sun, NE Plus Ultra, All Right, etc. tells a story of life.

After many shows in Indianapolis, it became difficult to find space large enough for the show. Owen Glendenning of Minnetrista Cultural Center in Muncie, Indiana invited us to see the facilities at Muncie. The Minnetrista is funded through the Ball Foundation. They have been so generous with time, money, etc. that we couldn't turn them down and besides the facilities are great.



**Stalwarts of the MAFJ&BC
Norman and Junne Barnett**