



MINI-JELLIES

As a jar collector of some forty-plus years my interests have always been pretty wide. If a container qualified as a jar by some definition and it had some attraction for me, then I usually found room for it in the collection. Like many other commercial product jars, jelly jars were looked upon by myself and others as cousins to fruit jars and thus jelly jars formed a fairly large place in our collection.

Miniature jellies, produced as samples, individual servings, or just cutesy little gift items, were put out by many companies and were identified by embossing on the jellies, original labels, or often just by their marked lids.

The largest category of these mini-jellies in Deena's and my collection came from the Sue Ann Food Products Corp., of Chicago, Illinois. **Photo 1** shows a cardboard box lettered "Jelly Delight Hostess Assortment Of Pure Fruit Jellies."

The origins of Sue Ann Foods are somewhat vague and evidence of the early company is a bit contradictory, but **Figure A** illustrates the earliest advertising found. Appearing in the Feb. 1, 1946 *CHICAGO [Illinois] TRIBUNE*, it promotes early "Quick Frozen Hors D'Oeuvres... Prepared In The Modern Kitchens Of Sue Ann Food Products Corp., 723 W. Randolph St."

Photo 2 shows a pair of 1-ounce, 2 2/8" tall, clear, pedestal-base jellies from Sue Ann Foods. Although the jellies are unmarked, they are identifiable as being from Sue Ann Foods by the colorful, press-on, metal caps displaying a Swiss (?) girl and various fruits (**Photo 3**). Caps are found in varying shades of blue and red. The caps' skirts are lettered MFG. BY SUE ANN FOOD PRODUCTS CORP. CHICAGO 6, ILL. (City zone

code numbers appear to have been first used in the middle to late 1940s, running into the 1950s.)

The cap on the jelly on the left in the photo indicates that it held grape jelly, and the righthand example, still unopened and full, held quince jelly. Two other pedestal-base jellies in our collection have caps for apple jelly and mint-flavored apple jelly.

The 4" by 6" by 2 1/2" Cocktail Delight Hostess Assortment box in **Photo 4** was found complete with six of the small Sue Ann pedestal jellies. Two were for quince jelly, two for mint-flavored, one for apple, and one for grape. This box, addressed to "Joyce," was even dated with an inscription on the bottom, "From Uncle Morris & Walter 1960 Christmas."

The small pedestal-base mini-jellies are also known with a flying goose (duck?) pyroglazed in black on the side (**Photo 5**). These goose-depicted mini-jars are known with mint and quince jelly marked lids. It's likely that there were also other birds represented on these jellies, but if a similar bird jelly is found without an identifying cap, who's to say it wasn't made for and packed by another jelly manufacturer than Sue Ann?

Another variation of these 1-oz. pedestal-base jellies has the bowl embossed with rounded hobnails, as in **Photo 6**. These two jellies have caps for cherry and strawberry jelly.

Virtually no advertising was found for these Sue Ann mini-jellies. This is curious,

PHOTO 1: Jelly Delight Hostess Assortment box of Sue Ann mini-jellies.

FIGURE A: First-found Sue Ann Foods advertising from 1946.

PHOTO 2: Two pedestal-base one-ounce jellies from Sue Ann Food Products.

PHOTO 3: Sue Ann Food Products metal cap with Scandinavian girl displaying fruits.





Fruit Jar Rambles Extra

By Tom Caniff — Photos by Deena Caniff



because the company marketed a number of other interesting products, including various Cocktail Delight brand cheeses, bottled salad dressings, rings of Queen Olives stuffed with pimento, 6-ounce cans of Tiger Meat, and Cocktail Delight Garlic, Chive, Onion, and Cheddar Cheese Chip Dips in small 6-ounce, Reusable Sherbet Dishes (Figure B). But despite an impressive array of such products, it's the seemingly unadvertised mini-jellies that seem to pop up most often in eBay ads, antique stalls, and flea markets.

The only mini-jelly that I've seen with a paper label is displayed in Photo 7. Standing 2 3/4" high, this unique straight-sided, pedestal-base jelly has a ring on the stem between the bowl and the foot. Its label reads "Apple Jelly 1 1/2 Oz. Sue Ann USA," with a barn and a lady churning butter, but the fine print below this dealing with "Flavoring and..." has faded out over the years. This one was found without its original cap and has an unmarked generic, gold-lacquered cap.



A second of the 1 1/2 oz. mini-jars detailed above is also known with a somewhat tattered label reading "Rum Cheese Spread 1 1/2 Oz. Sue Ann U.S.A... Pasteurized Process A semisoft cheese, cheddar cheese, cream... rum, lactic acid and salt. Sue Ann Food Products Corp. Chicago, Ill." So, the mini-jars were sometimes used interchangeably for both Sue Ann Jellies and Sue Ann Cheese Spreads.

So far, I've only found two mini-jellies embossed with identification. First, on the left in Photo 8, is the 2" tall, clear, barrel-shaped jelly embossed CROSSE &



PHOTO 4: Sue Ann pedestal-base mini-jellies in a Cocktail Delight Hostess Assortment box.

PHOTO 5: Pyroglazed flying goose mini-jelly.

PHOTO 6: Sue Ann Food Products hobnail jellies.

BLACKWELL, with its sixteen defined barrel-staves, four hoops, and bung-hole. I have never seen a complete one, but I suspect they may have had aluminum closures bearing the flavor and other data; these would have been destroyed upon opening the jars.

On the right in the photo is a 1 3/4" tall, pot-shaped jelly embossed SMUCKER'S on the front and reverse shoulders. These were closed with a crimped-on aluminum cap, embossed SMUCKER'S OLD FASHIONED PURE GRAPE JELLY (or other flavor) NET WT. 1 OZ. MADE BY J. M. SMUCKER CO. ORRVILLE, OHIO. These mini-jellies, according to WITH A NAME LIKE, a Smucker company history, were used about 1955-58.

Aside from their mini-jellies, Sue Ann Food Products also marketed a line of cheeses in the same little 1 oz. style mini-jars. The two clear, approximately 2" tall, tapered mini-jars in Photo 9 were made by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co. and bear its HA trademark on the base. The jar on the left in the photo is pyroglazed in black with the bust and name in script of Thomas Jefferson on the front, and the reverse is lettered THOMAS JEFFERSON THIRD PRESIDENT BORN APRIL 13, 1743 DIED JULY 4, 1826 PRESIDENT 1801-1809. The jar's black press-on cap is lettered COCKTAIL DELIGHT BRAND PASTEURIZED PROCESS CHEESE SPREAD CONTAINING CAMEMBERT NET WT. 1 OZ., and its skirt reads MFD. BY SUE ANN FOOD PRODUCTS CORP., CHICAGO 6, ILL. VAPOR-VACUUM 43 WHITE CAP CO. CHICAGO 2339827.

In relation to these caps, Sue Ann Food Products Corp. advertised in the June 30, 1952 CHICAGO TRIBUNE for a "man wanted for production line operations in



a food plant. Must have some experience with filling machines, White vacuum capping machines or Pony labelers.”

The jar on the right has the bust and name of Woodrow Wilson on the front, and the reverse is lettered WOODROW WILSON TWENTY-EIGHTH PRESIDENT BORN DEC. 28, 1856 DIED FEB. 3, 1924 PRESIDENT 1913-1921. The blue metal cap is lettered basically the same as the preceding jar, except for PROCESS CHEESE SPREAD CONTAINING BLUE (sic). (The small yellow whatzit perched on the cap was given out by our good friend Donald “Mr. Mason” Burkett at the F.O.H.B.C.’s 1980 National show and has helped guard our collection ever since.)

As with the jellies, the cheese mini-jars were also made in a number of variations. **Photo 10** shows a copper wire carousel holding six tapered mini-jars made by Hazel-Atlas Glass. Three of these have the same style of press-on caps as the jellies, while the other three slightly bulbous jars have screw-thread caps, all featuring the Scandinavian girl and her fruits. Based on the visible jars in the front, these six all look to be pyroglazed, some in white and some in black, for Sue Ann’s Cocktail Delight cheeses.

Photo 11 shows another grouping of six more 1 oz. Cocktail Delight cheese jars. At least three of these tapered, straight-sided jars have horses pyroglazed in black, and I suspect that the others probably do too. The press-on Cocktail Delight Brand caps are in a couple different colors but are all printed basically the same, representing Blue, Swiss, Roquefort, and Camembert cheese spreads.

In 1969, Milton Brav, an artist reportedly known for his “Wedgescapes,” sculptures and furniture made of small wood

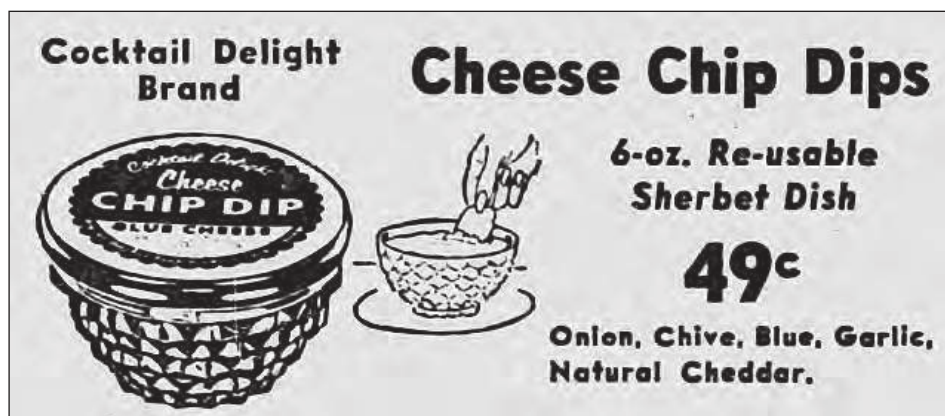


FIGURE B: A 1957 CHICAGO TRIBUNE ad for a 6-oz. Re-usable Sherbet Dish from Sue Ann Foods.

PHOTO 7: Paper-labeled Sue Ann mini-jelly.

PHOTO 8: CROSSE & BLACKWELL and SMUCKER'S mini-jellies.

PHOTO 9: Sue Ann Food Products Cocktail Delight cheese spreads in mini-jelly-style jars.

wedges, and reputedly the founder of Sue Ann Food Products, sold the company to Pet Foods.

Quite a little collection could be made just from the mini-jars used by Sue Ann Food Products, but it can be difficult nailing down identification. If I were bitten

by the bug that predisposes one to collect shot glasses, I suspect that I'd be inclined to give many of these fascinating little 1-oz. jars room on my display shelves, regardless of whether or not I could identify their provenance. **Photo 12** shows three Hazel-Atlas 1-oz. mini-jars pyroglazed in black with a Boxer, a Dachshund, and a



PHOTO 10: Carousel with two styles of Sue Ann cheese mini-jars.



PHOTO 11: Selection of cheese mini-jars with pyroglazed horses.



PHOTO 12: Hazel-Atlas 1-oz. tapered mini-jars featuring breeds of dogs.

Fox Terrier. Maybe they originally held jelly or cheese spread from Sue Ann or some other packer, or maybe they were actually sold as shot glasses. Without identification, who knows?



Publisher's Note:


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