

## JUGGING ALONG IN SOUVENIR OHIO

By Jack Sullivan

The arrival of the motor car in the early 20th century, accelerated after World War II by the vast improvements in roads throughout the United States, unleashed a wave of tourism that still endures despite high gasoline prices. Tourism, in turn, spawned an entire industry to provide souvenirs for visitors. "We have got to take something home for Grandma," generations of Americans have declared ever since. Many times what they took home was a jug with an appropriate label.

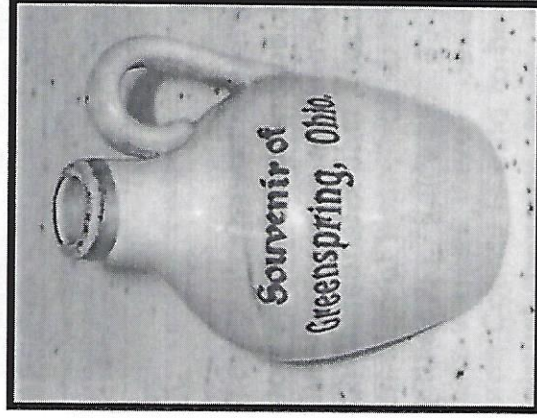


Figure 1

Many of these jugs can trace their origins back a century or so. For example the Green Springs souvenir (Fig. 1) probably dates from the early 1900s. The original purchasers probably had gone to "take the waters" at the mineral springs located there. It is the largest natural sulphur spring in the world, flowing up at a rate of 8 million gallons of water every 24 hours.

It was bottled and sold as a healing tonic until the 1930s. The overflow from the spring runs into Green Creek and eventually flows into Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie.

Similarly vintage is the Zanesville mini jug (Fig. 2). It is fitting that this town in Southern Ohio should be remembered with a ceramic piece. The area has important deposits of clay that were exploited by a number of pottery companies in the first half of the twentieth century.

eth century. Famous companies included the Roseville pottery, Weller pottery, the J.B. Owens Pottery Company, the Zanesville Stoneware Company, the Mosaic Tile Company, and the American Encaustic Tiling Co. Since this jug is unmarked, it is impossible to know if any of these potteries made it.

A ceramic is appropriate for East Liverpool as well (Fig. 3). This town, located along the Ohio River in Eastern Ohio about 40

minutes west of Pittsburgh, is frequently dubbed the "Pottery Capital of the World" and "America's Crocker Capital." The city was once home to over 300 pottery companies, including American Limoges, Hall China Company, Fawcett Pottery, and Standard Pottery. Among them only Hall has continued to operate to the present day. Given the sticker, this jug probably is of post WWII origin.

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Figure 2

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The "Mountain Dew" jug (Fig. 4), identifies itself as a souvenir of Toledo. Ceramic, it likely dates from the 1950s or 1960s since it carries a sticker showing it was made by Artmark in Japan. During that era it was common for such items to originate in Japan, a business now seemingly dominated by China. More appropriately, the jug might have been made

of glass -- commemorating Toledo's stature

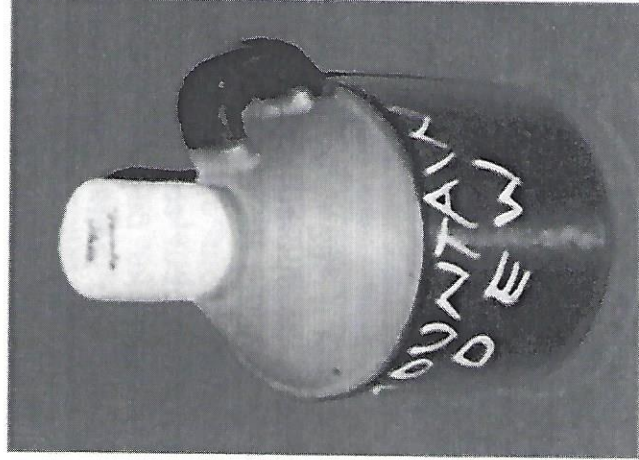


Figure 4

as a glassmaking center.

The Jefferson County mini-jug (Fig. 5) is thoughtfully dated for us at 1964, vintage but not antique. Why would tourists venture there? Jefferson County is said to be a virtual treasure trove for history and genealogy researchers. It has over seventy pioneer cemeteries, the oldest Quaker meeting house west of the Ohio River, well preserved sites on the Underground Railroad, and the old Fort Steuben has been completely rebuilt as a public historic site and museum.

By far the most colorful souvenir of the lot is this one

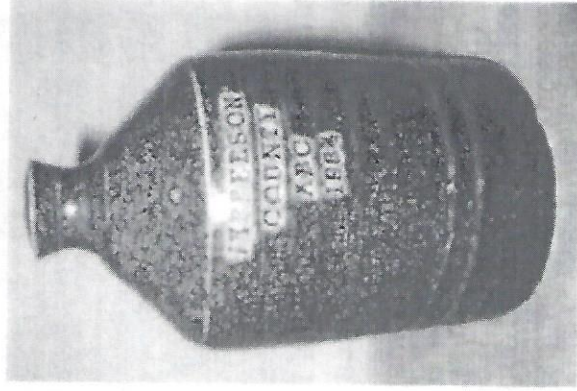


Figure 5



Figure 3

from New Straitsville in Perry County Ohio (Fig. 6). Located in the rolling hills of Southeastern Ohio, New Straitsville's annual Moonshine Festival features a variety of events including a working moonshine still display, local history museum, flea market vendors, moonshine burgers, moonshine pie, moonshine doggies, carnival rides and games, talent show, and two parades concluding with a grand parade on Memorial Day. Dates this year are May 24 to 28. If you go, be sure to buy a souvenir.



Figure 6



Figure 7

Rather plain and uninspired, the mini-jug from King's Island seems to belie the amusement park's slogan: "The Fun and Only." (Fig. 7). Located 24 miles north-east of Cincinnati, Kings Island is the most visited seasonal amusement park in the United States with an estimated 3.1 million visitors in 2010. Originally part of a 1,600 acre purchase, the park currently owns 773 acres of land and offers more than 80 rides, shows and attractions. These include 14 roller coasters and a 15-acre water park.

The Little Brown Jug is a harness race for three-year-old pacing horses hosted by the County Agricultural Society since 1946 at the fairgrounds in Delaware, Ohio. The race takes place every year on the third Thursday after Labor Day. Along with the Hambletonian, a race for trotters, it is one of the two most coveted races for standard bred horses. Little wonder that after attending this event that a racing fan would buy a souvenir little brown jug (Fig. 8).

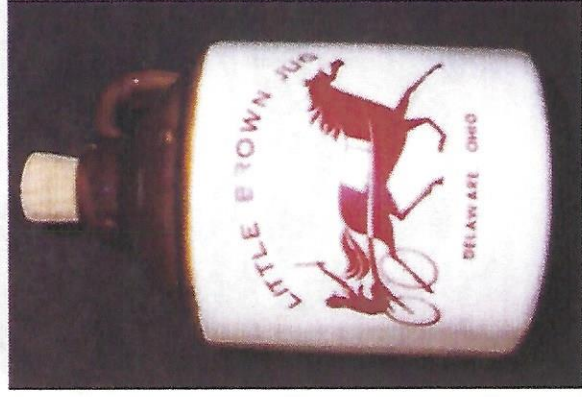


Figure 8



Figure 9

The Ohio State Fair is one of the oldest in the country, dating from 1850. Over the next 22 years, the fair was held in no less than 11 different Ohio cities, including Cleveland three times, until a permanent site in Columbus was chosen at what is now called the Ohio Expo Center and State Fairgrounds. This jug (Fig. 9) plainly gives us the year of origin.

Strictly speaking, this last jug is not a souvenir (Fig. 10). It once held Kentucky straight bourbon whiskey and was the product of Liverpool Porcelain. Dated 1974 it depicts six of the many covered bridges in the Buckeye State. In this case we might think about drink-

ing the contents first and then presenting the jug to Grandma.

As "virtual tourists" in Ohio, we have visited the largest mineral springs in the U.S., the Nation's most popular seasonal amusement park, one glass and two pottery centers, a pioneer county on the Ohio River, a famous horse race, a moonshine festival, a classic state fair, and, finally, six covered bridges. Better yet, we have picked up a souvenir from each adventure. It might even be worth starting a collection.



Figure 10

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**Illustrations:**

1. Souvenir of Green Spring, Ohio
2. Zanesville, Ohio, mini-jug
3. Souvenirs of East Liverpool, Ohio
4. "Mountain Dew" - Toledo
5. Jefferson County mini-jug
6. New Straitsville moonshine jug
7. Kings Island souvenir jug
8. "Little Brown Jug" - Delaware, Ohio
9. Ohio State Fair, 1973, jug
- 10: Ohio Covered Bridges ceramic