



The Ohio Swirl

The Newsletter of the Ohio Bottle Club

July 2020



Calendar of Events

July 30, 2020	7 PM outside with masks & social distancing Club provided refreshments, Program bring something to share.
August 27, 2020	To be determined
September 24, 2020	To be determined
September 29, 2020	Strongsville, Canceled
October 2-3, 2020	Mansfield Antique Bottle Show and Sale



2020 Officers

PRESIDENT	Alan DeMaison	440-796-7539	a.demaison@sbcgloal.net
VICE PRESIDENT	John Fifer	330-461-0069	coinop1958@gmail.com
TREASURER	Phyllis Koch	330-644-0274	phylkoch@yahoo.com
SECRETARY	Marlene Franchino	440-666-7278	jfranchino@wowway.com
SWIRL EDITOR	Alan DeMaison	440-358-1223	a.demaison@sbcgloal.net
LIBRARIAN	David Keding	330-635-7649	keding@zoominternet.net
MANSFIELD	Matt Lacy	440-228-1873	info@antiquebottlesales.com
STRONGSVILLE	Louis Fifer	330-635-1964	fiferlouis@yahoo.com
FACEBOOK	Louis Fifer	330-635-1964	fiferlouis@yahoo.com
WEBSITE	Rick Baldwin/ Brian Gray/ Alan DeMaison under construction		

Meetings

The OBC meetings are held the **LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH** (except when noted) at the **EAGLES CLUB, 9953 Rittman Rd., Wadsworth, OH 44281**. Doors open at around 6 pm with the meetings starting at 7 pm. At this time face masks and social distancing are required.

President's Message

I will gather enough enthusiasm to work on the OBC webpage. Rick Baldwin and Brian Gray have both volunteered to assist in updating the website after the new theme is installed. I will train both to make these updates to the Posts and sidebars. I have contacted Miquel Ruiz, FOHBC Virtual Museum website designer to assist me in these updates. He is excellent and will monitor the site, updating any of the workings (plugins) to prevent a catastrophic shutdown like what we experienced.

The Ohio Bottle Club
Presents

NEW DATE
For this year only

the **42nd**
MANSFIELD
ANTIQUE BOTTLE
SHOW

Richland County Fairgrounds
Saturday, October 3, 2020
9AM to 2PM
General Admission \$5

Early Admission \$35
October 2, 2020



Matt Lacy (440) 228-1873
info@antiquebottlesales.com

Louis Fifer (330) 635-1964
fiferlouis@yahoo.com

ohiobottleclub.org

What is it?



Please call/text 440-796-7539 or email
<a.demaison@sbcglobal.net> your guess to Alan.
The winner of a drawing from all the correct
responses will receive \$10.

Last month's winner of \$10 was, drum roll
please, Berny Baldwin. The correct item last
month was a nutmeg grinder/grater.

July 30th Meeting

I am asking that all members that would attend a July meeting to reserve a place by calling/texting/emailing Alan at 440-796-7539 or <a.demaison@sbcglobal.net> or John Fifer at 330-461-0069 or <coinop1958@gmail.com>.

July meeting;

- July 30, 2020 at 7 PM outside in the pavilion at the Eagles, weather permitting!
- Picnic tables are already spaced for social distancing, bring a comfortable lawn chair.
- Refreshments will be cookies furnished by the club with cans of pop and bottles of water. No coffee.
- Hand sanitizer will be at the entrance as you come in.
- Face masks are required and extras will be available.
- Program will be "Your latest purchases" or anything else bottle related you want to talk about. Set your items by where you are seated and bring an itemized list for the Secretary.
- The microphone will be cleaned after every use.
- There will be no bottle raffle or name tag drawing.
- Please bring any extra precautions that you need to feel comfortable.

I have 25 individuals that have contacted me about attending the meeting. We can discuss meeting guidelines at this meeting and the future of the bottle raffles.

Witch Ball

By Steve Kaplan

This Witch Ball was made in the Carpathian Mountains of Poland, a land of superstition, old-world folklore, and of my ancestors. These balls are said to bring the recipient good luck, happiness, health and prosperity. Therefore, Witch Balls were traditionally given as wedding presents and house-warming



gifts. They are used for protection against evil spells, witches, negativity, sickness and ill fortune. The swirling colors and uniqueness of the orb mesmerizes the evil. The Witch Ball absorbs the spirit's energy within the strands of the glass inside the orb, preventing the spirit from affecting its surroundings. Each Witch Ball is hand blown, hand painted and unique in color, internal strands, bubbles, swirls, twists and size. Traditionally, they are hung in an east window or on the porch by the front door.

Historically Witch Balls have been around for 600 years. They were first molded into sloppy shapes in the Medieval times to ward off witches, goblins and evil spirits. During Victorian times, Witch

Balls were molded in a more refined shape and used higher quality glass. They were displayed to declare prestige and wealth. The legend was discussed but regarded more as a superstition.

Witch Balls have had many other names depending on their use or time in history. Among others, they can be called Fairy Orbs, Spirit Balls, Pond Balls and Glazing Balls. Fairy Orbs resemble Witch Balls, however the myth has changed in a positive way. Fairy Orbs attract fairies and luck. The orbs remind fairies of flowers and they come to inspect the wonderful colors. The fairies find the orb to be a wonderful treat and reward its owner by bestowing them with good luck. Spirit Balls are similar except they have an opening on one end. In Colonial times people believed that evil spirits would fly into the hole and become trapped in the glass strings inside. Pond Balls are essentially the same as a Witch Ball, however instead of being hung from above, the ball is weighted and floated in a pond or pool of water. Glazing Balls are slightly different in that they are usually one solid color and have a more reflective surface. It is believed that instead of being trapped, evil spirits are scared away by their reflection.



FOHBC Virtual Museum



The FOHBC Virtual Museum is currently adding the Jerry McCall Fruit Jar collection. You can still visit the VM for free. Visit fohbcvirtualmuseum.org and click on "FREE ENTRY!"

“Depression Glass” — Product of Ohio

by Jack Sullivan [Special to the Ohio Swirl]

A few members of the Ohio Bottle Club may remember “Depression glass,” colored and sometimes clear translucent glassware that was distributed free or at low cost throughout the United States on the years surrounding the “Great Depression.” Reminded of that difficult time by the current pandemic-caused economic turndown, I distinctly remember my mother returning from seeing a movie in Toledo with green glass salad plates, given out with the purchase of a ticket.

Found in a variety of colors — often pink, yellow, green or crystal, less often cobalt blue or ruby red, their use at dinner helped to liven up our table. Because of their simple charm and generally low price as vintage items, Depression glass already has attracted a sizable group of collectors. Most items are just a decade or two away from antique status.

Five glassworks located in just three Ohio cities give a definite “Buckeye” flavor to these artifacts: The Imperial Glass Co. and the Belmont Tumbler Co. in Bellaire, Hocking Glass Co. and Anchor-Hocking Glass of Lancaster, and Federal Glass Co. of Columbus. Each of them produced collectible Depression glass.

A pink beaded bowl (Fig. 1) demonstrates the delicacy with which press glass could be produced in a company like Imperial Glass. This glassworks was founded in 1901 by Edward Muhleman, with production beginning in 1904. Its handmade pressed glass objects were sold worldwide. The factory is said to have been one of the largest glass factories under one roof in America.



The company was known for the quality of its Depression glass, exemplified by two cobalt blue tumblers (Fig. 2). With competition from abroad, the 1970s brought tough times to Imperial Glass. Purchased by Lenox, the facility switched to general glassware but closed in 1984. Its reputation is kept alive by the Imperial Glassware Museum in Bellaire that provides displays that bring the company past glories to life.



Unlike Imperial Glassworks, little has been recorded about the Belmont Tumbler Co. of Bellaire. When the factory burned in 1952 all its records were destroyed. Rose Cameo was its most noted pattern, shown here on a green tumbler (Fig. 3). Note the cameo of a rose embossed on the glass. Another item worthy of attention is a “ship’s plate,” (Fig. 4) done in “marigold iridescent” and displaying a well-realized three-masted schooner set a stormy sea.



Meanwhile in Lancaster, downstate, local entrepreneur Ike Collins was building a plant to make glassware. Drawn by the prospect of cheap natural gas, he started with one small furnace to melt silica



and saw Hocking Glass Co. grow into a moderately successful enterprise on the banks of the Hocking River. When the Depression began in 1929 the company was well positioned to furnish low cost glass items to be put in boxes of breakfast food and other comestibles as an incentive to purchase. Among them may have been this Hocking pink cake plate (Fig. 5) or a Hocking bowl in a style known as “Crystal Moon (Fig 6).



In 1937, the depths of the Great Depression, the New York-based Anchor Cap and Closure Co. merged with Hocking Glass to create what became Anchor Hocking, the world’s largest manufacturer of glass tableware. That included Depression glass, including the plate and bowl shown here (Figs. 7, 8). Both of these items were “vaseline



glass,” a popular color imparted by the use of uranium oxide in the molten mixture.

Thereby lies another story. When the United States embarked on a project to build the atomic bomb, uranium oxide was a necessary component. Government agents began a highly secret effort to gather up supplies wherever they could be found. Managers of glassworks like Anchor Hocking were approached and told that the government was confiscating their uranium oxide. They were pledged to absolute secrecy on the pain of criminal prosecution.

The agents also likely visited Federal Glass Company in Columbus which was producing vaseline glass plates (Fig. 9) and other tableware. This company had been formed in 1900 by West Virginians and



was bought out by Ohio interests in 1904. It made pressed and blown fruit jars, tumblers, bottles and tableware, including several lines of Depression glass given names like Colonial Fluted, Raindrops, Parrot, and Twisted Optic. A Federal glass cookie jar (Fig. 10) indicates the quality of design given to these low-cost products.

Although much Depression glass can be purchased for under \$25, some rare pieces can fetch hundreds. Because similar glassware was made long after the Depression ended and reproductions are produced even today, any serious collector must become reasonably knowledgeable on companies making Depression glassware and their product lines. A good place to start would be the five Ohio glassworks featured here, all of which made items of tableware worthy of more than a second look.



July Treasurer's Report

BEGINNING BLANCE AS OF 6/8/2020 \$ 3640.13

INCOME:

2 Ohio Bottle Books	\$ 75.00
1 Milk Bottle Book	<u>40.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 115.00

EXPENSES:

Alan DeMaison Ck 1243 (Go Daddy Web Page)	\$143.78
Alan DeMaison Ck 1244	<u>\$239.70</u>
June Swirl & Postage	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 383.48

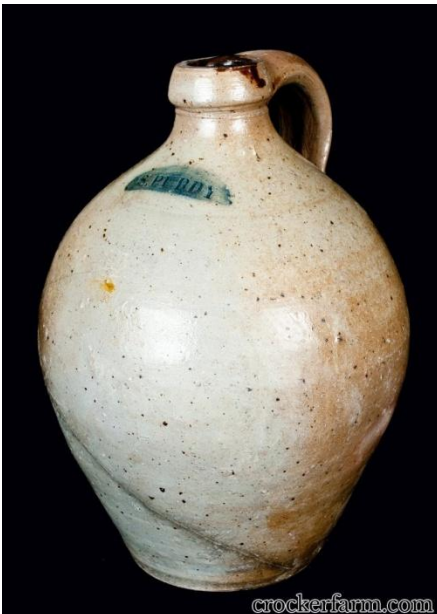
ENDING BALANCE 7/12/2020 \$ 3371.65

Blast from the Past

From the February 1996 Newsletter, submitted by Doc Ford

Clay in the Summit-Portage Area in the Early 1800's

In the last half of the 19th century, sewer pipe and other clay products represented one of Akron's major industries. The manufacturing of clay products started here probably in the 1820's. Left behind from the grinding glaciers of the Ice Age were rich clay deposits, especially in Springfield and Tallmadge townships.



About 1828 a man named Fisk discovered fine clay on a farm about two miles south of Mogadore. He bought the farm, built crude shaping equipment and a kiln and began making a few crocks and jars.

They say the quality of his products were excellent. Soon Fish was overwhelmed with orders and took in a partner, Philip Smith (no relation to our own Bob Smith). They built the first real commercial pottery and set the stage for brisk competition.

Solomon Purdy, jug at the left, a potter in Zanesville, arrived and built a pottery in the Ellet area. In 1830, Edwin H. Merrill of Painesville, came to work for Fisk and Smith and later was employed by Purdy. In 1835 he believed he was ready to run his own business, so he bought out Fisk and Smith.

This was the beginning of great growth in a great industry which years ahead was to nearly destroy itself by an over abundance of potteries.

Hand Grenade Fire Extinguishers

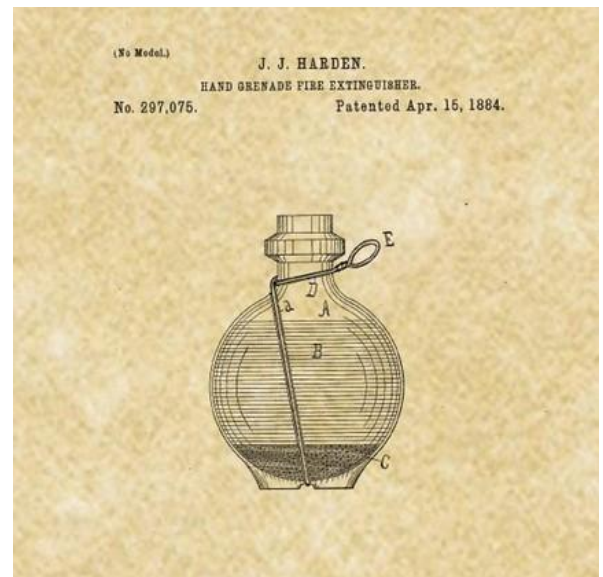


lantern while being milked causing a fire killing approximately 300 people, destroyed roughly 3.3 square miles of the city, and left more than 100,000 residents homeless.

Hand grenade fire extinguishers were the first line of defense against a destructive fire. There was no fire hydrant down the street, no phone to bring a fire engine to the rescue. As you can imagine, a variety of patents flooded the US Patent office. In fact, hundreds of patents were given between 1870 and 1885. There were literally hundreds of manufacturers with all types of bottles and fluids. Fluids include salt water, bicarbonate of soda, muriate of ammonia, and licorice based liquids. To the right is a patent issue to J.J. Harden on April 15, 1884. It resembles the glass Fire grenades that are collectible today.

Fire!! was one of the most alarming words that anyone could yell in the 1800's and early 1900's. With most building made of wood while heating, cooking and lighting sources consisting of an open flame, what could possibly go wrong?

Poor Mrs O'Leary's cow will forever be immortalized as the villain in the Great Chicago fire of 1871. As the story goes, on October 8, 1871, flames sparked in the *Chicago* barn of Patrick and Catherine O'Leary. It was reported that the cow had kicked over a



The National Bottle Museum in Ballston Spa, NY recently exhibited the Charlie Betts Fire Grenade collection. Charlie may have the largest and most diverse collection. Terry and I had made arrangements to visit Charlie this last spring just after the Baltimore Bottle Show, but Covid-19 changed all those plans.



Ohio Bottle Club
1605 Clipper CV
Painesville, OH 44077

Forwarding Requested
Correction Requested

MEETING

July 30, 2020

Face Masks required

Program; bring something bottle related to share and/or your new purchases. Limited to 3 or 4 items.

Refreshments; cookies/pop/water provided by the club, no coffee

Visit us at <ohiobottleclub.org>



The Ohio Swirl

The Newsletter of the Ohio Bottle Club

July 2020



Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

What do you collect? _____

Annual dues are \$20.00 per year. This includes your family (regardless of size) to participate in our regular meeting, activities and receive the monthly newsletter.

Send a \$20 check to Ohio Bottle Club, % Phyllis Koch, 763 Jolson Ave., Akron, OHIO 44319