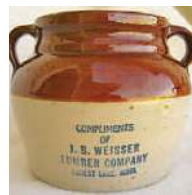


# FIRING THE PASSION MOLDING MINNESOTA HISTORY



32ND ANNUAL CONVENTION  
JULY 10-11-12, 2008

A SPECIAL CONVENTION SUPPLEMENT PRODUCED BY THE REPUBLICAN EAGLE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RED WING COLLECTORS SOCIETY INC.



## Welcome from the President

Welcome to the 32nd Annual RWCS Convention, the place where you meet old friends, greet new ones, see spectacular pieces of pottery and enjoy the happenings of the historic city of Red Wing.

This year's Convention as always will live up to your expectations. There will be plenty of educational opportunities for both adults and children. The Thursday night auction will be truly extraordinary.

The long awaited Pottery Park is expected to be open during this week's Convention and the Potter's Picnic on Friday evening will be held there if the weather cooperates. This piece of history is important for the Society and the city of Red Wing.

I know and understand the difficult choices everyone has to make during these tough economic times. I thank you for choosing to come to the RWCS Convention. You are the members that continue to keep this Society alive and thriving.

I hope everyone leaves Red Wing with a memory or two that will last you through the year until you get into the vehicle of your choice for the trek back here next year. Have a good week.

Sue Jones Tagliapietra



Sue Jones Tagliapietra,  
President

Photo courtesy, Rick Kopynski

## Welcome from the Mayor

Greetings! Welcome back to beautiful Red Wing, Minnesota! On behalf of the City of Red Wing, I hope the 32nd annual Red Wing Collector's Society convention is a productive and enjoyable one for all of you.

A lot has happened since we celebrated the City's 150th anniversary last year. Red Wing has begun to establish a new era of excitement. Not only did Red Wing win the America In Bloom national award in our population category, but we have continued to improve in the beautification of our parks and neighborhoods and establish a community garden. We continue to improve downtown and the surrounding area. Encouraging new and existing businesses is of the utmost importance.

As we go forward, we must always remember our past. Red Wing Pottery is definitely a vital part of our history...and we are all proud of that!

Please take the opportunity to enjoy the Convention and to shop, play and dine in beautiful Red Wing. Have a great time.

Donna Dummer



Donna Dummer  
Mayor of Red Wing

## Welcome from the Executive Director

Greetings RWCS Members and WELCOME to the 32nd Annual Convention, Firing the Passion, Molding Minnesota History. Thank you for joining us here in Red Wing!

Katie Hardyman, Membership Coordinator, and I are glad to see all of you here in Red Wing again! This will be Katie's first July Convention and we are both excited to see your collecting passion for Red Wing Stoneware, Dinnerware and Art Pottery.

This year the State of Minnesota is celebrating its Sesquicentennial and we are excited to have our Convention included in this celebration. For 90 years Red Wing Potteries contributed to Minnesota's history and your passion for collecting keeps that history alive. So as you are out at the street and parking lot sales, antique shops and auctions don't forget to visit the Red Wing Pottery Museum, Goodhue County Historical Society and check out the new Pottery Industry Interpretive pavilion at Pottery Park. A special thank you to the Cannon Valley Red Wing Collectors Club for the beautiful window display at Josephson's Clothing. Check out their tribute to Red Wing Potteries MN history contribution.

We once again saw a significant increase in members using the Online Membership Services to register for Convention and purchase commemoratives. We also received great feedback from members on all the new resources available on our website. If you have not had a chance to check it out, consider attending the Education Session devoted to our powerhouse website.

I am excited to announce that this year's Potter's Picnic, annually sponsored by the Red Wing Chamber of Commerce, will be at Pottery Park on Levee Road. The new Red Wing Pottery Pavilion with interpretive signs is all ready to be the new home for the Potter's Picnic. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our bank, Associated Bank, for donating the tent for our picnic this year and all the businesses that support this even each year. If you have not been to the picnic in awhile consider purchasing a ticket for food, entertainment and fun! Tickets are available at the Registration area and at the door.

Thanks for coming RWCS Members! We are so glad you made the trip amid the gas prices and weather this past few months. So have a great time and let Katie, me or any Board members know if there is anything that we can do to make Convention memorable.

Stacy Wegner



Stacy Wegner  
Executive Director

## On the cover...

Thank you to all the RWCS Members who sent in pictures of their Minnesota pieces. From Eveleth to Mankato the Red Wing Potteries touched every town history through advertising and special event commemoratives.

## Welcome from the History Center



The Goodhue County History Center is located at 1166 Oak St., Red Wing.

The Goodhue County Historical Society is happy and pleased to welcome the Red Wing Collectors' Society and its chapters to Red Wing for another convention. We look forward to renewing the friendships that we have made and anticipate visiting with a number of you at the history center as well as at the convention.

There have been changes here since last year. Johanna Grothe, who had been our educator/volunteer coordinator, has moved into collections management. Under her direction, we had new cases built for the center pottery exhibit. These are sturdier, and therefore, safer, and will, we believe, allow for better viewing of the pottery on display. We look forward to

showing you our changes!

Conventions are exceptional opportunities to meet new people and new things, as well as a chance to renew friendships. Your Convention is a splendid chance to learn about Red Wing's history, Red Wing pottery and to indulge your enthusiasm for collecting. Enjoy this year's Convention and your time here. Take the opportunities to meet new people and learn new things—we always learn from you! My staff and I will look forward to greeting you at the History Center!

Char Henn  
Director/CEO, Goodhue County  
Historical Society



# Limited edition pieces celebrate Minnesota's 150th

By Ruth Nerhaugen  
nerhaugen@republican-eagle.com

**R**ed Wing Pottery and Red Wing Stoneware Co. both have produced special limited edition stoneware pieces in celebration of Minnesota's 150th birthday. The local companies both also will have 2008 commemoratives for sale in connection with the Red Wing Collectors Society Convention.

## Red Wing Pottery

The state's Sesquicentennial Committee selected Red Wing Pottery to make 150 limited edition salt-glazed commemoratives to help celebrate Minnesota's history. Potters are hand turning a lug-handled, straight-sided crock, which is stamped with the sesquicentennial logo along with the Red Wing Pottery stamp. They feature hand-painted cobalt blue decorations.

The bottom-numbered piece was sold in June through the retail store,

Web site and "800" phone line, with no pre-sales. Four prototypes went to the state and were auctioned at a sesquicentennial event, owner Scott Gillmer said.

The pottery, which this month celebrates the 12th anniversary since reviving salt-glaze manufacturing locally in 1996, also produces special pieces for Red Wing collectors.

In addition, the three potters each made six unique bottom-numbered pieces, Gillmer said. Mark Connolly, who traveled through Mexico, was inspired by the shape of a piece he saw there. Alex Wilson again will make face jugs, which were very popular in 2007. Scott Keith also plans a special design. The Pottery Salesroom is at 1920 Old W. Main St. Check it out online at [www.redwing-pottery.com](http://www.redwing-pottery.com).

## Red Wing Stoneware

Six stoneware pieces with a sesquicentennial image - a flag and "150 Years of Statehood 1858-2008" -

are being produced by Red Wing Stoneware.

Two items are in open production, Tom Woodruff said. They include a mini-crock and a 10-ounce crock style mug. The company produced 2,008 pieces of three items: a cream can utensil holder, a 1-pint jug bank, and a 1-pint candy crock. In addition, 150 only 1-gallon crocks were produced. A 2-gallon crock may be added this summer, Woodruff said.

The company also has produced a commemorative item for the past 20 years or so, he said. Previous special pieces have included miniature bale-handled bowls, Cherry band pitchers and Grayline salt and pepper sets.



The 2008 replica commemorative, imprinted with the date, will be unveiled on Thursday of Convention week.

Red Wing Stoneware is at 4909 Moundview Drive. Details can be found online at [www.redwingstoneware.com](http://www.redwingstoneware.com).

## Salt Glazed Pottery

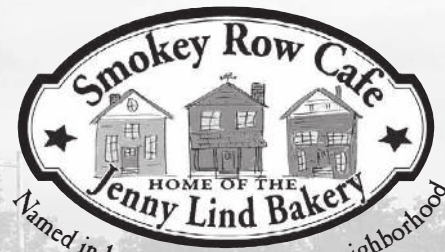


**12th Anniversary Collectors Firing**  
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## Owners bring questions, rare Red Wing pieces to Road Show

By Ruth Nerhaugen  
nerhaugen@republican-eagle.com

Is this Red Wing? How old would it be? What do you think it's worth? Can this chip be repaired?

The experts were peppered with questions May 18 at the first Red Wing Pottery Road Show, a free opportunity for the public to get information and advice from people who know an awful lot about products that make Red Wing famous worldwide.

An estimated 100 or more people brought more than 200 pieces of pottery and stoneware, photos and memorabilia to Pottery Place Mall for the event, which was sponsored by the society and its foundation, and by the Cannon Valley Red Wing Collectors Club.

They came carrying cardboard boxes, plastic tubs and bags, from which they pulled a huge assortment of pieces, large and small, wrapped in everything from newspapers to bath towels. The items

ranged from tiny advertising thimbles to tall churns and salt-glaze jugs made well over 100 years ago.

The owners showed up early for the 1 p.m. event, wanting to make sure they had a chance to show their pieces before the road show ended. At 12:45 p.m., the hallway outside the Pottery Museum was filled with people picking up numbers and lining up in front of experts.

"Every piece had some kind of story with it," said Stacy Wegner, executive director of the society.

Some of those pieces will be displayed during the Convention, including the rare Josephson floor vase and the Hintz



Larry Peterson examines a churn.



Carol Schaffer brought in pitchers.

jug (see other stories).

Local experts included Foundation board member Larry Peterson on stoneware, Chuck Drometer of Countryside Antique Mall in Cannon Falls, repair expert Keith Klindworth of Red Wing, and Ron Linde of Northfield on art pottery and dinnerware, along with collectors Mike Anderson and Dale Erickson.

Peterson and Carol Schaffer of Miesville exchanged opinions in a confab over a small brown pitcher with pouring spouts and crosses on both sides. Peterson thought it was Red Wing, but Schaffer said the person she bought it from told her it was from an earlier company. Its use? Maybe part of a communion set, they speculated.

Waiting his turn was Randy Harverts of Rochester, with a jug that's been in his family for 50 years; his father, an auctioneer, purchased it from an old farmer. Covered with "turkey droppings," it likely was made in the 1880s-1890s. Peterson placed a value of about \$400 on the hand-turned piece.

Barb Betcher of Red Wing brought in an unmarked brown jug. Although it was valued at only \$50 to \$75, Betcher kept the piece because she likes it.

"It's been in the family for over 100 years," she said. "I have it sitting on my fireplace mantle."

Jim Wallaker of Inver Grove Heights, Minn., a former area resident, stopped

in with a 6-gallon hand-turned churn made between 1892 and 1896 by North Star Potteries. Curious about the value, he was pleased when experts put it at \$400 to \$500.

Not all the items were large. Bill Stechmann of Red Wing showed up with two tiny thimbles imprinted with the words, "Red Wing lamps make a fine gift."

"I found them at an antique shop in northern Wisconsin," he said. A shop had several, and he paid \$9 each for three silver with red thimbles that were in perfect shape.

"I didn't know if they were real," Stechmann said, until local collector Dave Hallstrom assured him they are.

Experts at the Road Show placed the value at \$120 to \$125 each.

Some of the last people to arrive brought "the find of the show," Wegner said. Relatives of Harry Tiedeman, a past Red Wing Potteries Union president, brought his picture, his Union president pin, a mini jug smaller than a penny, and a Red Wing Souvenir jug.

The sponsoring groups - and the experts - were more than pleased with the day.

Linde was particularly enthusiastic about some lunch hour pieces - unique items made by workers on their lunch

**OWNERS continued on page 5**

**"Continuing the Tradition"**

**"Welcome Red Wing Collectors"**



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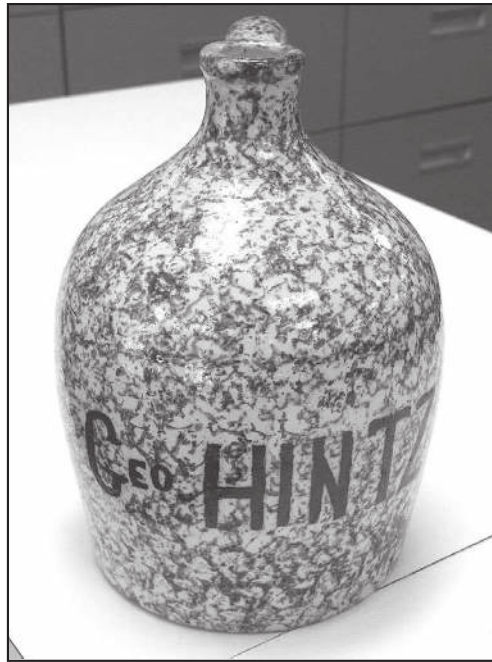
# Unique Hintz jug examined at first Pottery Road Show

A unique jug that reflects the role stoneware played in the history of brewing in Minnesota was among rare Red Wing items that area residents brought to the Red Wing Pottery Road Show held in May.

Known as the Hintz jug, the piece - a sponge blue jug with handles - is expected to go on display at the Red Wing Pottery Museum.

George Hintz of Red Wing brought in the jug and shared some of its history.

"This piece was a gift from the Gasner Brewery, Owatonna, Minn., to my grandfather, George Hintz (1874-1954)," he said. "He was a friend of the owner, either Peter Gasner or Charles Fuermann."



The date the jug arrived with his name on it is unknown.

His grandfather used the jug "for medicinal purposes," Hintz said. "It was kept in my grandparents' bedroom, and my father and two uncles would occasionally take a swig or two, without their father's permission."

In addition, he added, "It was also

used as a doorstop in my grandparents' latter years. After my grandfather's death in 1954, the jug was passed on to his namesake."

The Gasner Brewery's story is told in "Land of Amber Waters: the History of Brewing in Minnesota."

The brewery originally was located in Brownsville. It burned, and Adolph Knoblauch moved to Owatonna and opened a new brewery there around 1864-65.

There are no records of the earliest years. By the time of the first extant excise records, Knoblauch is in partnership with a Mr. Mannheim - most likely John Mannheim, formerly of Mannheim and Lacy in Chatfield.

In 1866, Knoblauch sold his share in the brewery to Peter Gasner. After a brief transition period, Gasner entered a five-year partnership with his brother Adam, which ended with Adam's death in 1872.

Gasner spent the next two decades as sole proprietor of the brewery, but they were not calm years.

The brewery burned to the ground in 1878 with a loss of about \$12,000. Gasner rebuilt immediately, only to have the new brewery burn in 1884. The new brewery lasted, but in 1894 Gasner sold to Charles Fuermann. Fuermann sold the brewery back to Gasner in 1900; Gasner operated it until his death in 1916.

The brewery continued to brew beer for the next three years and produce "near beer" and soft drinks for the first three years of Prohibition. In 1923, the brewery was sold to the Owatonna Medicine and Cabinet Co. for use as patent medicine warehouses. It was located on South Oak Street, south of School Street in Owatonna.

## Owners *continued from page 4*

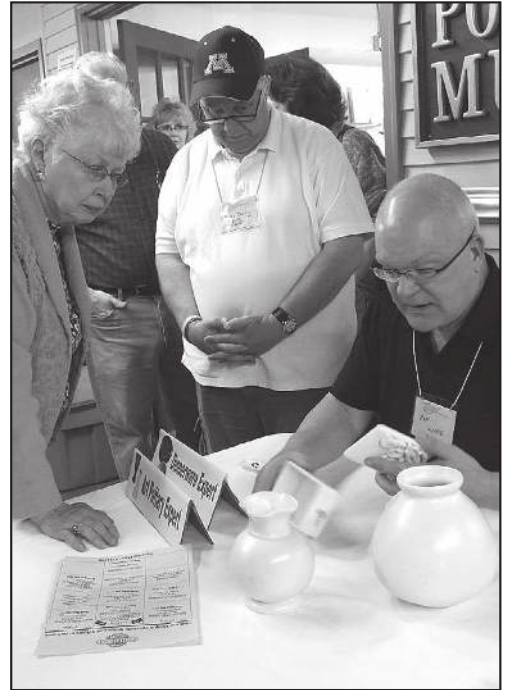
breaks.

"I was surprised at the number of unusual pottery items that people from the area brought," he said.

"I've seen some things I have not seen before," Drometer agreed. "That's part of the fun."

Collectors Society officials plan to hold another road show in May 2009. In the meantime, people can get more information on their pottery by using the "Ask the experts"

feature on the Web site [www.redwingcollectors.org](http://www.redwingcollectors.org) or by calling (651) 388-4004 or (800) 977-7927.



Ron Linde looks at some art pottery.



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# One-of-a-kind floor vase covered with drawings

When William Josephson put his name on the bottom of a 19-inch tall zinc floor vase May 22, 1911, he may not have been aware of how special that vase would be as a piece of Red Wing history.

The vase-signed William Josephson of Box 199 Red Wing, MN, in double-lined cobalt blue and red lettering - was one of several unique Red Wing pottery and stoneware items that showed up at the first Red Wing Pottery Road Show, held this spring at the Pottery Museum in Red Wing.

Scenes of the times are hand-drawn in either cobalt or red all around the vase. The scenes are carefully planned and spaced, Red Wing Collectors Society experts noted.

Four large scenes depict a lighthouse, a scenic river and bluff view, a church (the Methodist Church at East Avenue and Fourth Street) and an Indian in a full-length headdress standing at the edge of the water offering his pipe to the four directions with his tepee behind him, the bluffs

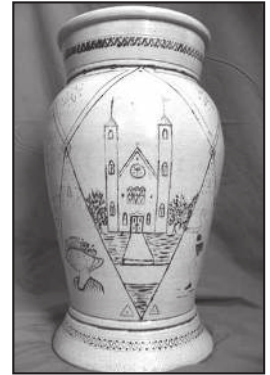
across the water and a Canada goose flying in the distance.

There are also four smaller drawings that depict a professional boxer, possibly Jack Dempsey; a train conductor; a woman dressed in the clothing of the times; and a police officer.

Around the bottom and top of the vase are hand-drawn zigzag lines and dots.

There are also four stars with crosses in them and several triangles, some of which have crosses in them and others that have dots in them.

Mystery surrounds the travels this vase made from the time it was created until it came to rest approximately 80 years ago in a local family's farm home. The matter is being researched.



The family's great-nephew shared his stories about the vase at the Road Show, which was presented May 18 by the Cannon Valley Collectors Club and the Red Wing Collectors Society.

As the family came to realize that their vase was a unique and valuable piece of Red Wing history, officials said, "its location changed from one of prominence and daily visibility to one of safety in a gunny sack in an out-of-the-way place."

The vase has now changed hands to

a new caretaker, officials said - "accompanied by the gunny sack that kept it hidden for many years."

However, everyone will have a chance to get a look at the vase during the Convention. It will be featured in the display of rare items at the Red Wing High School.

The Convention is open to the public Saturday. We encourage everyone to come and check out the piece from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

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## Red Wing is a SmartTown

Like many small communities, Red Wing struggles to keep local residents in town to do their shopping.

SmartTown Alliance, a program of the Red Wing Area Chamber of Commerce, is designed to provide cash rewards to consumers who shop locally at SmartTown businesses and generate income for area nonprofits such as the Red Wing Collectors Society.

Red Wing's SmartTown program works for Red Wing businesses, shoppers and nonprofit organizations. Participation has grown tremendously over the past eight months.

You can get a free card from any local participating SmartTown merchant, from the chamber or the Red Wing Collectors Society. You must register your card online.

Use the card when you shop at SmartTown business and you will earn a

cash reward, cash for the Red Wing Collectors Society and the community. You can change your nonprofit at any time.

For example. Spending \$50 at Moments on Main gives the customer \$2 and the charity \$1. Customers can redeem their earned cash at any SmartTown businesses.

Using the card when in Red Wing is a way to say thank you to the participating businesses.

Currently two other Minnesota communities participate in the SmartTown program: New Ulm and Winona. People can travel to these towns and use their cards at the SmartTown businesses there. They will earn a cash reward and the designated nonprofit will earn cash as well.

For a list of participating businesses, go to [www.smarttownalliance.com](http://www.smarttownalliance.com) or call (651) 388-4719.



# Pottery exhibited in new display cases

Four large made-to-order display cases are new to the Red Wing pottery and stoneware exhibit space on the second floor of the Goodhue County History Center, 1166 Oak St.

Funds donated for enhancing exhibits were used to finance the glass-top cases, according to museum Director Char Henn.

"It's easier to look at" the contents, she noted, plus the low, centrally located cases are extremely sturdy and more stable than tall cases.

"These cases will allow you to focus better on the pieces," Henn said, which all are labeled.

Also, she added, this allow the staff more flexibility because the cases are easily moved.

The new cases are filled with art pottery and dinnerware. One section features the Minnesota Territory

Centennial ashtray, the Minnesota Centennial trivet, Twins and All-Star baseball pieces, and Red Wing's Eisenhower Bridge dedication piece.

A nearby case that features a new grouping of Red Wing each year for the convention is filled with Bronze Line piece.

According to Ray Reiss's "Red Wing Art Pottery" (1996), the Bronze Line was the premier line offered by Red Wing Potteries in 1965. "It consisted of mostly classical shapes glazed in a rich, glossy bronze color with a bit of crackle," he wrote.

The second-floor exhibit area also includes cases filled with art pottery and stoneware, the George Thompson water cooler, items about the Red Wing Terra Cotta Works (1866-1880) and Goodhue County's first potter, John Paul (1860s), and more.



Exhibit designer Tom Amble places a vessel.

Sewer pipe made of clay from Claybank and built in Red Wing also is displayed.

In an adjacent second-floor room, a

large case includes the Eddie Swanson Memorial Collections and one-of-a-kind stoneware pieces.

## Red Wing's pottery history goes back centuries

By Ruth Nerhaugen  
nerhaugen@republican-eagle.com

Red Wing pottery is so unique it defies the term "rare."

Such a piece is the large ceremonial vessel found in Red Wing in 1971 that dates back to about 1100 A.D. The 20-inch tall vessel is decorated with images including the spotted eagle.

The vessel is the centerpiece of a new exhibit at the Goodhue County History Center, 1166 Oak St., Red Wing.

"The Stories of Red Wing Archaeology," opened in June, tells about the ancient American Indian culture and the thousands of people who occupied several prehistoric villages long before European settlers came and built their cities near the banks of the Mississippi River.

The exhibit focuses on two stories: The ancient culture that thrived here around 1050 to 1250 A.D., and the work of archaeologists studying that culture from the 1850s

to the present.

"This is one of the most important archaeological sites in the northern Mississippi area," said Jean Chesley of Red Wing. She and a sister, the late Elizabeth Hedin, supported and advocated archaeological studies here for many years.

The new exhibit is dedicated to Hedin, who is described by archaeologist Ron Schirmer as "the key figure who galvanized people" to study and preserve what had been hidden for hundreds of years.

She also was key in putting together the original exhibit which is replaced with updated materials telling what has been accomplished in the past 15 years.

Considerable investigation has been done at sites of the Upper Mississippian period, and specifically the era known as the Silvernale period, 1050-1250 A.D.

**HISTORY** continued on page 13

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# Molding MN History one town at a time

For over 90 years of Minnesota's Sesquicentennial history the Red Wing Potteries produced the nations Stoneware, Dinnerware and Art Pottery. In recognition of the over 90 years of production here is a list of products they made for business all over Minnesota. Thank to all the member who helped assemble this list with their pictures via email, spending time on the phone or stopping in the RWCS Office. Without all of you this short list of all things Minnesota would not have been possible.

1. Minnesota Twins Ashtray
2. Minnesota Twin World Series Ashtray
3. University of Minnesota Golden Gopher - University of Michigan Little Brown Jug
4. Gopher on a Stump
5. Minnesota Centennial Trivet
6. Gedney Distilled Pickling Vinegar Jug
7. Pretty Red Wing Ashtray
8. Sewer Pipe
9. Sleepy Eye, MN Milling Company- Mugs
10. Great Northern Railroad Stoneware Potatoes to advertise their baked potatoes available in dinning cars
11. Minnesota State Fair Souvenir Jugs
12. Elks Club State Convention 1929 - mini jug
13. Moose Lodge Convention 1930 - mini jug
14. Gluek Brewing Company barrel shaped pitchers and mugs
15. Eisenhower Bridge dedication ashtray
16. Great River Road Trivet
17. Thunderbird Hotel Plates, Minneapolis
18. Shrine's souvenir cap 1957
19. Land of Lakes ashtray
20. Lewiston, Minnesota Centennial piece
21. Hamm's Brewing Company - Bear and Dinnerware line
22. Old Frontenac Point Methodist Campus candle holder 1930s
23. St. Joseph's Hospital Mankato, Mankato, Minn. - ashtray
24. Minnesota Land of 10,000 lake fish ashtray
25. 1965 pennant "Win Twins Ashtray"
26. 1965 All Star Game ashtray
27. Hamm's Krug Klub
28. Stephan Far Co-Op & Elevator, Stephan, Minn., - bean pot
29. Red Wing Lions Club Ashtray
30. Mountain Lake, MN Bean Pot advertising
31. J.R. Watkins Company, Winona, Minn. - jugs
32. The Three Orphan's Saloon, North Bridge and Moorhead, Minnesota
33. Blue Earth, MN Eder's Arcade Store 5 pound butter crock
34. Buncco Root-Berrn, Detroit, MN
25. Squire & Helgerson, Mazeppa, MN - bean pot
26. Adams, MN, Wager's Department Store bean pot
27. J.B. Weisser Lumber Company, Forest Lake, Minn., bean pot
28. Johnson Produce Co. Home Office, Cokato, Minn., bean pot
29. IAG Grocer Joseph Lowy, Silver Lake, Minn., bean pot
30. Temanson Stone, Grand Meadow, Minn. Beater Jar
31. Olmsted County Co-operative, Rochester, Minn. Jug
32. Charles G Wilson, Rush City, MN - mixing bowl
33. North Star Creamery, Kenyon MN - butter crock
34. Strand Quist Creamery, Strand Quist, Minn., - bean pot
35. Waterbury Sanitary Fountain Co., Minneapolis, MN - cooler
36. Clarks Grove Co-Operative Creamery, Clark Grove, MN - Fancy Pasteurized Butter Crock
37. Bemidji Co-Op Creamery Co, Bemidji, MN - creamer
38. Winman Milkers, J.C, Marlo Co., Mankato, MNN - churn
39. Sundberg Brothers Groceries and Meats, Red Wing, Minn.- Sponge band Pitcher
40. Smith System Heading Co., Sanitary School Supplies, Minneapolis, MN - water cooler
41. 1912 Commercial Travelers Convention commemorative traveling bag
42. Tibodeau's Leghorn Farm & Hatcher, Huron Lake, Minn. - 3 gallon Ball long Jar
43. Frank Tobisch Florist, Stillwater, Minn. - stoneware vase
44. C.A. Hbergarten & Company, Waconia, Minn. - cookie jar
45. Barnicks Food Market, Wells, Minn. - sponge ware bowl
46. Haack's Store, Stewartville, Minn. - saffronware pie plate
47. Broadway Grocery Co., Little Falls, Minn. - cherry band pitcher
48. West End Commercial Club - St. Paul, Minn. - souvenir mug
49. Land O'Lakes butter crock
50. Crescent Creamery Co., St. Paul, Minn. - butter crock
51. The Hazel Pure Food Co - ball lock jars
52. Minnesota State Federation of Labor 1909 Convention Commemorative Jug
53. Red Wing Brewing Co., Red Wing, Minn. - boy figurial
54. President McKinley bust commemorative for the 1901 assassination
55. John G Rochers Wholesale Whiskies & Wine, St. Paul, Minn. - beehive jug
56. Welz Mangler Co, St. Paul, Minn. - 5 gallon jug
57. Vernon Center Co-Op Store, Vernon Center, Minn. - Small Brown top jug
58. St. Paul Book & Stationary Co, St. Paul, Minn. - Brown top jug
59. R.M. Lang Elevator, Hoffman, Minn. - sponge band pitcher
60. Grand Rapids Creamery (1935), Grand Rapids, Minn. - sponge band casserole
61. Ratterman Brother Florist, St. Paul, Minn. - stoneware vase
62. E.M Schmidt "The Hub", Wabasha, Minn. - small jug
63. City Liquor Store, Nichols Gludt Prop., Lake City, Minn. - small jug
64. Hamms Brewing Company Stoneware Beer Keg for use in World War II
65. Unite Grocers, August J. Becker, Red Wing, Minn. - sponge band bowl
66. Olmsted County Co-Operative Association, Rochester, Minn. - brown top jug
67. Cash Meat & Grocery Co., Inc., Buhl, Minn. - bean pot
68. Crosby Meat & Grocery Co., Crosby, Minn. - bean pot
69. Dunnell Farmers Co-Op. Elevator Co., Dunnell, Minn. - bean pot
70. Chiosholm's Hardware, Gary, Minn - bean pot
71. Carls Food Shop, Brycelyn, Minn. - bean pot
72. Farmers Grain & Mercantile Co., Round Lake, Minn. - bean pot
73. Boudry and Funk, Guckeen, Minn. - bean pot
74. Borgerding Lumber Co., Park Rapids, Minn. - bean pot
75. Eveleth Plumbing & Heating Co., Eveleth, Minn. - bean pot and sponge band pitcher
76. Fairway Market, Larson & Elofson, Cambridge, Minn. - bean pot
77. Farmers Co-Op. Co. Worthington, Minn. - bean pot
78. J.A. Snyder, Alpha, Minn. - bean pot
79. J. B. Weisser Lumber Company, Forest Lake, Minn. - bean pot
80. J.J. Wolfrom, Hart, Minn. - preserve jar
81. Sheaffer & Alvey's, Winnebago, Minn. - butter crock
82. The Pederson Mercantile, Moorhead, Minn. - beehive jug
83. The Glenwood - Inglewood Co., Pure Springs Water, Minneapolis, Minn. - beehive jug
84. Red Wing Potteries Anniversary Red Wing Ashtray
85. Redmens (Club) August 7-8, 1927 - mini jug for state convention
86. Red Wing Union Stoneware - mini jug (salesman's sample)
87. Stenwick Ashtray - Red Wing, Minn.
88. Sterling Wine house, St. Paul, Minn. - 1 gallon jug
89. Ladner Brothers, 328-330 Main, Red Wing, Minn. - 1 gallon jug
90. Oscar Swanson Fires Wines & Liquor, Cannon Falls, Minn. - 1 gallon jug
91. Seig & Dahl Wines & Liquor, 219-221 Main, Red Wing, Minn. - 1/2 gallon jug
92. Virginia Builders & Supply Co., Virginia, Minn. - bean pot
93. Ashtray - Welch, Minn. - pink
94. Peterson Grocery, Winona, Minn. - bean pots, pitcher, bowls

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**2008 Convention Schedule Red Wing High School, Red Wing, MN**

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
<b>Wednesday, July 9</b>		
8:00 – 12:00	Board of Directors Meeting	L 100
11:00 - 3:00	Brat Feed (badge pick up for pre-registered attendees) Sponsored by Pottery Place Mall	Pottery Place Mall
12:00 – 3:00	Auction Check-In, Catalogs for Sale	Gymnasium
8:00 p.m. – 10:00	Red Wing Pottery Museum Wine & Cheese Fundraiser	Red Wing Pottery Museum
<b>Thursday, July 10</b>		
8:00 – 4:00	Courtyard Café Open	Courtyard Café
8:00 – 4:00	Set up the Display and Rare Items	J 100 Pod
8:00 – 7:00	<b>Registration Opens</b>	Courtyard Café
8:00 – 10:00	Chapter Presidents Meeting	L 100
8:00 – 4:00	Ephraim Pottery Demonstration	Courtyard Café
8:00 – 10:00	Commemorative Distribution	H Pod
8:00 – 11:00	Auction Check-In	Gymnasium
8:00 - ???	Distribution of Bid Numbers; Auction Catalog for Sale	Gymnasium
9:00 – 3:30	Sale of Educational Material	Courtyard Café
<b>9:00 – 10:00</b>	<b>Orientation for First Timers</b>	<b>Choir Room C-100</b>
10:30 – 12:00	<b>Welcome Session</b> <b>Keynote Address: The New Pottery Park</b> <b>Brian Peterson, City of Red Wing</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
11:00 – 12:30	Bus Tour Registration (at Information Table)	Courtyard Café
12:15 – 1:00	Kids View Auction Check-In	Auditorium
12:15 – 4:15	Auction Preview	Gymnasium
12:30 – 3:00	Historical Red Wing Bus Tour Departs>Returns High School Chapter Meetings and Hospitality Rooms	Doors by Auditorium
1:00 – 2:00		To Be Posted
<b>1:00 – 3:30</b>	<b>Kids View Seminar &amp; Auction</b>	<b>Art Room/Auditorium</b>
1:00 – 4:00	Commemorative Distribution	H 100 Pod
4:30 – ????	<b>Auction</b>	<b>Gymnasium</b>
5:30 p.m. – 8:00	View Displays	J 100 Pod

<b>Friday, July 11</b>		
8:00 – 3:20	<b>Registration Opens</b>	Courtyard Café
8:00 – 1:30	Courtyard Café Open	Courtyard Café
9:00 – 10:50	Commemorative Distribution	H 100 Pod
8:30 – 3:20	Displays Open	J 100 Pod
9:00 – 3:20	Sale of Educational Materials	Courtyard Café
9:00 – 10:00	<b>Orientation for First Timers</b>	<b>Choir Room C-100</b>
9:00 – 10:00	HAUL IN Show and Sale/Souvenir Items	Gymnasium
<b>10 – 10:50</b>	<b>Adult Education Seminars</b>	<b>H 200 Rooms (see schedule)</b>
<b>10:00 – 11:50</b>	<b>Kids View Seminars</b>	<b>Art Room</b>
11:00 – 11:50	Adult Educational Seminars	H200 Rooms (see schedule)
8:00 – 3:30	Ephraim Pottery Demonstration	Courtyard Café
12:30 – 1:20	Adult Educational Seminars	H200 Rooms (see schedule)
1:30 – 2:20	Adult Educational Seminars	H200 Rooms (see schedule)
1:30 – 3:00	Commemorative Distribution	H100 Pod
2:30 – 3:20	HAUL IN Show and Sale/Souvenir Items	Gymnasium
<b>3:30 – 5:30</b>	<b>Annual Business Meeting</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
6:00 p.m. – 8:30	Annual Potter's Picnic (serving food until 7:00 pm) Sponsored by Red Wing Chamber of Commerce	<b>NEW LOCATION</b> Pottery Park On Levee Road
<b>Saturday, July 12</b>		
8:00 – 1:00	Courtyard Café Open	Courtyard Café
8:00 – 9:00	HAUL IN Show and Sale	Gymnasium
8:00 – 10:30	<b>Registration Opens</b>	Courtyard Café
8:00 – 10:30	Commemorative Distribution	H 100 Pod
8:00 – 11:00	Kids View Plate Pick Up	Courtyard Café
8:00 – 11:00	Auction Prices-Realized Catalogs for Sale	Courtyard Café/Gym
8:00 – 1:30	Display Open to the Public	J 100 Pod
<b>9:00 – 10:30</b>	<b>Show and Sale Open to Registered Members ONLY</b>	<b>Gymnasium</b>
10:30 – 1:30	Show and Sale Open to Public	Gymnasium
9:30 – 1:00	Commemorative Lottery (while supplies last)	H 100 Pod
1:30 – 3:00	Show and Sale Removal	Gymnasium
1:30 – 3:00	Display Removal	J 100 Pod
5:30 p.m. – 6:30	Banquet Social Hour	Red Wing Golf Club
6:30	Banquet Dinner	Red Wing Golf Club



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## Manager Elections

### Todd Avery Candidate, RWCS Auction Manager

I was born in Red Wing at St. John's Hospital in 1961. It may have been more than fate that I would become a pottery collector. No one in my family worked at the pottery, but my uncle owned some clay pits that were used by the pottery. It was there that I found my first piece of pottery, a 10 gallon birchleaf crock with the Union oval. It was buried in a garbage dump and became a fixture in my childhood bedroom. I still have it and it now sits in my living room.



Growing up in Red Wing, I was educated in a small church school and then attended Red Wing public schools. I started my working career as a laborer in a local factory and was asked to join the management team after six years. My first duties were to maintain a piece work system as a Time Study Engineer. I would change titles over the years, and eventually found myself attending college nights and weekends. Surprisingly, it only took me eight years to get a four-year degree as an adult student. In 1999, I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication from Augsburg College in Minneapolis. I have worked in a variety of positions since then, and now find myself working for the Red Wing Public School system as an education assistant, helping students with disabilities.

I have a wonderful family, with my wife Nora being my friend and soul mate. Together we enjoy the company of my daughter, Melissa, her husband, Nolan, and their two children, Carson (14 months) and Miley (1 month). Our grandkids keep us busy and we have learned that pottery is best put on higher ground. Nora and I were able to build our dream home in Red Wing three years ago and have enjoyed sharing it with family and friends. Our passion for collecting includes not only pottery, but also old items from Red Wing and the surrounding area. Some of our favorite collectibles are vintage calendars from the Red Wing Advertising Company.

My goals in running for Auction Manager for the RWCS are very simple. I feel that the Thursday Auction has become one of the premier events at the annual convention. This hasn't happened by accident, but rather by the hard work and dedication of those that have made it what it is today. My ambition is to attempt to maintain those high standards and continue a legacy of quality and integrity.

### Glenn Beall Candidate, RWCS Education Manager

I started collecting Red Wing one cold day at an auction more than 20 years ago. The last item on the auction was a 25 gallon wing crock. Since my wife, Julie, thought the piece was "neat," I started coming home with more and more crocks. The stoneware collecting eventually led into art pottery thanks to another auction find, and that ended up leading into dinnerware. So now we collect everything. I joined the Red Wing Collectors Society in

1989. My four daughters are usually at Convention, too. The oldest, Laura, is active at



Convention with Display Room and KidsView, as well as the Siouxland Redwings Chapter. The youngest, Elizabeth, just joined the Trails West chapter. Amy and Catherine are usually helping out somewhere around Convention wherever they're needed that year.

In 1997, I joined Nebraska Redwings as a charter member. When a move to South Dakota became necessary, I missed the chapter feeling. A few months later, a few other collectors and I started the Siouxland Redwings, which was chartered at the July 2000 RWCS Convention. I'm still president of that chapter.

In 2003, my family and I took on the Display Room at Convention and have been doing that ever since. If you've gone to a MidWinter GetTogether or a Convention recently, you've probably seen me running around there at some point. I believe my long-time interest in Red Wing Pottery and my support of the Society makes me a strong candidate to hold the position of Education Manager.

### Bob Morawski Candidate, RWCS Commemorative Manager

My passion for Red Wing started in 1998 when I bought my first piece of stoneware. I joined RWCS later that year and have attended all of the Conventions since 1999 and most of the MidWinter GetTogethers.

I like to collect stoneware with Milwaukee advertising. I also have many "oddy" pieces that are either missing ovals or wings, have extra wings or ovals, or have upside down stamps.



When my grandma moved out of her house, I noticed she had six pieces of Pepe dinnerware. Since then I have built the set up to more than 100 pieces. I also have a large collection of Red Wing signed sewer pipe. In addition,

I'm working on putting together a complete set of Special Commemoratives. I also enjoy digging in the Red Wing dump.

I have volunteered in the Commemorative Room for the last two years at Convention and I will work more with John Tremble (current Commemorative Manager) in upcoming months to better understand the production process of the Commemorative and all the other duties involved with the job. I have several new ideas and plans for future Commemoratives.

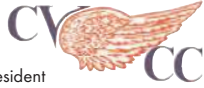
Other than Red Wing, I deal in antiques. I set up at antique shows in Wisconsin and Illinois, and also sell on eBay. I hope the Society will support me in my bid for the position of Commemorative Manager.



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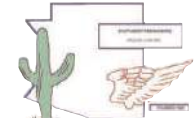
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## History *continued from page 7*

The spotted eagle vessel is especially significant, according to Thomas Amble of Collections Consulting, St. Paul. He constructed the exhibit with his wife, Therese Scheller, a graphic artist.

"It is the most important key we have for understanding ancient spiritual beliefs in Red Wing," Amble said. In traditional native beliefs, the spotted eagle was one of four spirits called Thunderers.

The vessel is at the Science Museum of Minnesota; a replica that is virtually identical to the original will be displayed in Red Wing, along with other pots.

"The pottery itself is what sets the Red Wing area aside from other sites in the area," Amble said. "The abun-

dance, the size, quality and imagery."

He has included pots and shards in cases that illustrate items found at the major prehistoric village sites in the Red Wing Region. Maps and other artifacts also are displayed, as are projectile points and bone and stone tools.

The museum will be open during the convention. Admission is free with a current convention badge.



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# Klindworth: Be selective when considering repairs

By Ruth Nerhaugen  
nerhaugen@republican-eagle.com

**K**eith Klindworth, repair expert, carefully examined a handmade figurine of a boy carrying a box labeled Red Wing Brewing Co. A hand is broken off, and the dog that once sat at the boy's feet is gone.

Arnie Strusz of Red Wing, one of more than 100 people who brought 200-plus pieces of locally made pottery and stoneware to the first-ever Red Wing Pottery Road Show in May at Pottery Place Mall, asked for advice.

His family has a similar figurine in perfect condition, Strusz told Klindworth. Should he have this one repaired to match?

Calling the piece "very rare" and "worth a pile of money," Klindworth said he often recommends against fixing some rare pieces - especially if the owner is looking to sell it - because buyers can't tell how much repair was done.



Keith Klindworth offers expert advice.

"They want to know what they're buying," he explained.

Klindworth gave similar advice to Linda Seivert of Red Wing, who showed up with a container filled with what she thought was all the pieces of an 8-gallon crock that had been shattered.

Unless it was some sort of family heirloom, Klindworth suggested she probably could - and should - find that same crock in perfect condition for about \$100. And the fragments might look nice in a flower garden, he added.

The road show, sponsored by the Red Wing Collectors Society and Foundation and the Cannon Valley Red Wing Collectors Club, had people lining up for information and advice.

There was a feeling of camaraderie, of wanting to help and encourage people without taking advantage of their lack of expertise.

Klindworth is a prime example of that attitude.

"It would be very easy for me to mislead people," he acknowledged. Because he's known in Red Wing pottery circles for the quality of his work, Klindworth tried to give common-sense advice, even if it meant losing

business.

About the only time he'd go along with spending \$50, say, to repair a \$40 piece would be if the piece was grandma's favorite and had value beyond any price tag.

"I don't want to take your money, and you'll still have a majorly repaired (piece)," he told a woman who brought in a damaged violin planter.

He also helped out a woman with a discolored art pottery pitcher who wondered if there was a way to fix it up.

One good approach, Klindworth said, would be to pour a gallon of bleach in a plastic pail and set the pitcher in the liquid. Check it every few minutes at first, he said, but it could be left as long as overnight.

Next, rinse the piece and put it in a gallon of vinegar for an equal amount of time. "Vinegar will undo what bleach might do," he explained.

Some experts prefer to soak in hydrogen peroxide, but it's not as easy to acquire.

## Getting started

Klindworth got into the repair business by chance.

"I started collecting Red Wing around 1980," he said. He especially liked salt-glaze jugs, which frequently had chips on the spouts.

"I used to do taxidermy work," he said, so he used materials he had on hand to fill in the chip, then he painted over the repair.

"You couldn't even tell it had been chipped," he said.

Before long, friends started bringing him pieces to be repaired. "I was kind of railroaded into it," he said. They offered him money for the work, but he did not anticipate it would become a career path.

He was tired of taxidermy, Klindworth said. "Stoneware's a lot cleaner, and there was such a demand."

He does repairs out of his Red Wing home.

"About half of what I do is clean and glue," he said - pulling cracks together and injecting glue. Those repair jobs aren't meant to hide the cracks, but to stabilize the piece and make the flaws less noticeable.

He might spend a whole week working on single piece, or complete 15 minor repairs in a single day.

Klindworth also buys and sells antiques, including items at a shop in Cannon Falls. In addition to pottery, he likes old Indian artifacts. He started out with arrowheads, he said, and later got interested in historic clothing, tools and other items.

## Job satisfaction

The repair work suits him. That's a good thing because there appears to be an endless supply of broken pieces needing attention - and a shortage of people who can do the job.

"I have some secrets," he admitted.

"I love it," he said. "I like to work with my hands." And when he gets done with a particularly difficult repair job and you can't tell what was done, Klindworth said, "That's what I like. ..."

"I take great satisfaction in giving things back to people and they say, 'How did you do that?' That's fun for me."

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## 2007 Convention Attendance

# 2,151

## Red Wing Collectors By State:

Alabama-4	Arkansas-4	Arizona-9
California-34	Colorado-14	Connecticut-2
Florida-6	Iowa-179	Idaho-4
Illinois-74	Indiana-13	Kansas-34
Massachusetts-2	Maine-3	Maryland-2
Michigan-24	Minnesota-1121	Missouri-25
Montana-11	North Carolina-2	North Dakota-38
Nebraska-50	New Mexico-1	Ohio-6
Oklahoma-5	Pennsylvania-4	South Dakota-46
Tennessee-4	Texas-15	Utah-1
Washington-12	Wisconsin-402	

**Memberships as of 6/28/08 - 5,297**

## Membership Application Form

A Primary \$25 annual membership is afforded all the rights and privileges of the organization. An Associate \$10 annual membership is afforded all the rights and privileges of the organization except for the receipt of the newsletter. There **must be at least one Primary membership per household address** in order to have other members at that address having Associate member status. Each membership is afforded the right to purchase one Convention commemorative.

**Please indicate if your membership is:**

- New Membership
- Renewal

**Type of membership:**

- Primary annual membership fee \$25
- Associate annual membership fee \$10

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER and/or Chapter who interested you in joining: \_\_\_\_\_

Send Check, money order, or credit card info to: Red Wing Collectors Society  
P.O. Box 50

Red Wing, MN 55066-0050

## RED WING COLLECTORS SOCIETY INC. COMMEMORATIVE INFORMATION

1977	Salt Glaze Crock	250
1978	Common Jug	350
1979	Butter Churn	400
1980	Sponge ware Bowl	400
1981	Brown-top Jug	750
1982	Cherry band Mug	.697
1983	Stone Mason Fruit Jar	1,026
1984	Salt-glazed Cooler	1,161
1985	Ice Water Cooler	1,750
1986	Acid Proof Measure	1,982
1987	Red Wing Ashtray	2,328
1988	Pompeii Plate	2,600
1989	Gray Line Pitcher	2,682
1990	Fancy Jug	3,540
1991	Pantry Jar	3,551
1992	North Star Jug	4,260
1993	Chicken Fountain	4,819
1994	20-lb Crock	5,660
1995	Giraffe Planter	6,186
1996	Cookie Jar	7,175
1997	20# Salt Glaze Crock	7,508
1998	Blue Iris Pitcher	7,564
1999	5 Gal. Kover Weight	7,444
2000	Hamm's Pitcher	7,190
2001	Sponge Bowl	6,901
2002	5 gal. Ball Lock Packing Jar	6,888
2003	Leaping Pegasus figurine planter	6,089
2004	Brushware Vase	5,790
2005	Red Wing Self Draining Jar	5,323
2006	Round-Up Teapot	5,191
2007	5 gal. Birch Leaf Threshing Jug	4,500



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# 1967 labor strike ends in liquidation of Red Wing Potteries

By Ruth Nerhaugen  
nerhaugen@republican-eagle.com

The Daily Republican Eagle called it "the saddest headline this newspaper has been compelled to set in type in many a long year."

The lead story on Aug. 9, 1967: "Potteries may liquidate."

Two weeks later, on Aug. 25, the headline read: "Potteries is dead."

Negotiations between the company and the union had failed, and Red Wing Potteries workers went on strike the morning of June 1.

"About 100 workers at Red Wing Potteries were off their jobs today as a strike idled the city's fourth largest industry," the DRE reported. "Members of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 6-430 began picketing the plant at midnight as the union contract with the firm expired at that time. The dispute involves

economic issues of a new contract."

During the early weeks, relations were cordial. But as time passed, the situation became increasingly contentious and bitter.

Company president was Richard A. Gillmer; operations manager was his son, Richard S. Gillmer, who had moved from the Twin Cities back to Red Wing to see if he could help with the business, which was facing a marketplace crisis.

What he found, said Scott Gillmer, third-generation family member to run the business, was that, "This industry really couldn't be saved."

Attempts to keep it going "just didn't work." However, he said, "it was not due to any one person, or the inability of management and workers to get along. It was due to the Japanese entering the marketplace with Mikasa and Noritake" and other

well-made products that were made for less.

"It was very difficult for U.S. manufacturing to compete," he said. "They took over the U.S. marketplace."

People know in hindsight that it was the market shift and cheap labor, he added, that brought an end to pottery manufacturing here."

What took place that summer was described by Richard S. Gillmer in his 1968 book, "Death of a Business," about the end of the manufacturing process during the strike.

"He wrote from a management perspective," Scott Gillmer pointed out. The book quotes local and state media's reports on all that transpired.

The salesroom continued to operate despite the constant presence of pickets, but local businesses soon were feeling the pinch. Dorothy L. Nelson, executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, reported that the strike forced her to cancel the popular pottery tours, and that pickets were keeping people from make Red Wing a part of their vacation itinerary.

The Potteries was Red Wing's main tourist attraction, Nelson said. A year earlier, chamber records showed 10,337 visitors, 99 percent of whom wanted to see the pottery works.

"Business is off about a third," said the owner of the Standard gas station. "We're the first station off the highway, and we normally get about 25 requests a day from people who want to know where the pottery is."

And the owner of Red Wing Bus Line was described as being "at the end of his financial rope."

Gillmer's book details the deterioration of relationships, as pickets began taking steps to discourage customers from shopping at the salesroom.

Hostility prevailed. City leaders and the police were reluctant to interfere, according to Gillmer. But nothing seemed to work.

News that the stockholders had scheduled a vote for Aug. 24 to decide whether to liquidate prompted the newspaper to reiterate the role of the Potteries in the community - not only as "the backbone of the tourist business here" but also "synonymous with the city's image."

Lost if the 90-year-old business were to close would be 100-plus jobs, some \$32,000 in local taxes, a payroll between \$350,000 and \$400,000 annually; and tourism revenue.

But last-ditch efforts to reach a contract failed. On Aug. 24, the stockholders voted to liquidate. Only two of about 25 stockholders present opposed the motion.

DRE Managing Arlen Albrecht wrote in the next day's paper:

"Red Wing Potteries died quietly Thursday - 90 years after the firm began and 85 days after its production workers took to the picket lines."

"The closing and sale of the Potteries appears certain to be the largest single economic disaster here in several decades."

Community leaders expressed regrets. Commenting in the Aug. 26 DRE, "We're losing a valuable asset," said Dick Carlson at Carlson's Appliance and Sports Center. "It's a sad thing to have to close."

"I feel the same as the rest of the people. It's a shame to see it close," said Nel Brettingen at Sears Roebuck. "I feel the loss very much."

Chamber executive Nelson was optimistic that tourists would still find Red Wing an attraction. She urged people to get behind reconstruction of the Barn Bluff steps and construction of a new historical museum.

Wally Jagusch at Twin Bluff Realty was said to sum up the community's overriding mood: "It's a real sad day."

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# Gillmer family treated well by local community

By Ruth Nerhaugen  
nerhaugen@republican-eagle.com

Although he was only 3 years old at the time, Scott Gillmer - representing the

After the liquidation, however, "Grandpa kept the business going," he said, as an outlet for the remaining inventory and a retail store selling pottery that had not been made here.



Scott Gillmer

Scott's aunt, Susan Gillmer, who ran the business for about 14 years from the late 1970s until Scott Gillmer took over in 1991, has much more vivid memories. She was 21, a college student and a summer worker at the retail store, and as such belonged to the union. The picket line did not stop her from coming to work.

"The local people for the most part were respectful when they were on the picket line," she said. They showed little animosity.

The problems, Susan Gillmer said, seemed to come from the out-of-town sympathizers who came to join the local strikers. Threats and actions became "pretty brutal" for that time.

third generation of Gillmers to run Red Wing Potteries - is very much aware of what happened at the business the summer of 1967, when a labor strike ended with stockholders voting to liquidate the firm.

His father, Richard S. Gillmer, was operations manager, and his grandfather, Richard A. Gillmer, was company president.

"It was very difficult on the family," Scott Gillmer said, "because of the tension that existed in a small community - having to shut down a major employer whose workers were represented by a union that was at odds with management. It was very difficult on the whole town."

"It was a really sad time for our family. We didn't want it," she said of the end of the manufacturing business, and the people didn't want that either.

"I probably didn't work at the store after that summer until I came back in the 1970s," she noted; she taught for a time in Stillwater, Minn., before returning to the business.

The store workers did come back to their jobs after the liquidation, she noted. And the tourists kept coming.

"The saddest part were the people who lost their jobs," Susan Gillmer said. But in the years following the strike and liquidation, the people of Red Wing did not express anger to her.

Many would say only that they wished it had turned out differently. "If they had angry feelings, they kept it to themselves."

Gillmer turned over the helm to her nephew in 1991, worked for a time for Red Wing Schools and as a travel agent, then moved to Florida in 2005.

To Scott Gillmer, what happened in 1967 is largely irrelevant today.

"Like all U.S. manufacturers, when you produce a product that uses labor, you can't make that product in the United States any more," he said. "The pottery histo-

ry reflects what was going on with U.S. manufacturing.

"It doesn't do any good to blame individuals" for change that is inevitable.

In his years at the Potteries, Scott Gillmer said, he has not had any negative comments stemming from the strike. He's aware of only one time when an older customer brought it up.

Others seem to respect what has evolved as a strong small business with about 45 employees, a restaurant, a retail outlet and a revived manufacturing aspect as well. "It's a significant part of the tourist industry" once again.

What happened in 1967 affected a lot of people, he acknowledged. Yet from his perspective, "I've only been met with open arms by the community."

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# First Red Wing encounter inspires passion

By Todd Avery  
RWCS member

There are a few dishes left by the sink after our diner party. The house is still relatively clean considering the amount of friends we invited over for the barbecue.

My wife really wanted to host an "after the school year" get-together for her colleagues in education, and get a chance for some of them to see our house in the country.

Most of them knew about our fondness for Red Wing Pottery, but were amazed that we used so many serving pieces from our dinnerware. We ate off Red Wing plates, served out of Red Wing bowls, and offered the snacks on a variety of Red Wing platters and serving trays. It was a great meal!

For the most part, my style of collecting Red Wing Pottery is all about function.

I like using or displaying much of what I collect. I should really say, "What we collect," as wife Nora is as avid a

collector as I am.

We like our pottery. We use it every day - from the plates we eat off to the flowerpots we use for our houseplants.

Sure, there are pieces we display that collect dust, but we try to limit what we collect to what we will use and what we can afford. This works for us.

Some of our plates have chips. If you looked closely at the crocks that hold the grandkids' toys, you'll probably find a crack or two, but they function as part of our daily life. This is our style and we really enjoy it.

Many people enjoy collecting Red Wing Pottery.

Some have incredible collections with values that would make their insurance providers faint. Others have a few pieces that they may have inherited from their parents or grandparents. Still others have modest collections that reflect their own tastes.

The reasons we all got started are as varied as the types of Red Wing Pottery we collect, but we all started somewhere.

My collecting started with a 10-gallon crock I salvaged out of a junk pile when I was a boy. As I have gotten older, my tastes have changed, but I still get a thrill out making a "find" to add to my collection.

If you are interested in Red Wing Pottery, I would highly recommend joining the Red Wing Collectors Society.

The small cost of membership is far outweighed by the wealth of information that you receive through the bimonthly newsletter, the annual July convention in Red Wing, the midwinter get-together in Iowa, and by the great people you meet.

Starting collecting is as easy as owning that first piece.

Red Wing produced a wide range of products, from the early salt-glazed stoneware to dinnerware and art pottery in their final years, so finding your style and taste is easy.

Today is a great time to be a collector. There are so many fun venues to explore to make your finds.

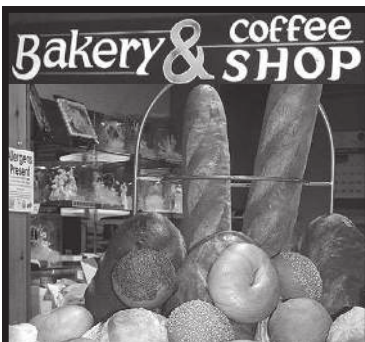
It isn't just antique stores and auctions any more. The Internet has opened up collecting like never before. I love spending a few minutes every day searching EBay or Craig's List for Red Wing. Many pieces that were once hard to find are now just a few keystrokes away.

The cost of collecting has also gone down with availability of pottery on the Internet. Impressive collections can be started for a fraction of what they would have cost 10 to 15 years ago.

I hope you get the bug and become a Red Wing Pottery collector. I welcome you to join me with the rest of the membership in the Red Wing Collectors Society this week at our annual convention at Red Wing High School.

Come check out the sales at Pottery Place Mall, visit the antique shops, and don't forget the convention is open to the public Saturday, July 12, for a show and sale, displays and much more.

Starting collecting is as easy as finding that first piece.



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## Check out the wild at Pottery Museum

Bumblebees, frogs and butterflies?

Wings (red ones) are more common, but some of the new items on display at the Red Wing Pottery Museum this week reflect different images of nature. There's a tiny stoneware bumblebee, a Stenwick frog and a 30-gallon crock decorated with a large cobalt butterfly.

The only Red Wing bumblebee known to exist has been added to the collection, according to Diane Hallstrom, vice president of the Red Wing Pottery Museum Foundation. That organization owns and operates the museum on the second floor of Pottery Place Mall on Old West Main Street. The tiny piece was made to be a necklace.

The frog was made by Albert O. Stenwick, who grew up in Red Wing and became a topnotch mold maker. A shelf is filled with pieces made from his one-piece molds, including a frog.

The butterfly can be found on a rare 30-gallon salt-glaze crock, probably made in the 1880s by Red Wing Stoneware Co. That name is incised on the side, plus there is raised, stenciled cobalt lettering which reads "Made by the Red Wing Stoneware Company, Red Wing, Minnesota."

Another unique addition to the museum is a mini crock with cover, almost 2 inches high, made by cutting off the spout on a jug and making a stoneware cover.

Also worth checking out: An experimental stoneware beer keg made by Hamm's Brewing Co., and a stoneware potato made for the Great Northern Railroad and converted to a bottle by Ben Amondson, who worked at Red Wing Stoneware Co. for 60 years.



# New program recognizes volunteers

A Volunteer Recognition Committee was established by the executive director and Red Wing Collectors Society Board to develop a new program to recognize the volunteers who help make the convention and Midwinter Get-Together so successful each year.

A pin including recognition of years of service was developed. Each volunteer will be presented with a pin and a gift bag during the convention to launch the new program.

Following is a list of 175 volunteers who are contributing their time and talents to the 2008 convention, by category and including number of years served.

**Auction** – Bob Ustaszewski, Marquette, Wis., 1 year; Syl Casperson, Sioux Falls, S.D., 1; Todd Avery, Red Wing, 1; Dave Nelson, Stoughton, Wis., 3; Luke Wegner, Red Wing, 3; Jim Wolff, McHenry, Ill., 4; Bill Paxson, Waterloo, Wis., 5; Doug Perkins, Aneta, N.D., 5; Maxine Paxson, Waterloo, Wis., 8; Jack Fisher, Britt, Iowa, 11; Wayne Burk, Waukon, Iowa, 11; Larry Seehusen, Pomeroy, Iowa, 12; Aarika Floyd, Yorkville, Ill., 15; Paulette Floyd, Yorkville, Ill., 15; Lorraine Osterholz, Rockton, Ill., 16; Marv Osterholz, Rockton, Ill., 18; Jo Allers, Hiawatha, Iowa, 19; Dan Allers, Hiawatha, Iowa, 21; Todd Houghton, Red Wing, 21; Barney Olson II, Galesburg, Ill., 25; Nancy Houghton, Red Wing, 25; Richard Houghton, Red Wing, 25;

**Commemoratives:** Brenda Ehlers, Red Wing, 1; Bob Morawski, New Berlin, Wis., 2; Paige Grabau, Lynd, Minn., 3; Steve Casperson, Sioux Falls, S.D., 3; Syl Casperson, Sioux Falls, S.D., 3; Ginger Garry, Woodbury, Minn., 5; Diana Bailey, Cedarburg, Wis., 6; Anthony Sagat, Richfield, Minn., 8; Dean Baron, New Brighton, Minn., 8; Amanda Grabau, Lynd, Minn., 9; Holly Tremble, Hudson, Wis., 10; John Tremble, Hudson, Wis., 10; Karen Trelstad, Red Wing, 14; Mary Huepfel, Spring Valley, Wis., 14; Darlene Tomhave, Red Wing, 15; Jack Tomhave, Red Wing, 15; Marge Stokke, River Falls, Wis., 15; Deanna Juergens, Bloomington, Minn., 16; Eleanor Stroot, Lake City, 16; Frank Plant, Fridley, Minn., 16; Garr Grabau, Lynd, Minn., 16;

Gerry Nehotte, Minneapolis, Minn., 16; Gordan Trelstad, Red Wing, 16; Jane Wolfram, Red Wing, 16; Janice Nelson, Red Wing, 16; Jay Juergens, Bloomington, Minn., 16; Kathleen Johnson, Plymouth, Minn., 16; Kathy Roschen, Coon Rapids Minn., 16; Larry Roschen, Coon Rapids Minn., 16; Linda Krueger, Glencoe, Minn., 16; Mary Plant, Fridley, Minn., 16; Mary Wolfram, Red Wing, 16; Matt Huepfel, Spring Valley, Wis., 16; Robert Nehotte, Minneapolis, Minn., 16; Tom Dvoracek, Prior Lake, Minn., 16; Wayne Johnson, Eden Prairie, Minn., 16; Darel Morrisey, Moose Lake, Minn., 18; Janice

Broshous, Stockton, Ill., 18; Joanne Morrisey, Moose Lake, Minn., 18; Ronald Broshous, Stockton, Ill., 18; Paul Wichert, Waukesha, Wis., 20; Wally Armstrong, Monroe, Wash., 20.

**Display:** Brianna Hanson, Howard, S.D., 1; Harley Beall, Sioux City, Iowa, 4; Rose Splitterger, Lincoln, Neb., 4; Steve Splitterger, Lincoln, Neb., 4; Ruth Beall, Sioux City, Iowa, 5; Catherine Beall, Logan, Iowa, 6; Elizabeth Beall, Logan, Iowa, 6; Julie Beall, Logan, Iowa, 6; Amy Beall, Logan, Iowa, 7; Glenn Beall, Logan, Iowa, 7; Laura Beall, Logan, Iowa, 7. **E d u c a t i o n :** Bruce Selfridge, Healdsburg, Calif., 2; Carmen Selfridge, Healdsburg, Calif., 2; Dennis Cayler, Genoa, Ill., 2; Laura Beall, Logan, Iowa, 2; Bonnie Myers, Winona, Minn., 5; Nick Marson, Winona, Minn., 5; Terry Moe, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 9; Chris Osterholz, Rockford, Ill., 10; Larry Roschen, Coon Rapids Minn., 10; Russ Johnson, Delano, Minn., 14; Dave Kuffel, Libertyville, Ill., 20; Paul Wichert, Waukesha, Wis., 20; Ron Linde, Northfield, Minn., 20; Dennis Nygaard, Hastings, Minn., 23; Phyllis Showers, Welch, 31; Steve Showers, Welch, 31; Austen Fjerestad, Hopkins, Minn.; Linda Krueger, Glencoe, Minn.

**Kids View:** Jonathon Callicoat, Seneca, Mo., 1; Amber Orcut, Mazeppa, Minn., 2; Ariel Orcutt, Mazeppa, 2; Megan Hoerman, Wauconda, Ill., 4; Dave Kuffel, Libertyville, Ill., 5; Dave Kuffel, Libertyville, 5; Jim Tucker, Sycamore, Ill., 5; Aarika Floyd, Yorkville, Ill., 6; Kate Koester, Bloomington, Minn., 6; Ann Busse Tucker, Sycamore, Ill., 7; Barb Williams, Alexandria, Minn., 7; Bob Rehm, Waterloo, Wis., 7; Joleen McKoon, Moline, Ill., 7; Laura Beall, Logan, Iowa, 7; Sherie Rehm, Waterloo, Wis., 7; Barb Brown, Buffalo, Minn., 8; Barney Olsen, Galesburg, Ill., 8; Beth Zamzow, Superior, Wis., 8; Dick Houghton, Red Wing, 8; Heather Robinson-Tanaka, Stockton, Calif., 8; Mike Robinson, Stockton, Calif., 8; Russa Robinson, Stockton, Calif., 8; Steve Brown, Buffalo, Minn., 8; Jeff Tagliapietra, Madison, Wis., 9; Kay Salisbury, Melvern, Kan., 9; Russ Johnson, Delano, Minn., 9; Sue Johnson, Delano, Minn., 9; Sue Jones, Madison, Wis., 9; Vivien Perry, Lees Summit, Mo., 9; Wendy Callicoat, Seneca, Mo., 9.

**Preregistration:** Gale Erdmann, Red Wing, 3; Sandy Bohnenblust, Mankato, Minn., 3; Steve Bohnenblust, Mankato, Minn., 3; Jim Sutherland, Red Wing, 5; Joanne Deden, Andover, Minn., 5; Joyce Sutherland, Red Wing, 5; Dennis Stoeckman, Olivia, Minn., 6; John Ingwersen, Indianapolis, Ind., 6; Karen Stoeckman, Olivia, Minn., 6; Marian

Fitschen, Red Wing, 6; Sue Ingwersen, Indianapolis, Ind., 6; Pat Enz, Red Wing, 7; Barb Wilson, Hammond, Ind., 10; Jo Buck, Goodhue, 10; Karen Key, Red Wing, 15; Jim Key, Red Wing, 15; Crystal O'Sullivan, Superior, Wis., 17; John O'Sullivan, Superior, 17; Mark Anway, Red Wing, 19; Chuck Hanson, Rochester, 21; Donna Hanson, Rochester, 21.

**Registration:** Helen Bell 31 years; Amy Carlson, Welch, 1; Barb Pavloski, Nekoosa, Wis., 1; Connie Kolberg, Cannon Falls, 1; Denise Salm, Iowa City, Iowa, 1; Ron Schumacher, Elko, Minn., 1; Scott Woltering, Champlin, Minn., 1; Shiela Schumacher, Elko, Minn., 1; Lonni Finger, Appleton, Wis., 1; Freddie Finger, Appleton, Wis., 1; Sharon Lombard, Albert Lea, Minn., 1; Barb Fisher, Lincoln, Neb., 2; Leona Scherer, Schroeder, Minn., 5; Kim Key, Red Wing, 7.

**Show and sale:** Larry Peterson 31 years; Fred Fitschen, Red Wing, 2; Gloria Fitschen, Red Wing, 2; Dennis Weber, St. Joseph, Mo., 3; Jeanne Weber, St. Joseph, Mo., 3; Gary Wisbar, Stillwater, Minn., 5; Mary Wisbar, Stillwater, Minn., 5; Dennis Hostetler,



Wakefield, Kan., 6; Dixie Hostetler, Wakefield, Kan., 6; Barb Gernentz, Red Wing, 10; Cindy May, Greenville, Tenn., 10; Dave Hallstrom, Red Wing, 10; Jeff Huppert, Red Wing, 10; Jeff Tagliapietra, Madison, Wis., 10; Jerry Erdmann, Tigerton, Wis., 10; June Erdmann, Tigerton, Wis., 10; Kay Salisbury, Melvern, Kan., 10; Larry Salisbury, Melvern, Kan., 10; Lynn Huppert, Red Wing, 10; Pete May, Greenville, Tenn., 10; Ron Gernentz, Red Wing, 10.

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