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Season's Greetings

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MEMBERSHIP

A primary membership in the Red Wing Collectors Society is \$35 annually and an associate membership is \$15.

There must be at least one primary member per household in order to have an associate membership. Members can pay for up to two years when renewing their membership. Contact the RWCS Business Office for additional details.

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NEWS BRIEFS

STILL TIME TO PRE-REGISTER FOR MIDWINTER!

You still have time to pre-register for the “Big Game” – the 2015 RWCS MidWinter GetTogether in Oconomowoc, Wis! Pre-registration must be completed by Thursday, Jan. 15. This can be done by phone, mail or through the RWCS website. After that, you’ll have to register onsite. If you want to sell at the Saturday Show & Sale, you must request a seller’s contract from the RWCS office and return it by Wednesday, Jan. 21. If you haven’t booked your room yet, get on it! Our new host – the Olympia Resort & Spa – is holding our room block open until Jan. 6, but rooms are going fast. Call them at 800-558-9573 to make your reservations, and be sure to tell them you’re a part of the Red Wing group. We can’t wait to see you at the biggest gathering of Red Wing collectors of the winter! By the way, there are two other antique shows taking place within a 15-minute drive of MidWinter. See the bottom of page 14 for details!



ABOUT THE COVER

RWCS Members Bonnie Myers & Nick Marson acquired this Christmas-themed plate last year, shortly after learning about it from some friends who run an estate sale business in eastern Minnesota. It’s signed by the artist, “Jeanne”, on the front, while the back has a simple black shape that looks like a top hat. Although they weren’t able to learn anything about the plate’s history to help determine if it was a true “Lunch Hour” piece, it was clearly a blank from the Concord Line, which the Red Wing Potteries manufactured between 1941 and 1957.

Bonnie & Nick showed the plate to longtime RWCS Member Steve Brown at the 2014 RWCS MidWinter GetTogether, who has amassed one of the largest collections of Red Wing Lunch Hour pieces known. Steve wasn’t convinced that it was created during an employee’s lunch hour, because he felt the quality of the artwork wasn’t quite up to par with the capabilities of the artists who hand-painted dinnerware on Red Wing’s production line. However, everything else about the plate was correct, leading him to believe it is the next best thing to being a Lunch Hour piece.

According to page 112 of *Red Wing Art Pottery*, which was written by longtime RWCS Member Ray Reiss, “Red Wing held Wednesday night art classes for awhile around 1947. The factory would allow anyone to come in and use Red Wing glazes to ‘paint’ on any blanks that the factory had on hand at the time.”

So even if the plate wasn’t painted by a Potteries employee, it was painted onsite and fired in the kilns, making it a noteworthy piece of Red Wing history.

In addition to the cover, this issue features two stories with connections to Christmas on pages 6 and 7. We wish all RWCS members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope 2015 brings lots of great new pieces to your collection! 🍷



2015 CONVENTION: EXCURSION TO RED WING

The 2015 RWCS Convention (July 9-11) will mark the 100th anniversary of the Potters Excursion, so longtime RWCS Member Steve Brown is organizing a reunion of the 2 gallon Potters Excursion jugs that Red Wing made to commemorate the event back in 1915. Anyone who owns one of these coveted pieces is asked to bring it to the Display Room, where a special display will include the jugs and some history about the Potters Excursion. Everyone who brings their jug for display will receive a packet of historical information about the excursion. Watch for more information about this special reunion in each *RWCS Newsletter* leading up to Convention.

As a reminder, the February *RWCS Newsletter* will contain Convention registration forms, housing information, auction registration form, Commemorative order form and more. Missed out on ordering a Street Banner for the 2014 Convention? We’re taking orders for 2015 now and we can help with your design if you’d like. Call the RWCS office today! And finally, it’s not too early to think about volunteering at Convention; every event needs help and no one will be turned away! Contact the office and RWCS Executive Director Stacy Wegner will add you to the volunteer list.



Natynski

RWCS REPRESENTATIVE AT LARGE CHANGES

Jerry Mounts and his wife, Kris, have changed their retirement plans to travel more and spend additional time with their families. The RWCS Board of Directors accepted his resignation as Rep. at Large and wishes them the best in their travels.

The RWCS Board is pleased to welcome Richard Natynski as the new Rep. at Large who volunteered to serve and help with the RWCS Chapters and the membership. Richard is a veteran and lifelong educator, serving as a high school teacher, guidance counselor, athletic director and finally principal. An avid collector of Wisconsin advertising bean pots and sponge bowls, Richard and his wife, Monica, truly enjoy the hunt for Red Wing! Living in Wisconsin and a member of the Wisconsin and Badger chapters gives him a perfect location to work with the chapters in the Midwest. If the name seems familiar, Richard is the father of our *RWCS Newsletter* Editor, Rick Natynski. As a new member of the RWCS Board of Directors, he is looking forward to being the voice of the membership for the area he’ll be serving in. Please welcome Rich as your new Representative at Large! - Larry Birks, RWCS President

NEW RWCS CONVENTION COMMITTEE SEEKS INPUT

Would you like to help improve the RWCS Convention? During the October Board Meeting, the RWCS Board of Directors created a new committee focused on improving the Convention experience and appointed RWCS Display Room Chair Laura Beall as the committee head. The new committee will hold its first meeting at the RWCS MidWinter GetTogether (time and location TBD). Whether you have ideas for new events or changes to the schedule, please contact Laura (info on bottom of pg. 2) to join the committee or share your suggestions.

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STACY WEGNER
Executive Director

Happy Holidays, fellow collectors! I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the holidays ahead.

It's time to get registered for MidWinter! Have you mastered saying "Oconomowoc" yet? Pre-registration needs to be completed by Thursday, Jan. 15. After that you'll need to register at the hotel. Don't forget to pre-order your football-shaped stoneware badge; they are just \$9 if ordered in advance or \$10 onsite.

Pre-game festivities will begin on Thursday, Feb. 5, when many members will be selling Red Wing from their hotel rooms. Come early the next day for more room sales and our version of tailgating, and stay for the Friday Night Lights reception at 7 p.m. with door prizes, auction pieces and costume contest winners. Be sure to wear your favorite football team's apparel to the reception! Items like jerseys, hats, foam fingers and pompons are encouraged. Special thanks to the Badger and Wisconsin chapters for sponsoring the reception.

Saturday, Feb. 7 will kick off with the keynote presentation and educational sessions in the morning, followed by the Show & Sale at 1:30 p.m. and the auction at 5 p.m.



GLENN BEALL
Education Manager

Hello, All – I hope you're excited about attending the educational seminars at this year's MidWinter GetTogether! This year the keynote presentation will be split by two parties. RWCS Vice President Paul Wichert will present "RWCS Technology & How to Use it" and RWCS Foundation Board Member Stan Lueck will speak about creating the RWCS Foundation Endowment Fund to keep the Pottery Museum of Red Wing running strong for future generations.

New this year, RWCS Historian Nancy

Here are a few MidWinter Lineup changes:

- The ballroom at the Olympia Resort & Conference Center is HUGE, which means there will be plenty of room for the Saturday Show & Sale. Looking to sell at the show? Tables are just \$35.
- The ballroom is so big that a portion will be divided off for the auction, which means the Houghtons will be able to set up earlier. Therefore, we have a new start time for the auction: 5 p.m.
- We also have more space for the education sessions, which will be held next to the ballroom.

A BIG warm welcome to Linda Wipperling, our new KidsView and Young Collectors chairperson! Linda has a great program lined up and is looking for volunteers for both MidWinter and Convention. Check out the article at right to hear more about Linda and learn about what's going on in the MidWinter KidsView Fan Clubhouse.

Interested in volunteering? MidWinter team members are needed for registration, set up and tear down. Please contact the RWCS front office today. No amount of volunteer time will be turned away!

As always, be sure to bring the following items to MidWinter if you have them: red badge holders, old plastic badge holders, volunteer pin. Visit the RWCS website to learn more about the Big Game, our new stadium and tailgate fun at the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc, Wis. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone showing their team colors!

Lambert will talk about the process of creating the Kansas/Missouri advertising book. Sure to be an interesting presentation! Longtime MidWinter speakers and RWCS Hall of Fame members Steve Showers and Dennis Nygaard will give separate presentations on their findings from digging in the pottery dumps this year. Dinnerware experts Larry Roschen and Terry Moe, who are also RWCS Hall of Fame members, will discuss Red Wing dinnerware. Curious about how things are going at the new museum? Members of the RWCS Foundation Board will hold a Q & A session to answer your questions. And as a carryover from our past location in Iowa, Mark Wiseman will speak about the potteries that operated in Des Moines, Boone and Warren counties.

I look forward to seeing you in Wisconsin for MidWinter. Interested in presenting at Convention this year? Drop me a line!

INTRODUCING LINDA WIPPERLING

The New KidsView & Young Collectors Chair!



I'm pleased to introduce myself as the new Coordinator of the KidsView and Young Collectors programs! I am excited to have kids continue to be a large part of the Red Wing Collectors Society. It is important to educate our young children in the history of Red Wing pottery and be a part of our program.

For those of you who are wondering if I am related to Pottery Museum Manager Robin Wipperling, the answer is yes! It was through volunteering at the museum that I found out about this wonderful opportunity. While I was there, RWCS Members Jim & Joyce Sutherland told me all about their granddaughter Ella and all the fun she had in KidsView. In what seemed like seconds, I was interested in becoming the new KidsView and Young Collectors chair.

A little about myself, I have taught 25 years in Early Childhood Special Education. I've coordinated Sunday School at my church for 6 years, and I've been with the Miss Red Wing program for 14 years. My wonderful husband, Brad, and I have three children.

I look forward to hearing about your ideas and suggestions for the KidsView and Young Collectors programs. I also look forward to hearing from you if you can help volunteer during the MidWinter in Oconomowoc or the Convention in Red Wing. Please contact me at 612-388-4072 or KIDSVIEW@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG.

KIDSVIEW AT MIDWINTER

This year the children will meet on the sidelines to root for their favorite team. The Big Game for kids starts at 9:40 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7. Meet up in the Fan Clubhouse for the best game of the year. We will learn about all the sports pottery pieces Red Wing made and what they were used for. Once we have picked our favorite team the children will paint on the "Little Brown Jug" with their colors and year. There will be other fun things to do so, come join the fun and games! If you would like to volunteer, contact KidsView Chairperson Linda Wipperling (info above).

NEWS FROM YOUR POTTERY MUSEUM OF RED WING

Story by RWCS Foundation Board President Dave Hallstrom

Seasons Greetings from everyone on the RWCS Foundation Board! We wish all of you the best this holiday season and extend our sincere gratitude for all your support this past year.

In our continued quest to keep everyone informed of the happenings and operations of the Foundation and the Pottery Museum of Red Wing, here are a few recent questions we have received that we would like to answer for you:

Q. How much money has the recent fundraising efforts raised for the Foundation?

A. Thanks to your continued generosity to the RWCSF Capital Campaign, we have raised more than \$71,000 in 2014, which is INCREDIBLE! The Minnesota Give to the Max Day was on Nov. 13 and was another great success. We had two matching funds; one for \$5,000 from the RWCS and \$6,500 from RWCSF Board members. Including these matching funds, your donations topped \$31,000 and a few donations are still trickling in! Thank you all so very much. Our capital campaign to pay for the building will continue, as we still have several significant balloon payments due in the future up through January 2017.

Q. How many visitors does the museum have on any given day?

A. The Pottery Museum is rapidly gaining publicity and awareness through the numerous articles in various newspapers, magazines and travel guides. We are so pleased seeing the increased visitor and tour activity on a daily basis. Approximately 50 people visit per day with even heavier traffic on weekends. Tour groups have been coming from all over the Midwest and they can vary from five to 50 people.

Q. What have your plans been for the Foundation's fundraising auctions?

A. On Nov. 8, Houghton Auction Service conducted our fall fundraising auction in Zumbrota, Minn. We thank all of you who attended, help set up and helped us raise around \$5,000 that day. We will also have an auction in Oconomowoc, Wis. on Saturday, Feb. 7 during the RWCS MidWinter GetTogether. All pieces that are auctioned have been donated specifically for fundraising purposes. They are not out of the museum collection.

Q. Did you have a Fall Board meeting for the Foundation and what were some of the agenda topics?

A. After the fall auction on Nov. 8, we held our fall and annual board meetings in Red Wing, which ran late into the evening so we could finish our agenda before a forecasted storm came that weekend. Many topics were covered, ranging from planning, budget, fundraising and future needs. Louise Schleich also completed her third 3-year term on the RWCS Foundation Board. We would like to thank and acknowledge Louise for being on our board for so many years, giving us valuable input, guidance and of course her generosity. Thank you to Louise and the rest of the Schleich Family!

We would also like to welcome our newest member, Suzanne Blue from Red Wing, to the RWCSF Board. She will be an important asset to our board as we expand our connection with the Red Wing residents and local communities. Thank you, Suzanne, for joining us and bringing us your expertise and vision. Election of officers took place and officers are as follows: President, Dave Hallstrom; Vice President, Carmen Selfridge; Treasurer, Carolyn Lueck; and Secretary, Barb Brown. Thank you to all of our board members for the guidance and incredible dedication this past year.

We are delighted to have Michelle Weisen and St. Catherine's University starting to archive, catalog and photograph the huge collection of artifacts we currently have. Their work will make possible the preservation and organization of the collection for future research and availability to members.

It has been an exciting year at the Pottery Museum and we have nothing but positive comments from tourists and visitors. We are currently working on future displays, which we are sure you will be

excited to see on your next visit! We look forward to seeing everyone at Midwinter GetTogether in Oconomowoc, Wis. where we will present another educational seminar to answer questions and talk about the museum.

Finally, please keep the Pottery Museum in mind for your year-end tax deductible donations. Please call Robin Wipperling at the museum at 651-327-2220 for more information. Happy Holidays, everyone!



The Pottery Museum's gift shop is all decked out for Christmas!

Photo courtesy of Robin Wipperling

RWCS FOUNDATION PROFIT & LOSS: JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER 2013

INCOME	
Fundraising	
Cash Donations	72,636.55
Auctions & Convention Revenue	46,772.01
Grants	47,480.00
Total Fundraising	166,888.56
Other Income	
Gifts in Kind (Primarily Collectibles)	76,777.00
Interest Income	397.97
TOTAL INCOME	244,063.53
EXPENSES	
Business & Operating Expenses	
Advertising	6,024.43
Bank and Credit Card Fees	518.30
Fundraising Costs	4,414.13
Insurance	6,213.50
Membership Dues	1,040.00
Office Costs	1,224.88
Professional Fees	2,504.40
Software & Website	1,064.87
Storage	3,273.30
Other Business Costs	3,412.43
Total Business & Operating Expenses	29,690.24
Facility Costs	
Facility Rent (Old Museum Location)	15,373.08
Occupancy (New Museum Commons)	20,000.00
Trash, Security, Cleaning & Repairs	3,579.45
Depreciation	10,800.00
Mortgage Interest	13,280.40
Property Taxes (One Time Expense)	15,106.16
Total Facility Costs	78,139.09
Total Expenses	107,829.33
NET INCOME	136,234.20

2013 was far from typical for museum operations. There was the relocation of the museum from the Pottery Place to the Annex, which incurred some duplication of costs just like when someone purchases and moves into a new house. During the renovation of the new facility, the museum was incurring costs for both locations. There was rent for the old facility occupied by the museum until the new facility was ready. At the same time, the RWCS Foundation was paying interest and occupancy costs, which includes utilities on the new facility. For 2013 there is cost for property taxes, which is a one-time cost. Property taxes are paid in arrears (pay this year for last year's tax) and since the previous owners were not tax exempt, tax assessments applied to the property. The Foundation will not pay property taxes in the future.

It is also important to note that nearly \$77,000 is income from non-cash donations. The items donated are displayed in the museum or sold at auction or held for use in other fundraising activities. The financial position of the RWCS Foundation is strong. The Foundation does, however, need to generate enough cash each year to pay the scheduled balloon payments. The next payment in the amount of \$50,000 is due in January 2015. Fundraising for future years will escalate to generate the \$150,000 due in January 2016 and 2017.

Red Wing's Christmas Advertising Bean Pots

Story by RWCS
Vice President
Paul Wichert

Many businesses that ordered advertising kitchenware from Red Wing gave them out to their best customers as a Christmas gift. However, very few actually mention Christmas or the holiday season.

Red Wing pieces with Christmas advertising are usually limited to bean pots, beater jars, bowls and pitchers. In the 12 years that I've collected Christmas advertising bean pots, I've seen only 18 different examples across four different states. I own most of these, but I'm still seeking the examples from South Dakota and Wittenberg, Wis. Do you have a Christmas bean pot that's not pictured here? I'd love to see a photo even if it's not for sale. If you have a bean pot that I'm still looking for and you'd consider selling it, please contact me at REDWINGR@GMAIL.COM or 414-731-0218. I'd love an opportunity to add it to my collection! 🐦

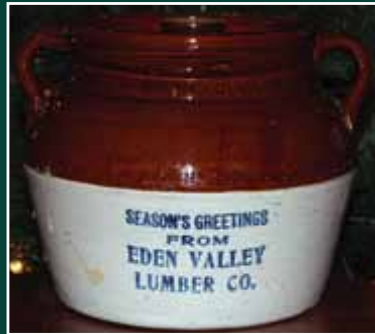


Photo courtesy of Phil Swenson

Photo courtesy of Phil Swenson



Red Wing bean pots known to exist with Xmas advertising:

Iowa:

Holstein & Storm Lake

Minnesota:

Chokio, Eden Valley, Lake Benton & Porter

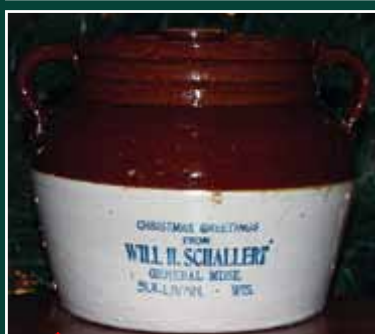
South Dakota:

Clear Lake* & Sinai*

Wisconsin:

Adell, Branch, Brillion, Fort Atkinson, Neosho, Racine, Shiocton, Sullivan, Weyauwega & Wittenberg*

* Paul Wichert is still looking for these.
Editor's note: Special thanks to RWCS members Phil Swenson, Sue Asmussen, Jon Henslin and Mary Lynn Headrick for their help in providing photos for this pictorial.



A Christmas Gift from the Pottery

Story by RWCS Member Mark Cellotti

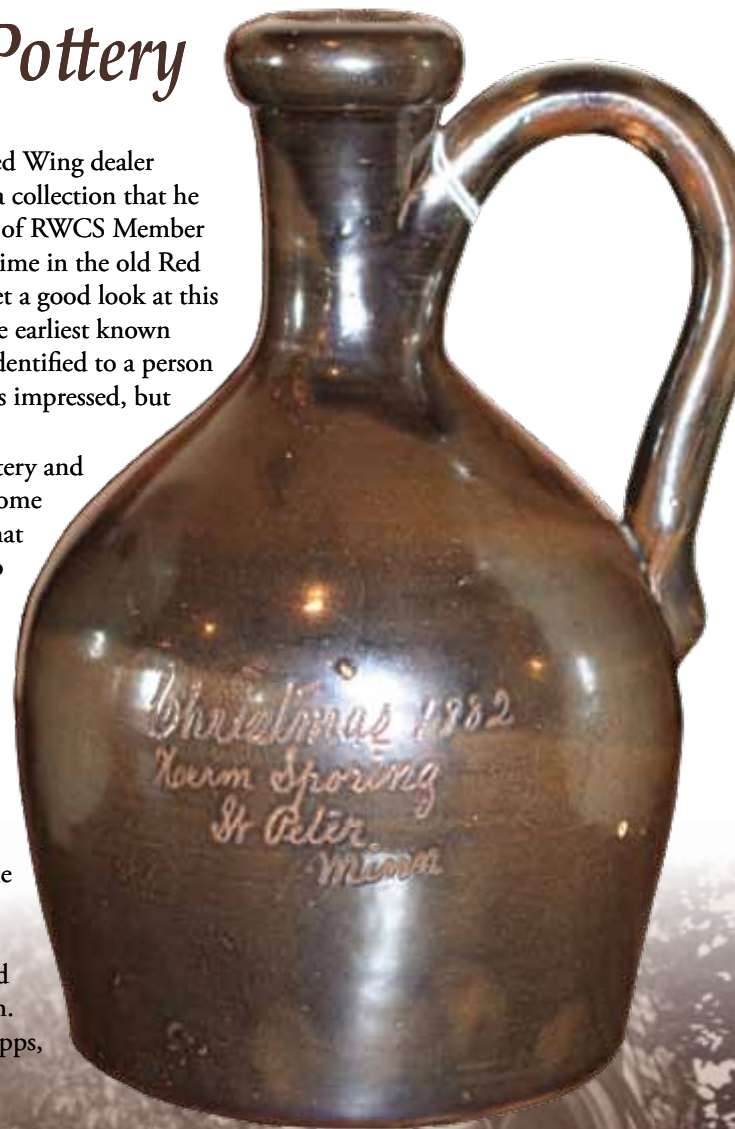
Approximately six years ago during Convention Week, well-known Red Wing dealer Larry Peterson acquired an Albany slip lunch-hour piece as part of a collection that he had purchased. With the heavy pressure of the week and the willing help of RWCS Member Richard Ellis, this piece quickly changed hands. It was then placed for a time in the old Red Wing Pottery Museum. I was lucky enough to stop by Larry's Jugs and get a good look at this piece before it went on display. Upon examining it, I believed this was the earliest known signed and dated Red Wing "Lunch Hour" stoneware piece. It was also identified to a person and dated "Christmas 1882", as well as a location – St. Peter, Minn. I was impressed, but I didn't even bother to hope to one day acquire this piece.

Fast forward to June 2014, when I was at the Collectors of Illinois Pottery and Stoneware (COIPS) Trunk Sale in Monmouth, Ill. I had brought along some rare pieces of Illinois stoneware to sell. I saw Richard there and learned that he had the Lunch Hour piece with him and it might be for sale. I tried to not get my hopes too high. Fortunately I had a very rare piece of Ripley Pottery with me and we were able to work out a trade.

The jug is marked "Herm Sporing, Christmas 1882, St. Peter, Minn." on the front. After doing substantial research, I learned that Herman Sporing was born Dec. 8, 1850 in St. Peter. He died there on Oct. 12, 1908. He owned and operated Sporing's Saloon on the 200 block of South Minnesota Ave. in downtown St. Peter from about 1870 to 1887. He also served as a 1st lieutenant in the 2nd Regiment of Infantry for the State of Minnesota.

Mr. Sporing is pictured standing in front of his saloon in this incredible image from the Nicollet County Historical Society collection, which was taken sometime around 1885. From the looks of the whiskey barrels in front of the bar, I would assume that he had quite a jug business with Red Wing. I'm sure that this little jug was a token of the pottery's appreciation. Its unusual shape would suggest that it was for a special whiskey or schnapps, as schnapps was a favorite libation in German-American communities.

It's not very often that you find all of the pieces of an old puzzle. 🍷



The bottom of the jug is signed "Red Wing Stoneware Co., Red Wing, Minn" in the same script as the front. The jug measures 8 inches tall and holds about a quart.



Herman Sporing (center) standing in front of his St. Peter, Minn. saloon, circa 1885. Note the "Milwaukee Lager Beer" sign in the window. Photo courtesy of the Nicollet County Historical Society.



Longtime RWCS Members Nancy & Dick Houghton pose with one of their favorite Red Wing pieces – a mint 20 gallon salt glaze crock with two dark cobalt leaves.

Due to the prominent role they serve at every RWCS Convention and MidWinter GetTogether, Dick & Nancy Houghton are two of the most recognizable members of the RWCS. Dick has auctioned off more Red Wing than anyone else on the planet ever has, and Nancy has accepted payment for most of those pieces. But what about the Houghtons as RWCS members? Do they collect?

This is something I always wondered about, so I was excited when they graciously accepted a request for an interview and photo shoot this fall. As soon as they opened their front door, I had my answer. Staring back at me was one of the nicest 20 gallon double leaf salt glaze crocks

I had seen in some time. More stoneware is handsomely displayed throughout their home and art pottery fills several display cases.

Like most collectors, it was an iconic “wing” crock that Nancy purchased at a local garage sale in 1980 that started it all for the couple. She slowly began building their collection around the same time that Dick started their auction business.

At the time, Dick was a charter bus driver and Nancy worked at a local bank. Wanting to spend less time on the road and more time at home to watch their son, Todd, play high school sports, Dick decided to look into a career in the auction business at the urging of a friend. It wasn't long before he realized how much he enjoyed running farm auctions, so he



went to auctioneer school and started Houghton Auction Service. Nancy took over the administrative end of the business and the rest, as they say, is history.

Being Red Wing residents, collecting came naturally for the Houghtons. But their introduction to the RWCS was more of a fluke than it was intentional. In late spring of 1983, they were auctioning a local estate that included some Red Wing stoneware. A Society member from Union Grove, Wis. heard about the sale and asked to leave an absentee bid on a piece. After winning, she said she could pick it up when attending the RWCS Convention in July. So, Dick & Nancy offered to bring the item to the Thursday night auction, which was then held at the Red Wing Vo-Tech School.

Back then, Ellsworth, Wis. based auctioneer Jack Hines ran the Society's auction. Spotting Dick out in the crowd and knowing him from the local auction circuit, he stopped by to chat. The two kept in touch over the next year, and eventually Jack asked Dick to join him in calling the 1984 RWCS Auction. A couple of years later, the Houghtons took over sole responsibility for calling and clerking the official RWCS event – a role they have maintained ever since.

As the Society's membership began to grow, so did the demand for more auctions during Convention Week. At first they held an independent stoneware and pottery auction on the Sunday following Convention, but they could see that people were tired after the long week so they moved the sale to the Wednesday before. When more collectors began to approach them about selling their collections during Convention Week, they added a Tuesday sale.

The whole time this was happening, the Houghtons' personal interest and appreciation for Red Wing's wares continued to build. So how does a couple go about selling hundreds of items during any given auction that they'd like to have in their own collection?

“It's been very tempting,” Dick explains. “I vowed early on that if I were selling on the auction block, I'd never bid on a piece for myself. I'd have somebody else bid on it for me.”

As they branched out from collecting the easily found zinc glaze wing crocks, the Houghtons started collecting salt glaze, local advertising pieces and RWCS Commemoratives. The first “expensive” piece they bought was a sponged Red Wing umbrella stand (at left), which is one of the first pieces a visitor sees when entering their home.

“As collectors, we just bought the stuff we liked,” Dick explains. “It was important that the items were in good condition though. We



Collector Profile: Dick & Nancy Houghton



Above: A front-stamped 6 gallon leaf crock and a 15 gallon primitive butterfly are two of the Houghtons' nice salt glaze pieces. Left: Dick & Nancy's son, Todd, appeared on the cover of the August 2012 RWCS Newsletter in an image from the Convention Auction. He took over the business in 2010. Right: A portion of the Houghtons' collection of quality Watt Pottery items.

could see early on that damage would hinder the values.”

Speaking of values, Dick played a large part in helping to increase the gavel prices of Red Wing stoneware throughout the Midwest in the late 1980s and early 1990s. His personal interest in collecting Red Wing and his experience in selling it made him the ideal person to present educational sessions on auctioning Red Wing at the National Association of Auctioneers Convention and at the state conferences in places like Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin. Thanks to his sharing of this information, fellow auctioneers learned about the importance of identifying and properly marketing good pieces of Red Wing to get the most money for their consignors.

Once Ray Reiss's *Red Wing Art Pottery* book came out in 1996, the Houghtons started to learn about and collect artware. When an auctioneer from Texas sold a large collection of art pottery on the last day of the RWCS MidWinter GetTogether in Rochester, Minn., Nancy saw the opportunity to focus some of Dick's buying habits.

“I told him ‘If you're going to be buying anything here, it's going to be something I like,’” Nancy laughs. That's when they started adding pieces from the Magnolia line (above) to their growing collection.

Two years later, the Houghtons began running an auction on the Saturday evening of the RWCS MidWinter GetTogether. It has since become a fixture of the event, attracting almost as many attendees as the RWCS Show & Sale held earlier in the afternoon.

The Houghtons are charter members of the Cannon Valley Chapter, and Nancy has been the chapter's treasurer since day one. They're also longtime members of the Trails West Chapter. Dick used to volunteer his deep, booming voice when the KidsView educational program held auctions for participants. Now he's relied upon to call for bids during fundraising events like the RWCS Foundation's “Wine-ing for Red Wing” and the RWCS Convention Banquet and Friday night reception at MidWinter.

Dick severely injured his heel in spring of 2006, which put him on the sidelines for the Convention Auction that year. That was also the year that the Houghtons were tasked with selling the collection of RWCS Members Wayne & Sue Chapman.

“It killed me not being able to call that auction,” Dick recalls. “It was one of the best collections we ever had the opportunity to sell, but I was recovering from surgery...I just couldn't do it. We were really fortunate that fellow auctioneers (and longtime RWCS members) Jim & Jan Seck stepped in to help Todd with all three of the auctions that week.”

Speaking of Todd, he helped run auctions throughout high school and college, but his future in the family business wasn't cemented until he officially joined his parents in 1986 after going to school in the Twin

Cities and then working in the financial field for a couple of years.

“I never thought Todd would follow in the business,” Dick admits. “I remember him saying after one particular Convention Auction in the mid-1980s that he would never sell a piece of Red Wing again. I said ‘Oh yes you will’ and that was that, but we never pressured him to become a full-time auctioneer. We were surprised, but very happy when he decided to go to auctioneer school and expressed interest in one day taking over the business.”

That day came in 2010, when Dick & Nancy were ready to retire from their full-time involvement in Houghton Auction Service.

“We felt good transitioning the business over to Todd once we knew he had good help,” Dick explains. “Todd's stepson, Brian Sanders, had started helping with auctions a couple years earlier and they worked great together. We still help out when needed, but they've run the business for the past four years and they're doing a great job.”

One thing many Red Wingers don't know about the Houghtons is that they also collect Watt Pottery – so much that they're more likely to acquire a rare piece of Watt for their collection than they are a rare piece of Red Wing. In fact, Dick is one year into a four-year term as the president of the Watt Collectors Association (WCA). Two years ago he helped establish a scholarship fund for students in Crooksville, Ohio, where Watt was made. One of the best parts about his involvement in the WCA? He's not on the clock at the Watt Convention Auction.

“It's great,” he says, smiling. “I get to sit in the front row and bid on whatever I want.”

Although they've retired from day-to-day operations of Houghton Auction Service, Dick & Nancy continue to run the Red Wing stoneware and pottery auctions purely for the enjoyment.

“It's the fun and camaraderie of spending time with friends that keeps us so involved in Red Wing auctions and the RWCS in general,” Nancy says. “It doesn't seem like work because of the friendships we have.”

“I really have a good time calling the Red Wing auctions and seeing all the familiar faces out in the crowd,” Dick adds.

“I'm going to continue doing it for as long as I can.”





Red Wing Dinnerware & the CeramaStone Line

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Photos courtesy of the authors and
WWW.REDWINGDINNERWARE.COM

The information presented here has been gleaned from vintage Red Wing brochures, catalogs, price lists and internal documents as well as trade journals and magazines. In this discussion, a "pattern" is a dinnerware set in a particular shape with a unique handpainted design or color scheme. A "line" is a group of patterns that share the same shapes but have different handpainted designs or colors. Some of the introduction and exit dates presented have not been verified because of gaps in available documentation. When uncertain, an estimated date is provided. The end point of a pattern can be difficult to ascertain. In the 1940s and 1950s a discontinued pattern no longer appeared on price lists; in the 1960s patterns that were no longer in production remained on price lists as "limited stock" with only a few pieces listed. Here a pattern is considered to be discontinued when a full range of items was no longer available and orders were limited to remaining stock.

Each pattern has been assigned an Availability rating and a Collector Interest rating as described below. Availability represents an average for the pattern in question, however the scarcity of certain pieces within the pattern may differ. Collector Interest refers to the pattern in general, but there may be specific pieces in any pattern that are of greater interest to specialty collectors (teapots, pitchers, salt & peppers, etc). Please keep in mind these ratings are the authors' observations; your experience may vary.

Availability
1 – Rare
2 – Very scarce
3 – Hard to find
4 – Average
5 – Readily available

Collector Interest
1 – Highly sought, demand exceeds supply
2 – Primarily of interest to specialty collectors
3 – Above average
4 – Average
5 – Below average

CERAMASTONE Line

CeramaStone was the last Red Wing dinnerware line. The line was well-received at trade shows, giving the company hope that CeramaStone would be the break it needed to remain competitive. But a labor dispute ultimately led to the closing of Red Wing Potteries in 1967; thus the CeramaStone patterns were short-lived.

A CeramaStone brochure described the line as "Improved Stoneware". It stated "CeramaStone is improved stoneware because it combines the basic materials of stoneware, yet we remove the impurities and fire at extremely high temperatures (2200 degrees). The result is a harder, more chip resistant, dishwasher and ovenproof dinnerware." Another promotional piece stated the clay was an "expertly blended formula" that includes kaolin clay, ball clays, feldspar, flint and talc. CeramaStone pieces featured an alternating design of raised lines and ovals around the sides of hollowware and on the rims of flatware. Each pattern had its own color scheme. The CeramaStone line had several unique pieces including a tall single candleholder that resembled a Tiki figure, a triple candleholder in the shape of a stylized pig, a handled serving dish that resembled a coal scoop, and a set of canisters in three sizes. The push to reduce labor costs continued with this line. Most pieces were produced in solid colors or featured the swirled effect used with Ebb Tide. Only two patterns included hand painted designs, and they were applied to only a few pieces.

The CeramaStone line was in full production when the Potteries closed abruptly in 1967. Many CeramaStone pieces remained in various stages of completion. To prepare this stock for sale to the public, greenware was fired using various leftover glazes. Items that had been glazed with a basic CeramaStone color, but not completed, were sold partially finished. Thus today we find CeramaStone pieces in non-CeramaStone colors or in color schemes that don't match any CeramaStone pattern. Learning to differentiate these post-production pieces from standard production items can be tricky.

Greenwichstone

Availability: 4 Interest: 4 Years: July 1966-1967

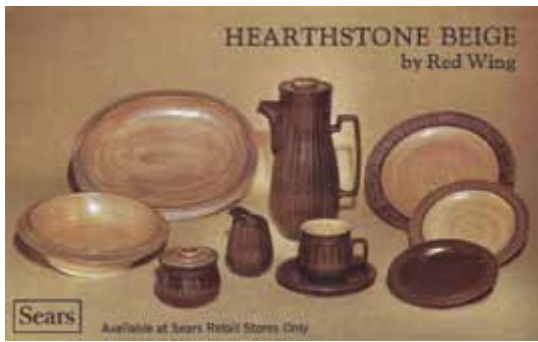
The interiors of Greenwichstone bowls and plates utilized the same swirl effect and colors as Ebb Tide. The rims of the flatware and all surfaces of hollowware and the cup & saucer were a dark olive green. The brochure described the pattern as "An unaffected blending of slate green and sand yellow. The swirl center gives a distinctively personal, hand-turned look." Greenwichstone is the only CeramaStone pattern to appear on the August 1966 dealer price list. *At left: Greenwichstone dinner plate.*



Colors of the CeramaStone Line serving pieces: Beverage servers (left to right) in dark brown, olive green, dark gold and dark blue-green. Salt & pepper shakers in orange.



The interiors of these Greenwichstone sauce bowls show the dramatic variation that can be found in the swirl taken from the Ebb Tide pattern.



From left to right, these brochure photos show the CeramaStone round vegetable dish, serving platter, covered sugar, creamer, beverage server, cup & saucer and three sizes of plates: dinner, salad and bread & butter. The brochure lists Charles Murphy as the designer of the patterns.



These pieces were only partially finished prior to the closing of the company and were sold to the public "as-is".

Hearthstone Beige Availability: 3 Interest: 4 Years: July 1966-1967
Hearthstone Orange Availability: 4 Interest: 4 Years: July 1966-1967



Dinner plates from both patterns.



These two patterns were made exclusively for sale by Sears. They did not appear on any Red Wing price lists. The brochure at left that introduced them included the Sears logo and stated "Available at Sears Retail Stores Only".

Hearthstone Beige was quite similar to Greenwichstone. The center of the flatware was light brown or beige and had a slight swirl design, though less pronounced than Greenwichstone or Ebb Tide. The same light brown color was found on covers and the interior of the cup. Hollowware, the rims of flatware, the saucer and the 6 inch plate were dark brown.

As the name implied, orange was the base color of Hearthstone Orange. The shade was close to pumpkin and there were no swirls in this pattern. All three sizes of plates, the platters and the two larger bowls had orange centers with dark brown rims. The cup, creamer, smaller bowls and other items that did not have covers were all orange. But pieces that had covers are dark brown with orange covers. To confuse the color issue even more, one can find dinner plates and possibly other pieces that should have a dark brown rim, but are all orange.



Above: *Hearthstone Orange Tiki girl single candleholder.*



Above: *Hearthstone Orange pig triple candleholder.*



Adobestone dinner plate

Adobestone Availability: 3 Interest: 4 Year: 1967

All Adobestone pieces were a solid matte dark gold color. It was the only CeramaStone pattern that didn't mix colors on the flatware and hollowware. The brochure stated "The flowing properties of the gold and wood brown glazes result in a subtle blending of the colors, highlighting the boldly embossed shape." In other words the glaze adhered differently to the raised design than to the flat areas, which emphasized the design and gave the piece a two-toned effect.



Above: *Adobestone handled serving dish.*
Below: *Adobestone Gravy boat.*



Heatherstone dinner plate

Heatherstone Availability: 3 Interest: 4

Heatherstone and Charstone Bleu were the only two CeramaStone patterns that included a handpainted decoration. But the decoration appeared only on the dinner plate, salad plate, platter and round vegetable dish (nappy). For Heatherstone, the center of these pieces had a floral design in gold, white and dark brown against a light brown background. The rims were dark brown and the backs of these pieces were white. All other Heatherstone pieces were entirely dark brown, including the covers. This makes it difficult for collectors to differentiate most Heatherstone hollowware from Hearthstone Beige and Hearthstone Orange hollowware. All had dark brown bases; the only difference was the color of the covers. And all-brown pieces that did not have covers could go with either Hearthstone Beige or Heatherstone. This can be very confusing until one learns the differences in the color schemes.

Year: 1967



Heatherstone canister



Charstone Bleu dinner plate

Charstone Bleu Availability: 3 Interest: 4 Year: 1967

Like Heatherstone, Charstone Bleu had a handpainted decoration on the dinner plate, salad plate, platter and round vegetable dish (nappy). For Charstone Bleu, the center of these pieces had a snowflake design in dark blue-green, white and turquoise against a light blue-green background. The rims were dark blue-green and the backs of these pieces were white. All other Charstone Bleu pieces were entirely dark blue-green in a matte finish, including the covers.



Above: *Charstone Bleu round vegetable dish and teapot*



Editor's note: After running for five years, the Introduction to Dinnerware Series will be completed in the next issue of the RWCS Newsletter.

IMPRESSIVE NEW BOOK FEATURES RED WING ADVERTISING FROM KANSAS & MISSOURI

Story by RWCS Newsletter Editor Rick Natynski

No matter what a person collects, it isn't often that they take all of their passion for collecting and fuel it into creating a book. When it comes to books based solely on Red Wing's wares, names like Viel, Peterson, DePasquale, Peck, Tefft, Reiss, Bougie, Newkirk, Dollen and Moran highlight a short list of authors. Thanks to the recent release of *Kansas & Missouri Advertising Stoneware from Red Wing, Minnesota*, the name Lambert joins those prestigious few.

The idea for taking on such a project came shortly after Nancy Lambert and her husband, Wayne, selected the bail-handled "Otto Kuehne Preserving Co. Topeka, Kansas" advertising jug for the 2010 Trails West Chapter Commemorative. While doing some research for the descriptive card that accompanied the commemorative, she developed an interest in digging for history – history that was getting harder and harder to find.



Nancy Lambert

"While I was trying to find information, it occurred to me that some of what I was finding was based on information that was only going to get more difficult to find as the years passed," says Nancy, whose career in the printing industry gave her extra insight into the publishing process. "So, I proposed the idea to our chapter that I would do research on advertising pieces from our two states and compile a book, with all the proceeds benefiting the Pottery Museum of Red Wing."

Thus began Nancy's expedition, which consisted of 3 ½ years of tedious research, personal interviews, visits to libraries, newspaper morgues and museums and assistance from several local historical societies to complete. She says the project wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for the "amazing" support she received from husband Wayne and many other fellow RWCS members.

"Every person responded with 'How can I help?' or 'Sure I can bring those pieces to MidWinter to photograph,' or 'I don't know anything, but try this person,'" Nancy recalls. "We were welcomed into homes and everyone was so helpful. RWCS Trails West Chapter members helped photograph and research, and they're also helping to sell the book."

Nancy lists "meeting people from the small towns who were so helpful, seeing everyone's wonderful collections and hearing stories of how they found the pieces," as her favorite parts of working on the book. The dead ends encountered during the research process were the biggest challenges that she had to overcome.

"Getting to the actual source of information was difficult – you can only do so much 'Googling,'" she explains. "Also, some of the towns are actually ghost towns now."

While there were several stories she enjoyed bringing to fruition, Nancy's favorite was that of Kansas City's Racket Merchandise Co., which appears on the next page.

Nancy thought she had the book done on numerous occasions, only to find out about the existence of an obscure piece of Red Wing with advertising from Kansas or Missouri that she and fellow Trails West members hadn't previously known about. When all was said and done, the book was finally released in May of this year. It contained

photos of Red Wing advertising examples from 57 different towns and 87 different businesses in Kansas and Missouri.

"After the book came out, a member came up and said they had a bowl from the town of Burr Oak, Kansas with advertising for Convis & Abel, which is different than the one we have in the book," Nancy says. "In the beginning, I asked everyone for a description of their pieces so I could determine which ones to photograph. I had asked them to list the names of towns from which they had advertising, so when two different people said they had a bowl from Burr Oak, I assumed the bowls had the same advertisers. Who would have thought that two different businesses would have ordered advertising stoneware from a little bitty town like that?"

Originally the Trails West Chapter attempted to pre-sell the book to cover the printing cost. Several copies were pre-sold at the 2013 Convention, but there weren't enough pre-orders to fund the print run.

"Three of our members stepped up and said they would fund the printing costs, but then Chapter President Larry Birks called a special meeting around the picnic table during Crockfest in Red Wing's Central Park," Nancy explains. "It was determined that Trails West had a large enough treasury to pay for printing without hurting other chapter endeavors, so we took a vote and it was decided that the chapter would front the printing costs. So once the printing costs are recouped, the profit will be donated to the Pottery Museum."

After seeing the quality of the Kansas/Missouri book, other chapters have started to talk about taking on similar projects of their own. Nancy looks forward to being a resource when people come to her looking for pointers. Starting off, she says the one thing she wishes she would have done differently would have been to take better notes throughout the course of the project.

"I had to go back later and ask folks to measure their sponge panel bowl for example," she says. "I was so engaged taking the photos that I would get home and realize I had not measured the pieces. Just take lots of notes about who is researching what. I finally made file folders for each town to organize my research, notes, photos, etc."

Kansas & Missouri Advertising Stoneware from Red Wing, Minnesota is \$19.95 plus \$3 for postage. To order your copy, contact Nancy at HISTORIAN@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG or 785-691-7213. Copies are also available for purchase at the Pottery Museum of Red Wing's gift shop.

To hear more about the process of putting the book together, attend Nancy Lambert's educational presentation at the RWCS MidWinter GetTogether at the Olympia Resort & Conference Center in Oconomowoc, Wis. on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015.



RACKET MERCHANDISE Co.

Story & color photos by RWCS Historian Nancy Lambert

I remember well the day, Sept. 22, 2011. I decided to phone Racket Merchandise Co., known today as the Racket Group. I was in the midst of photographing Kansas and Missouri advertising pieces for the stoneware book I had started work on the previous year. When I 'Googled' Racket Merchandise, the name "Racket Group" popped up, but the telephone number was the same as the one printed on the sponged panel advertising bowl that I own from 5th & Main, Kansas City, Missouri. I was first stunned then excited. I heard a voice on the other end identify himself as Dirck Hoagland, and I explained my quest for information about Racket Merchandise Co. "You really need to talk to my mother," he urged. "She will be here this afternoon and can meet with you." I wasn't about to miss that opportunity. I grabbed my camera and notepad and headed to downtown Kansas City.

Norma Hoagland (wife of 5th generation Joe Hoagland) was so welcoming and invited me to walk through the Racket offices with her. I mentioned that the phone number I used to contact them was the same listed as the original business location at 5th & Main.

"Oh yes, we have the oldest continuous working number for the same business in Kansas City," she said.

Along the way I noticed a 3 gallon crock and a steam table insert, both with Racket Merchandise advertising. She pointed out the framed, but faded original document from April 22, 1891 when Sylvester Hoagland and two partners applied for incorporation, naming the business "Racket Merchandise Company". The document stated that they would sell and trade any everyday wares needed, just like the racket man whose wagon "rumbled across the prairie" bringing needed items to pioneers. The business was first located at 5th & Main in downtown Kansas City, but later moved to 517-519 Main. This is not far from the banks of the Missouri River, where I-35 and busy roadways intersect today. All of the old buildings once found there are long gone.

Sylvester (at left), who never married, served as head of the company until his death in 1909. Then his brother Daniel and wife, Lillian (Lillie) became owners. Daniel was more interested in shoeing horses and preaching, so Lillie ran the company until 1920 when the business leadership transferred to their son, Julian. By then, the business had expanded to selling many items to restaurants and hotels, including personalized china and crystal. Norma recalls Julian and eventually his son, Virgil, shopping at Buffalo, Syracuse, Iroquois and Homer Laughlin china companies when they supplied restaurants with dinnerware.

Virgil Hoagland, son of Julian, took charge in 1937 and moved the operation to 713 Walnut for a much-needed larger warehouse and 80 feet of retail frontage on a bustling street in the middle of downtown. Racket moved more toward the restaurant and hotel business in the 1950s, but maintained their retail store. At the same time, Virgil developed a relationship with Trans World Airlines (TWA), which was also headquartered in Kansas City. When the constellation airplanes were opened up for cleaning at the old municipal airport, located not far from the Kansas City Stockyards, common flies invaded the aircrafts and created a

Story continued on back cover



Above: The Racket Merchandise Co., circa 1937. Virgil Hoagland, who presided over the business from 1942 to 1980, is the man on the far right.

Black & white images courtesy of the Hoagland Family



Red Wing made advertising stoneware pieces for hundreds, if not thousands of businesses in its day, but most of these customers only used one or two different advertising stamps on their wares. Racket Merchandise Co. was one of the exceptions, using four different ink stamps on Red Wing products over the years. Racket commissioned mostly spongeware panel bowls with advertising, but crocks in a few different sizes were also made. The advertising water coolers shown below are quite rare. A 3 gallon cooler is also known to exist



AD RATES

Classified ads are 20¢ per word for members and 30¢ per word for non-members; \$4 minimum charge and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition to appearing in the newsletter, classifieds and display ads are posted on the RWCS website.

DISPLAY ADS

Display Ad Size	1x	6x
Full page	\$425	385
1/2 page (<i>horizontal or vertical</i>)	225	205
1/4 page	125	115
1/8 page	85	70

Display ads purchased by non-members cost an additional 15%.

Display Ad Dimensions

Full Page	7 1/2 x 10
1/2 page (<i>horizontal or vertical</i>)	7 1/2 x 4 1/2
1/4 page	3 5/8 x 4 7/8
1/8 page	3 5/8 x 2 1/4

Ads must be supplied electronically as an EPS or PDF file for PC. There is an additional 10 percent fee for design and makeup if needed (\$10 minimum).

DEADLINES

Issue	Ads	Editorial	Mail Date
February	Jan. 10	Jan. 1	Feb. 15
April	March 10	March 1	April 15
June	May 10	May 1	June 15
August	July 25	July 15	Aug. 31
October	Sept. 10	Sept. 1	Oct. 15
December	Nov. 10	Nov. 1	Dec. 15

Make checks payable to RWCS and mail with ads:

Rick Natynski, PO Box 198
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Ads can also be submitted by e-mail: send to NEWSLETTER@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG and send checks separately. Or, call Rick at 414-416-WING (9464).

CLASSIFIEDS

RED WING FOR SALE

Large variety of brown Albany slip bottom-marked "Minnesota Stoneware". Also white bailed packing jars, snuff jars and safety valve jars. Call Billie for info at 573-231-6727. Will bring to MidWinter GetTogether in Oconomowoc.

Christmas idea? Time to downsize stoneware collection. Very nice, clean assortment of mostly 4" winged crocks, jugs, commemoratives, mason jars, and misc. items. For pictures and reasonable prices contact Jon at PSOAS22@HOTMAIL.COM or 563-659-9151.

Large grouping of RW Provincial dinnerware (later Normandy pattern) including 13 butter plates, 13 salad plates, 8 dinner plates, 6 coffee cups, 1 serving plate, 2 serving bowls. Contact LSNIPES2@COX.NET for info.

81 pieces of Red Wing Merrileaf dinnerware: 10 dinner plates, 15 saucers, 6 coffee cups, 9 salad plates, 3 dessert plates, 12 cereal bowls, 1 salt & pepper, 2 serving bowls, 4 dessert bowls, 1 covered gravy boat w/handle, 1 casserole w/lid, 1 covered butter dish, 2 sugar bowls w/lids, 3 creamers, 1 tall coffee pot w/lid, 1 celery dish, 1 divided dish, 1 large serving platter, 2 medium serving platters, 1 one tier tidbit server, 1 two tier tidbit server and 4 individual ash trays. A few items show some wear, but most are in mint condition. Asking \$895 for the entire set (plus SHI). Depending on buyer's location, could deliver or meet near Bismarck, ND. Contact Luckie at KIPGREIG@GMAIL.COM or 701-223-1743.



Red Wing Greyline/Spongeband Batter bowl. Very good condition; crazing on bottom. \$900 OBO. Contact Anne at 832-607-2316 or GORMANNE@GMAIL.COM.

1 quart blue-band jug marked "MSWCO", \$300. 1 and 2 quart dome-topped shield canning jars. Call Orville at 509-751-0948 for prices and more information.

1 gallon large wing crock, excellent condition, \$425; 3 gallon Imperial shoulder jug with wing excellent condition, \$325. Will consider trades for Canadian Red Wing advertising. Contact Kelly in Canada at CCCLECTOR@GMAIL.COM or 204-981-9616.

RED WING WANTED

Wanted: NORTH DAKOTA! Looking for jugs, crocks, butter crocks and churns with advertising. Will pay top dollar for the right pieces. Contact BEEHIVE@POLARCOMM.COM or 701-270-0242.

Wanted: These Xmas advertising bean pots: Kohnke's - Clear Lake, SD; Sinai Elevator Co, Sinai, SD; and Gjermundson Bros Hdwe - Wittenberg, WI. Any condition considered. Also looking for 9-inch blue and white panel bowl. Will consider any condition. Call 414-731-0218 or e-mail REDWINGR@GMAIL.COM.

Wanted: Mini and salesman sample flower pots. Contact COBE142@COX.NET or 402-331-4749.

Wanted: Red Wing #687 & M3006 vases especially blue/green Chromoline in mint condition. Contact Rick at 414-416-9464 or NEWSLETTER@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG. Also seeking mint #675 blue/green Chromoline bowl. Will also buy damaged Chromoline.

EVENTS DURING MIDWINTER

64th Annual Winter Wisconsin Antiques Dealers Association Show: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015. 55+ quality dealers, \$6 admission. Waukesha County Expo Center Forum Building, 1000 Northview Road, Waukesha, WI 53188. From Olympia Resort, take I-94 East and exit 294 to Hwy J. South 1 mile, West to show. Call 414-510-4441 or Visit WWW.WISCONSINANTIQUED DEALERS.COM for more information.

43rd Annual Milwaukee Antique Bottle and Advertising Show: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015. 150 sales tables, \$5 admission. Country Springs Hotel, 2810 Golf Road, Pewaukee, WI 53072. From Olympia Resort, take I-94 East and exit 293 North to Golf Road. Contact David Kapsos at 608-838-8041 or BOTTLESHOW@CHARTER.NET for info.

RWCS MIDWINTER AUCTION

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE POTTERY MUSEUM OF RED WING BUILDING FUND

5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015

Olympia Resort Hotel, 1350 Royal Mile Rd., Oconomowoc, WI

2 GAL SALT GLAZE CROCK, 3 GAL UNION STONWARE ELEPHANT EAR CROCK, 3 GAL SHOULDER JUG, 2 GAL DOME TOP JUG, 4 GAL BIRCHLEAF SHOULDER JUG, 5 GAL BIRCHLEAF SHOULDER JUG, SUCCESS FILTER-3 PCS, 2 GAL WING CHURN W/LID & DASHER. BROWN CROCK COVER, 4 GAL PETAL LID, 1 GAL NORTH STAR LID, ASSORT. OF SAFFRON WARE, 2 ART POTTERY LAMPS, 1965 CHAMPION WORLD SERIES DOUBLE BOWL, CHARTREUSE DANCING WOMAN FIGURINE, RWCS COMMEMORATIVES, RUMRILL VASES. ASSORT. OF RW ART POTTERY - NOKOMIS, MAGNOLIA, PLUS MANY MORE. ASSORT. OF DINNERWARE - DIAMOND JIM'S BREAD PLATES AND CUP, FRUIT TEAPOT WITH LID, PLUS MANY MORE PATTERNS. SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. SEE WEBSITE FOR PHOTOS. CATALOGS \$5, AVAILABLE JAN 1. ORDER EARLY FOR COMPLETE LISTING.



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651-388-5870 • WWW.HOUGHTONAUCTIONS.COM

Support the Pottery Museum of Red Wing Building Fund by attending the Red Wing Collectors' Society

RECENT FINDS & DEALS

Did you find a rare piece or a great deal worth sharing? Briefly describe the item, where it was sold, date purchased, venue (store, auction, etc.) and price paid. Send to editor Rick Natynski on a post card, e-mail NEWSLETTER@REDWINGCOLLECTORS.ORG, or enclose in an envelope if you'd like to include a photo for publication. Multiple submissions result in multiple entries in the Newsletter Special Commemorative Lottery at the 2015 Convention. All newsletter submissions received between July 2014 and June of 2015 are eligible whether published or not. Please keep submittals with purchase dates within six months of the newsletter issue.

ITEM	LOCATION	DATE	VENUE	PRICE
#259 Rumrill Swan two-toned green/purple	Paducah, KY	6/16	Antique mall	\$15. ⁰⁰
1 gal RW Pantry jar (no lid, but mint!)	Argyle, WI	7/16	Estate sale	\$35. ⁰⁰
3 gal Birchleaf churn & lid, reverse oval, mint	Monroe, WI	9/14	Auction	\$120 ⁰⁰
2 gal "wing" crock w/reverse oval	Monroe, WI	9/14	Auction	\$40. ⁰⁰
Rare Bob White pepper mill and salt shaker		10/14	eBay	\$528. ⁸⁷ (shipped)
RW New Salem, ND adv. bean pot	Minneapolis	10/14	Occasional shop	\$13. ⁰⁰
Double-stamped 20 gal Birchleaf crock, hairline	Wittenberg, WI	11/14	Auction	\$1050. ⁰⁰
½ gal RW blue sponged crock w/lid		11/14	eBay	\$41.72 (shipped)
RW beater jar with Newberry, Mich., adv., base chip		11/14	eBay	\$88.87 (shipped)



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Owners
Bob and Sherry Rehm
-Red Wing Collectors Society
Members for over 20 years!



Waterloo Antiques Mall & Artisan's Gallery

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Just a short drive from the RWCS MidWinter GetTogether at the Olympia Resort & Conference Center. Head west on I-94 towards Madison about 20 miles. Exit at Lake Mills/Waterloo (Hwy 89 North). Follow Hwy 89 North until you arrive in Waterloo (10 miles). Turn left at the stop sign (Hwy 89/19 or Madison St)...Head towards downtown Waterloo... after about 2 blocks turn left on Jefferson St. We are located over the railroad tracks in a residential area.

Mention you're a member of the RWCS and get 15% off any items over \$20!

Current Issues & Back Issues: Email: Rick.Natynski@redwingcollectors.org; Copyright: Red Wing Collectors Society

"RACKET MERCHANDISE Co." continued from page 13

real need for fly swatters. Racket was happy to provide this simple, but necessary item that helped create a strong relationship between Racket and the airline industry. Virgil presided over Racket longer than any of the previous Hoaglands, serving from 1942 until 1980, when his son, Joseph, took over.

Joe had practiced law for seven years before joining the family business. In the 1980s, he realized that the future for Racket was with the airline industry. So, he began moving away from the retail locations they had opened in shopping malls throughout Kansas City. Norma remembers travelling to Japan and seeing men sitting cross-legged, dipping their brush in pots of red paint and painting china by hand. She also visited Germany to choose Rosenthal china patterns that they would sell to TWA and eventually other airlines for the use of 1st class passengers. She was quite animated, describing the travel as interesting and great fun. "You know that was before we had the Internet," she said.

Norma's eyes sparkled when she recalled one of her favorite days working at the business when she discovered large wood bins filled with shredded wood in a sub-basement at the Walnut Street location. "That's much heavier than sawdust," she informed.

The bins had been moved from the old location at 5th & Main and had been untouched for many years. Packed in the shredded wood were pieces of wonderful china, including little butter pats with logos from long-forgotten restaurants and sandwich shops. "It was like a treasure hunt, digging through the packing," she said. "I still have some of those pieces at my house; the logos are really neat." She also has a Red Wing sponged panel advertising bowl with Racket advertising.

Joe and Norma also own a large cattle ranch in Kansas where they started a new cattle breed – the American Black Hereford. They run the American Black Hereford Association from the Racket office complex, still located on Walnut Street. Joe was elected to the Kansas State Legislature six times and later worked as a professional baseball scout for the Houston Astros, New York Yankees and New York Mets.

Joe and Norma retired from Racket in 2007. Their youngest daughter, Emma, has a nursing degree and works at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. Their other two children, Dirck and Anne, now run the Racket Group and the cattle ranch, making Racket a 6th generation company with offices in Kansas City, Brussels and Hong Kong. They supply in-flight passenger service products to the airline industry and they do business with airlines throughout the world.

For more Racket Merchandise Co. history and photos, read the story starting on page 66 of Nancy Lambert's book – *Kansas & Missouri Advertising Stoneware from Red Wing, Minnesota.*



Above: Even the most advanced collector might think these pieces on display in the Racket offices were made by Red Wing, but they are actually from the Buckeye Pottery Company's Blue Ribbon Brand (Macomb, Ill.).

Right: The Hoagland Family (Dirck, Anne, Norma, Joe and Emma) pose outside the Racket headquarters at 713 Walnut St. in downtown Kansas City. They've owned the building (pictured below in 1947) for more than 70 years.



COMING IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE...



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DINNERWARE
COMES TO
AN END



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