



Uhl Collectors Society

December 2003, January, February 2004



“Did you know?”

By Amy Dowen

In 1929, clay was the third most valuable mineral resource in Indiana. Only coal and ore exceeded it.

In 1931 there were 101 plants in Indiana engaged in solely the manufacture of clay products. Only nine plants manufactured pottery, ranging from sanitary and domestic white ware, electrical insulators and earthenware. The rest of the 92 produced clay products such as brick, tile, pipe and wall cappings.

The major portion of the clay industry had developed from 1910 onward. Not over 40 years before the underclays of coal bearing areas were considered a detriment to the mining of coal. However, much of this became a valuable source for products made all over the state of Indiana.

The three principal factors that were considered in the manufacture of raw materials were (1) accessibility to the raw materials, (2) fuel

costs, (3) transportation. The most important at that time was to be near the raw materials since so much of the shipping was done by trucks.

In the coal belt of Indiana there were three ceramic centers. One of these centers was the southwestern tip along the Ohio River. The principal cities at that time were Cannelton, Tell City, Evansville and Huntingburg all located on the Ohio River except Huntingburg.

The Evansville-Huntingburg area was the most diversified in the state in regard to finished products. There were a number of plants manufacturing clay products in that area. One of these plants was located in Huntingburg - the Huntingburg Brick Company. There were few plants that manufactured pottery. In Evansville sanitary and dinner ware were made and in Huntingburg they had the manufacture of earthenware by the Uhl Pottery Company.



Dear Uhl society members,

It is our hope that everyone will have a wonderful holiday season. Thanksgiving is right around the corner. The board has been working on several things to hopefully have an exciting meeting this coming June 25 & 26.

Final adjustments are being made for the 2004 commemoratives and we should be ready for the final go. Hope everyone will be pleased.

If you get the opportunity to go to the web site (www.uhlcollectors.org) you will find it interesting thanks to Frank and Amy. They have been doing a lot of work for the society members.

Some of the members had some really good finds while they have been out “Uhling” this fall. Look for the pictures next news letter.

We, as board members, appreciate any suggestions for us to consider from all of you. Just call any board member. We are trying to be the very best we can for the Uhl society as a whole.

Sincerely,
Jerry and Patty

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GLOSSARY OF POTTERY

I have often wondered what different pottery terms meant so I compiled a glossary of pottery that I thought I would share with you

Amy

ALBANY SLIP GLAZE — Albany clay reduced to the liquid state and used for glazing purposes. Albany clay, because of its fine particle size and high flux content, fuses at a comparatively low temperature to form a chocolate brown glaze suitable for use on stoneware

BALL CLAY — a sedimentary kaolinitic clay that fires to a white color and which, because of its very fine particle size, is highly plastic. Ball clays are incorporated in ceramic bodies to give them plasticity during shaping and to induce vitrification during firing.

BEATER JAR — small jar with a rounded inner bottom, so a hand beater fits and mixes food better.

BISQUEWARE — pottery that has been fired but not yet glazed.

BRUSHWARE — ware to which a glaze has been applied and partially brushed off before drying. A two-tone effect is created.

CALIPER — a tool used to measure thickness or diameter. It consists of a pair of curved movable legs fastened at one end.

CHASER MILL — more commonly called an edge-runner mill. A crushing and grinding unit depending for its action on heavy mullers, usually two in number, that rotate relative to a shallow pan that forms the base.

CLAY TIPPLE — an apparatus for emptying clay from a mine car.

DEPOSSED — a potter's mark or design impressed into the clay.

DOWNDRAFT KILNS — kilns in which the hot gasses from the fireboxes first rise to the roof, then descend through the setting, and are finally withdrawn through the flues in the kiln floor.

EARTHENWARE — nonvitreous, opaque, ceramic whiteware. It is generally glazed and its most common use is in tableware items.

EMBOSSSED — a potter's mark or design, which protrudes from the ware, as does the design on a coin.

FLOATED — a process by which the pure clay particles are floated up and away from the heavier foreign elements.

GREENWARE — ware that has been formed but not fired

HAND DECORATING — ornamentation applied by hand. On early salt glazed items, it was frequently done with a quill or small tube and cobalt blue slip.

HAND TURNING — using bare hands instead of hard maple wood templates to shape ware.

JIGGER WHEEL — a machine for the shaping of pottery ware by means of a tool fixed at a short distance from the surface of a plaster mold, which is mechanically rotated on the head of a vertical spindle.

JIGGERING — in the making of flatware, a premeasured plug of clay is placed on a plaster mold that has been fixed on the vertical spindle of the jigger wheel. The upper surface of the mold has the contour required in the upper surface for the finished

ware. The mold is set in motion by a clutch mechanism and a tool having the profile of the bottom of the ware is brought down on the clay, which is thereby forced to take the required shape between mold and the tool.

JOLLYING — term used in the shaping of hollowware in the same sense as jiggering is used in the shaping of flatware. The inside is shaped by a template being pulled down inside the mold, which is spinning on the wheel.

KILN — a high temperature installation (often thought of as a huge oven) used for firing ceramic ware.

KILN STACKING — the placement of ware in the kiln before firing. The stacking of ware on top of ware to fill the kiln to capacity.

LUNCH HOUR ITEMS — pieces made by employees for themselves or others on their own time. Some were hand made, whereas others were regular productions items that were altered or decorated in an unusual manner by the individual, according to his or her desire.

MATTE GLAZE — a dull finished glaze.

MINIATURES — simply a small size of a much larger piece. Some were made for novelties, others were used as a form of advertisement.

POTTERY — a term generally understood to mean domestic ceramic ware, but which broadly covers earthenware, kitchenware, sanitary

ware and chinaware.

PUG MILLS — a machine that consolidates clay into a firm mass and then forces it out one end through a steel cylinder.

SAGGER — a fireclay box, in which pottery can be set in a kiln, the object being to protect the ware from contamination by the kiln gases.

SALESMAN SAMPLES — miniatures of regular production items.

SALT GLAZE — glaze primarily used prior to 1900. It was applied by throwing salt onto the fire where it volatilized, the salt vapor reacting with the clay to form a sodium aluminosilicate glaze, which left a pleasing orange-peel type finish.

SLIP — liquid clay used for pouring into plaster molds

STAMPED — after the introduction of the Bristol glaze, many pottery items carried advertising messages or identification that was placed on them by means of a rubber stamp dipped into ink made of special glaze components, then stamped on the piece of ware.

STONEWARE — a vitreous, but opaque, type of ceramic ware. The body contains a naturally vitrifying clay of high strength.

TUNNEL KILN — a continuous kiln of the type on which ware passed through a stationary firing zone near the center of the kiln. Greenware is placed on a refractory-lined deck of a car and a continuous series of loaded cars are passed through the long straight tunnel, to emerge with finished products at the other end of the kiln.

E-mail your Buy, Sell, Trade
items to:
SAE102568@aol.com

DOWEN'S REFLECTIONS

FIRST NEWSLETTER

As we approached the date of our first newsletter we decided that we would drive to Ferdinand and personally meet with Paul Michael Ash, the man who's really behind our newsletter.

And what an adventure it turned out to be!

As we left Terre Haute, Frank asked me if I knew where I was going and of course I said "Yes" that Ferdinand was just South of Jasper, which is true, but I didn't look at a map or at Map Quest so when we arrived in Jasper we stopped in a convenience store to make sure I was going in the right direction and the nice lady said sure just turn right at the light.

So I took her directions we drove through beautiful southern Indiana going East and I thought to myself "I should be going South not East."

We had an appointment with Paul at 3 p.m. and it was now 2:30 and I had no idea where I was so I

stopped in another convenience store and these people just laughed, telling me that "This happens all the time to people going to Holiday World" so they gave me a new set of directions.

This time we ended up in St. Anthony, IN. Closer, but still I was lost, so I stopped again and once more got a new set of directions. This time they put us exactly where we needed to be, a half an hour late but we made it all in one piece and a laugh or two in the meantime.

As we met with Paul, I laid out our first newsletter and gave him a helpless look. He said it looked great, so I breathed a little easier. It was like doing your first term paper and waiting for approval from your professor!

We left the newsletter in the hands of Paul and a few days later we had a finished product and hope that you all enjoyed the first one.

So here we go again!

Frank & Amy Dowen



We have had the pleasure of meeting of few auctioneers who have allowed us to drop off our Uhl membership forms at their recent auctions.



Tony Brahm, of Brahm & Brahm Auctions, Ferdinand, holding a small Uhl Elephant piece.

photo by Amy Dowen



Auctioneer Jeff Boston, of Boston Auctions, holding two Blue Uhl pieces.

photo by Amy Dowen

A special thanks to Tony Brahm of Brahm & Brahm, Jeff Boston of Boston auctions and Tom Rooksberry of the Auction House.

We also want to thank Colonial Antiques Farmersburg; IN, Shady Lane Antiques, Terre Haute, IN and Whip-poorwill Antiques in Marshall, IL for allowing us to put our membership forms in their businesses.



Tom Rooksberry, of the Auction House, holding two beautiful blue Uhl pitchers.

photo by Amy Dowen

BUY * * * SELL * * * TRADE

WE ARE STARTING A NEW ITEM FOR OUR NEWSLETTER!

PLEASE HELP US GET IT STARTED.
DO YOU HAVE AN ITEM YOU WANT TO:

BUY, SELL OR TRADE?

JUST E-MAIL US AT
SAE102568@AOL.COM
AND WE'LL ADD TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!



BUY * SELL * TRADE

Gary R. Catt is looking for a pipe ashtray — reference is Feldmeyer Uhl Pottery Identification & Value Guide - top of page 71 - Pipe ashtray is the 3rd & 4th ashtray - is shown from left to right. Wants to buy either one of these ashtrays. Ashtray must be in good shape. Color preference is Jane Uhl Green but any color will work.

Contact Gary at:

catt_gary@crane.navy.mil
or (812) 735-0310 home, (812)
854-5309 work.

Tersea Greene, 2222 Wake Robin Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906, is selling part of her Uhl collection. She has over 100 pieces for sale that include miniature barrel mugs, shoulder jugs, lephant jugs, strawberry jars, five Christmas jugs, and many more beautiful Uhl pieces. She can be reached at 765-497-3790

E-mail your
Buy, Sell, Trade
items to:
SAE102568@aol.com



Recent prices from a few auctions

Brown Lincoln pint pitcher	175.00
Brown Lincoln 1/2 pint pitcher	130.00
Blue grape squat pitcher	110.00
Roman bird bath w/cracked base	85.00
Acid pitcher	80.00
3 lb butter crock	60.00
Brown rustic barrel pitcher	80.00
Brown platter	55.00
2 lb butter w/lid and bail handle	175.00
2 large blue picket fence bowls	165.00 & 75.00
Teal green prunella mini jug	65.00
White double handle mini jug	34.00
Blue double handle mini jug	52.50
Blue square mini jug	21.00
Black square mini jug	22.50
Blue Egyptian mini jug	29.00
White octagon mini jug	60.00
Foothall mini jug	52.50
Blue elephant mini jug	32.50
Mauve baby shoes	201.50
Orange peel jar	35.00
Lincoln pitcher (chipped)	130.00
Blue bulbous pitcher	80.00
1937 Christmas globe jug	350.00
Large sponge pitcher	600.00
Large sponge pitcher	400.00
15 gal. crock	115.00
12 gal. crock	114.00

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The Uhl Collectors Society was saddened to hear of the death of one of our charter members, Darwin Tucker.

Mr. Tucker passed away in September. Our deepest sympathy to his family and his friends. He will be greatly missed by all.

From the Desk of:

Barbara Barnes, Secretary/Treasurer

As you know, we are renewing our memberships for the 2004 year

Our membership for 2003 was 563.

We are hoping to increase our membership this new year.

Watch the people who bid at auctions and sign them up!





2004 MEMBERSHIP FORM



____ New

____ Renewal

Membership # _____

To preserve your Newsletter, you may photocopy this page - please print

Last Name

First Name

Spouse First

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

1. Dues for January 1 through December 31 \$15.00 _____
2. Commemorative Order (limit one per membership) \$35.00 _____
The 2004 Commemorative will be passed out at convention.
- 2A. Commemorative shipped to your home after convention. \$42.00 _____

Convention Reservations

June 25 and June 26, 2004

Holiday Inn — Jasper, Indiana 1-812-482-5555

3. Friday evening dinner meal tickets, \$7.00 per plate X number of plates _____ equals _____
Please enter number of plates and total cost.
4. Show and Sale table reservations ____ \$5.00 per table X number of tables _____ equals _____
Please enter number of tables needed and total cost.

PLEASE ENTER TOTAL COST _____

SEND THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

Uhl Collectors Society
c/o Barbara Barnes
1483 Gregory Lane
Jasper IN 47546

Deadline for Commemorative, Meal tickets and Sale table is March 15, 2004

The Uhl Collector's Society is a not-for-profit organization open to anyone who is interested in Uhl Pottery and/or Stoneware.

Membership in the Society entitles a person/family to receive a one year subscription to the Uhl Collectors Society newsletter. Members also receive a membership card and the right to attend the annual Uhl Collectors Society Convention held in Jasper, Indiana in June.

The annual convention is "closed" to anyone but current members. The convention includes social time, a member's only auction, special preview of the Uhl Show & Sale and attendance during the business meeting as well as any extra events scheduled.



Frank & Amy Downen
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All Roads Lead to the 19th Annual Convention!

Holiday Inn
Reservations
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Uhl Collectors Society
Holiday Inn
Jasper Indiana
June 25 - 26, 2004

