



Uhl Collectors Society

December 2005, January & February 2006



THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to our Uhl friends,

Hopefully none of you were directly affected by the devastating tornados, but all were touched in some manner. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who were involved in any way.

The Board of Directors met and discussed some exciting ideas for the 2006 Convention recently. The January meeting should finalize many ideas, but your input is also valued. Please contact any board member with ideas and suggestions. The mailing for the membership is going to be mailed earlier than previously stated so PLEASE look for it in the mail and respond without delay. A second mailing is costly to the Society and cuts back on our "fun money" to spend on the Convention. If you have any questions about membership, commemorative or meals, PLEASE call or e-mail for clarification before mailing it to the Secretary-Treasurer.

We still have 2005 Teapot pins. The cost is \$5.00 with \$1.00 shipping for up to six pins in one package. The Secretary or President can supply these.

Do not forget the Evansville Museum display scheduled for February. We need a lot of Uhl Pottery to make a nice display and hopefully create interest in our Society. Les Bain is chairman of this project so let's all help him in any way possible.



**Christmas tree decorated with Uhl xmas jugs.
Contributed by Anna Mary Feldmeyer**

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Wishing you a very Merry Christmas

Sincerely,
Norman and Sharon Patmore
President

HOW WE BEGAN COLLECTING UHL POTTERY

Our collection of Uhl started long before we realized what we had. I received mixing bowls from my grandmother and vegetable bowls from my mother. Jim got a salt from his mother and a grape pitcher from his aunt, Helen Blemker.

One day Donna Blessinger was at our home and noticed a medium-sized turtle sitting on a shelf and made a comment that it was very collectible. I said, "Really!" It had been in my children's toy box for years.

We began checking around and decided to join the Collector's Society about two years after it began and have gone every year since.

We have all the commemoratives with the exception of the pencil.

Our best find was an Uhl ashtray marked Shell and Patoka Oil Company for one dollar at a yard sale. All of this has turned into a great hobby for both of us, which we enjoy.

Jim and Millie Blemker

ITEMS FOR SALE

- UHL commemoratives 1992-1998. All seven pieces, \$650, which includes shipping and insurance.
- UHL commemoratives 2000-2001, \$80 each, includes shipping and insurance.
- Set of 3 ounce mugs — one each pink, blue, tan and brindle. \$450 for the set, includes shipping and insurance

Contact Teresa Greene
5116 Flowermound Court
W. Lafayette, Indiana, 47906
765-497-3790
or e-mail [teresagreene @ insightbb.com](mailto:teresagreene@insightbb.com)

Don Lewis has a mini churn for sale. The churn has a red handle and dasher. There is an acorn mark on the bottom of the churn and it is six inches tall. The piece has a small chip on the inside of the lid. He is asking \$850. You may contact him at 417-866-3164.

Our apologies, Don for not including the photo of your piece, but it was too dark and did not reprint well -Press Secretary

We are always glad to advertise pieces you'd like to sell or if you are looking for a particular piece, please contact us and we will be happy to put it in the next newsletter. Contact us either by mail or e-mail, you can find our address and e-mail address on the officer's page. Please refer to UHL when e-mailing. Thanks!

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Special Welcome
to all new
Members!



This year's Convention will
be held at the Jasper Holiday
Inn on June 23-24, 2006.
We hope to see you there!

BUY — SELL — TRADE

Do you have an item you want to:
BUY, SELL or TRADE?

Just e-mail us at:
meadowtopers@yahoo.com

And we'll add to the next newsletter!

LOOKING BACK AT THE 1989 CONVENTION

— 64 items were consigned, 29 sold —

5 gallon Huntingburg jug	\$40
Blue Vase #157, flat side, fluted top	\$55
Blue rabbit planter	\$75
Pr. Brown luncheon plates	\$30/pr
Miniature brown/white pitcher	\$30
Blue/white Lincoln pitcher, repaired	\$70
Pink tray, 12" round marked	\$100
Blue basketweave bowl, small	\$90
1" brown/white mini jug, marked	\$75
White flagon pitcher, marked	\$55
Blue globe cookie jar, small, chip	\$60

UHL OFFERED ON E-BAY IN RECENT MONTHS

Tall white pitcher	\$12.50
UHL large pink lamb planter	\$15.00
UHL 9.5 blue vase	\$32.50
Miniature blue jug	\$45.00
Pink grease pot	\$49.99
Unmarked flower frog	\$85.00
UHL tan barrel pitcher, 4 mugs	\$94.38
UHL acorn ware 3 gallon churn	\$225.00

COMING SOON...

Uhl Pottery Identification and Value Guide 2ND EDITION

We recently signed a contract with Collector Books for a new edition of our book on Uhl Pottery. We've been hard-at-work taking new pictures to add to this updated and expanded edition. With luck we hope to have the book published in time for the 2006 Convention.

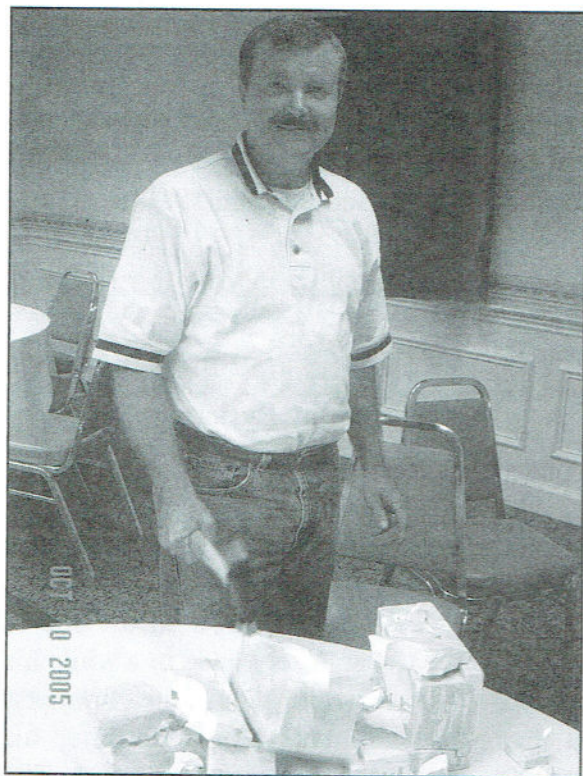
- Kara Holtzman and Anna Mary Feldmeyer

UHL TRIVIA QUIZ



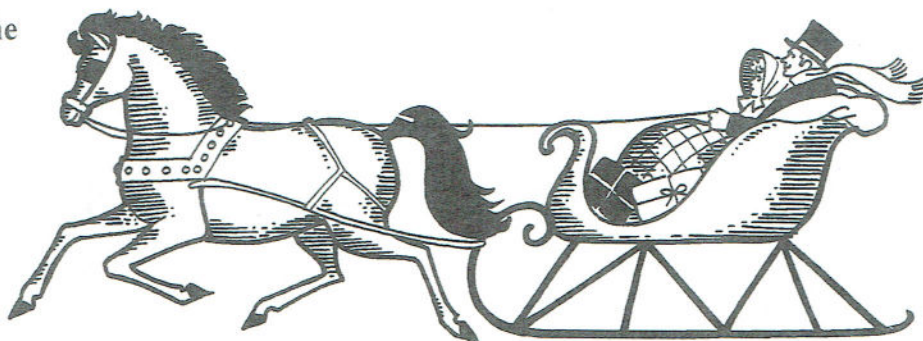
1. Are Uhl frog and turtle mouths open or shut?
2. Do you know to what temperature pieces reached when fired?
3. How can a piece of Uhl be identified other than being stamped or marked?
4. What year was the first kiln of Uhl fired in Huntingburg?
5. How many sizes of the Polar Bear water cooler were made?

Answers found on page 6. Thanks to Anna Mary Feldmeyer for these questions and answers.



Frank Downen breaking the
2005 Commemorative mold at the
Directors meeting.

**The Uhl display at the
Evansville Museum will take
place February 5-May 14,
2006. If you would be willing
to display some of your items
please contact Les Bain at
1-812-435-8385 Ex. 227.**



PEDDLING UHL POTTERY

In the previous edition, we were asking for any input or information on the practice of peddling Uhl pottery throughout the countryside. We were pleased to receive the following.



From Tom Uebelhor:

I had the pleasure of talking with Bernie McNallin, of Jasper about his uncle, Joe "Topsy" the "Rag Man" Vonderheide and would like to share it with the club members. Joe peddled Uhl pottery in Dubois and surrounding counties including Daviess, Pike and Knox to name a few.

Amish country was one of his favorite areas to sell. Joe was born in 1898 and started selling Uhl and other wares out of a Model A Ford Coupe fitted with a wooden bed at the age of 40. A typical day would start out by putting straw in the bed of his Model A, loading it with Uhl bowls, small jugs, crocks, pitchers, bean pots, vases and miniatures and start his trip to the Sinclair service station in Jasper, he would put in .50 to .75 cents of gas in the tank and be on his way toward

Vincennes, Indiana. He would stop along the way at houses to sell Uhl, at service stations to sell rags for mechanics to use and in season to pick up watermelons and cantalope at Vincennes to sell on his way home.

The rags he would buy at people's homes would have to be sorted at his house, keeping the good ones for the service stations and the others he would sell to a scrap yard in Vincennes for the same price he paid for the rags just to get rid of them.

If a customer wanted a large Uhl item he would take the order and deliver it next time he was thru the area. He did not like to load big items to sell on the truck because it took up too much space.

Joe would go to the Pottery once or twice a week, pick up items he was low on, and pick up any special request items. His first choice was to hand pick the seconds they had at the pottery, (that explains why almost all the Uhl my parents had in the attic either had glaze runs or minor chip, etc.)

If the piece had cracks or more than a minor chip he would then buy a good item to fill the order. He kept a lot of Uhl on hand at his home in a large room in the back of the house. Bernie said he remembers it stacked quite high in the room with little room to walk around it.

After the Pottery closed, Bernie remembers driving him to Louisville Pottery in Louisville, Kentucky to buy pottery because Joe did not want to drive in the fast-paced city and also Bernie had a newer truck to make the trip.

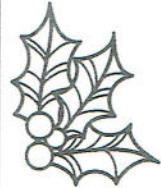
Joe also made trips to Clay City Pottery in Clay City, Indiana to buy pottery after the Uhl Pottery closed. Bernie said Joe slowed down selling his wares after Uhl closed, but did sell more in the local area. People who knew he sold Uhl would stop at the house and buy items. When he quit selling on the road he asked Bernie to make a sign "Pottery for Sale" to put up in his front yard along the road and he did, but the sign was never put up. Joe passed away in 1990 at the age of 72.



From Amy Busler:

The Dilger family in Mariah Hill, Indiana can remember an older gentleman driving around the countryside in an old Model T with Uhl Pottery on straw in the bed of the truck. Every once in a while his mother would get a piece of pottery. He can remember one time, his mother traded eggs for a bowl. The salesman would then go to town and sell the eggs.





Uhl Trivia Answers

1. Both
2. 2400 degrees Fahrenheit
3. By impressed numbers
4. December 1909
5. Five

From the Press Secretary's Desk...

We regret that we did not get to attend either the Allen-Lemond or the Rohleder auctions due to a prior commitment and some health issues. We have heard comments from some of you that did get to attend these auctions. Pictured below is a five-gallon Evansville jug that was offered at the Allen-Lemond sale. Note the corncob stopper.



Please be giving some thought to what you can contribute to the next newsletter. We thank all those who contributed to this edition. We have especially enjoyed the stories about the Uhl peddlers. Do any of you have anything to add to the story?

The next edition will be March-April-May 2006.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY HUNTING TO ALL**



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