



# Uhl Collectors Society

March, April, & May 2007



## HAPPY NEW YEAR AND HAPPY EASTER!

This greeting is being written in late January due to the "snowbirds" heading south until late March, after the newsletter is printed.

The Convention is on schedule and we have a few new members to share our excitement over Uhl pottery with at that time. If you have NOT paid yet, this is a reminder that the dead-line is strictly March 31st postmark with no exceptions. If you are not sure of the amount to pay just call or e-mail our secretary, Amy Busler, and she can give you the information.

Board positions are available and everyone should have a chance to serve. You do not have to be asked to serve, just make your desire known and someone will nominate you from the floor. If you would like to e-mail any board member prior to the convention, they will be happy to hear from you on this important matter.

Watch for those Uhl auctions and plan to attend. Unfortunately, we will not be there to bid and will be baking on the beach or on a fishing boat. Chip Kugler and his auction crew will be doing our convention auction again this year and we always look forward to this part of the week-end. Some of our faithful members will also be assisting. There will not be any early viewing as we have received numerous complaints about this and want to fair to all members. Everyone should have ample time to view the items and select which ones they can't go home without between seating time and serving or immediately afterwards.

Sharon & Norman Patmore  
President 2007



*Botay Military flasks are some of Mark Coleman's favorite pieces. Read more about his collection on page 4.*

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# From the Press Secretary's Desk...

Spring Greetings to all Uhl Collectors

I am intentionally being optimistic about spring. When I walk through the garden now I'm looking for ANY sign that says winter is about over.

We think you will enjoy this newsletter. We have had some great sharing from some of our fellow collectors. We appreciate so much that they were willing to share with all of us.

Thank you to Karen Katter Dougan for sending the Uhl information about her family's upcoming auction. You will find the pieces listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

The convention will be here before we know it and we think you will enjoy this years gathering. Some interesting things are being planned to make the convention fun and informative for each of you.

This year's commemorative brings back special memories for me, I will share that story later, and perhaps it will have special memories for some of you too.

Much of the winter has been spent working on my next book or rather preparing the groundwork for it. Two cataract surgeries within a week have slowed me down a little. I am thankful to have that behind me and am looking forward to better things ahead.

Have any of you found some really great Uhl pieces this winter? Please tell us about them for the next newsletter.

Ralph and Delores Hemmer, Press Secretary

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## BUY---SELL---TRADE

### **Wanted to Buy...**

Two Uhl Commemoratives, 1987 and 1989  
Contact John Ingwersen,  
E-mail JHenrying@aol.com  
Phone-317-823-8543

### **Wanted to Buy...**

2006 Commemorative  
Contact Debbie 812-937-2905

### **For Sale...**

1989 Christmas Jug \$50  
Orville Holm  
P.O. Box 1994  
Clarkston, Washington 99403  
Phone 509-751-0948

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**SEE YOU AT THE  
CONVENTION  
JUNE 22 and 23, 2007**



### — IN SYMPATHY —

The mother of Dan Hadley, Virginia Sloan Hadley, died February 11, 2007 at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville, Indiana. She was 87 years of age. The Uhl Community extends their sympathies.

### BUY — SELL — TRADE

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

Just e-mail us at:  
[meadowtopers@yahoo.com](mailto:meadowtopers@yahoo.com)  
And we'll add to the next newsletter!



# HOW I BEGAN COLLECTING UHL POTTERY

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## My Collection

*Mark Coleman*

I was born in Huntingburg where I grew up around antiques in my parents home in Washington. My father made wine in an 8 gallon Uhl molasses jug that had belonged to my grandparents in Holland. My collecting interests gravitated to Uhl in about 1989 while I was living in Freeport, Illinois. My first piece of Uhl was a football jug given to me by my grandparents. My early collection was focused on mini jugs, but grew wider over the years. I would drag my wife Michelle and son Clayton to look for Uhl at flea markets, farm auctions, antique shows, shops and bottle shows throughout Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and other Midwest states.

In the early 1990s Uhl was not well known and unmarked pieces could often be purchased for a very low price. Even marked pieces were usually a bargain because the McCurdy book was not readily available, especially in upper Midwest. I joined the UCS and started attending the convention in 1992. That was the beginning of my real collection due to the knowledge gained from the conventions and the ready advice of the experienced collectors. The convention continues to be a highly anticipated event each year.

My favorite pieces are the ones with stories. I purchased a 9" frog, about a week after one sold at a convention in the early 90's, while my parents were visiting in Illinois. My price was about 10% of the convention price. It became a family story that is still remembered.

I purchased a perfectly matched pair of baby shoes separately, about 250 miles apart over two weekends in Minnesota, I picked up a hand turned pitcher at a tiny show that was misidentified

as Weller. When the dealer offered it to me at 80% off my son just walked away shaking his head. (I would have passed at the asking price.)

I got a large bowl at an antique shop in San Diego for about \$8 on the way to the airport. I got my Uhl but almost missed my plane.

(By the way, last time I checked there was a 30 gallon crock at an antique shop in San Clemente, CA at a very fair price. It's a bit difficult to carry on the plane.)



*Hand turned and many other pieces*

*(continued on the next page)*



## HOW I BEGAN COLLECTING UHL POTTERY (CONTINUED)

My wife gave me a 1930 Christmas jug for my birthday in 2005. Of course she got it at the convention.

A few years ago I started a Yahoo page for Uhl collectors to let people share their pictures and stories. The URL is: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/collecting\\_uhl\\_pottery/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/collecting_uhl_pottery/).



*Jars and Uhl*

Please check it out, join up, post a picture and join the discussion.

Here are a few pictures of my collection. I also collect antique fruit jars as is very evident in the pictures.



*Mostly Christmas jugs*



*Bulbous pitchers, Krogman jugs and Evansville jugs*

## UHL TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Uhl had four kilns how much did each kiln hold?
2. What was the shrinkage on Uhl pieces according to Mockie Lett?
3. How long did it take the kilns to cool?
4. What is the best way to ID an Uhl miniature cat jug planter?

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



# UHL Pieces for Sale at the Upcoming Meta Katter Antiques and Collectibles Auction

The following is a list of the Uhl pieces (there could be more by sale day) that will be offered for sale at the Meta Katter Antiques and Collectibles Auction. The auction will be handled by Curran-Miller and will be held March 31 at the Dubois County Fairgrounds beginning at 10 A.M. Other antiques and collectibles will be auctioned.

- 3 ounce miniature stein
- Brown churn lid
- Blue squat grape pitcher
- Brown squat pitcher
- Globe cookie jar, no lid
- Ransburg red cookie jar, paint peeling, no lid
- Green Ramekin
- Rose colored lamp
- Yellow one-handled 7-inch covered casserole
- 3 gallon shoulder jugs
- 2 blue/white ring jugs
- 4 small whiskey jugs
- Acorn ware brown ashtray
- 2 miniature pitchers
- 8 miniature jugs
- (A Very Merry Christmas) brown/white miniature shoulder jug
- White miniature military boot
- Blue miniature elephant jug
- Yellow miniature planter cat
- Holland "50 years of Goodness" 10-inch brown/white shoulder jug
- 5 gallon jug
- 12 gallon crocks
- 4-10 gallon double handled jugs
- Other jugs and crocks

# Member Suggestion...

The following suggestion came in from a member of the Society.

Why not have a column dedicated to where members found Uhl? He thought it might be interesting to read of the various places collectors had found some of their prize pieces.

Would there be any interest in such a column and would you as a member be willing to contribute to it?

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## REMINISCING FROM THE UHL NEWSLETTER JUNE 14, 1937 HUNTINGBURG INDEPENDENT

At Lisberg, Germany brothers, August and Louis Uhl decided to leave their father's handmade roofing tile business and set out for the new country. Elder brother, August, came first to establish the business in a suitable location. From Germany to New York to Pittsburgh on a boat down the Ohio River unloading in Evansville, Indiana where he found a clay with the necessary plasticity for making pottery. Soon he wrote to his brother and told him to join him. They established the A. and L.Uhl Pottery at 9th and Sycamore Streets. Business prospered. Clay there was inferior to top quality; therefore, they decided to look elsewhere for proper clay. Clay was found and transported to Evansville from standpipe hill near Huntingburg via wagons to flat boats in Rockport to drays and hauled to the Pottery cellar.

In 1879, Louis bought the interest of his brother and took his son, George, as a partner under the firm name, Louis Uhl and Son. In several years, yet another Louis Uhl and Charles Uhl entered the picture and in 1908 the Uhl Pottery Company was formed. The Pottery was moved to Huntingburg. Young Louis managed the plant while Charles managed the office in Evansville. In 1932, the office was moved to Huntingburg and a retail store and warehouse remained in Evansville.

In 1937, Uhl was making 900 different articles some still by hand turning but a great deal by machine.

The largest recorded (in catalogs) piece of Uhl is a sixty-gallon jar. This story tells of an eighty gallon jar being made just because potter, John Ross wanted to see how big of a piece he could make by hand. He had to stand on a barrel to finish it as the piece grew in height.





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