



GRISWOLD & CAST IRON QUARTERLY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone, as I am writing this President's message we are in between snow storms here in Southern Ohio and looking forward to Spring. And one big thing we are looking forward to is the 2023 national convention in Baton Rouge. If you haven't been to one of our conventions you are missing out on a great cast iron event and a great time of fellowship with other collectors. One thing that makes this year's convention special will be the great food that Clayton and Malinda will be organizing on Thursday and the opportunity to see Clayton's collection.

Moving on to more current events, I know that I have been promising the new website availability in past newsletters and this time I am happy to say that we are almost there. By the time you read this we will be operational for sure. More information on our new website is available elsewhere in this issue.

Getting back to the convention, let me remind everybody about the fine auction that Sonny McCarter and his team put on each year. The Friday night auction is always one of the highlights of the convention for me, and I always try to find a few items to list. Not only are there always some really choice items that I want to buy but I also get to sell a few pieces and find out what they bring. It is also very nice to get a check in the mail a few weeks after I get home.

Finally stay safe and good hunting and look forward to seeing you in Baton Rouge!

Art Chatfield

Email me at artchatfield@gmail.com or phone at 513-673-1875.

A NEW MEMBER'S STORY

This is Kenny and Rosie Bailey in Clark, Missouri. We recently joined the Heartland Chapter of the Griswold Club. Also, we are planning on attending the 2023 national convention. It will be our 1st. time and we are looking forward to the experience. I wanted to share a special story with you. About a year and a half ago, I was in Amish country after dark looking at cast iron with flashlights. I bought a Griswold #9 Oval Roaster that matched a #3 and #5, That I already had in my collection. After a few days I kept looking at this roaster and it looked extra tall, so I got out the Griswold book and started measuring this roaster and realized it was actually a Griswold deep #9 Oval Roaster. Later I was at a cast iron sale and talking to a couple of very reliable sources and was told there was only 2 of these in existence. What a surprise a 3rd. one popped up in Missouri. So needless to say, I am now looking for the #7 and regular #9 roasters. It seems there is always another piece or two we are always searching for to go in our collections.

Here are some pictures of the roaster:



And the Countdown Continues for my Top 50ish List

Happy New Year everyone. I hope all has been going well and you have been enjoying the hint of spring just around the corner. Hopefully, you have been able to make a few shopping trips and added some cast iron to your collection, or even decided to get some iron out and ready to sell at the convention either thru the swap meet, room sales, and especially the auction. Please send Sonny your info for the auction so Friday night can be great. With the holidays past us and spring around the corner it means the time is here to think about the nation convention in Baton Rouge. If you want to have fun, buy some iron, and meet great people, then the convention is a must attend. It will not disappoint so please make plans to attend in April.

So, in the last five or so years I have talked about my favorite piece of cast iron/aluminum and what steps and decisions that were needed to identify that all-time favorite piece, the one I must have, would grab and secure in an emergency, dream about, and of course would never part with. I have shared the first items that I have ranked in my top 50ish – I can only guess that will change over time so please do not hold that against me – plus I have found some new items at the last few conventions that will modify the list and have extended it beyond 50 items – I think I am way past 50 now...stay tuned as this is both fun and hard...

So, after much thought and sleepless nights thinking about this, I will reveal the next **4** items on my top 50ish list. Remember it is not about the retail value of an item – it is a piece that I enjoy looking at and treasure. So, some items on the top 50 will not always be high priced but they will be a treasure in my eyes.

Drum roll please for the top items to continue down the list and see that we have more items to share and try and narrow the list down. How fun is that? So now on to the list and some of the items that have tied for the top spots and on our way to one at some point.

#2e (tie) – As you might have realized by this time, I really love the chrome and nickel-plated pieces. Today I am sharing the really cool #5 Erie skillet in nickel. This is the 4-digit version of the #5 Erie (center skillet) and compared to the black iron three- and four-digit skillets.

How cool is that when centered between two black iron skillets, it really makes the nickel stand out. The #5 Erie skillet is the first I have seen in nickel, and I was fortunate enough to find this at the National Convention. So happy someone decided not to use this skillet every day and preserved the nickel.



#2f (tie) – And next on the list today is the small wall mount coffee grinder or coffee mill as reflected in the book with pattern #115. This is the smaller version coffee mill (without the top receptacle) and is in nickel. Most will be japanned (black) with gold trim.

I am guessing this would be used at home and in some ways sort of like a Keurig today – just need a quick cup of coffee and not a huge pot or a lot of beans to grind.

Super cool item and still functional today. Once again, delighted it was preserved for us to enjoy and see that beautiful craftsmanship and nickel plating still intact.



#2g (tie) – And next on the list today is the larger wall mount coffee grinder or coffee mill as reflected in the book with pattern #145. This is the larger version coffee mill (with the top receptacle) and is in japanned (black) with gold trim.

Great to see the condition and the original japanned still intact and with the gold trim. This must have been quite the showcase in the kitchen so many years ago and would have really stood out mounted on that kitchen wall.

Wonder how many times someone cranked it around when not in use – just to test it out and have fun. And yes, I also found this wonderful item at one of the National Conventions.



#2h (tie) – Can you spot the difference? And finishing the list today are the amazing chrome and nickel plated zero skillets (did I mention my love of chrome pieces?). If you look at the top left skillet you will see the handle is the loop version and not grooved, as compared to the skillet to its right.

However, the real callout in this set of zero skillets is the one that is just a little different in the center of the picture – the zero-cast iron skillet that was made into an ashtray. Normally you see this in the double zero variation and is a much smaller ashtray. The zero skillet in this version is considered very rare and comes in black iron, chrome, and aluminum. Go check those skillets & see if you have a hidden gem.



And for #1 – well you will have to wait just a bit longer to our next couple of Newsletters to see the big reveal, and what is next in the top 50ish countdown...

I also believe when you mix in some chrome, porcelain, aluminum, and nickel in the collection it helps add a little pop to the collection and really stands out well within the black iron.

So, you start to see the dilemma on identifying that one favorite piece – is it possible and how do you decide on that? Whatever your answer and however you can get to one favorite piece it really is about the journey, the stories, and the amazing times.

So please share your list, bring that favorite item to the next convention in April 2023 - Baton Rouge, LA, and we would love to hear the story. Take a few minutes, write a quick story & send to Joseph for the next newsletter.

Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, concerns, your passion to volunteer, ideas for a future article, or wanting to host a convention.

Take care & see you soon in Baton Rouge - My contact info is: Phone/text: 479-866-2421, evenings & weekends are best

Email / slmccarter@cox.net

Thanks Scott McCarter

SOME 'TOY' ALUMINUM PIECES by; Joseph Zawadowski

These pieces are not cast iron, but I would like to share the aluminum 'toy' pieces that I've accumulated along the collecting trail.

All are hammered finish except the larger ham boiler.



The toy ham boiler is marked EMIG and has a part number 1387 on the bottom . There are a few cast iron versions of this ham boiler around, including unmarked ones, one marked 'H.B.-84' between the legs at one end, and one with the Griswold logo on the bottom, noted as a "fake" on page 142 of the toy section in the 'blue book'.



When I purchased these pieces, I was told this double skillet, loaf pan, larger skillet and oval roaster were Mother's Little Helper kitchen items by Peters Metal Products Co. in California. However, I cannot find verifying information about them searching the Internet.





The remaining pieces are of unknown origin, but they show up frequently, usually as incomplete sets, on eBay. I believe this five-piece set; deep DO, shallow DO, skillet, large sauce pot and small sauce pot, all with lids, are all the pieces available.



EDITOR'S NOTE: As Eric McAllister explains below, he and other Board members wish to give a try to a new feature in the Quarterly that reviews some of the knowledge and discussion found in our early association newsletters. It begins here with an article by the late Joe Noto from Volume 2, Number 3. As Eric states, these articles are being reproduced unedited, and include the errors printed in the original newsletters, preserving the actual history of the articles.

[A Look Back, In Their Own Words](#)

G&CICA the 1st 25 years

As we go forward as a group, I wanted to take a look back in the rearview mirror. There was so much knowledge from those early years that continues to help us today. As I share these stories, I will not add, edit or change any wording. Please let me know what you think or if you have a specific write-up from the early years that you would like to see shared in future issues. My contact info is listed in the Griswold quarterly inside the back page...

Eric McAllister

As I SEE It

I have been able to update my computer and get into real desktop publishing. The heart of the system is a very fast PowerMac 7300 with Adobe Pagemaker 6.5. This will be the new format for future issues. There is now the capacity for improved reproduction of photographs. I hope to have enough material to fill eight pages. It could easily be expanded to 12 pages should that space be required.

I can set aside a full page (perhaps two) for letters from the members. I am counting on members to provide information on "finds", recent prices, etc. It would be nice to hear some positive feedback, accounts of members helping each other or alternatively, gripes (of which I seem to be hearing more than I'd like). Sande recommends naming that column "Pats and Pans". I would like to provide news of what's happening in our members' lives, like weddings, births, illnesses or bereavements. Whatever issues you would like to address I can provide the space. I initially did not want to get into advertising or "wanted or sale/swap" ads in deference to competing with Dave Smith's publication. While I think this would be a valuable service to the membership (and this news letter has that capability) we started on the premise of no advertising. Have we outgrown that concept? What do the members think? Would that be desirable? What do you want? I solicit your comments pro and con in this regard.

For lack of anything more inspiring I have left the name of the publication the G&CICA Newsletter, but have added Cast Iron Supplement into the masthead. If any of you have a flash of genius regarding a nickname, give me a call at (704) 252-7357. If it rings the bell we will put it under the official name in the masthead and give you full credit for the idea.

Griswold hunting this summer has been slow for me. There are still some good cast iron finds out there, mostly in unmarked pieces that I cannot determine the maker, but they are old, quality castings at the right price, and they speak to me. And that's all that really matters. I lucked into an unmarked #2 Wagner skillet for \$25.00 and an unmarked six cup Vienna roll pan with a 16 on the rim for even less. I have been focusing mainly on old muffin pans. I have pictured a few of these under a new column called

Odds & Ends which will be a feature in all subsequent editions. I encourage you to send photos of your "finds" in so all can share, enjoy and learn.

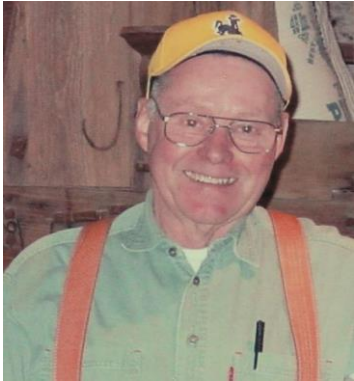
One of the high points of the summer so far was being contacted by the props department of a movie production company to provide authentic of the period 1850- 1870 cast ironware props to be used in an upcoming movie starring Oprah Winfrey and Danny Glover. I believe it is to be called "Beloved". Since the story takes place in Kentucky and Cincinnati around the Civil War, they were delighted to find that I had several pieces patent marked 1850 Kentucky and several WC. Davis gem pans dated 1858 Cincinnati. I loaned them twenty five pieces in all. I don't know which ones they will use. It is currently being shot. I expect it to be released some time next year. On a different note, I am troubled that we are not seeing the continued growth of the Association as we have in past years. We had a significant number of members who did not respond to the membership drive last December and January. Secretary Dave Smith's predictions that we would see a return to the same numbers and beyond has not happened at this point in time (July 31, 1997). The last data I received from Dave showed 616 memberships of which 248 were family memberships of two people. This gives a total of 864 individuals on the books. That translates into a decrease of about 150 members from last year.

I concur with Dave's editorial comment in the May June 1997 KETTLES 'n COOKWARE "the escalation of values has slowed significantly". I would go further... Prices have generally fallen off. Probably a big factor has been the number of large collections recently sold. But, I believe I am also seeing a cooling off in the interest in cast iron collecting. People seem to be walking away from collecting, so my flea market friends inform me. Some are selling out, taking the money and running, getting out while the getting's good. Is it the high prices or is it something else? Disillusionment, maybe? Sick and tired of being taken advantage of by the greedy amongst us? Maybe.

Me? I'm just sitting still. Watching. Waiting. As with most things I do in my life, I always have been in this for the long run and for the fun of it. And truthfully, lately, the fun side has been a bit short. The good side is I always have been a collector and still am no matter what.

So what does all this portend? I don't know! Maybe this is just a "correction" as they say in the stock market. Maybe its more. Time will tell. And until next time, Good Hunting. *Joe Noto (editor)*

OBITUARY OF FRANK KING



It is with sadness that I inform our Cast Iron friends that Francis (Frank) King passed away in Bellevue, WA from frontal lobe dementia on August 9 2022. He is survived by me, Billie, his wife of 67+years, 1 daughter-Debbie, 2 sons- Randy & Eddie, 6 grandchildren 6 great grandchildren and one sister in Wyoming. He was 88 years old.

Francis was born in Wheatland, Wyoming in 1934 where he lived until he was 2 years old. His family then moved to Sheridan, Wyoming where he grew up. After high school he attended Sheridan Jr. College until entering the Army in 1953. The Army provided him with training in Army Finance at Fort Knox, KY & Indianapolis, IN then promptly sent him to Ladd Air Force Base in Fairbanks, Alaska. The beginning of the traveling bug.

In 1955 before leaving for Alaska he and I were married in Sheridan. Several months later I flew to Fairbanks where we spent two years. Driving down the Alaska Highway in January 1955 was quite an experience. It was -52 degrees the morning we left. On to Laramie, Wyoming where he attended University of Wyoming earning a Mechanical Engineering Degree.

From Laramie to Seattle and the Boeing Company where he spent 34 years. Most of the time he was working on Boeing Military projects. In 1967 we moved to Houston, Tx for 2 years while he worked in support of NASA on the Apollo Moon project.

He enjoyed boating, fishing, hunting (game and cast iron), traveling all over in the winter & spring in our motorhome, checking out every shop along the way in search of cast iron. It made his day to have a long conversation with another cast iron collector. He enjoyed a visit with family most of all. He is greatly missed.

OBITUARY OF WILLIAM GUSTAVE BRATZ



Will Gustave Bratz, age 98, of Unionville, Virginia, passed away at home on Sunday, January 8, 2023. He was born on May 9, 1924, in Easton, Connecticut.

After graduation, he served as a carpenter until his retirement. His hobbies included woodworking, gardening, and collecting Griswold cast iron.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Edna Bratz of Unionville, Virginia; his sons, David Bratz of Kentucky, and Wayne Bratz of Wirtz, Virginia; stepsons, Paul Allen of Maine, and Mark Allen of Connecticut; stepdaughters, Debbie Grzech of Remington, Virginia and Tracey Berry of Unionville, Virginia. In addition to his sons and stepchildren, he is survived by eight grandchildren and four great-

grandchildren.

OBITUARY OF LOUIS H. WRIGHT



Louis H. Wright, 84, of Erie, went to be with the Lord on January 9, 2023. His death was due to complications from Pulmonary Fibrosis.

Louis enjoyed family, antiques, fishing, reading, and traveling, and he particularly enjoyed his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Born in Washington, Missouri, on December 22, 1938, Louis was the son of Stanley and Valta Fern Wright.

He attended Washington High School and then went on to obtain his B.S. in Elementary Education from Southeast Missouri State University and his M.S. in Education from Southern Illinois University. He taught for nine years in the Lindbergh School District before becoming a principal in Fox C-6 School District and the American School in Buenos Aires for a combined 25 years. He was also recognized as Jefferson County Distinguished Elementary Principal. After retiring,

Louis and his wife Nancy moved from St. Louis to Erie to be near their family.

Louis married Nancy Glenn Pace of Washington, MO on June 3, 1960. To their union was born one daughter Christine Glenn, who married Bradley J. Stuart of Edinboro. Chris and Brad gave Nancy and Louis two beautiful granddaughters, Ashley Glenn and Katie Lee.

He was preceded in death by his wife, parents, sisters Mary Whitworth and Betty Lee Damschroeder, and nephew Michael Whitworth.

Louis is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Chris and Brad Stuart; two grandchildren Ashley (Ryan) Graham and Katie (Ethan) Moore; two great-grandchildren Brathan and Bowyn and baby boy #3 on the way; a brother-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

On Monday, January 16, 2023, friends and family may call at Van Matre Funeral Home, 306 Erie Street, Edinboro from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and attend the funeral service following at 11 a.m. with Pastor Mike Priestap of McLane Church officiating. Interment will follow at Laurel Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to McLane Church, 12511 Edinboro Road, Edinboro, PA 16412, or to the American Lung Association.

REMINDERS

This is the last newsletter before the National Convention, April 20-23, in Baton Rouge, LA. So, the last reminder to get registered, make reservations and submit auction entries.

Your newsletter editor can always use new materials to put in the newsletters. The newsletter has to be submitted to the printer with page numbers in multiples of four, i.e. 4, 8, 12, 16, etc. page groups. It is very helpful to have recipes, collecting stories, notes on new collection additions, and the like, to make up those four-page groups.

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