

KETTLES 'n COOKWARE

ENDORSED BY THE GRISWOLD & CAST IRON COOKWARE ASSOC.



Sally Swanson (center), organizer of the Swap Meet, chats with George and Dorothy Griswold (left) and Peter and Nedra Griswold (right).

Swap Meet And Organizational Meeting A Tremendous Success!

The day of April 4, 1992 began with a flurry, leaving the Erie countryside covered with about two inches of snow. That didn't hinder the assembly of nearly one hundred collectors of Griswold and other cast iron cookware who had made the pilgrimage to Erie, PA, from twelve states for a Swap Meet and organizational meeting. This event was the culmination of extensive planning by three couples: Sally and Jim Swanson, Sue and Larry Foxx and Joanie and Joe Baldini.

The second flurry of the day began about 7:30 A.M., a flurry of collectors and dealers setting up displays (about 40 in all) of items to sell, trade or just display for the pleasure of all. There were dozens of wonderful and unusual to rare pieces displayed. The prize piece, without question, was a large bronze plaque — OFFICE Griswold Mfg. Co. — which was

displayed by Joel Schiff. George Griswold (a direct descendant of Mathew Griswold) who with his wife, Dorothy, attended the meet stated he believed the sign was from the door of the New York Office. Other rare pieces included: a Coffee Grinder, and a #1 Diamond Logo Skillet displayed by Glenn Gary, a Griswold Clock displayed by Terry and Barb Halmi, a large Bulova Clock displayed by Joe Noto, and a 5 Tier Kettle Rack displayed by David Smith. Several collectors displayed ephemera: paper ads, photos and prints of manufacturers. Griswold pieces were, by far, dominant. However, other pieces such as Wagner, Favorite and G.F. Filley were also displayed.

Buying, selling and trading was brisk for the four hours the displays were open. Actually, individual

See Success, continued on page 12

FROM THE EDITOR —

It's that season again! Flea Markets, Antique Shows, Yard Sales - all sorts of goodies to be found. I walked the markets at Brimfield from dawn to dusk for four days. It's like a fix for a junkie. The trouble is, like the drug, the fix is only temporary - I'm looking again!

As we move into issue #2, things are progressing nicely. Your response to *Kettles 'n Cookware* has been very encouraging. As Ed Bartles would say, "Thank you for your support".

Initial planning was that Joel Schiff and I would jointly produce *Kettles 'n Cookware*, however presently I am publishing this newsletter as a sole venture. I hope to have contributions from Joel in future issues. He has a vast knowledge of cast iron cookware.

Formatting the newsletter has been quite a project. I am still experimenting, so please bear with me.

Based on feedback from many of you, and discussion with publishers of other newsletters and journals, I have decided to publish *Kettles 'n Cookware* by volume rather than calendar year. Each volume will contain six bimonthly issues, published on even numbered months. A subscriber will receive prior issues of the current volume regardless of when they subscribe.

The deadline for submitting classified ads will be the 15th of the month prior to the next issue, eg. August issue ads due July 15th. I hope to reduced the lead time required as I refine the format.

Keep your letters coming. Your information is interesting to all our readers.

Off again to the markets — Happy Hunting!



B. Slay writes: ... I purchased a single burner Griswold Hot Plate #501 at a junky flea market for \$5.00 ... I am interested in finding out something about it. Why is there a German Swastika on the sides of the brass gas valve? No one seems to know - any help?

I really don't know, however I would guess that it is a rademark of some kind for the manufacturer of the valve. Any one else have any info? -ed

Dear Dave- In your introductory issue you ask what we want in the newsletter and I have a couple of

suggestions. I've heard of several dates when Griswold got bought out by Wagner Ware so I would like the history of the end of Griswold including the end of Wagner Ware and the holding companies between. My main interest is in Griswold but I would like to hear about the Wagner Ware trademarks and what years they were in use. - G. Franzen

Gary. It looks like my work is cut out for me in future issues. I am currently working on an article re Wagner Ware logos (with photos) . Thanks for your suggestions. -ed

Dave- We need articles about the various types of cookware, approximate dates they were made, varieties, etc. There should be articles about fakes, repros, etc. to alert beginning collectors. A question you might want to discuss in your newsletter is: During the Second World War there were many scrap metal drives. Does anyone have any ideas about how much of the cast iron cookware were donated to these scrap metal drives??? PS- I may be dating myself as to my age, but I remember these scrap metal drives well. - A. Chapman

My thinking is on the same track as yours. Not only beginning collectors get stung with repros. Experienced collectors can get hooked as well. -ed

Dear David: It has been a long time since we have been in contact and was a real surprise to receive your introductory issue of KETTLES 'N COOKWARE ... Congratulations on your chapter in 300 Years of Kitchen Collectibles. Noticed you have WAPAK located in Wapakoneta, Ohio and not Geneva, IL. In the chapter on Waffle Irons it was stated the #8 WAPAK Waffle Iron was made by Wm. H. Howell Co, Geneva, IL. It has always been my impression it was made by the Wapak Holloware Co, Wapakoneta, OH. ... Do you know anything about any possible manufacturing link between the two companies? -K&R Johnston

Dear R&K. Info on WAPAK is scarce indeed. WAPAK however will be my next major project . I was surprised on how many collectors are interested in WAPAK. Do any of you have any information which would help in my research? -ed

Continued on page 7



Dave: Congratulations on your new newsletter ... I am however very disappointed that Joel will not be involved in your publication. He & I have never met face-to-face; but in our 8-10 phone conversations, I realize that he is a person of very high integrity and tremendous knowledge about all facets of the cast iron industry. I definitely feel that your publication loses something without the presence of Joel Schiff. Your sample issue ... contains no rules or parameters regarding ads. I had been under the impression that ads would be free ... but I see that is not the case ... How about a yearly rate for people who will advertise in every issue? - C. Leverenz

Dear Craig. Joel's lack of involvement at this time in this publication has nothing to do with his high integrity or tremendous knowledge. He definitely has both. I hope he will be involved. Regarding ads: The current policy is \$2.00 (for KnC subscribers) for each classified - no word limit, within reason. I really don't think that is bad considering the specialized market this publication is targeted to. You might want to contact Larry Foxx re membership in the Griswold & Cast Iron Cookware Assoc. -ed

300 Years of Kitchen Collectibles, 3rd Edition

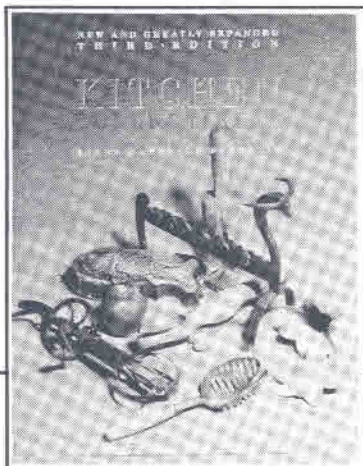
by Linda Campbell Franklin

now includes information and illustrations of cast iron cookware. A chapter about Iron Baking Pans by David G. Smith includes information and photographs of dozens of gem pans, cornstick pans, roll pans, etc. by Griswold, Wagner, G.F. Filley ...

Copies are available from:

D.G. Smith
PO Box B
Perrysburg, NY 14129

\$25.00 includes postage & handling.



THE MYSTERY BEHIND THE SPIDER LOGO REVEALED

Bruce, Robert (1274 - 1329)

A gallant Scottish king spent most of his life trying to free his country from English rule. A legend is told of Bruce hiding from his enemies. He was lying on a bed in a wretched hut. On the roof above him, Bruce saw a spider swinging by one of its threads. It was trying to swing itself from one beam to another. It tried six times and failed. Bruce realized that he had fought the same number of battles in vain against the English. He decided that if the spider tried a seventh time and succeeded, he also would try again. The spider's seventh attempt was successful. Bruce took heart and went forth to victory.

Early in his career Bruce, then Earl of Carrick, swore allegiance to Edward I, King of England. He occasionally changed sides and aided the patriot, William Wallace. John de Baliol won the throne of Scotland in a famous lawsuit against Bruce and 12 other claimants. Bruce was friendly with Edward until 1306. That year Bruce was involved in the death of "Red Comyn", who claimed the Scottish throne. Then Bruce had himself crowned king, but the English defeated him. He dismissed his troops, went to Ireland and let his enemies think he was dead.

The next spring he landed in Carrick, and defeated the English. Within two years he had gained control of almost all of Scotland. Then he advanced into England, destroying everything as he went, and defeated the English in the battle at Bannockburn in 1314. Under Edward III, England finally recognized Scotland's independence and the right of Bruce to the throne, as King Robert I, in 1328. Bruce died about a year later.

Confused? See page 11.





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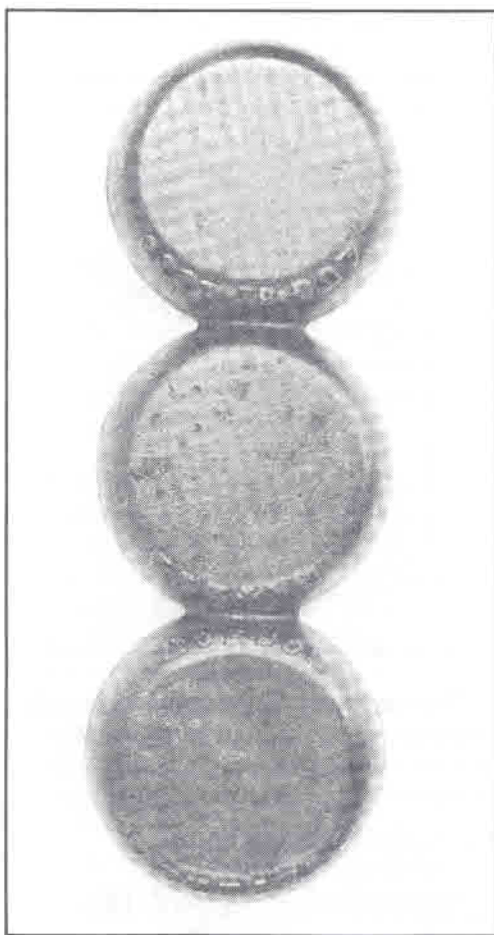
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UNUSUAL WATERMAN ROLL PAN IN THREE SECTION DESIGN

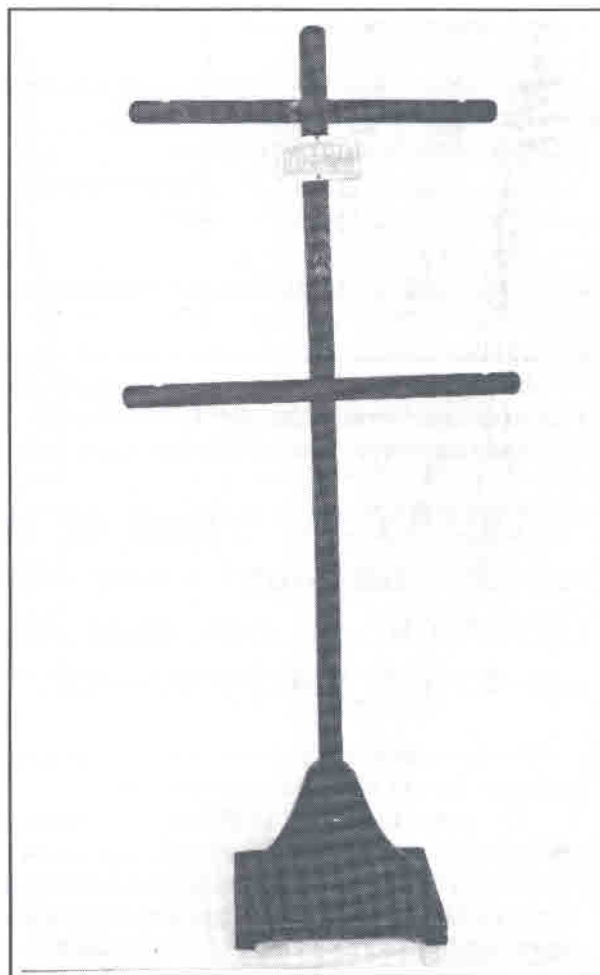
Nathaniel Waterman of Boston, Mass. designed and patented a series of eleven roll pans in 1858 to be used "for baking bread in small rolls". He followed that patent with a second patent for an "Improved Egg Pan" which had openings between the cups "in order to allow currents of heat to pass upward between them, so as to equalize the heat against their surfaces". This patent was granted April 5, 1859. Subsequent production of Waterman Roll Pans were marked with this date. These are the common Waterman pans we see today.

Recently this author came into possession of a three section Waterman Roll Pan marked and dated with the original patent date of August 31, 1858. The cups are round, 3.5" in diameter. They are very similar to the cups in the Waterman #2. I have also learned that Steve Stephens, California, has recently found a three section with elliptically shaped cups similar to the Waterman #4 design. These discoveries seem to indicate that perhaps all the designs were made in the three section series. Does anyone else have any of these?

WAGNER WARE DISPLAY STAND

In recent years, several types of Griswold Display Stands have surfaced. Surprisingly, it is rare to find a significant Wagner Display. This unusual stand is constructed of a soft wood, probably pine. It is 4 feet high, standing on an 11.5" base. There is a notch in the top of the post which would hold a display card or price card. The cross bars are 20" wide from tip to tip and are spaced 13.75" apart. The stand is painted dark brown. The Wagner Ware plaque is aluminum. The notches at each end of the cross bars indicate something must have been suspended from them. Because the stand is so light weight, it probably was used to display Aluminum Utensils.

Anyone have any ideas?



Griswold & Cast Iron Cookware Association

Note From The President —

I hope all of you who attended the initial meeting on April 4th in Erie enjoyed the (Swap) Organizational Meeting, and general comradery as much as Sue and I did. It was enlightening to put faces to the voices after the numerous phone conversations, and to meeting all you new acquaintances.

New memberships are increasing at a surprising rate, thanks to all of you spreading the word about our club. The committee planning our next annual meeting (in Erie) is expecting a 50% increase in attendance.

By the way, when prospective new members ask about membership dues tell them: \$5.00 initiation fee, \$5.00 yearly dues, for a total of \$10.00 per person. Make check or money order payable to:

G&CIC Assoc.

and forward to:

Grant Windsor- Treasurer
POB 3613
Richmond, VA 23235.

Membership cards and patches will be sent to all members in the very near future.

Talk to you all in the next issue.

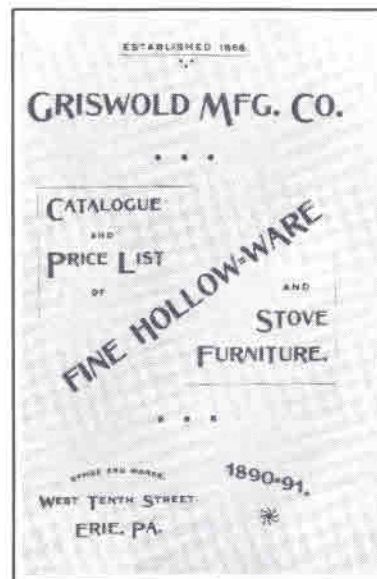
Happy hunting.
Larry

At a recent auction in West Virginia, a scarce piece of stoneware sold for \$475. Prior to the auction, the owner had used it for a dog dish.

QUESTION: What is the most unusual use for Griswold or any cast iron cookware you have seen?

Please share these observations with our readers a single phrase or sentence is sufficient.

I'll start: Last year at Brimfield I spotted a skillet in a booth but the booth was closed. When I returned the next morning a dog was eating dog food out of the skillet. I didn't disturb his breakfast. Suppose I missed a spider logo? DG Smith



This 77 page reprint of an early Griswold Catalog illustrates many items the average and advanced collector alike were unaware that Griswold produced. Add this excellent reference to your library.

\$25.00 includes postage from:

C.F. McClendon
Box 1063
Weirsdale, FL 32695



*Heavy
Metal
News*

A Buggy Wrench marked "Griswold's Patent 1863" has just been acquired by Larry Foxx of Carlisle, PA. The wrench has a square opening (box style) on one end, and three open sockets (end wrench style) on the other. Larry reports he also has a copy of a page from an 1865 hardware catalog which illustrates this wrench and lists it as wrench #8. What a great find!! We will have a photo and better description in a future issue.

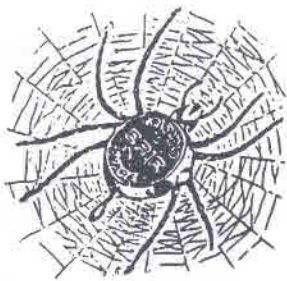
THE GRISWOLD MFG CO.,

ERIE, PA., U. S. A.

Bulletin **A** of General Catalogue. Pages 1 to 24 inc.

"ERIE"

Joan Baldini researched Robert Bruce ... the catalog is from the collection of Sally and Jim Swanson.



AS THE LITTLE SPIDER BROUGHT SUCCESS TO ROBERT BRUCE, SO COOKING UTENSILS BEARING THIS TRADE MARK BRINGS SUCCESS TO ALL WHO USE THEM.

ALUMINUM

Cast Hollow Ware.

"TEMPERED SURFACE." "Non-POISONOUS."

Success, continued from page 1



All eyes are focused at the front of the room at the Organizational Meeting.

deals were being negotiated well into the evening.

If anyone is suffering from delusions that the price of Griswold may come down, there was no indicator here. The prices among these advanced collectors were medium to high. Prices realized were: Bronze sundial - \$400, "O" Tea Kettle - \$350, #13 Skillet slant EPU - \$650, "O" Griddle - \$300, #2 Skillet slant/no smoke ring - \$250, Erie Flutter - \$300, #21 Breadstick - \$65, Heart Star Waffle - \$135, #5 Oval Roaster - \$225, Santa Cake Mold - \$575, Wafer Iron (no base) - \$125, #9 Brownie Cake Pan - \$125.

A great deal of interest was created by a local Erie resident who displayed a 140 piece Griswold Collection for sale as a single lot. There were seventy-one enameled pieces plus a Santa Cake Mold, chrome anvil, Lord Elgin wrist watch presented to an employee for 20 years service (dated Oct. 7, 1936) and several other interesting pieces. Rumor has it the collection sold for about \$6,000.

About 1 P.M. a meeting of all the collectors was called to order by the Swap Meet Organizer, Sally Swanson. After a brief introduction and comments about the origin of the Griswold Spider Logo, the meeting was turned



Joe Noto's display included a large Bulova Clock with the Griswold Logo, and a #13 Skillet.

over to Larry Foxx.

It was the consensus of the group that an Association should be formed. It appeared the original intent of the group was to form a Griswold Collectors Club, however, after much discussion the group decided that even though the majority attending were Griswold Collectors, it would benefit the future of the organization if collectors of other cast iron cookware were encouraged to join. As a result the Griswold & Cast Iron Cookware Association was formed. Elected officers are: President - Larry Foxx, Carlisle, PA; Vice President - Richard Miller, McConnellsburg, PA; Secretary - Joan Baldini, Erie, PA; Treasurer - Grant Windsor, Richmond, VA; Board of Directors - John Daugherty, Tylor, MN; Byron Wenger, Phoenixville, PA; Irv Wagenschnur, Wilmington, DL.

A committee was appointed to develop a constitution and bylaws. It was also agreed that the next Swap Meet/Meeting would be held next spring in Erie. A convention committee was appointed to make the arrangements.

The newly formed association endorsed the newsletter *Kettles 'n Cookware* as the official newsletter. Although independently published, *Kettles 'n Cookware* will carry the news of the association.

The meeting concluded with the presentation, by George Griswold, of a silent black and white promotional film of Griswold Aluminum Products - circa 1920 (?).

All who attended this initial event are looking forward to next year.

Kettles 'n Cookware is published bimonthly on even numbered months, six issues per volume.

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