

# KETTLES 'n COOKWARE

ENDORSED BY THE GRISWOLD & CAST IRON COOKWARE ASSOC.

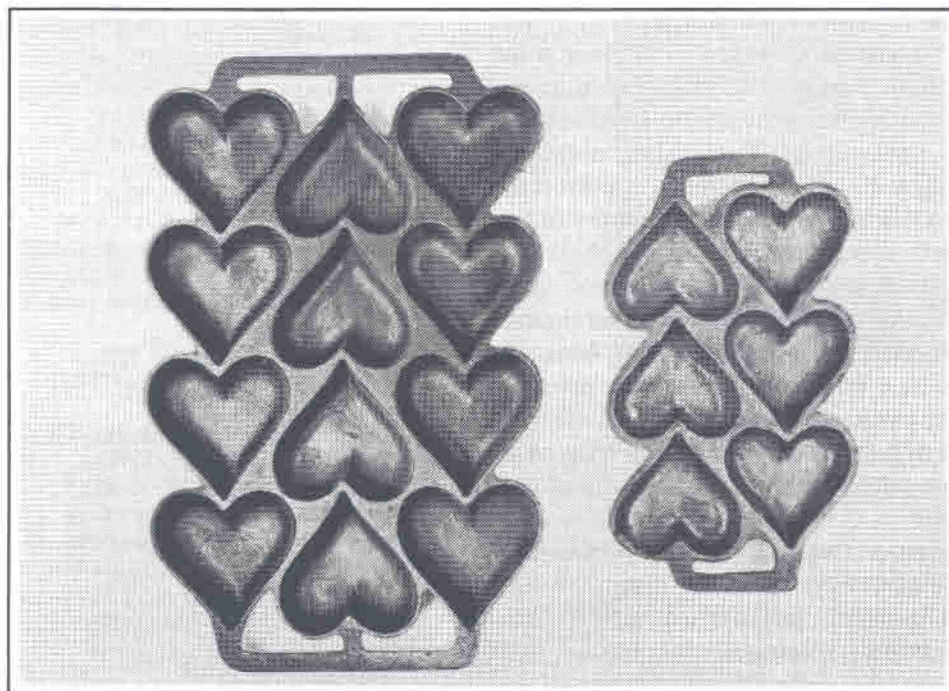


Figure 1: Twelve section Gem Pan; 13 1/4" x 8 3/8", cups 5/8" deep  
Six section Gem Pan; 9 1/2" x 5 3/8", cups 5/8" deep

## HEARTS ARE FOR LOVERS OF CAST IRON COOKWARE

Anything Hearts seems to be collectible. Heart shaped gem pans are no exception.

Use of hearts in design is generally associated with the Pennsylvania Dutch who settled in Lancaster County, PA, in the early to mid 1700's. Because of the abundance of iron ore, forests for charcoal, and limestone deposits, this area was prime for the many iron furnaces and foundries. It is not surprising then that heart muffin or gem pans would originate from that area.

Heart shaped gem pans are eagerly sought by basically two categories of collectors: cast iron cookware enthusiasts, and heart collectors. They are

also in demand because they depict Americana, and are very nice decorators. Because of their popularity, they usually don't stay on the market very long. Average values are upwards of \$200. The heart pattern in figure 2 sold at a Pennsylvania auction last year for \$375. The demand by Griswold collectors has recently driven the Griswold #100 Hearts Star upwards of \$350, and the #50 Hearts Star upwards of \$850.

Because of demand, heart patterns are a primary target for reproduction. The most common repro is an unmarked copy of the Griswold #50 (the authentic

*Hearts, continued on page 39 & 40*



## FROM THE EDITOR —

I have been watching the prices of cast iron cookware, particularly Griswold, steadily increasing this past year. Prices of unusual or rare pieces, in many cases, more than doubled as demand increases for the really good ones. Competition between collectors is keen. Supply-and-demand has created a solid market while at the same time driving prices (and value) up.

What frustrates me is that the antique and collectibles market in general, is being infected by entrepreneurs who scoop up very good pieces at a reasonable cost and then exploit competition between collectors to sell the pieces for what ever the market will bare, many times, for an enormous profit. The field of cast iron cookware is a prime example. Don't misunderstand me, if a person is lucky to find an item dirt cheap it's their good fortune. They shouldn't however, scalp the market. Why not pass part of the bargain on to the collector?

The prime target seems to be the novice collector who, convinced they will never find this particular piece again, pays an inflated price, sometimes much more than it's worth. This collector may never recoup the purchase price. How do you guard against this? Learn the market! Don't make impulsive purchases. Check with other experienced collectors. Make a realistic counter-offer. Because one person pays an enormous price for a particular piece, doesn't necessarily make it worth that much. Value is established by what the masses will pay, not by what a panicked collector is conned into paying!

Scalping the market is very self-serving and does nothing to promote the hobby. It, in fact, ultimately has the reverse effect. Unrealistic, inflated prices, affordable only by a limited few, frustrates the majority of collectors. These are the collectors who created the market in the first place. They are enthusiasts who not only enjoy having a particular item, or collection, but also understand and cherish the history of the product, its manufacture, and its era. They appreciate the craftsman who created the pattern from which each piece was cast, as well as the skill of workers who endured terrible working conditions to produce these items. I believe if the scalping of the market continues, Griswold will follow other collectibles which are losing popularity because of collectors frustration of overpricing.

At the present rate of inflation, I fear, the only ones that will be able to afford an unusual (not even rare) Griswold piece will be doctors, lawyers, colonels, and professional football players. I don't know about you, but I'm picking up good Wagner pieces. Someday someone will write a book and ...

Feed back? I'm waiting.

Dave



## Heavy Metal News

In late August, an auction, containing over 300 pieces of cast iron cookware, was held in Port Royal, PA. Among the collectors attending were Cheryl and Cleve Hostetter. Cheryl recorded the following selling prices:

### Griswold:

- Erie #7 Skillet - \$15
- Sun Burst Mail Box - \$10
- Lamb - \$165
- #5 Chrome Skillets - \$15, \$20
- Double Skillet - \$55, \$105
- #4 Skillet Italic/smk. ring - \$140
- #10 Skillet, lg. emb. - \$75
- #12 Skillet, sm. emb. - \$60, \$65
- Erie #12 Skillet - \$40
- #4 Skillet, sm. emb. - \$25
- #13 Skillet, Italic - \$375, \$520
- #10 Skillet, Block/smk. ring - \$20
- "OO" Ashtray w/match holder - \$20
- #6 Flat Btm. Kettle, chrome - \$55
- Step Stool - \$180
- #109 Skillet Griddle - \$25
- #2 Skillet w/smoke ring - \$270
- #283 Cornstick - \$130
- #10 Skillet, Block/smk. ring - \$55
- Erie Gridiron Broiler - \$170
- #9 Chrome Skillet Lid - \$22.50
- #12 Lg. Emblem Block - \$60
- #9 Chrome Skillet w/lid - \$50
- #14 Skillets - \$120, \$130, \$140
- Bundt Mold - \$1150
- #10 Skillet, Block/smk. ring - \$80
- #11 Skillet - \$105
- Sq. Egg Skillet - \$25
- Alum. Self Basting Lid - \$7.50
- #11 Muffin Pan - \$50
- #8 Dutch Oven Lid - \$10
- #3 Orange Porcelain Skillet - \$30, \$35
- Chrome Loaf Pan - \$225
- Orange Porc. Covered Casserole - \$55
- #2 Skillet, Block - \$180
- #273 Cornstick - \$35
- "O" Skillet, chrome - \$65
- #8 Dutch Oven, Red Porc., no lid - \$22

This extensive list will be continued in the next issue of K'nC.

## REPRODUCTION ALERT

Courtney McClendon reports seeing a reproduction Griswold #13 Skillet in Florida. He reports the casting was very poor. Also, beware of a repro Griswold #27 Wheat or Cornstick Pan.





## The Melting Pot

Dave: I wanted to follow up with you regarding the overall mail-order aspect of our collecting. This morning I found out several things I did not know before: 1) A receipt for the value of the contents (of a shipped package) made out to the customer should be inside each box, 2) The sender should keep the yellow copies (from UPS) as he/she is the one responsible for all the follow-up in the event of a damage claim.

I go to extremes to over-pack but a great tip you might wish to share with your subscribers is to go to a tropical fish shop that carries salt-water fish which are air freighted in styrofoam lined boxes to the shop. The foam is at least 1" thick and really makes a nice cushion for iron. The cost of these boxes is part of their overall cost for the fish and all they can do is throw them away. If one plays his cards right, they will give them away because they take up a lot of room in the shop. I've had several shops try to sell them to me for several dollars - I guess it's a pretty cheap insurance policy. If I'm shipping something heavy such as a fruit & lard press, I line the bottom with cardboard so as not to have the piece eat through the foam in travel. Craig L.

*Craig: Once again, thanks for sharing your insight and experience - Dave*

Dear Dave: Just read your bad check experience. I'll relate mine about shipping COD. At buyers request, I shipped COD to Calif. Post Office delivered and accepted a check same as cash, only requiring buyers drivers license number. The check was bad and the post office is not responsible. You have to specify "Cash Only" (as in dollar bills). Collection will not be possible unless this man gets arrested for something in Calif. It was deliberate fraud and he won't return merchandise. So, shipping COD also has risks I tell everyone and most do not realize this. Shirley L.

*Shirley: Thanks for the info. My case is direct fraud also. At this point I don't know if I am making any progress or not - Dave*

Dear Dave: We recently acquired a #8 skillet with the attached writing and logo. It is obviously an advertising piece and the skillet is identical in size and design as a Victor. Could the logo be a combination of the diamond and the large emblem circle? Perhaps you or the readers are familiar with this company, Smart, and would be able to enlighten us. Is there any value? Lance S.

*Lance: I couldn't reproduce the pencil tracing in K'n C. I have seen the "Smart" logo before. I know of nothing that would support a theory that there is any connection to Griswold. The logo, a capital "G" inside a Diamond which is surrounded by a circle, I believe, is individual to that company. Being that the logo also states "Brookville, Ont." would make it even more remote from Griswold. As to value, the thing that establishes value is collectibility. I really doubt this piece is very collectible except that it is different. I*

*wouldn't value it any more than any #8 skillet. Maybe our readers can add more insight - Dave*

Dave: Your comment in the Melting Pot about joining the Antique Stove Assoc. brings to mind Charles Dickens comment in his 1846 "American Notes" concerning cast iron cooking stoves and heaters. Dickens found it, "common to all American interiors ... the eternal, accursed, suffocating, red-hot demon of a stove whose breath would blight the purest air under heaven." Keep up the good work. Francis S.

*Francis: Thanks for this bit of culture. (Francis has submitted some very interesting material regarding early methods of casting, repairing, etc. of iron. I will be incorporating portions of his very interesting material in future issues) - Dave*

Sir: If you have time I have a couple of questions. I have a book titled Griswold Cast Collectibles - History and Values. The values are listed 1985. Do you know of a more up-to-date price guide on Erie and Griswold items?

This concerns cleaning. There are many home remedies and I've been using oven cleaner. This works but takes forever and several cans per pan. A dealer in Maryland told me Lye Soap is the easiest. He would not tell me where to buy it unless I bought something from him. Do you know if it works and where could I buy some? Thank you. Keith

*Keith: I don't have time to answer every letter personally and, questions like yours provide the opportunity to answer questions other readers may have also. The Harned book, Griswold Cast Collectibles, has not been updated since 1985, however that book is about as accurate on pricing today as it was in 1985. Snyder's Reference Books advertises a new Griswold book in the "Swap Shop" section of KnC which has a different perspective on pricing. Re Cleaning. I have never tried Lye for cleaning iron but many collectors swear by it. It is very caustic and should be used very carefully. It can really burn. Lye is available in the cleaning supply section of your super market, or possibly a Hardware Store. Oven cleaner is very effective if, after you apply the cleaner, you put your cast iron piece in a plastic garbage bag and let it set about 24 hours. The plastic bag prevents the oven cleaner from drying out therefore it continues to work. I have found one or two applications works very well - Dave*

Dear Sir: Do you happen to have the address of the Antique Stove Association and do you know if its full size or miniatures? Carl

*Carl: The Antique Stove Association is comprised of collectors and dealers of both full size and miniature stoves. You can write them at: 417 N. Main St., Monticello, IN 47960. I would suggest you include a stamped, self addressed envelope if you expect a response - Dave*

Dear Dave: I have recently come into possession of a Griswold "Erie" 6 lb. Sad Iron. I would like to know its approximate value if you can give me that information. I was aware that Griswold make "Mrs. Potts" sad irons but I can find no reference to any other sad irons made by them. Tom

*Tom: The style you have, domed sides with Erie on one side, and Griswold on the other, is illustrated in Griswold Catalog #45, circa 1915, as style #150 Special Potts. Griswold made several styles which were not marked "Mrs Potts". The "Mrs. Potts" refers to the detachable handle which was patented by Mary Florence Potts in 1871. Value? Upwards of \$45 - Dave*





# The Swap Shop

**Griswold Muffin Pans Wanted:** #1 Single Vienna; #4 Vienna Roll; #19 with loop handle; #26 Double Bread Pan; #28 Single Bread Pan; #2800 Wheat or Corn. **Other Muffin Pans Wanted:** Wagner #1 Handled Gem Pan; 13 section W C Davis; 4 and 9 section Heart Patterns. **Griswold For Trade:** #19 Golfball, 240 Turk Head, Vapor Griddle, 5 in 1 Breakfast Skillet, Heat Regulator, Santa, #8 Deep Long Pan, Rd Sad Iron Heater; **G.F. Filley** #s 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 & 12 Gem Pans; 8 & 9 Waffle w/ GILES FILLEY in pattern. Dave Smith, PO Box B, Perrysburg, NY 14129, (716) 532-5154.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Wanted To Buy:** Griswold #10 Chuck Wagon Dutch Oven with lid; Also any rare nickle plated Griswold pieces. Roy G. Meadows, 43 Poverty Hollow Rd., Newtown, CT 06470; Phone (203) 426-0430.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Griswold For Sale:** #27 Whole Wheat Muffin Pan \$225; Santa Cake Mold (no repro) \$525; #100 Heart Star Muffin Pan \$425; #6 Vienna Roll Bread Pan w/ raised letters inside of cups \$100; #8 Muffin Pan marked ERIE \$150; #6 Muffin Pan (958) \$125; #283 Lg. Corn Stick Pan \$125; Ice Shaver #1 \$125; 3 different skillet labels, original, never used \$21 set; All items guaranteed, shipping extra. See you all in Erie for the April Swap Meet. Col. Richard Miller Ret., RD #2 Box 172, McConnellsburg, PA 17233; (717) 485-3412.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Wanted:** "Sensible" #6 small 4" child's iron with handle, "Sensible" Trivetts, other Sensible Irons with handles; Griswold Miniature Toy 2 3/4" Eire Skillet, #8 Spider Skillet, #14 Griswold Skillet with bail, miniature cast iron salesman sample stoves (send lists, dimensions & price). Carl Rauch, 2765 Jack Rd., Chambersburg, PA 17201. (717) 267-0909 (eves. are best).

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Griswold For Sale:** #130 Muffin Pan; #155 Pie Oven \$145; #3 Hinged/Hammered Skillet w/lid \$150; Early Sad Iron Heater, all script; 1 pt. Mortar \$245; Santa \$575; #272 Muffin Pan \$110; #12 Vapor Griddle;

Skillet Display Rack; Hammered Black Iron Waffle \$245; #300 Heat Regulator; #7 Dutch Oven, fully marked w/ trivett \$85; Wagner #1316 Plett Pan, fully marked \$65; #9 Skillet Lid, fully marked \$55; #3 Oval Roaster \$350; MISC: Gilchrist Ice Shave #78; Ace Donut Mold \$125; Wapak #5 Oval Roaster \$195; Lodge Vapor Griddle; Garland Toy Stove, complete \$395. Craig Leverenz, 439 Mt. Curve Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55105-1325. (612) 699-1211 (eves. & weekends are best)

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Wanted to buy these Griswold items for my collection:** Sq. Sad Iron Heater; #27 & #28 Wheat of Corn Stick Pan; #9 & #19 Brownie Pan; #140 & 240 Turk Head; #6 Vienna Roll Pan; #8 & #12 Gem Pan; #17 French Roll; #6 Vistor Skillet; #2 Skillet; #211 Dutch Oven trivet; #280 Wheat Stick; F.F. Filley Pans. Please send your want list & sales list to Steven Russell, 5209 Hall Ave., Amarillo, TX 79109 (806) 352-9265.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**New Griswold Book:** 150 pages 5.5" x 8", with Price Guide, \$17.95 plus postage. Send orders to: Snyder's Reference Books, 925 W 4th St, Erie, PA 16507. (814) 452-3140.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Buy & Sell:** 800 piece inventory changes weekly. Smythe Antiques, Dale "Tiny" Smith, 11055 Beverly Dr., Hanford, CA 93230 (Appointment Only) Phone (209) 582-7047.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Griswold Wanted:** Skillets - #2, #13, & #14 Lg. Emblem, Erie Italic w/SR; #4 & #13 Large Emb Block w/SR; Covers - all sizes & styles. Al Stone, Box 500, Honeoye, NY 14471.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Wanted:** Griswold & Wagner toys (no skillets). Buy or trade. Kay & Ray Johnston, 3216 Tanglewood Dr., Sarasota, FL 34239, (813) 925-1359.

\*\*\*\*\*

**YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE - \$2.00**

**100 word limit including numbers.**

## Griswold & Cast Iron Cookware Association

The Second Annual Griswold & Cast Iron Cookware Assoc. Convention and Swap Meet will be held Saturday, April 3, 1993 at the Holiday Inn - South in Erie, PA. If you like to trade, buy, sell, display, or simply admire unusual pieces of cast iron cookware - come join us! We love to "talk iron"!

The registration fee is \$25 per person (member and guest) which includes the Swap Meet and Banquet. If you register after March 15th the fee will be \$35, so send in your registration fee now!

Registration does not include your motel room. You are responsible for your own hotel reservations.

For further information about this great event contact: Joanie Baldini, Chairman, 654 W. 26th St., Erie, PA 16508, (814) 459-2503 days, or: Sally Swanson, 3302 West 11th St., Erie, PA 16505, (814) 838-1866 evenings.

SEE YOU IN ERIE!!

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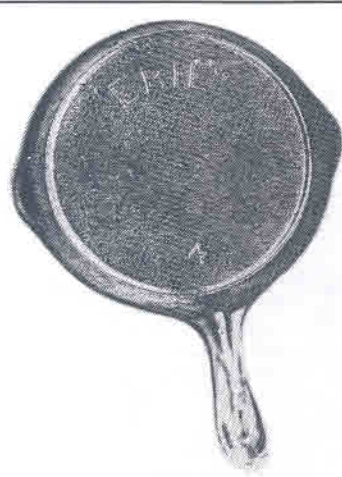
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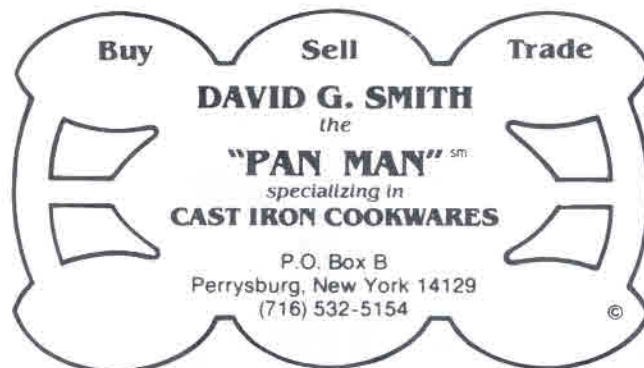


I'd like to hear from anyone who has "O" size cast iron pieces marked "ERIE" and '4' on the bottom.

Chuck Wafford,  
1936 'H' St.,  
Springfield, OR  
97477  
(503) 746-9456

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## KITCHEN ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES NEWS

*Bi-monthly newsletter devoted exclusively to collectors and dealers of kitchen collectibles and housewares.*

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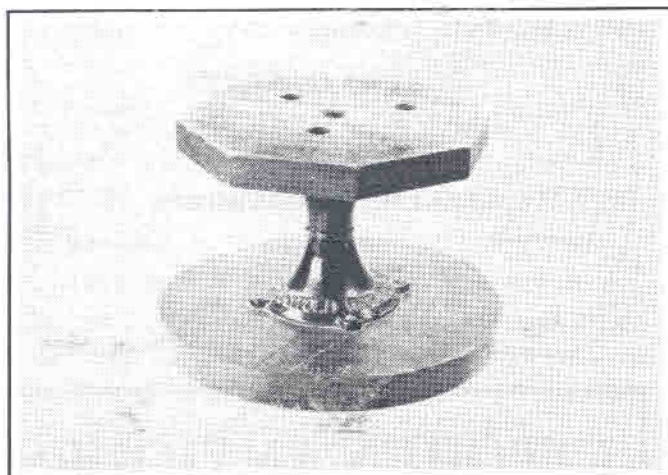




## Casting Call

A recent suggestion from K'nC subscriber, Paul Dettloff of Arcadia, WI, who publishes a newsletter for the Cream Separator Association is that K'nC feature one rare or unusual item from some collection in each issue. This seems like an excellent idea.

If you have a special piece you would like to share with our subscribers, submit a photo and a few comments about the item. A single paragraph will be fine.



**Griswold Carousel Food Grinder Stand** - This Food Grinder Stand is illustrated in an advertising display in Griswold Bulletin No E-11, dated 3-32. The round wood base sits on a table or counter. The wood top rotates on two identical, opposing, cast iron stands. Up to seven grinders can be clamped on the wood top. Dimensions: Base 11 3/4" dia., Top 9 3/4" dia., Height 8 1/2". This indeed, is a rare and unusual piece.

## It's Time To Renew Your Subscription!

This is the last issue of Volume One.

In issue 1 of Volume 2 of *Kettles 'n' Cookware* we will continue the topic of identifying by characteristics. Can you identify the manufacturers of each of these pieces? Answers in Vol. 2, Issue 1.

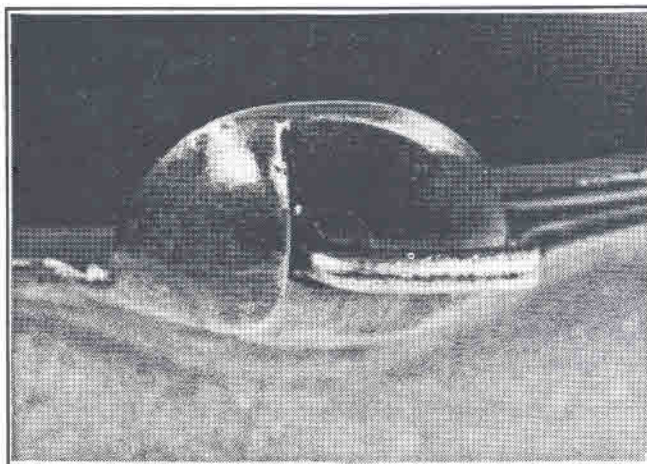
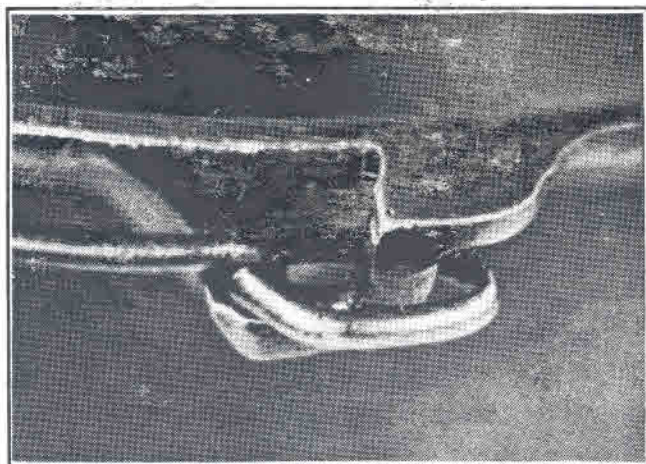






Figure 2: Of the skillet style heart pans, this is the most common. Note the Gatemark (inset). This is a later production than the heart pan in Fig. 3 which has a sprue mark. Diameter 9", Handle 6", Cups 1" deep.

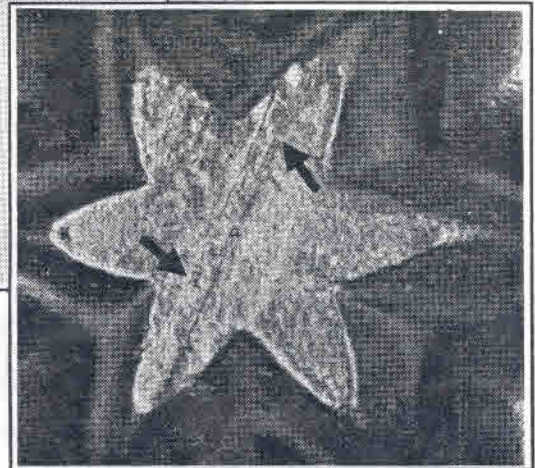
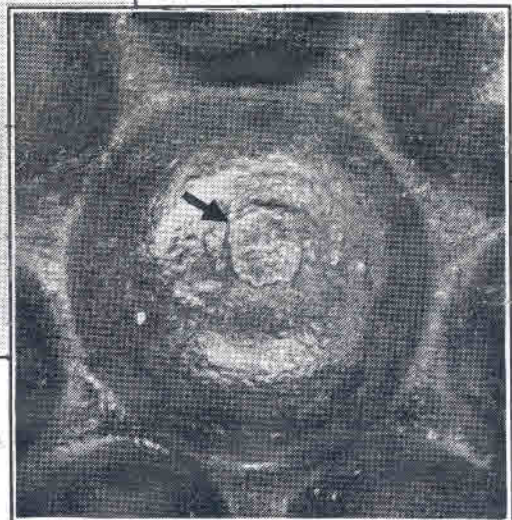


Figure 3: Early 19th century Heart Pattern. Note the sprue mark on the bottom (inset). This was an early casting method. The sprue is the entry point of the molten iron into the mold. Diameter 9", Handle 5", Cups 1" deep. Hearts are rounded verses pointed in Fig. 2.



*continued on next page*



Griswold is extensively marked [fig. 4]) and, the nine section gem pan which is similar to the twelve section [fig. 1]. A repro of four hearts with a skillet type handle is also on the market. The repros are easily identified. They are grey, grainy, and if rusted, the rust is orange in color. Caveat emptor!

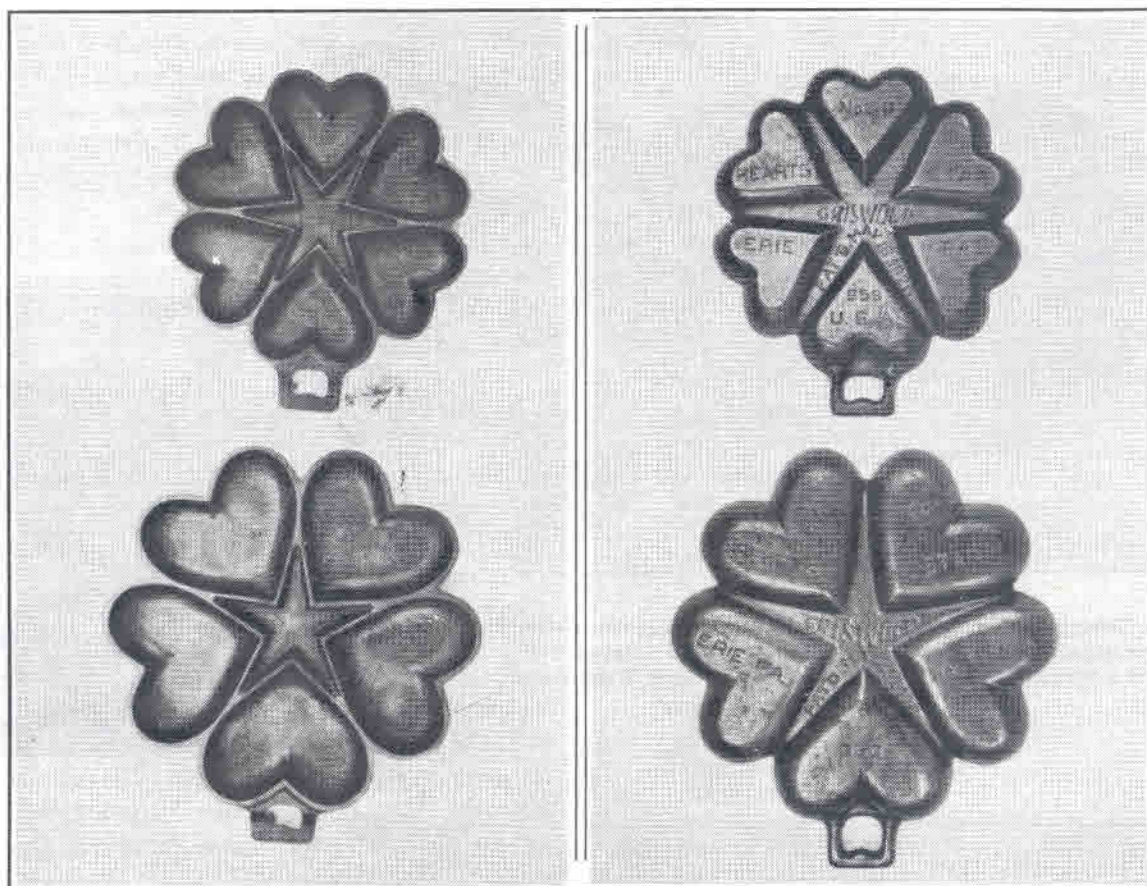


Figure 4: Top - #50 Griswold Hearts Star Gem Pan, Diameter 6 3/8", cups 1/2" deep  
Bottom - #100 Griswold Hearts Star Gem Pan, Diameter 7 3/4", Cups 9/16" deep



Figure 5: A very unusual four section pattern. It appears to have been cast from the top which is very unusual, and the sprue polished off. Diameter 7 1/2", Handle 4 1/2", Cups 1" deep

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