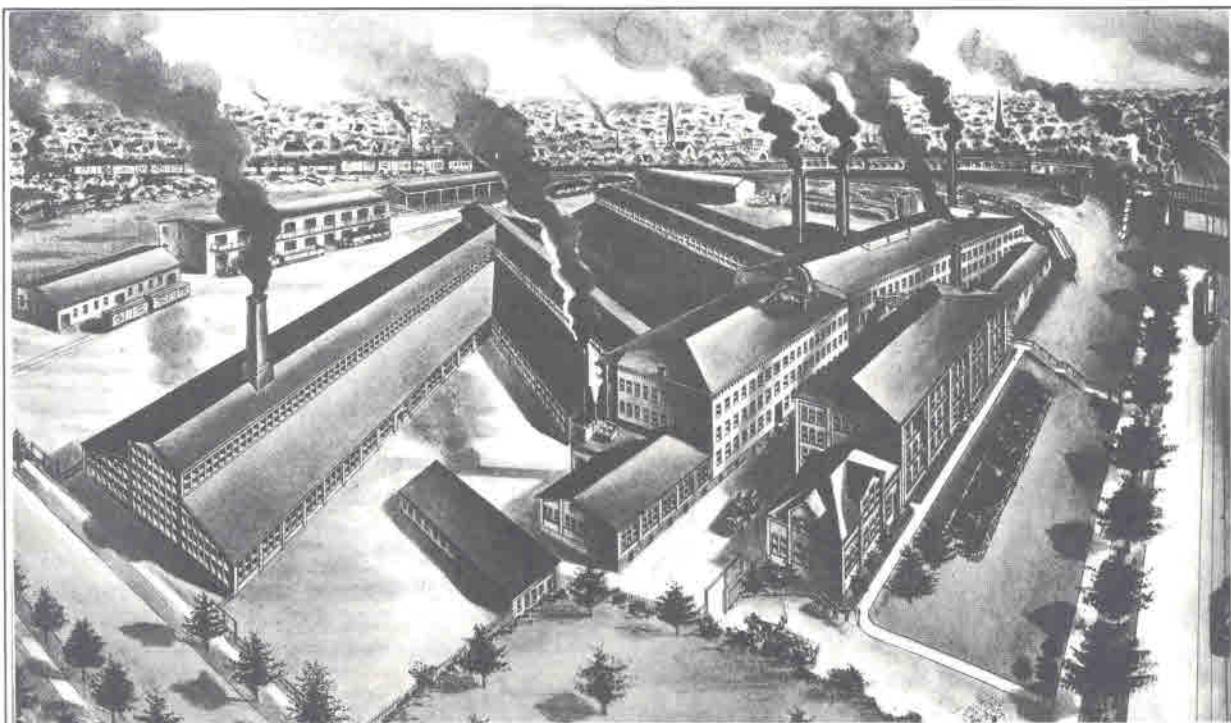


KETTLES 'n COOKWARE®

ENDORSED BY THE GRISWOLD & CAST IRON COOKWARE ASSOC.



Plant of The Wagner Manufacturing Company at Sidney, Ohio
From "The Griddle," August 1915

COLLECTING WAGNER: AN ENTHUSIAST'S GUIDE

by Travis Solomon and Thomas Todson

Among collectors, dealers, and just about everyone else, Griswold is the best known name attached to the high quality cast iron cookware of yesteryear. Many people, however, collect or deal in "Wagner" cast iron, and this article is a compilation of our knowledge about the company and its wares. Our goal is to provide a bit of history about the company and as much data as

possible about its products for the novice and the advanced collector. We do not claim to know it all; in fact, another goal is to stir up more interest and gain information from other collectors about Wagner.

The Wagner Manufacturing Company was founded in 1891 by a wealthy and diversified

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FROM THE EDITOR—

This issue of Kettles 'n Cookware is special for a couple of reasons. One is that it fulfills my commitment to you the readers that information about Wagner Ware would be forthcoming in Volume 2. More significant however, is that the extensive information provided was researched, compiled, and submitted by two subscribers to KnC. My only addition was to enhance the article with illustrations. These contributors have provided data and information never before compiled. This has also fulfilled one of my intents when I initiated the concept of KnC - sharing information. Too many of us hoard information that would enhance the pleasure of collecting for others. If you have information about any phase of collecting cast iron cookware, please share it.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

Dave

Happy Holidays!

It warms our heart to
think of you in this
most wonderful of
seasons. We
appreciate your
friendship and your
sharing of your
interest in
cast iron with us.



*Dave &
Catherine
Smith*

(see you at the
G&CICA
Convention)

Griswold & Cast Iron Cookware Association

Hi Griswold & CICA Members,

Happy Holidays! Our Association's second calendar year is rapidly coming to a close. I hope '93 has been successful for you and is a forerunner for a very successful '94. Our membership is approaching 300 with new members joining at a steady pace. However, let's take an active part in soliciting new members and ensure the growth trend continues. Mac has informed me the planning for our third annual convention, scheduled for February 19th & 20th, 1994, in Florida is progressing very well. I suggest you make your reservations ASAP. The '94 convention will be a two day affair. Conversations with many of our members this year has confirmed "new" and interesting Griswold items have surfaced. If each of you bring one rare/interesting piece to the convention for "show and tell", we'll have a "Griswold Reunion" there. Think about it.

Happy Hunting - Larry

From the Secretary:

As this year ends, we have to think about the coming year. Our membership dues of \$5 are due January 1994. To prevent confusion at the convention we would appreciate it if you are planning on going to Florida please send your dues in as soon as possible. If you are not planning on going, or if you'd like a little bit of time we would like all membership dues paid by March 1994. We will accept new members all year. By the way, we still have '93 patches available.

Have a Wonderful Holiday - Joanie Baldini

ATTEND THE G&CICA CONVENTION!!

Sat. & Sun., February 19th & 20th
Registration Fee: \$25 per person
(paid by Jan. 10th)
Holiday Inn, Plant City, Florida
Hotel Reservations: (813) 752-3141

For More Information call:
Mac McClendon
(904) 821-0524

NOTICE: There is an error in Mac McClendon's address on the Convention Registration Form. Mac's correct ZIP is 32195.

(continued from front cover)

family of Ohio entrepreneurs. The patriarch of this clan, Mathias Wagner, was a builder and hotel owner in Sidney, Ohio. He provided capital and space in one of his buildings for a hardware store that was run by his son, W.H. Wagner, from the 1870's or 1880's through the early decades of the nineteenth century. As an outgrowth of this business, Mathias involved another son, Bernard P. Wagner, in the cast iron manufacturing industry. When Wagner Manufacturing Company opened its doors on July 22, 1891, Bernard was the general manager and vice-president of a foundry and shop employing 29 men. The factory was located on Fair Avenue in Sidney, Ohio, and the building still stands and is in use today under the conglomerate ownership of General Housewares. Through the years that the Wagner Manufacturing Company was a separate entity, three generations of the Wagner family were at the helm of the company. Jerome and Joseph Wagner, grandsons of Mathias, retired in the 1950's. In late 1957, Wagner Manufacturing Company purchased the "housewares division" of the Griswold Manufacturing Company, resulting in the Griswold logo, production equipment, and many molds for cast iron cookware being transferred to Sidney. Within the next decade, the Randell Corporation purchased Wagner, followed by the merger of Randell into General Housewares Corporation. The Wagner name was preserved throughout these mergers and continues to appear on a line of cast iron cookware currently being manufactured.

A note of interest is the relationship between Wagner and the Sidney Hollow Ware Company. While these two names are often thought to be just different arms of one company, considerable evidence supports the finding that Sidney Hollow Ware Company was a separate factory based in Sidney, Ohio, that was also manufacturing and selling high quality cast iron. The founding and closing dates of Sidney Hollow Ware are unknown, but the company was very active in the 1890's. Many beautiful skillets, pots, kettles, and other items have been seen bearing the company logo (Fig. 1). Evidence for the separate existence of this company is threefold. First, a few pages of an early Sidney Hollow Ware catalog exist, bearing the name of Phillip Smith as proprietor. Second, a Sidney Hollow Ware waffle iron in one of the

author's collections bears a patent date of 1896, rather than the 1892 date on early Wagner pieces, and is significantly different in design from any Wagner waffle iron. Third, an article in the December 14, 1895, Sidney Journal describes charges lodged against Phillip Smith for unsavory business practices. Smith had hired away from Wagner Manufacturing Company its traveling salesman, one William Randall, who brought a number of unfilled Wagner orders with him (before working for Wagner, Randall had been with the Marion Stove works in Indiana, makers of Marion skillets). This analysis may not be the whole story however. In particular, it is not clear which of the companies produced items bearing the logo "Sidney" (Fig. 2) or "Sidney O" with no other qualifiers. We have seen a waffle iron that has only a "Sidney" logo with an 1892 patent date, strongly suggesting that Wagner produced this piece. More information on the birth and death of the Sidney Hollow Ware Company would be appreciated by the authors.

The items of interest to most collectors of Wagner are those manufactured by the company before its demise as a family-run business (1891 through the 1950's). While Wagner did not produce the overwhelming variety of cast iron cookware and other products that bear the Griswold logo, there is still a great number of very high quality cast pieces that make Wagner a satisfying alternative or addition to "Griswold-mania." Wagner produced highly finished cast iron and aluminum cookware; in fact, the number of aluminum cookware items was far larger than that for cast iron. Cast iron items were either plain or nickel-plated. Wagner does not appear to have produced enameled or chrome-plated cast iron cookware on a large scale, although a single chromed skillet and one enameled skillet are in the authors' collections. Whether these were produced by Wagner or represent alterations by a distributor is not known; no catalogs available to us list any chrome or enameled pieces.

Assigning dates of manufacture to Wagner pieces is more difficult than with Griswold items. Certain Wagner pieces bear patent dates, such as waffle irons with design features patented in 1892, 1910, and 1925; Krusty Korn Kobs pans patented

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The Melting Pot

Dave: I really like your KnC, especially "The Melting Pot"! The running argument between the capitalists and the price controllers was very enlightening. Tom's letter in the June '93, Vol 2, #2 issue set a nice middle ground. What's the story on the D.E. Sanford Co.? I bought a square three section pan marked "D.E. Sanford Co., Los Angeles, San Francisco" for \$10. -Tom B.

Tom: I'm glad you enjoy Kettles 'n Cookware. Re the D.E. Sanford Co: I'm afraid I can't help you with this one. Maybe one of our readers can offer some info. -ed.

Dear Sir: I am asking for information on a dutch oven with a glass lid. I would say from the 1960s. The surprise to me is, it is marked Griswold and Wagner Wares. What happened? I would appreciate any information you might have, also value. Thank you. -Lee R.

Lee: You are right about the date. The Dutch Oven you have is from the 1960s and was produced by Randall, a division of the Textron Corp., who owned the rights to both Griswold and Wagner. There is little collector value for this piece. -Dave

Dave: I would like to know what a #12 Indian Head Skillet and a #3 Griswold Oval Roaster are worth and hope you can give me this information. I have recently purchased each of these. - Ray D.

Ray: I checked with a collector who specializes in Wapak Indian Head Skillets. He values a #12 at \$150 - \$175. The #3 Griswold Oval Roaster - \$350 to \$450. You didn't state whether the Oval Roaster had a trivet. The trivet would significantly increase the value! -ed.

Mr.. Smith: Just received my Kettles 'n Cookware and was shocked about the Griswold Price Guide Book. What a shame the book wasn't set up right. On page 26 you talk about a #4 Griswold Skillet. It really caught my eye because last Friday I purchased a #4 italic writing with a smoke ring skillet. I paid \$20. They just didn't really know what they were giving away. I need to know the now going price on a Griswold #4 Italic Writing with smoke ring. I'd like to know the real price because I know #4's are rare. Hope you keep Kettles 'n Cookware alive. -Bernie S.

Bernie: You got a good buy on the #4 Italic. For the most part, however, #4's are not rare, although they

are a little difficult to find. The #4 Block Logo with a smoke ring is very difficult to find. They are selling in the \$300 range. The others - \$35 to \$65. -ed.

Dear Dave: While in Michigan this month I picked up a Griswold Skillet and was wondering if you could tell me what it is worth and what it is. It is aluminum and has the Griswold logo (block) Erie, PA., U.S.A., and A-20 at top. It is about 2-1/4" inside bottom and about 2-5/8" inside at the top. John P.

John: You have a toy kettle from a #2 set. Value - \$100+. -ed.

Dave: I recently bought a Griswold #7 Oval Roaster at an auction. It has a wire trivet unmarked with it. Do you know where I can get a cast (Griswold) trivet for it? - John P.

John: Either place a Want Ad in KnC or watch the ads. -ed.

Mr. Smith: Recently I ran across a couple of miniature cast iron items. One of them is a St. Louis World's Fair Skillet, 2-3/4" across pour lips. It is dated 1904 and also marked Home Comfort Range along with St. Louis World Fair Souvenir. The other one is a 3 legged Kettle. It is 2-1/2" in diameter and is marked Blowing Rock N.C. Deep Fat Kettle. I looked in several books, including Schroeders to try to come up with some sort of value, but was unable to find either one. Would you possibly have any idea of their worth? -Dave L.

Dave: I hesitate to try to put a value on either of these pieces. The World's Fair piece is certainly significant. It would be desirable to cast iron collectors, miniature collectors, and World's Fair collectors. We have a few readers who specialize in miniatures. Perhaps they will respond with some help. -ed.

Dave: Congratulations on your new book. I can't wait to see a copy. I'm disappointed that you saw fit in the last letter to doubt my observation about the number of Andresen Waffle Irons in the heart pattern that I have seen in the past several years. Just for fun, I kept count of all that I saw on day trips last Thursday & Friday within a 100 mile radius of the Twin Cities - I saw 8 Alfred Andresen & 2 more Western Importing (his company name). I'm surprised that a man with as much

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knowledge as you profess to have doesn't realize that Alfred Andresen was based in Minneapolis from 1895 - 1915, at which time he disappeared never to be heard from again. Again, I say they were made here using some Griswold molds and bases so it would follow that a large concentration of all his products would be found here. We have a beautiful new Minnesota Historical Society building here, and the first treacherous snowy day, I'm going to go down there for the day and do some research on Andresen and other regional foundries. I'll be sure to copy anything I find out. -Craig L.

Craig: I can't say that I "profess" to have knowledge. If I believe I have the answer I will give it. If I don't know the answer, I will state such. According to what I have read,

however, Alfred Andresen, around the turn of the century, marketed a variety of products including: Kornu Kopia Krumb Kake Iron, a heart shaped waffle iron, Swedish saw blades, rosette irons, fish hooks, sleigh bells, German toys, postcards, matches, halibut hooks, skis, wooden shoes buttons, Christmas tree stands, dripless candles, Easter Egg design transfers, etc. He also marked spinning wheels, household dyes, etc., and patented a cabin bottle in which he packaged SmoKine, a product to preserve meat and fish. He was heralded as the Largest Importer of Scandinavian Hardware and Novelties in the world. I have read nothing that indicates he manufactured any of the items he sold. I would be very interested in your research of Andresen and will appreciate any information you can share. -ed.

(continued from page 37)

in 1920; skillet and dutch oven lids with several patent dates (1917, 1920, 1921, 1922); and "sausage pans" or corn dog cookers with combined features patented in 1910, 1920, and 1925. The various logos appearing on Wagner cookware are not cleanly divided into certain periods, as discussed below. Wagner did not use "pattern numbers"; rather, a catalog number or letter appears on the various cookware items. The letters were used on various muffin, gem, bread, and cake pans. Single or double digit numbers were, in many cases, simply indicators of size (i.e., kettles with catalog numbers 7, 8, 9). At some time between 1915 and 1924 (the dates of two catalogs available to us), Wagner switched from single letter or one or two digit catalog numbers to four digit catalog numbers. This gives a rough estimate of dates of manufacture for many pieces. Some pieces can be dated by their first or last appearances in dated catalogs; otherwise, it is currently possible only to divide pieces into "early" or "late" based on catalog numbers, design features, and educated guessing.

Wagner logos or marks can be divided into two categories: block letters and stylized script. The latter is the "single W" oval mark WagnerWare (Fig. 3), always accompanied by the words "Sidney, O." This script logo first appears on the cover of a 1915 catalog; an earlier date is possible, but we have no information yet to confirm or deny this. It cannot have appeared before 1911, because most waffle irons with the 1910 patent date bear the block letter logo. In general, the script logo probably indicates a production date

of 1915 or later; the script logo with four digit catalog numbers probably indicates a production date of 1924 or later. There are exceptions to this, however, that will be described individually. The script logo also appears on skillets with a block letter "NATIONAL" logo and on skillets with an intaglio triangle surrounding the script (Fig. 4) and the block letter words "CAST IRON SKILLET". There are several later versions of this logo that appeared during the various incarnations of WagnerWare as the original company passed through various hands. The combined WagnerWare and Griswold logos are seen on various lesser-quality pieces that resulted from a brief period of joint ownership of the two logos by a parent company. Cookware manufactured after the sale of Wagner to Randell and General Housewares Corporation does not have Sidney, O. on it, only WagnerWare. There are other forms that include "WagnerWare" and the phrase "Made in the USA", WagnerWare surrounded by an oval, and so on. All of these indicate items that were manufactured after the acquisition of Wagner Manufacturing Company by Randell or General Housewares and are of later (post 1950's) manufacture.

The block letter logos are probably indicative of earlier production dates, but exceptions to this also exist. The block letter logos known to the authors include SIDNEY O; "WAGNER"; "WAGNER" SIDNEY, O.; WAGNER MFG CO SIDNEY O; WAGNER WARE (two separate words); and NATIONAL. We consider the SIDNEY

(continued on page 43)



The Swap Shop

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: Santa Cake Mold \$595; Wheat & Broom, Tree, Eagle & Wreath, and Floral Trivets \$30 ea.; #262 Cornstick Pan \$95; #10 Flat Top Dutch Oven \$80; #12 small logo Skillet \$60; **WAGNER FOR SALE:** #1318 Lge Cornstick \$55 ea.; #1270 Dutch Oven \$80; Porcelain Sq Egg Skillet \$21; #4 SR Skillets \$30 ea.; #1335 "Q" Popover Pans, nickle \$90 pr. **WANTED:** Flange Cover for Griswold #8 Dutch Oven w/legs; #6 Block Round Handled Griddle; Wagner Fish Fry Pan #1510. Unless noted, all pieces are black iron and cleaned. Lots of other pieces available, shipping extra. Gary Franzen, 3243 SE Hathaway Dr., Corvallis, OR 97333, (503) 757-7673.

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: #34 Plett Pan, excellent \$35; #11 Skillet, Lg Emb. Block w/SR EPU \$130 (excellent); #4 Yankee Bowl Lg Emb Block EPU Good-Fine \$40; #9 Alum Rd Griddle w/wood hndle, Lg Emb. Slant/ERIE (excellent) \$50; #8 Alum Rd Griddle, Lg Emb Block EPU Exc. \$50; **WAGNER "O" Dutch Oven "Hot Pot" p/n 1363, Exc. \$95; FAVORITE PIQUA #1 Skillet Enameled, Exc. \$95. UPS \$5 per order. Robert Karle, 344 Rt 147, Middlefield, CT 06455 (203) 349-1212.**

YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE - \$2.00
100 word limit including numbers

FOR TRADE: Griswold Chrome plated Loaf Pan w/ lid, or No. 2 Vienna Bread Roll Pan for Griswold Oval Roaster w/Trivet. Ronald DeLamadeleine, PO Box 1067, Bethel, CN 06801 (203) 426-2462.

NEED HELP FINDING THESE GRISWOLD PIECES: #11 & #13 raised letter skillet lids; #13 Dutch Oven; Flop Griddle; #3 w/TM, #5 w/TM, #19 & #240 Muffin Pans; Vapor Griddle; ERIE Long Broiler, Worlds Fair Griddle; **WAGNER:** #1 Handled Gem Pan- Pointer/Fin for Sundial; **GRISWOLD FOR TRADE:** #100 Hearts Star; #1 p/n 940; #3 p/n 942; #6 Victor Skillet; Rd Sad Iron Heater; Classic Sad Iron Trivet; #3 Oval Roaster; **WAGNER FOR TRADE:** 2 - #5 Oval Roasters, 1 w/trivet; Heat Regulator/Hot plate. Bill Roberts, 9043 391st Ave, Genoa City, WI 53128

FOR SALE: Set of Cake Molds -Santa, Rabbit, Lamb (excellent) \$995; extra Rabbit \$225, Lamb \$105; Griswold 5 in 1 Breakfast Skillet \$175; #16 "Erie" lg

bailed round Griddle, p/n 743 \$135; #18 Hearts Star Waffle Iron \$165; #272 Griswold Wheat Stick Pan \$145; #14 Griswold Skillet (block) \$115; "Erie" Tobacco Cutter, Oct 16, 1883 \$145; "Oderless Skillet (very clean) \$95; Griswold "O" Food Grinder \$75; #8 "Erie" Tea Pot (perfect) \$75; #12 "Erie" Skillet \$55; Set Wagner Skillets - 0,2,5,10,12,13,14 \$495; Carl Rauch, 2765 Jack Rd, Chambersburg, PA 17201, (717) 267-0909.

WANTED: Salesman Sample & small cast iron stoves (no repros, Queens, or Crescents). Send name dimensions & price; Hammered Alum small toy pots, pans, skillets & kettles with lids, approx 2.5 - 3"; **FOR SALE:** #262 Griswold mini Corn-Wheat Stick Pan \$80; #9 Golfball Pan p/n 947 \$75; #14 Griswold Bailed Round Griddle p/n 618 \$75; #4 "Erie" Scotch Bowl p/n 782, Mar 10 1891 \$80; Victor #9 & #8 \$50 ea, 2/\$95; Susan or Carl Rauch, 2765 Jack Rd, Chambersburg, PA 17201, (717) 267-0909.

GRISWOLD WANTED: Trivet-Floral #1909; Nickle plated "Erie" #5 Skillet; Nickle plated Slant TM/erie #3 w/SR. Roy G. Meadows, 43 Poverty Hollow Rd., Newtown, CT 06470. (203) 426-0430 Eves.

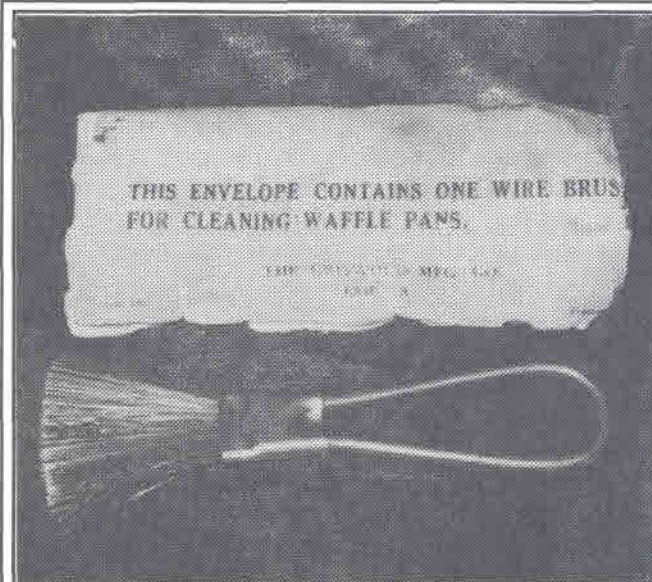
EARLY WAFFLE IRON-GRISWOLD, dated 6/29/80, rivet hinge, wood handles, low base, no drip ring, American pattern, No. 8, Griswold Mfg Co, Erie PA, 8 & 9. This is the first waffle iron made by Griswold after Seldon buyout, **TRADE ONLY** for Griswold #19/966 or #100 (iron only), or #28/639. Ernest Vest, 316 So. 6st Terr, Blue Springs, MO 64015. (816) 228-6358.

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: #13 Slant/EPU Skillet \$795; #8 CLOWS Waffle Iron \$195; Lemon Squeezer p/n 367 in script \$125; #3 Combination Patty Mold Set in perfect black, silver, copper stamped box \$95; "Al CARDER" Single Serving Casserole p/n 850 w/matching Lid p/n 581 \$95; #100 Hearts Star Muffin Pan \$700; #15 Oval Skillet w/matching lid \$800; **WAGNER FOR SALE:** 12 cup Turks Head Gem Pan "T" \$250; "EE" Bread Fingers Muffin Pan \$95; Minute Sandwich Toaster p/n 1455 on Low Sq Base \$165; Wafer Iron p/n 1450 \$145; #10 Early Baster, fully top marked \$95. **OTHER:** #6 Waffle Iron, P&B Mfg. Nashville \$175. Craig C. Leverenz, 439 Mt Curve Blvd., St Paul, MN 55105. (612) 699-1211.

WANTED: Griswold #26 Double Bread Pan; #28 Single Bread Pan; #1 Single Vienna Roll Bread Pan; Wagner #1 Handled Gem Pan; Styles M & N Four Section Gem Pans; Doughnut Molds except Ace Cloverleaf; 3 Section Waterman Gem Pans. **FOR TRADE:** Griswold #14 Bail Hndl Skillet; #13 Fish Skillet; #6 New American Waffle (early ball hinge); #6 Dutch Oven w/trivet; #10 Shallow Skillet (ERIE) w/3 hole hndl; Dave Smith, PO Box B, Perrysburg, NY 14129 (716) 532-5154.

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: Deep Patty Bowl #72 \$38; 5
in 1 Breakfast Skillet p/n 665 \$195; Steak Platter p/n
849 \$60; Square Ashtray \$28. **WAGNER:** Skillet Griddle
10 1/4" \$15; Gridiron Broiler #1350 \$25; Advertising
Ashtray \$35. **MISC:** Wapak Indian #8 Skillet \$145; 8"
Round Sad Iron Heater dated 1911 \$15; No Burn Hot
Plate \$15. Gene Corral, PO Box 1374 Roseville, CA
95678. (916) 782-6351.

DEADLINE FOR ADS FOR NEXT ISSUE
JANUARY 15, 1994



By itself, this Griswold Accessory would seem insignificant. With the envelope it came in however, it becomes a real find.

From the collection of Joan & Joe Baldini



REPRODUCTION

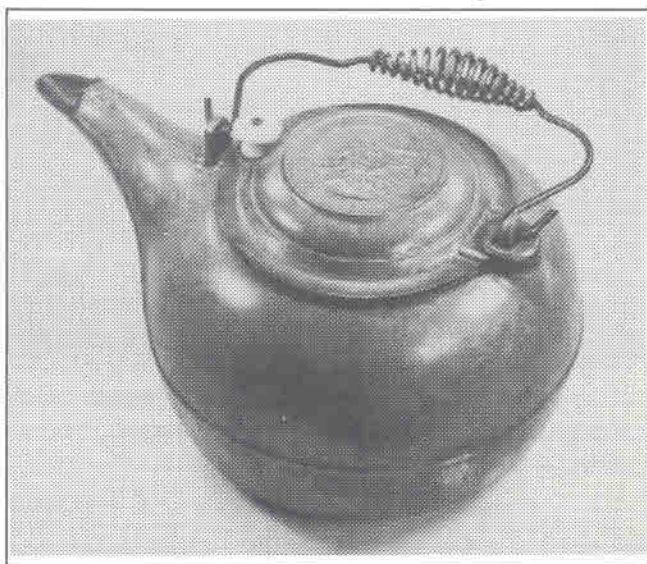
AUTHENTIC WAPAK

The rare Wapak #4 Indian Head Skillet is selling in the \$400 - \$600 range, therefore it should be no surprise that reproductions are plaguing the market. All Wapak Indian Head Skillets have the same unique handle (right figure). Because the repro doesn't, the repro is easy to spot. The repro (left figure) appears to have been cast using a regular (Griswold?) #4 skillet with the Indian Head medallion added to the center. Note the common shape of the handle. Also, as in most reproductions, the quality is poor.

When the writer requested permission from the dealer to photograph the Wapak (repro) one of the partners refused. However, the other partner granted permission explaining the, "This (Wapak) is one of the later ones". Caveat Emptor!



Casting Call



If you have a special piece you would like to share with our subscribers, submit a photo and a few comments about the item.

GRISWOLD (ERIE) SPIDER LOGO TEAKETTLE

The Spider Logo Teakettle is known to exist in sizes 7, 8 & 9. It is one of only two Griswold pieces to bear the Spider Mark (the other being the #8 ERIE Skillet). *Collection of Al and Sandy Stone*

Look What's Cooking in GRISWOLD

Enjoy a new cookbook, written especially for those who love to cook with cast iron, or for those who just love recalling those homey aromas created in Grandma's kitchen.

Look What's Cooking in Griswold is nicely published, with a binder system that allows you to open to a recipe and have it stay open to one page while you put together a great meal in cast iron. Woven throughout the book are great photos of our favorite Griswold pieces in Victorian settings. The book is inexpensive, so you might want to order extras for giving to your friends.

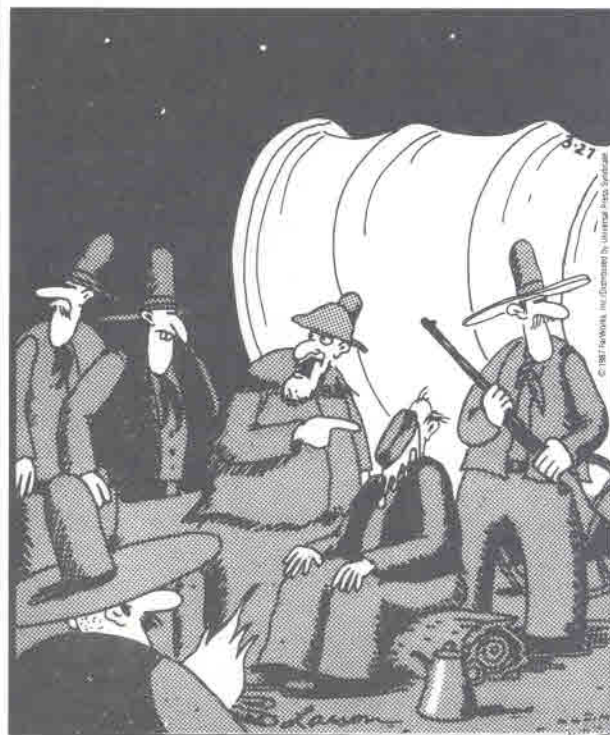
To order:

Call (814) 459-2503 (Folly Antique Mall)
or (814) 763-4819, Doris Mosier;
or write: Folly Antique Mall,
c/o Joanie Baldini,
654 W. 26th St., Rt. 20,
Erie, PA 16508

Price: \$7.50, plus \$1.50 postage.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"No doubt about it, boys. ... See these markings on the bottom? This is an Apache pie pan!"

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(continued from page 39)

HOLLOW WARE CO SIDNEY O mark to be from a different company, as discussed above. It is not known whether the SIDNEY O mark and the script Sidney (literally script, as it appears handwritten) (Fig. 5) seen on rare items were Wagner or Sidney Hollow Ware Co. logos.

Confused? So are we. Perhaps the accompanying table will make all of this a little more comprehensible. In addition, to restate some general rules about dating Wagner items: the "single W" WagnerWare logo indicates a manufacturing date of about 1915 or later; a four digit catalog number indicates a date of about 1924 or later. Some of the exceptions to the rules we have seen include the following. While the block letter logo is almost always seen with the single or two digit catalog numbers on skillets, we have two skillets that have a "WAGNER" SIDNEY O (Fig. 6) logo but a four digit (1056, 1062) catalog number. Many muffin pans have block letter logos with four digit catalog numbers, as do a few round roasters. It would appear that Wagner continued to use various molds for extended periods, changing only the catalog numbers.

Wagner skillets are found in two styles: an early type with straight sides and a heat ring on the bottom that is a continuation of the sides, and a later type with rounded sides and a smooth bottom (no heat ring). The early type is seen with both block and script logos; the block logo skillets are almost always seen with one or two digit catalog numbers (however, exceptions are noted above), while the "single W" script logo early skillets are commonly seen with either four digit or one or two digit catalog numbers. The logo is usually placed eccentrically on these early style skillets, near the edge opposite the handle. Some skillets have the logo placed in the center of the pan, creating an interesting sub-category to collect. There are also variations in the design of the handles on early skillets. Early style Wagner skillets range in size from 4 through 14, although not in all logo styles (see accompanying table). Although it is surprising that smaller skillets—particularly a number 3—were not made, we have not seen them nor have we found any catalog listing for them. There were small toy skillets made by Wagner, and these have the early design bearing at least three versions of block and

script logos. The NATIONAL line of skillets is similar in design to the early Wagner skillets except for being smaller and shallow; this economy line of skillets corresponds to Griswold's VICTOR, Favorite's MIAMI, and Wapak's ONETA lines. NATIONAL skillets were marked either NATIONAL or NATIONAL plus the "single W" WagnerWare logo. The first type carried only single digit catalog numbers (7, 8, or 9) while the second type had four digit catalog numbers (as far as we know). Thus, we consider these two types "early" and "late". The second major type of Wagner skillet is the "smooth bottom"; these skillets have only been seen with the "single W" WagnerWare script logo. Whether there was a sharp change or a smoother transition between the production of these two types of skillets is not clear. Were both types made and sold at the same time? None of the catalogs we have indicate that this occurred, since only one line of skillets is shown. However, other pieces of evidence suggests there was a transition period. First, a few of the smooth bottom skillets have been seen with single digit catalog numbers. The most common examples are the number 2 and number 3 skillets. All of the number 2 skillets seen by the authors have had single digit catalog numbers, although a four digit number (1052) is listed beginning in the 1930's. Number 3 skillets are frequently seen with the four digit catalog number (1053), but it is not uncommon to see examples with the single digit 3. These small skillets with single digit catalog numbers may be the earliest examples of "smooth bottom" skillets; perhaps they were made for use on early electric ranges. There are also "smooth bottom" skillets that have heat rings; the heat ring is inset about 1/4 inch from the outer edge of the skillet. The larger skillets (12 and up) have heat rings, as do some deep skillets and wood-handled varieties.

Muffin, gem, and bread pans made by Wagner demonstrate a different set of chronological logo patterns. The earliest pans are probably those that have only a single letter on them (A, B, and so on) with no other indication of the manufacturer. Next in the time line are probably pans with a block letter Wagner logo and a single letter

(continued on page 45)

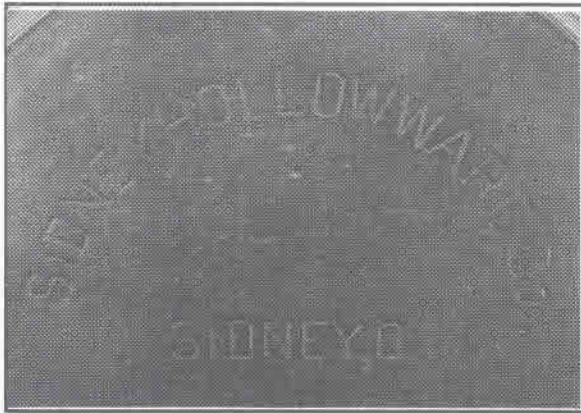


Figure 1

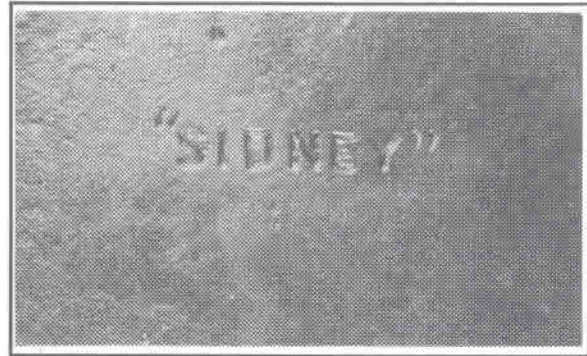


Figure 2

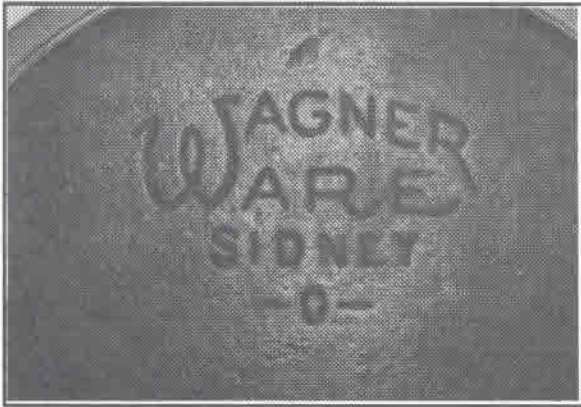


Figure 3



Figure 4

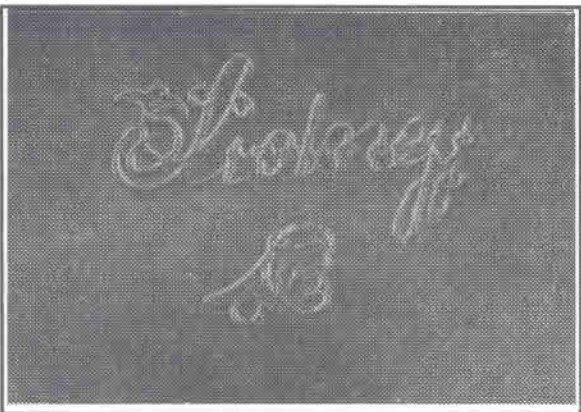


Figure 5

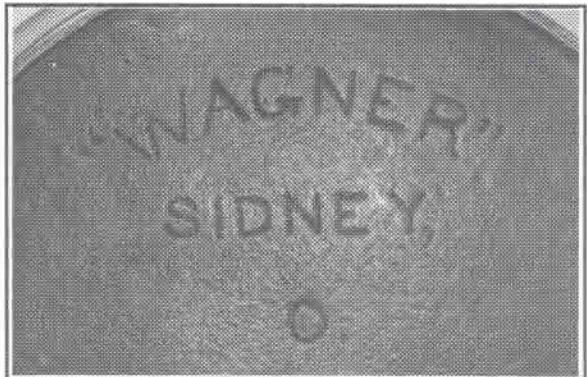


Figure 6

WAGNER MARKS

MARK STYLE	ITEMS MARKED	DATES MF'D
EARLY SCRIPT		1891?
Sidney (Sidney Hollow Ware Co.?)	Skillet, round-bottom rimmed pot	
BLOCK		1891 - 1914
"SIDNEY O" (Sidney Hollow Ware Co.?)	Skillet	
WAGNER MFG CO SIDNEY O (& var.)	1892 & 1910 waffle irons, toy skillet	
"WAGNER"	Skillets, griddles	
"WAGNER" SIDNEY, O.	Skillets (top & middle), griddles, dutch ovens, etc.	
NATIONAL	Skillets, waffle iron(?)	
WAGNER WARE	Round roasters, muffin/gem pans	
LATE SCRIPT (single W)		1915 - present
WagnerWare Sidney, O.	Many	1915 - 1959?
Above in triangle plus "Cast Iron Skillet"	Skillets	?
NATIONAL/WagnerWare	Skillets	
Griswold/WagnerWare	Muffin pans, skillets, dutch oven	early 60's?
WagnerWare	Many	Current ("Made in USA" appears in 1959)

(continued from page 43)

indicating the type of pan; then come pans with a block letter Wagner logo, single letter, and the newer four digit catalog number all on the same pan; finally there are the pans with the script single W WagnerWare logo and the four digit catalog number.

There is much more that could be written about Wagner cast iron cookware, but space limitations force us to save some data and speculations for future installments. We conclude by

asking everyone to provide us with corrections, new information, and general comments concerning this fascinating topic. We have also included a table listing the known variations of Wagner skillets and the sizes known to us. We would appreciate information on skillets that you have in your collection that would help us complete this table; we will keep everyone up to date as the blanks are filled in.

(continued on page 46)

(continued from page 45)

WAGNER SKILLETS

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Early style (with heat ring)													
Sidney (cursive)											X		
"SIDNEY" or "SIDNEY O"	X						X	X	X				
"WAGNER"				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
"WAGNER" SIDNEY, O.				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
WagnerWare Sidney, O.			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NATIONAL						X	X	X					
NATIONAL/WagnerWare Sidney, O.						X	X	X					
Late style (smooth bottom)													
WagnerWare Sidney, O.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
WagnerWare in triangle	X	X			X	X	X					X	X

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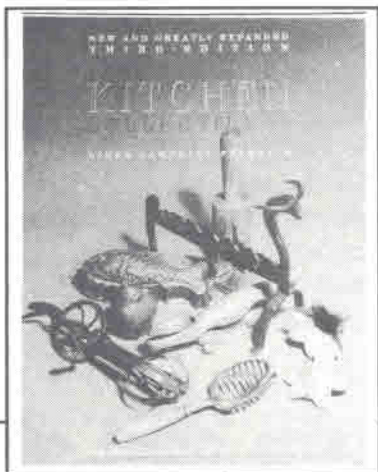
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