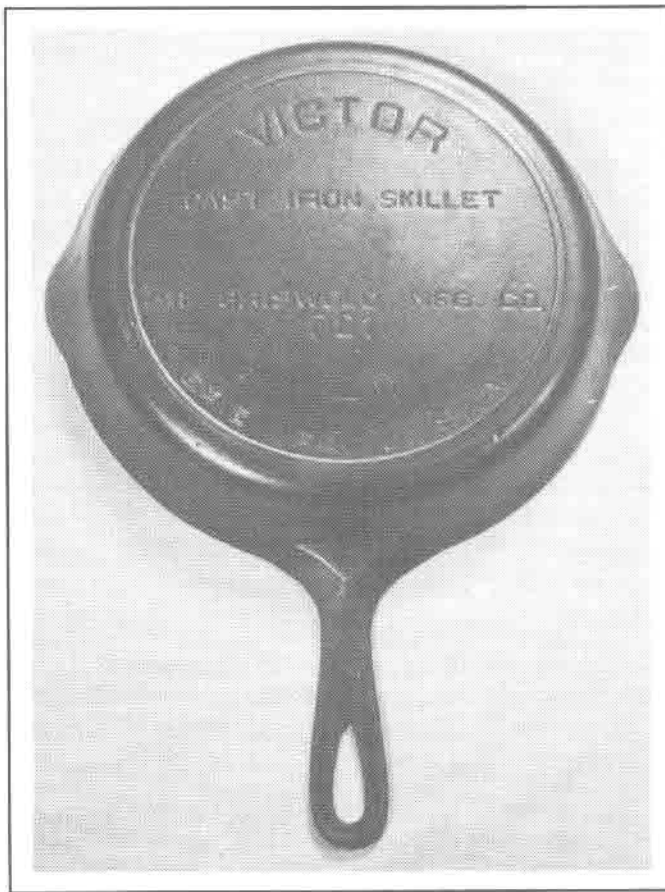
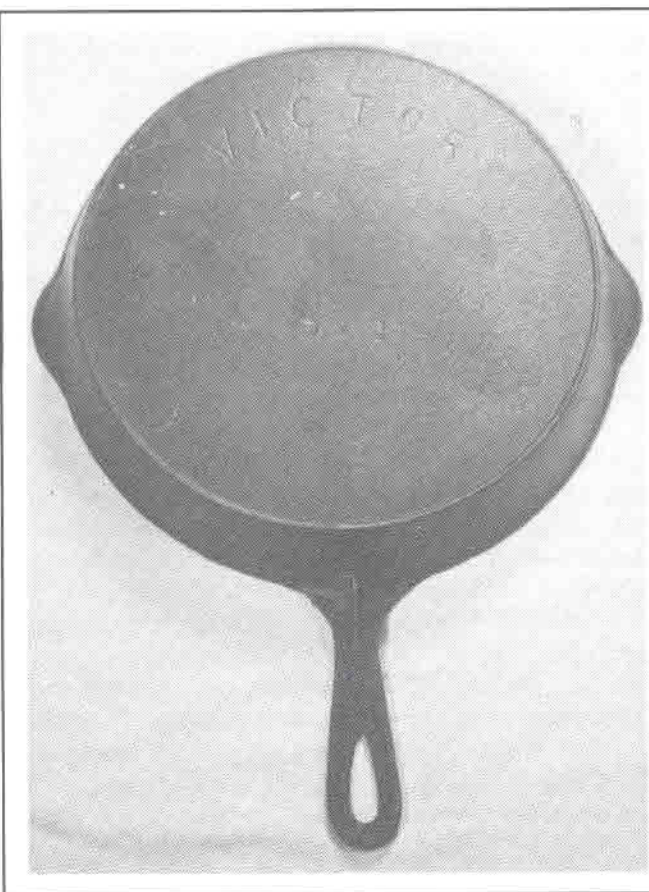


KETTLES 'n COOKWARE®

ENDORSED BY THE GRISWOLD & CAST IRON COOKWARE ASSOCIATION



Victor Skillets

By Jon Haussler

There appear to be four major variations of VICTOR skillets (see photos above and on page 24). All variations have GRISWOLD part numbers, but only one variation is marked GRISWOLD. All Victor skillets have heat rings. Variation 1 is similar to the early ERIE skillets in that the heat ring is an extension of the side. These were probably made in the same time period as the early ERIE skillets, thus disproving the theory that VICTOR skillets were produced (or named) to commemorate the victory

in World War I.

Variations 2, 3, and 4 all have the rounded bottom with the heat ring set in from the edge. Variation 2 is marked VICTOR, the size number and the part number. Variation 3 adds the words CAST IRON SKILLET and variation 4 adds the words THE GRISWOLD MFG. CO., ERIE, PA. U.S.A.

It is the consensus of some advanced collectors that
(Continued on Page 24)

From The Editor

At the onset, one objective of *Kettles 'n Cookware* was to give collectors of cast iron cookware a medium by which to communicate. The Melting Pot has served to accomplish that. I actively solicit comments and questions; I appreciate your good response. I have received questions seeking information about various pieces and have received assistance from several of you in compiling that information. Other letters have been received that were not seeking information but rather expressing an opinion; some to the pleasure of certain readers, some to their displeasure. Personally, I like the open forum.

One of the most difficult tasks of an editor who publishes letters from readers is to determine at what point to edit, or not to print letters which may be considered as inflammatory or just not appropriate. The difficulty lies with the issue that what is appropriate to one, may not be considered appropriate by another.

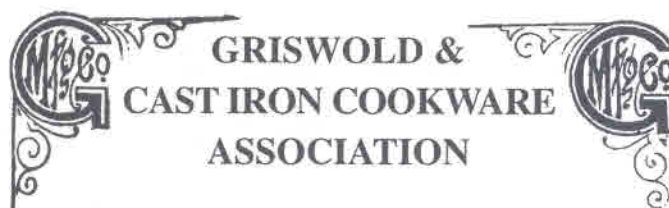
The publishing of the two recent Griswold books has stirred much controversy. The letters in the Melting Pot have reflected what an emotional and heated issue it is. Most dedicated collectors are very upset with the inaccuracies, unreliable pricing and, quite frankly, the way the publisher used and took advantage of the contributors, and also the enthusiasm of collectors in general; all for selfish profit. Letters also reflect the different style and personalities of the writers. Some are more reserved while others "shoot from the hip." Basically they say the same thing, and address the same issues and concerns. Letters from readers on the issue of the L-W Griswold books dramatically illustrate these writers' styles and personalities. Included were comments, made in jest, which have been taken seriously by some.

I will continue the open forum. I ask you, however, to avoid personal attacks and confrontations. I will not allow KnC to become a battleground between individuals. We all need to lighten up a little, not take things so seriously, and enjoy collecting.

By the way, I attended the Antique Expo in Clarence, NY (near Buffalo) last weekend. I noticed the following asking prices: Griswold #8 skillet \$28, Griswold #3 \$23, #8 Dutch Oven \$90, #8 American Waffle \$100, Griswold #8 small mark marked "early rare skillet" \$65, and a common Wagner Krispy Korn Kob Junior tagged as "very rare" \$135; and you think the books haven't had impact! To add insult to injury, a local bookseller says the new Griswold Books "are selling like crazy"! Bargains are still out there, however, if you are willing to wait and search.

On another note: You may notice some subtle changes in KnC. The layout and printing are being done by a different firm. The quality of photos should improve, as well as other slight changes.

Happy hunting! -Dave



TO MY FELLOW GRISWOLD COLLECTORS:

In the August 1993 edition of *Kettles and Cookware* Larry Foxx critiqued Volume I of the Griswold Cast Iron Price Guide. Now Volume II and also a Wagner and other collectibles price guide have been released in rapid succession.

Granted no book can be perfect but Volume II fails to live up to expectations. No corrections are made of Volume I's major discrepancies and contradictions. Personal conversations with the publisher had led me to believe that Volume II would contain corrections. That has just not happened. Craig Leverenz's letter in the April 1994 edition of *Kettle and Cookware* gives a new list of problems with Volume II. Granted, the pictures are great but there is page upon page of repetitious skillet charts, muffin pan lists (still no rarity column), pattern number lists and pages of reproductions of old catalogs and advertising. Yet there still is no comprehensive text, no skillet lid lists or pricing and no Dutch oven lists or pricing. Take out the repetitions and the advertising and Volume II is one-half the size of Volume I (maybe that is a plus) at the same cost.

The Wagner and other companies book appears to me to be a bit better prepared. Besides one glaring error of ascribing a rare category to an obvious reproduction waffle iron and a few prices that seem a bit high to me, it appears to be the best of the lot. But then again I am not very expert on Wagner or other collectibles.

Like Larry, I too have received many telephone calls expressing concern. I have had extensive conversations with the club leadership, members and non-members; all focusing on the potential harm that the information provided in these price guides may cause our hobby. Many fear that the general disillusionment and confusion that these books will cause to a beginning collector will lead to general disinterest and decline in the collectibility of cast iron kitchenware.

After Volume I came out, I supported Larry Foxx's attempt to have the association generate an average price list of selected items. Unfortunately we did not generate a large enough membership response as to be statistically valid. Additionally, those responding were all of the same type; that is, advanced collectors and mainly from the eastern United States so as to be significantly biased and not representative of the whole spectrum of collectors across the nation. For what it matters, we did agree pretty closely amongst ourselves.

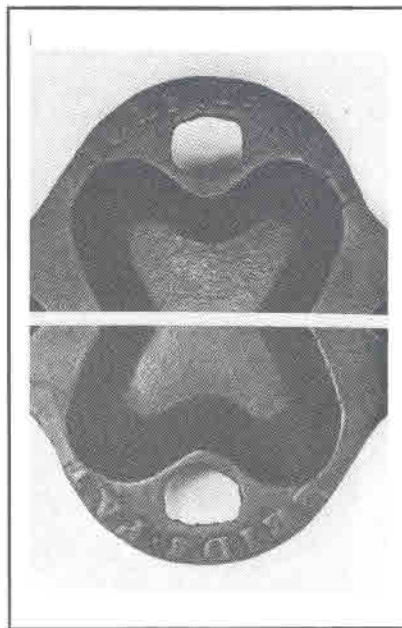
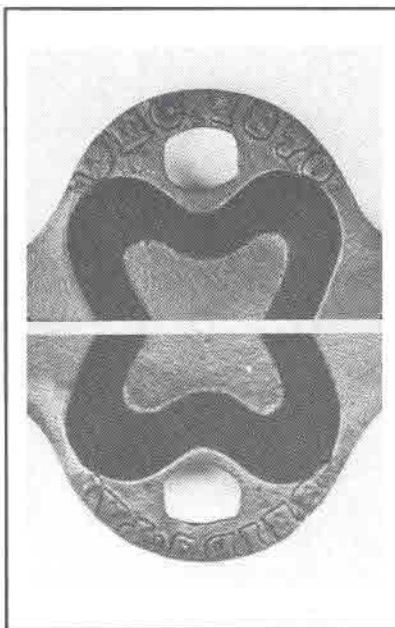
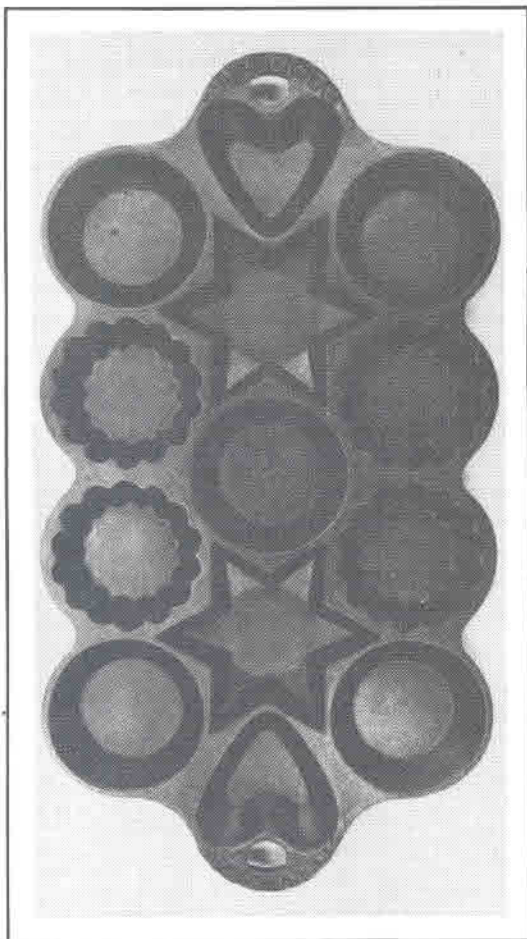
There continue to be doomsayers - a multitude voicing concerns that these volumes will single-handedly ruin the collectibility of Griswold. New collectors will be dis-

(Continued on Page 18)



The Melting Pot

Dave: I was reading your article in the book 300 Years of Kitchen Collectibles. You have the date of the Reids Pan of 1871. My Reids Pan is dated 1870. Also, my pan says Reids Pan, rather than Reids Pat. - Lou G.



Lou: Upon receipt of your letter I checked an extra Reids Pan I was keeping for trade, and lo and behold, that pan was dated 1870. I researched the patent. The Reids Pan was patented by Adam Reid of Buffalo, N.Y. His patent, No. 5,132 was issued July 18, 1871. Apparently the pan was put into production in 1870 pending the issuing of the patent. When the patent was granted, the date was changed on the pan to reflect the patent. They also changed the name from Reids Pan to Reids Pat. It is interesting that part of the patent was "In the ends of pan are openings into which the ordinary stove-cover handle fits, so that it can be moved the same as a spider on the top of the stove." This raises another question. The gem pans marked Sheppard Hardware, Buffalo, NY have steps in the handles which are very obviously for use of a lifter. Was there a direction connection between Adam Reid and Sheppard Hardware? Thanks for bringing this detail to my attention. - ed.

Dave: What do you value a #5 & #7 Gem pan, old style, no emblem? -Larry

Larry: I value a #5 and a #7 Gem Pan with only a pattern number at about \$150; both with no logo or pattern number at about \$50. Also, I have never heard of a #7 with a logo. If one does exist it would be rare. -ed.

Dear Dave: I recently bought a 1/2 pint Griswold Mortar from a local antique store for \$10. The "L" in Griswold is missing on this piece. The red Griswold book lists this piece as rare. Is this piece rare? At the same store I bought 2 Griswold food grinders. The first is marked Griswold No. O only. The second is marked Griswold Mfg. Co.,

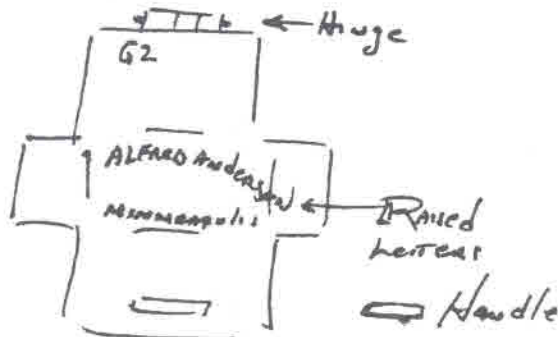
Erie, Pa., Classic No. 2. The unique thing about both of these grinders is the piece that clamps to the table. The top of the clamp is not solid like all the grinders I've seen. The clamps look like the old New Britain and Enterprise grinder clamps. Any information on these grinders would be helpful. - Erik M.

Erik: I suppose you could classify the 1/2 Pint Mortar as rare. However it is not as "rare" as many other Griswold pieces, and doesn't command the price of a truly "rare" piece. Be careful, the 1/2 pint mortar is being reproduced. The reproductions I have seen were made in two pieces, the top being fastened to the base with a bolt. If yours is

(Continued on Page 16)

THE MELTING POT (Continued from Page 15)
legitimate, you stole it at \$10! The Grinders you describe are shown in Griswold Catalog #40. Although, as with most Griswold catalogs, this catalog is not dated, I would date it about 1905. -ed.

Dear Dave: Have you written anything on Candy Molds? I have a 8"x9" flat 2 sided (hinged) five cavity, double sided design, cast iron candy (taffy ?) mold by Alfred Anderson, Minneapolis. Any info? -Scott O.



Scott: The piece you have is a Goro iron, or Wafer Iron which was marketed by Alfred Andresen, Western Importing Co., during the period of 1895 to 1915. It was used for making thin wafers. -ed.

Dear Dave: Just a note to let collectors know about reproduction Santa Clauses being sold at First Monday Trades Days at Canton, TX. One sold in April for \$350, one in May for \$500, and another was seen there at another vendor's booth. I heard from another vendor at this show that 25 or more had been bought & were being passed as originals at this market. New collectors not familiar with the tongue & casting flaw on originals are being burnt, so buyers beware! ! -Darvin K.

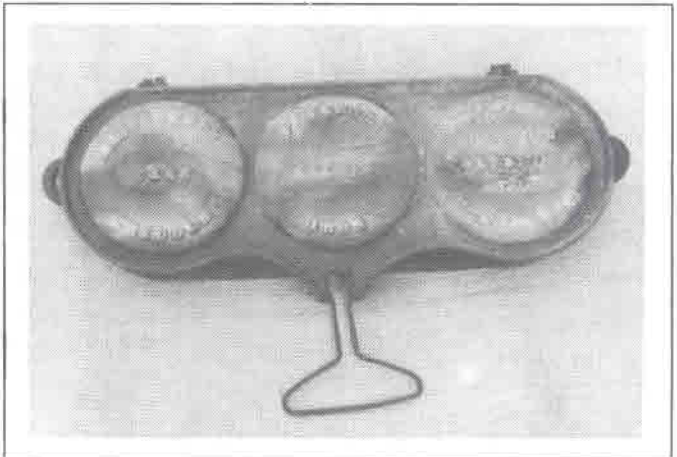
Darvin: Thanks for passing on that information. Also be aware of repro Rabbits and repro Lambs on the market. -ed.

Dear Larry: In the Vol. 2, No. 3 issue of *Kettles 'n Cookware*, August 1993 issue, you indicated that there would be an addendum to the Griswold Cast Iron - a price guide. What is the status of this product, as a little knowledge is a dangerous thing? - Larry C.

Dear Larry: Although this letter was intended for past G&CICA President Larry Foxx, I will answer it. I talked

with Larry; he reported that response was so low to his request for input that an accurate analysis was not possible. -ed.

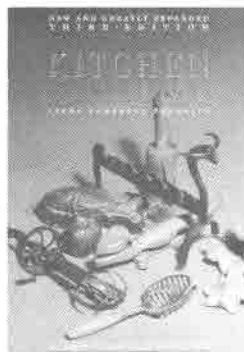
Dave: Enclosed is a photo of a piece of cast iron cookware I recently picked up. It is 16" long, and each half is 5 1/2" wide and has 3 cups. Only one of the halves has the cups, the lid. Inside of the bottom half is flat. I assume batter has to set up a bit before it is closed. The piece is marked "Mrs. Shaeffer's Cake Griddle, Patented Sep 24, 1889", Mfg. by Illinois Griddle Co, Morris, Ill. -Clay T.



Clay: You have a Flop Griddle. With both halves open and touching the cooking surface, batter is poured into the circular sections. When the batter is set enough to flip, this side is flopped over the other side, discharging the three cakes onto the smooth surface of the opposite side to finish cooking. While these are cooking, batter is poured into the divided section, thus cooking six cakes at a time. Flop Griddles are fairly common. Flop Griddles, other than Griswold, Wagner, or other major makers, sell in the \$35 to \$65 range. -ed.

Mr. David: I have this cast iron waffle iron. Appears to be very old, but one can't tell for sure I suppose. I did purchase it from an old person a couple of years ago. I have drawn a likeness of it for you. The word "CRUSO" is written across a big chicken. I would appreciate any word you might have about it. Thank you so much. -Carl S.

(Continued on Page 19)



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 photos of dozens of gem pans, cornstick pans, roll pans, etc. by Griswold, Wagner, G.F. Filley, etc. Copies available from D.G. Smith, P.O. Box B, Perrysburg, NY 14129. \$25 incl. postage & handling



The Swap Shop

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: Lamb Cake Mold \$110; #6 Victor, fair cond. \$25; #12 Skillet, sm. emb. \$50; #8 Waffle Iron, pg 163 Harned \$85; #9 Waffle Iron pg 164 Harned \$105; Double Broiler, p/n 875, base only \$60; #11 Skillet, Lg. Emb. Block w/SR EPU \$100; #8 Handle Griddle, Lg. Emb., chrome \$30; #273 Corn Stick \$22; #1739 Round Coffee Pot Trivet \$110; **WAPAK:** #8 Indian Head Waffle Iron, chrome \$235; Indian Head Skillets: #9 \$130, #6 \$165, #3 \$160. Postage Extra. List of other items S.A.S.E. Robert Karle, 344 Rt. 147, Middlefield, CT 06455 (203) 349-1212.

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: Rabbit \$225, Lamb w/ original label \$110, both perfect, together \$320; "Erie" Tobacco Cutter dated Oct. 16, 1883 \$105; Erie #22 Breadstick (early p/n 954) \$40; "Erie" #8 Rectangular Griddle 22" x 9" p/n 745 \$40; "Erie" 4 Qt. Alum. Tea Kettle \$30; Set of 7 Food Grinders #s 1,2,3,4,10,11,1111 \$115; Skillets #3 lg. block/SR, #8 & #10 lg. Italic, SR, Set of 3 \$79; #8&9 lg. seal rd. handle Griddles, 2 for \$45; #72 Deep Patty Bowl, #32 Danish or Egg Poacher, #273 Cornbread, \$35 each, 3 for \$95. Carl Rauch, 2765 Jack Rd., Chambersburg, PA 17201 (717) 267-0909 eves.

WANTED: Cast iron salesman sample mini stoves (no Cresants or repros). Send name, dimensions, & price.
FOR SALE: Griswold Patty Trimble Mold iron set (orig. bx) \$40; same in Wagner \$35; Wagner Childs Toy Iron Set, 4" Teapot, 3 legged Kettle, "Y" Skillet, Bailed Round Griddle, Flat Bottom Kettle, 5 pcs. \$295; Original Wagner mini Waffle Iron, Feb. 22, 1910 \$275; Wagner Toy Teapot, Alum., perfect \$85; Stover Jr. mini Waffle Iron, polished \$105; #9 Wapak Indian Head Skillet (very good) \$105; Toy Waffle Iron, Arcade Toy Co. \$75; Carl Rauch, 2765 Jack Rd., Chambersburg, PA 17201 (717) 267-0909 eves.

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: #1270 S.R. & Co Wheat Stick Pan \$135. **FOR SALE OR TRADE:** #11 "Wagner" Sidney O Skillet; #8 Erie Flop Griddle (6 pan); Griswold #9 Oval Roaster, p/n 649, lettered lid p/n 650; Will consider interesting trades for Griswold muffin pans.
WANTED: R & E pans #s 1,7,8,9,10,11. (Note new address & phone number) Jon B. Haussler, 1806 Brownstone Ave. SW, Decatur, AL 35601. (205) 351-8567

WANTED: All G.F. Filley Muffin Pans. Also Griswold Muffin Pans, but not common pieces. Any unusual Cast Iron Muffin or other cast iron cookware. All must be in good and better cond. with no damage. **FOR TRADE:** Have two Wapak skillets (8 & 9), Griswold #14 Skillet,

Griswold Double Broiler. Craig Dinner, PO Box 4399, Sunnyside, NY 11104. (718) 729-3850

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: #5 Lg. Blk. w/SR \$475; #11 Lg. Blk. w/SR \$175; Pup \$225; 20 Year Service Pin \$600; Skillet Rack \$400; Bundt Pan (mint) \$1350; A-20 Skillet (mini) \$275; A200 Skillet (mini) \$275; 5-in-1 Skillet \$350; Wafer Iron with base \$550; #283 Corn Stick \$275; #28 Wheat & Corn \$350; #15 Fish Skillet, chrome, nice but not perfect \$300. Joannie & Joe Baldini, (814) 459-2503 Days, (814) 868-1316 nights

WANTED: Unusual Griswold Nickle or Chrome pieces, #5 Erie Skillet w/SR in nickle, Nickle Loaf Pan w/lid, or Griswold Floral Trivet #1909. Roy G. Meadows, 43 Poverty Hollow Rd., Newtown, CT 06470 (203) 426-0430

GRISWOLD FOR TRADE: #8 Spider Skillet, #13 Muffin Pan, #2800 Muffin Pan, Aluminum Cowboy Hat; Muffin Pans: #1 fully marked, #6 963 only, #9 fully marked, #27, #28, #50, #130, #140, #282, #283, #2700; Rabbit, Lamb, Santa, Bundt Pan, Wafer Iron w/base, #18 Hearts Star Waffle Iron, Many other duplicates available - Inquire. **GRISWOLD WANTED:** Domed Sad Iron Rack w/numbers, #15 Oval Skillet Lid, #2 Coffee Roaster, Long Broiler, Miniatures. Joe Noto, 54 Macon Ave., Asheville, NC (704) 252-7357 Days, (704) 258-3353 Nights

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: 20 Year Service Award Hamilton Watch \$800; 20 Year Service Award Pin \$400; **FOR TRADE:** #5 Oval Roaster. **WANTED:** Blue Porcelain Pieces. Sally & Jim Swanson, 3302 W. 11th, Erie, PA 16501 (814) 838-1866

KEY: p/n = pattern number
w/ = with
SR = Smoke Ring
TM = Trade Mark
Btm = bottom

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

(Continued on Page 18)



couraged from joining our ranks when they discover that they have been stung by relying on these books. I am more of an optimist than that! I have more faith and confidence in our association and our members. We are not all that fragile and we are made of sterner stuff. This is but a tempest in a teapot! I would urge all of you to read a recent column by Mark A. Roeder in Antique Week, 2 May 1994 titled "Investing in Antiques." Mr. Roeder makes some major points that apply directly to us. Essentially he states "educate yourself. Talk to dealers and ask questions. Look before you buy. Stop at every antique shop and build a mental price guide. Buying antiques is the best way to learn about them."

The Griswold Cast Iron Cookware Association was founded on the principle of education and promotion of the collectibility of cast iron kitchenware products. As President of this organization, this is my primary responsibility. As a contributor to the Griswold Volume I and II, I also have a responsibility to protect my fellow collectors from the potential confusion and outright misinformation that they contain. To all who can hear and read, I proclaim BEWARE! These are books without an author. These are books without an editor. These are books that the contributors did not have a chance to proof-read or to correct the misinformation that they contain. The old rule still applies: CAVEAT EMPTOR. Let the buyer beware! Do not go by these books alone only to later learn that you have bought a pig in a poke!

The definitive text on Griswold, Wagner and other collectible cast iron has not yet been written. Perhaps Dave Smith and Chuck Wafford may yet sally forth to save the day! The field is yet theirs to be taken and won. I and other cast iron collectors anxiously await their effort.

Until then, God speed and good hunting.
Joe Noto, President

Note from the secretary:

Anyone who hasn't paid 1994 membership dues will have to pay the initiation fee again after May 31, 1994. Thank you. -Joannie.

NOTE:

The 1995 G&CICA Convention Committee is looking for ideas for topics for workshops. Contact Sally Swanson with your suggestions. (814) 838-1866.

• KnC ADVERTISING •

Your Business Card or 2" Display Ad,
Camera Ready\$ 8.00
Larger Ads\$ 8.00
plus \$2.50 per inch or fraction
thereof over 2 inches
Ads with Photo\$ 6.00 extra

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: Patty Bowl, p/n 871 \$175; #12 Tite Top Baster, no trivet, \$795; #4 Flat Bottom Scotch Bowl, Slant "Erie" \$125; #22 Breadstick, p/n 2992, Western Importing Co \$150; "Rev-O-Noc" Waffle Iron on High Base, Tab Handles \$75; #7 Chrome Dutch Oven, Raised offset Logo on lid \$95; #8 Skillet, thick, smooth bottom, Griswold & 715 under Handle \$125; #9 Rectangular Griddle, Slant "Erie" \$65; #10 High, smooth dome Skillet Lid, p/n 1100 \$75; #14 Rd Bailed Griddle, Slant "Erie", inner SR \$125; **WAGNER:** Flame Tamer, slight warp \$45; Senior KKK Corn Stick p/n 1318 \$75. Craig Leverenz, 439 Mt. Curve Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55105-1325 (612) 699-1211.

DEADLINE FOR ADS FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: JULY 15, 1994



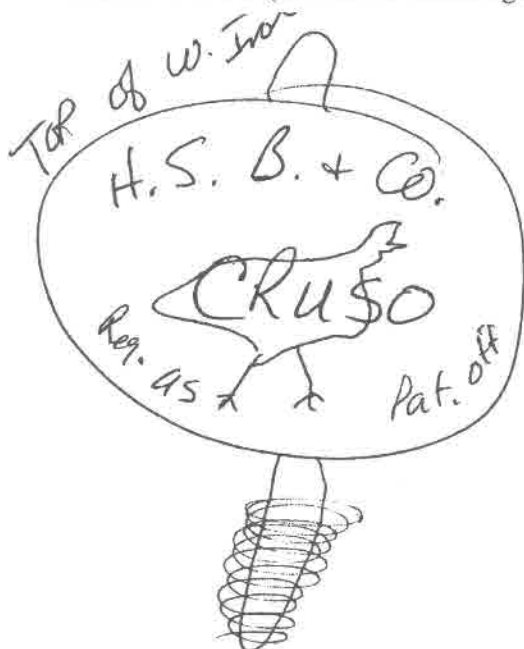
*Heavy
Metal
News*

Tom Todson reports he has absolutely established that the Sidney Hollow Ware Co. was a separate company from Wagner. He also reports the history of Sidney Hollow Ware has been obscure because it was a branch of the Sidney Grain Elevator Co. Sidney Hollow Ware was sold to Wagner in 1897.

VOLUME 1
Kettles 'n Cookware
Still
Available
\$ 15.00
(Vol. 2 is sold out!)

Send name and address with payment to:
Kettles n' Cookware
P.O. Box B
Perrysburg, N.Y. 14129

THE MELTING POT (Continued from Page 16)

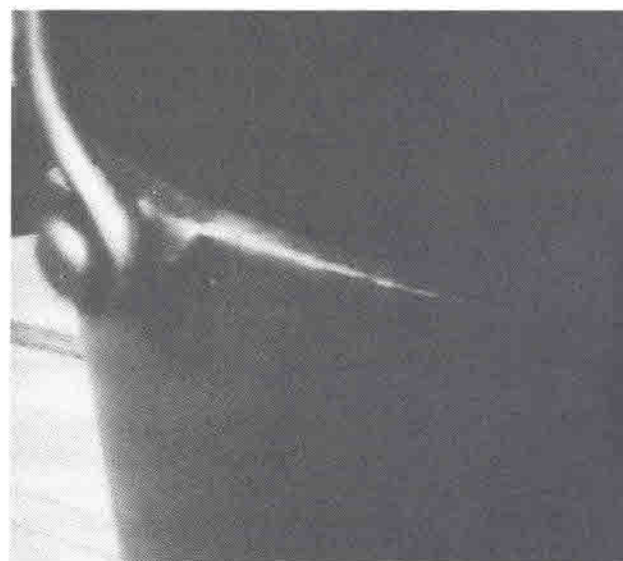
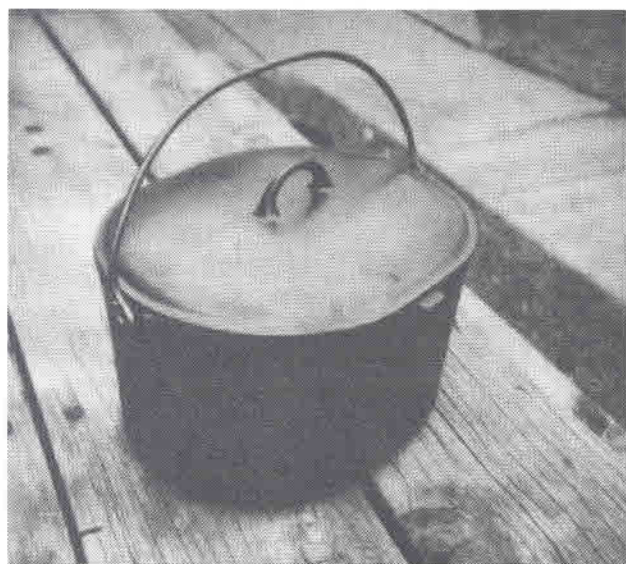


Carl: See the letter and answer below. -ed.

Dave: Can you tell me anything about a Cruso Waffle Iron? I have a Cruso Cream separator; they both have a chicken on them. Also says Hibbard Spencer Bartlett & Co., Chicago Ill. They were a merchandising house in Chicago. - Paul D.

Paul: Your waffle iron was made by the Fanner Mfg. Co. of Cincinnati, OH. about 1920 to 1930. Value-\$195. -ed.

Dave: I have obtained a kettle that I don't know what to call it: A Ham Cooker? Dutch Oven? Oval Roaster? It has a weight of 22 lbs. (base & lid). The bottom pattern number is 1300; the top 1301. It is 7 1/4" high, 11 1/4" wide, 14" long. I think it is Griswold by the pattern numbers. They are not listed in the Griswold price guide. What is it? -Gordon D.



Gordon: The cover handle looks Griswold, however not an early one; the basting rings look Griswold; the matching pattern numbers are certainly characteristic of Griswold. The griddle type kettle ears where the bail attaches is certainly unique. To me, it appears to be a special order piece made by Griswold for some other outlet, or retailer. It is obviously a great piece. Thanks for sharing it with us. Anyone have the answer to this one? -ed.

Dear Dave: As you seem generous in sharing your knowledge, I would like to ask your opinion on the Griswold No. 17 Gem Pans shown on pages 96 and 97 "Griswold Cast Iron" L.W. Book. Do you feel the dating of the three versions to be correct and why the much higher price on the c. 1930 variation? -Bob K.

Bob: I believe the dates are correct. I believe the price of \$250 on the No. 17 on page 97 is an error. The value has been switched with the No. 16 next to it. -ed.

(Continued on Page 20)

THE MELTING POT (Continued from Page 19)

Dave: We purchased a piece which I have not identified. I suspect that it's a "spacer" for placement in an open burner hole in a wood-burning kitchen cookstove, and probably downsizes the spacing. It is a ring with circle cutouts all around it. The writing on it says Griswold Manufacturing Company, Erie, PA, Bettles Patene, 6 inch, and has a pattern number 288 on it. Then again, it could be something other than a "spacer." Does anybody know what this thing is? -Jim A.

Jim: A photo or drawing would have helped. However, I believe the piece you have is what is called a Safe Head. This ring fits around the stove pipe where it goes through the ceiling. A piece similar in design is illustrated in Griswold Catalog 45, c. 1915. Anyone have any other ideas? -ed.

Dear Dave: I received the newsletters and have enjoyed reading and studying them. I am now a much smarter "iron man" than I was a few weeks ago. Needless to say, I have a great deal more to learn. It's interesting to note there is as much controversy in "iron" as there is in "Sourdough". Let the battle rage on. We will all learn from it. -Don J.

Editor's note: Don has written and published a cookbook including Dutch Oven and Sourdough recipes. In it he states, "No one knows all there is to know about sourdough...Sourdoughs will argue for hours over taste and technique, but secretly, each knows theirs is the best."

David: I was surprised to see no flier for "Griswold Volume 2" nor mention of the book in the February edition of *Kettles 'n Cookware*. I did receive a flier from L-W Book Sales but was awaiting a comment or flier from you. As it has a release date of "approximately March 30, 1994," maybe I am a little early looking for a review or recommendation. - Francis S.

Francis: I am not planning on selling the second L-W Griswold book for two reasons: 1. I was very disappointed in the first book, and 2. I will be promoting my and Chuck Wafford's upcoming book. I will obtain a copy, however, to evaluate and quite frankly, as an addition to my library.

Dear Dave: I recently received the new Wagnerware & Other Companies Collectors Guide by L-W Books. Several discrepancies found in the book were brought to my attention: 1. The Junior Krusty Korn Kob for \$100 (I pass these up for \$10 to \$15 often). I'll sell them a truckload for \$50 each. 2. #9 skillet-Rare, and the picture beside it-wood handle #9 skillet is \$5.00 higher (send wood handled skillets and I'll send you \$5.00 and the same size skillet all cast iron; 3. #14 skillet \$500.00 (I sold mine too cheap); 4. Breakfast Skillet \$90 (I can't give them away for \$25); 5. Toy Waffle Iron-Rare (this is a

repro in photo-pg. 67) How rare can a repro be? 6. My Pet Skillet \$50 (I pass them at \$10). The common pieces are priced too high and the rare pieces too cheap in this book. Other new dealers will use this as a guide to price, when collectors "in the know" are aware that more research should have been done before this book was published. This type of book will hurt our hobby & businesses. Darwin King -"The Cast Iron Cowboy"

Darwin: This book is just another sham by L-W Books, published without any regard to credibility. Regarding "more research", it is obvious that there was no research done for this book. It is merely a compilation of material solicited from various contributors. There is no accountability because there is no author. -ed.

Dear Dave: I have been asked to write to you with my comments on the new Griswold Price Guide from L&W Books. I try to keep an open mind when buying a new price guide. I feel no book will be perfect, but this one was less than perfect, we can all sit and pick this book apart but it won't do any good. We all know the mistakes. What we should remember is that a book is only a GUIDE. And if you found one piece in this book you have never seen, the book was worth buying. As for the new collectors, we should take the time to educate them. At the convention in Florida this year, the comment was made that Joe and I were strictly dealers. Yes we do sell a lot of Griswold, but I am a collector too. I might not have as large a collection like some of the members in the club but I do collect Erie, unusual pieces, and paper from Griswold. I do take a lot of pride in what I own and in what I sell. I don't feel this book has hurt anyone's collection, it's only made the author look bad. - Joanie B. (*Editor's note: G&CICA President Joe Noto solicited letters re: the recent Griswold Books*)

Joanie: I agree that we should educate new collectors. There are about 400 members in the G&CICA yet L-W Books has sold thousands of books. What happens to those thousands of dealers and collectors we don't reach? -ed.

Dear Dave: I read Craig Leverenz's response to the "Gas City Abomination" Vol. II with great interest and much pain - the laughter over his very original review created, was still overcome by the painful but true statement about L&W's (Neil Wood) book single handedly ruining our hobby. I wholeheartedly support a ban on promotion of either volume and think the club should take an official "No-Endorsement" stand to discourage its chance of success. Many well meaning members were duped by L&W thinking their support would finally produce a much needed updated book. It's time to recognize their mistakes and trash the remaining supplies and take that tax loss Craig mentioned! It offends me that Neil is continuing his scam by yet another offering of ROT in Vol. III. - Mac M.

(Continued on Page 21)

THE MELTING POT (Continued from Page 20)

Dear Dave: Constructive criticism I think is always welcome but the rambling drivel of Craig's top twenty list is just that. I am sure you have had questions that have been submitted to you that your subscribers would like to have answered, and at least some people would be better informed. -Larry C. from Illinois

Larry: I appreciate your comments. Quite frankly you have me between a rock and a hard place. The questions you submitted and your excellent photos will be published next issue. I wanted to use all your photos but just haven't had room. Also, I try to be very current on happenings. Craig's letter filled the bill on the new book. My apologies, however, here he comes again! -ed.

David: Just when I thought there were no surprises left in the world of cast iron book publishing, lo and behold, the mail brings another! I thought I would be able to "let it go" as I paged through the latest (lack of) effort, but it's just not in the cards. Page after page of photographs where nothing is readable, ongoing misidentification & criminal pricing, and a totally misguided sense of what's important continue to plague the amateurs at L-W Book Sales. There are many amusing values, but the two that struck me immediately were: 1) the identification of a toy Wagner Waffle Iron as rare when it clearly is a repro and, 2) the valuation of a #14 Wapak block letter logo at \$500 are my personal favorites. The value placed on a Western Importing Waffle Iron (\$80) is only about half the value placed on its sister product in Vol. II (\$145).

At least these folks are consistent. I suspect they have done as much harm to other hobbies and areas collectibility. It's most unfortunate that people such as L-W are allowed to run roughshod over a hobby such as cast iron cookware leaving in their path total destruction and confusion. In the past 6 months, I have heard with greater and greater frequency dealers paying ridiculous prices at auction based on "the new books". Rather than realize that they made a mistake, they price it to the moon and prepare themselves for the long wait. Everyone (except L-W) loses; the dealer makes no money and the collector who would buy the piece at a fair market price passes on the piece. A recent book review that recently appeared in a local antique tabloid given away at area shops, the book dealers are all excited because they plan to sell multitudes of copies. All this leads me to the belief that in order to preserve my sense of humor, I need to throw out (not up) a new top ten list.

Craig's top ten reasons to avoid purchase of "Collectors Guide to Wagner Ware & other Companies": 10) Percentage of illegible pictures only topped by losing percentage of NY Mets first season; 9) Artwork done by John Wayne Gacey; 8) No classy animal pictures (Baron noticed this first); 7) Resulting sicknesses would overburden the Clinton Health Plan; 6) Lipstick red cover further clashes with first 2; 5) Only ads in back of book are for past L-W Publications; 4) Ground up and taken

with water, it can be confused with Metamucil; 3) Both cover photos taken by the same demented collector; 2) New interpretation of the word "Italic"; 1) Because both Daves (Smith & Letterman) say so. Have fun out there people - it's getting ugly. -Craig

"Editor" Smith: For some unknown reason, my name or the Colonel part of my name, keeps coming in issues of *Kettles & Cookware*. In KnC Vol. 1, No. 6, I was branded a scalper, I should not have let this slander go unchallenged, but I did. However, in your latest issue of KnC, dated April, 1994, a slanderous letter from Craig Leverenz was the last straw. I have never considered writing a letter to the editor, but to me, Leverenz is a total jerk, with a brain the size of a pea. I don't know Craig personally, and I can't figure out why my name or my wife should be abused.

As far as Vol. I of the new Griswold book by L&W Books is concerned, a lot of it features many items from my collection. Craig Leverenz stated in a back issue of KnC that it was a "show and tell" book. Having most of the photographs in the book, once again I figured he was talking about me.

Mr. Wood of L&W Books contacted me about supplying pictures of my collection for Vol. 1, for his upcoming Griswold price guide. I told him I was not a photographer, but he was welcome to come to our home and take all the pictures he wanted at no charge. He sent two photographers. These were real gentleman. All I asked in exchange for the photographs was recognition in the book. This was done. For Vol. II, only a few photographs of mine were left from the original photo shoot. These were included along with photographs from many other contributors to the second L&W book project. In December of 1993, I sent L&W books a Christmas card and thanked Mr. Wood personally for having real gentlemen employees. I included a picture of Esther and myself, just as I did in cards to my fiends. I had no idea it would be put in Vol. II.

As for Vol. I and Vol. II, indeed there is room for plenty of improvement. It's 100% better than the books Craig Leverenz HASN'T written. Since Leverenz knows so much about the subject, he should write a masterpiece and not waste his time blasting me and my wife. If Leverenz threw away his L&W Griswold Price Guide, did he also throw away the check that L&W sent him for his pictures?

In Vol. 1, Editor Smith, *Kettles & Cookware* criticized the rabbit insert in the L&W book. He claims it's not Griswold. This rabbit insert is a photograph submitted by Leverenz. So "contributions" of this nature and that stupid cat picture—WHO CARES CRAIG?—are the very type of thing done by Leverenz that he blasts in photos submitted by others. There must be a lesson in hypocrisy to point out here.

As far as me selling the Vol. II price guide, SO WHAT? I know a lot of other members are selling them.

(Continued on Page 24)

Stop The Press!

By Jim Anderson

Jim Anderson and his family from Garden City, Kansas, attended an auction in Columbus, Kansas. This well-advertised auction contained 180 plus pieces of Griswold, drawing dealers and collectors from around the country.

Jim submitted the following list of some of the prices paid for Griswold items:

Waffle Irons

- #7 low base w/ side handle, slot hinge, 1888-1893-\$300
- #7 high base, bail handle #146, 1922-\$130
- #8 low base, CLOWS advertising, #234, 1908-\$310
- #8 Selden & Griswold round, 1880-\$225
- #8 low base, side handle #885-\$45
- #9 low base, side handle #979-\$110
- (3) #18 hearts & stars, high base, bail handle-\$150-\$160
- #18 hearts and stars, low base, bail handle-\$180
- #11 square, high base, bail handle, 1908-\$65
- #9 Selden & Griswold French, 3 pans Selden & Griswold, 1 pan Griswold Mfg. Co.-\$750
- #0 Griswold Mfg. Co., rectangular, broken handle on base-\$210

Oval Roasters, all with writing on top of lid:

- #5 oval roaster-\$430
- #7 oval roaster-\$450
- #9 oval roaster-\$600
- #9 oval roaster trivet-\$75

Fruit and Lard Presses:

- #2 two quart fruit and lard press, logo on tin-\$90
- #3 10 quart fruit and lard press-\$40

Stoves, various:

- 2-burner elevated "laundry stove"-\$130
- 3-burner gas hot plate-\$35
- #202 2 burner gas hot plate-\$70
- Copper-lined gas space heater, some damage-\$90

Sad Irons, heaters and holders:

- Dome sad iron heaters (not Griswold)-\$90 (2 sold)
- Mrs. Potts sad iron with handle-\$50
- Griswold sad iron with handle-\$75
- Griswold/Erie sad iron, small mark, w/ handle-\$130
- Griswold/Erie sad iron, large mark, w/ handle-\$80
- Classic iron holder-\$100

Skillets:

- #9 Victor skillet by Griswold Mfg. Co.-\$60
- #20 hotel skillet-\$500
- #14 large, block emb. w/ smooth, dome lid-\$250
- #14 large, block emb.-\$150
- #43 chef skillet, brown enamel-\$45
- #8 blue enamel skillet and lid w/ writing on top-\$110
- #5 italics, with smooth dome lid-\$140
- #768 sq. skillet with Griswold logo, glass lid-\$80
- #53 square egg skillet-\$45
- Various #6, 7, 8, 9 large emb., block, black iron or nickel-\$12.50-\$15

Griddles:

- #655 5-In-1 Breakfast griddle-\$340
- #10 long griddle, small emb.-\$70

- #7 long griddle, small emb.-\$32.50

Dutch Ovens:

- #12 Dutch oven w/ lid, writing on top of lid-\$575
- #10 Dutch oven w/ Barbecue grill cover (damaged)-\$35
- #8 Griswold logo glass lid for Dutch oven-\$30
- #10 chuck wagon Dutch oven-\$175
- #10 chuck wagon Dutch oven w/ crack in lid-\$70

Kettles, Various:

- #8 Erie flat bottom kettle-\$25
- Safety cooker, lid doesn't match-\$60

Tobacco Cutters:

- #3 Griswold tobacco cutter, Griswold nameplate-\$175
- Star Griswold tobacco cutter-\$85

Ashtrays:

- #33 windproof ashtray, no grate-\$32.50
- Round ashtray w/ match holder-\$22.50
- Square ashtray w/ match holder-\$35
- Round ashtray, no match holder-\$13

Cake Molds:

- Lamb cake mold #866 w/ display box-\$130
- Frank W. Hay and Sons bundt cake pan-\$350
- Muffin pans, various:
- #283 cornstick pan-\$140
- #270 wheatstick pan, nickel plated-\$350
- #272 wheatstick pan-\$225
- #8 gem pan, italics emb., #946-\$210
- #273 corn stick pan, nickel plated-\$17.50
- #273 corn stick pan-\$20 (3 sold)
- #954 breadstick pan-\$20
- #950 roll pan-\$45
- #10 popover pan #949-\$30
- #10 Erie popover pan-\$65
- #18 popover pan, #6141-\$100
- #262 cornstick pan-\$100
- #32 aebleskiver, #962-\$35

Other:

- #3 Combo Pattie Bowl set in box-\$160
- Deep pattie molds in box-\$32.50
- Sun dial-\$450
- Double broiler #875, complete-\$325
- #1 ice shave-\$130
- #4 mailbox-\$120
- #8 ham boiler with small crack-\$350
- Wire skillet rack-\$350
- Griswold tabletop coffee grinder w/ repaired handle-\$750
- #84 saucepan with red and cream enamel-\$100

G. Filley muffin pans:

- #4 damaged-\$45
- #5-\$80-\$95 (3 sold)
- #5 some damage-\$50
- #6 unmarked Filley-\$65
- #7-\$425
- #8-\$325
- #10 damaged-\$50-\$65 (2 sold)
- #10-\$100
- #11-\$80

Many thanks to Jim for sharing this very comprehensive report with us. -ed.

AUCTION!!!

AUCTION!!!

AUCTION!!!

* GRISWOLD * ERIE * WAGNER *
* FILLEY * FAVORITE * PIQUA WARE *
* WAPAK * SPERRY * MARTIN * VARIOUS OTHERS *

SATURDAY, SEPT. 3, 1994
9:00 A.M.

(Preview: Friday, Sept. 2, 6:00 PM)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL

Hwy 33 N (N. Jefferson St.)

KEARNEY, MO

(I-35 & Hwy 92)

Owners:

Bob Chandler, Linda de Haas & others

Auction conducted by

SIMMONS & COMPANY AUCTIONEERS

"THE NAMES TO TRUST WHEN SELLING OR BUYING"

Bob Simmons * Dave Ross * J.D. Urdike * David Simmons



500 + PCS IN AUCTION WILL INCLUDE ** 275 + GRISWOLD (includes marked & unmarked) Erie, Victor, Puritan -- Skillets, Chicken Pans, Skillet Griddles, Snack Skillet & Shallow Skillets, Aluminium Skillets, incl. Aristocraft, Waffle Irons (Griswold, WMC Co., Victor, Western Importing, Brighton, etc.), Griddles, Muffin Pans, Corn Sticks, Wheat Pans, Gums, Popovers, Golf Balls, etc., Dutch Ovens, Food Choppers, Skillet Lids, Ebleskiezer, Plett Pan, Tobacco Cutters, Fruit or Lard Presses, Steak Platters, Trivets, Flat Irons, Gas Hotplates, Stove Dampers, Ashtrays, Mail & Post Boxes, Kettles, Bowls, Safety Canner, Heat Regulator, Lemon Squeezer, Patty Mold Sets in boxes, Lamb, Rabbit & Santa Cake Molds, Double Broiler, Skillet Grill, Reflector Stove, large Ham Boiler, Griswold Skillet Rack, Porcelain Baking Dish, Aluminium & Cast Iron Oval Roasters, Aluminium Casseroles & Sauce Pans, Bolo Oven, Gas Stove, Erie Fluting Iron, Erie Flat Iron Handle, Griswold Mortar & Pestle, Griswold Printer's Block, **160 + WAGNER** (includes Wide Variety of Skillets, Lids, round Griddles, Muffins, Breadstick, Popover Pans, rare Wagner Lard Press, #4 Oval Roaster, Bowls, Pots, Kettles, 16 Aluminium Tea Kettles, Waffle Irons, Cast Iron Tea Kettle, Trivet, Magnalite Pans & Skillet, 9 assorted aluminium Utensils, **FILLEY**: Tea Kettles, rare skillet, Pot Belly Stove; **WAPAK** includes: Skillets, Griddle, Scotch Bowl, Sad & Flat Irons; **FAVORITE** includes Waffle Irons, Skillets, Griddle; **PURITAN** includes: Dutch Oven, Food Grinders; **MARTIN STOVE**: breadstick, skillets, griddle; **MISCELLANEOUS** includes: **PIQUA** Roll Paper Dispenser; **REIDS' PAN**; very rare 6 cup Harvest Pan (attributed to **VOLLRATH**); **DAZEY** (New Britian Conn) wall Can Opener; Sad Iron Dome; Muffin Pans; Laxton's Soap Dish; Table & clamp on Cherry Seeder, Unusual small clamp-on mechanical Raisin Seeders; Wall & clamp-on Coffee Grinders; Misc. cast iron cookware: Skillets, Kettles, Griddles, Muffin Pans, Lead Pots, Food Grinders, etc. It's possible that other items of interest may be added later.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: This will be a great auction for collectors of Griswold, Wagner and other cast iron kitchen collectibles. There will be something to interest both beginning and advanced collectors as well as specialty & general line antique dealers. It's one you won't want to miss! Make plans now to join us. **TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Cash or check w/ photo or Driver's Licence I.D. No buyer's premium or registration fee. Everything is sold "as is, where is" with no warranties as to age, value or condition expressed or implied by owners or auction company. Statements made day of auction take precedence over all printed materials. Not responsible for accident or loss. Nothing removed until payment is received. **FOR ITEMIZED CATALOG, CONTACT AUCTIONEERS (\$ 2.00 PPD). POST-AUCTION PRICES REALIZED LIST (\$5.00 PPD)**

DIRECTIONS: Held inside the lovely, climate-controlled Knights of Columbus Hall with plenty of comfortable seating & parking facilities. Kearney is located at the junctions of Interstate I-35 & Hwy 92, approx. 20 min. NE of metro Kansas City. To get to the Hall, exit I-35 at Kearney, turn East on Hwy 92 to the 4-way stop. Turn N. on Hwy 33 (N. Jefferson St.) and follow auction signs, approx. 1 mile to the Knights building. Concessions available. Several good motels with easy access to Kearney. KCI airport is about 20 minutes to the west. Plan to come, even bring the whole family. Kearney is in the heart of historic Jesse James Country. World's of Fun & Ocean's of Fun are just minutes away, as is the River Quay and the historic Steamboat Arabia Museum, the only one of its kind in the USA. Kansas City has the Plaza, Crown Center, the Toy & Miniature Dollhouse Museum, Riverboat excursions, The KC Chiefs & Royals Sports complex, outstanding shopping malls, excellent restaurants & other entertainment.

SIMMONS & COMPANY AUCTIONEERS

RTE 1, BOX 186, RICHMOND, MO. 64085 1-816-776-2936.

MEMBERS: MISSOURI PROFESSIONAL AUCTIONEERS ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL AUCTIONEERS ASSOCIATION
MID-MISSOURI ANTIQUE DEALERS ASSOCIATION, GRISWOLD & CAST IRON COOKWARE ASSOCIATION,

AUCTION!!!

AUCTION!!!

AUCTION!!!



Victor Skillets

(Continued from Front Page)

variation 1 was made in sizes 7, 8, and 9; and variations 2, 3, and 4 were made in sizes 5 through 9.

I would like to know if there are other variations (major or minor) of VICTOR skillets. I would also like to confirm what sizes were produced in each of the four variations. You collectors with the #5s and #6s especially, let us know what variations you have. This information will help novice collectors (and maybe even some advanced collectors) and will subsequently be made available to all who are interested.

Please write or call Jon B. Haussler, Route 4, Box 241, Decatur, AL 35603 (205) 350-5413.

Editor's Note: The earliest I can find record of a Victor Skillet is in Catalog No. 45, circa 1915 which was two years prior to the United States entering World War I.

THE MELTING POT (Continued from Page 21)

Why am I singled out and why aren't their names mentioned?

I have been collecting Griswold for many years. I have well over 1000 pieces, all different. Through collecting, I have had the pleasure of meeting some of the nicest folks. Friends wouldn't stab you in the back. I feel friends are more important than all the Griswold in the world, but if Leverenz feels otherwise, that is his business. Just don't drag the Miller name into your uncharming public view. As far as gentlemen are concerned, I'll take Neil Wood of L&W Books any time over Leverenz. The very name Craig Leverenz leaves a bad taste in my mouth. And that goes for "LADY BIRD" too. - Col. Richard A. Miller

Richard: I guess this clears the air. I'll concede to let "Lady Bird" have the last word. -ed.

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

COPYRIGHT 1994 – All Rights Reserved.

No part of this work may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher.

Subscription:

\$20.00 per volume, including all prior issues of the volume, regardless of when you subscribe.

Checks payable to: Kettles 'n Cookware

Mail all correspondence to:
David G. Smith, Publisher
Drawer B
Perrysburg, N.Y. 14129