

KETTLES 'n COOKWARE®

ENDORSED BY THE GRISWOLD & CAST IRON COOKWARE ASSOCIATION



Figure 1—Scene from Alcoa film, "Unfinished Rainbows." From left, Miss Moses, Matthew Griswold and Arthur Davis.

Griswold's First Aluminum: Not Made By Griswold!

Although the uses of aluminum, at least in its solid metallic form, had remained elusive prior to the 19th century, uses of aluminum silicates for pottery and "alums" for vegetable dyes and medicines had been traced back to ancient Egypt and Persia. The reduction or smelting of

pure metallic aluminum from its oxide-bound state confounded some of the best scientific minds of the nineteenth century.

In the nineteenth century, aluminum had been reduced
(Continued on Page 34)

From The Editor

Autumn is my favorite time of year. I like the warm days and cool nights. The changing leaves in the Northeast are beautiful. Seeing the hillsides with the variations of reds and yellows showing bright in the fall sun is breathtaking.

I enjoy the harvest season with its many varieties of squash and fruits—the apples, pears and of course, grapes. Driving down the country roads within a mile of our home, the aroma of ripe Niagara grapes clinging to the vines permeate the air. There is nothing like it.

Fall also brings nearly to a close the fast pace of flea markets and antique shows. As much as I enjoy the hunt, I am usually saturated by October. I still keep looking, but at a much more relaxed pace. Now it is an occasional show and maybe browse a few shops when the desire hits.

I have always, at least in my adult life, been interested in the historical aspect of things. This has certainly held true with cast iron. This past summer I have picked up several pieces of ephemera related to iron cookware. I have reproduced one letter I found in this issue of *KnC*. I thought you might enjoy it.

On a different note: the US Postal Service has implemented a new sorting procedure for bulk mail. In the past, I sorted *KnC* by Zip Code, then bundled it by state. The bundling system has been redefined to now be bundled by designated sorting centers. For mail preparation, that means that mail previously bundled by state, Pennsylvania for example, now must be divided by distribution center—of which there are at least a half dozen for Pennsylvania. Also, some distribution centers don't take the Zips by strict numerical order—they jump around. For the last issue of *KnC*, this added two and a half hours to my sorting time. The reason given by the U.S. Postal Service for these new requirements is to increase the efficiency of mail delivery, and to relieve the necessity of a rate increase. However, when I delivered my trays to the post office, they had increased the rate by three cents a piece. I would be interested to hear if any of you are receiving your newsletter more quickly. In the past, there has been a difference of up to two weeks for deliveries.

The bargain for this month: a #26 Erie Double Bread Pan was purchased in a shop for \$18.50. Isn't it great??



Heavy Metal News

More on Wagner

On August 16, 1996, a newly formed investment group, The Wagner Corporation, comprised of members of the Slyman Family, officially assumed operation of the Sidney Division of General Housewares Corporation, according to the *Sidney Daily News*. The Sidney plant will be renamed the Wagner Manufacturing Company. The Wagnerware Corp. purchased the foundry in Sidney and the use of Magnalite, Magnalite Professional, and Wagner names on cookware for an undisclosed amount of money, according to the *Daily News*.

It had been rumored that the new owners planned to combine the Sidney aluminum foundry with the Permold, a subsidiary of Slyman Industries, located in Medina, Ohio, and eventually adding business for the Sidney iron foundry of mostly non-cookware. However, in an interview with Peter Pike, Vice President for Marketing of the newly formed Wagnerware Corp., Mr. Pike told *KnC* the new company is a Wagner-Griswold organization. The company is looking to resurrect the Griswold line, making it a "high end-gourmet line" of quality cookware. It was also refreshing to hear that they are very concerned about reproductions. In conversation with *KnC*, Mr. Pike indicated they would be willing to take action to end or prevent the introduction of unauthorized reproductions into the market. He appeared very trademark-protective.

The KnC Iron Net

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If you would like your name and e-mail address listed, send it to *KnC*!

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Kettles 'n Cookware

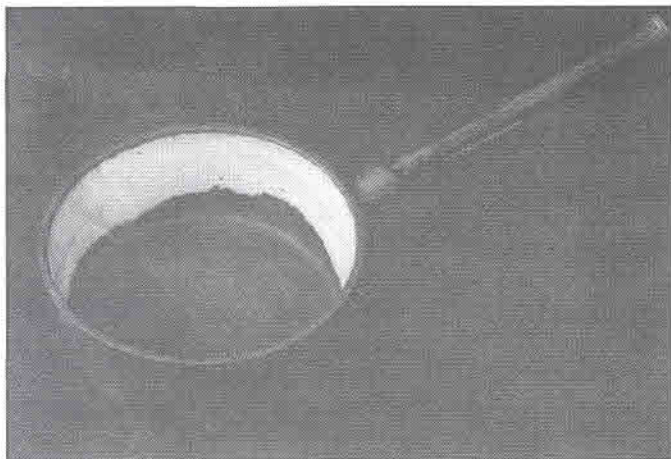
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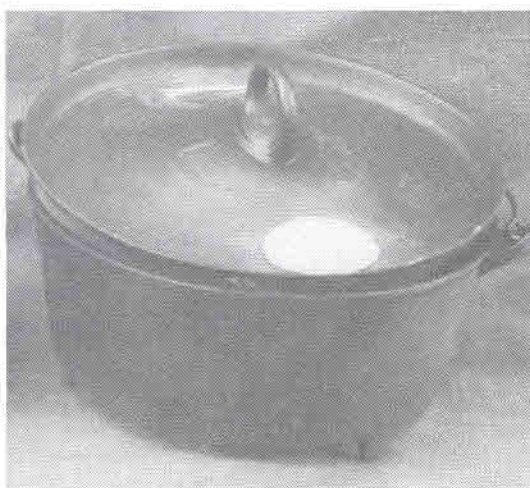
The Melting Pot

Dave: Can you give me information on the following pieces: 1). Cast iron, partially lined sauce pan, 6" dia at bottom. The bottom is incised with big letters "KENRICK 3 PINTS"; has early gate mark. Background? Value?



This Sauce Pan was made by the A. Kenrick Foundry of West Bromwich, England which was established in 1791, and as far as I know is still in business. This piece dates about 1800-1850. Value: in this condition with most of the porcelain missing, \$25 to \$45. There really isn't much demand for pieces such as this.

2) Twelve Inch Dutch Oven marked DR Sperry & Co., Batavia Ill. Pat Applied For, raised No. 1 on cover and bottom.



I don't know much about this piece. I believe it was manufactured between the 1930s and 50s. Sperry products are quality pieces. Value: about \$75.

3) Kettle 10" high, no marking. Company? Value?



This piece appears to be modern. Value is negligible. — ed.

Dear David: Enjoyed your editorial very much, especially about some pieces being very over-priced. I would like to know the current prices of a few pieces: No. 13 slant or block logo SR, No. 20 Hotel Skillet block logo SR, No. 5 skillet, slant logo with SR, Santa Mold. — Betty K.

Betty: I am glad you enjoyed my editorial. Today, pricing is what any seller can squeeze out of an overenthusiastic buyer. As far as I am concerned, the values we stated in The Book of Griswold & Wagner are where they should be. — ed.

KETTLES 'n COOKWARE

ADVERTISING

Rates are \$2.50 per column inch
(or fraction thereof)

Minimum \$5.00 (Column Width: 3.5")

Your Business Card or

2" Display Ad \$ 5.00

1/4 Page \$ 12.00

1/2 Page \$ 22.00

Ads with Photo \$ 6.00 extra

Rates are for Camera-Ready Copy

Questions? Call KnC at (716) 532-5154

Griswold's First Aluminum...

(Continued from Front Page)

chemically to its metallic form in minute amounts, but cost was prohibitive, exceeding \$500 a pound, more than twice the value of gold or platinum. In the 1850s aluminum tableware adorned the banquet table of the Court of France, and became a fashionable substance for jewelry—more fashionable than gold or silver.

By 1857, French scientist Henri Sainte-Claire Deville had succeeded in obtaining metallic aluminum chemically while reducing the cost to \$17 a pound.

Despite technical improvements and their corresponding reductions in cost, aluminum remained a craftsman's material, luxurious and semi-precious. By the end of 1887, remarkable advances in processing helped bring the American price down to \$8 a pound. This was still too high for mass consumption. The accumulated total of world-wide aluminum production since 1854 was probably under 140,000 pounds, mostly produced in the 1880s. Applications ranged from jewelry and other small personal items to more functional but still luxurious uses in navigation instruments, balances and clocks. One hundred ounces of aluminum capped the Washington Monument, where the metal served as both ornament and a lightning rod in 1884.

Suddenly, a technical revolution occurred, displacing the chemical methods of making pure aluminum by a cheaper and drastically different means of production that would make the earth's most common metal available for mass market.

The same year the Washington Monument was capped with aluminum, a young scientist, Charles Martin Hall, discovered an electrolytic process to smelt aluminum which could significantly reduce its cost—while experimenting in a makeshift laboratory in the woodshed of his kitchen in Oberlin, Ohio.

After patenting his discovery, he approached a group of eight investors with his proposal and beliefs in the future of aluminum. On July 31, 1888, these investors, all experts in steel, all connected in one way or another with an industry that was becoming the linchpin to Pittsburgh's development, met to discuss the possibilities of aluminum. Eight days later, six of the eight agreed to stake the trial development of the new process. On November 29th, 1888 the new company, The Pittsburgh Reduction Company, poured its first aluminum ingot at a production cost of \$2 a pound.

Within months, Hall's invention was developed into commercial production. The company's business strategy was to sell aluminum in ingot form to manufacturers to remelt and cast into their specialty products. Typical of anything so new and untried, convincing manufacturers to invest in and use this new metal proved difficult.

About 1894, the Pittsburgh Reduction Company sent their young salesman, Arthur Davis, to Erie, Pennsylvania to convince Matthew Griswold of the Griswold Mfg. Company to try casting aluminum products from aluminum he could purchase from the Pittsburgh-based firm.

Davis was to convince Matthew Griswold that the much lighter metal would be better than iron for cookware. Miss Moses, Matthew Griswold's secretary, is alleged to have said that the aluminum would be wonderful for teakettles, "so light and clean-looking." (Figure 1)

Although it was salesman Davis's goal to sell the Griswold Mfg. Co. aluminum ingots, Matthew Griswold would have no part of it. He was interested in the concept of aluminum teakettles but was not going to disturb his manufacturing process to convert to casting aluminum. The salesman was in a dilemma. The Pittsburgh Reduction Company did not have a foundry nor the technology for casting individual pieces—they cast ingots. Rather than lose the sale, Davis agreed that if Matthew Griswold would lend the Pittsburgh Reduction Company a mold to assist them, they would cast sample teakettles.

Some time later when the Pittsburgh Reduction Company salesman returned to Erie with the sample aluminum teakettles, Matthew Griswold was impressed and responded by ordering two thousand aluminum teakettles. Salesman Davis balked—the agreement was to cast the samples. His company did not want to get into the cookware business, but Matthew Griswold stood firm.

It was important to the Pittsburgh Reduction Company to get aluminum into the consumer market. These Griswold teakettles would be one way to accomplish it. Davis agreed to the order of two thousand teakettles.

Although historical records are sketchy, it appears that the aluminum teakettle in Figure 2 is the style that was cast. This style is nearly identical to the iron tea-



Figure 2

kettles of that period as is the marking "ERIE" on the cover. This is also the style used in the Alcoa promotional movie, "Unfinished Rainbows," although Alcoa admits they have no documentation that this was the teakettle. After delivery of the original teakettles, and obvious successful sales, the Griswold Mfg. Co. agreed to purchase aluminum ingots from the Pittsburgh Reduc-

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Griswold's First Aluminum...

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tion Company (renamed Alcoa in 1907) and to do their own aluminum casting.

Was the teakettle the first and last piece cast by Alcoa for Griswold? Probably not. In fact, it appears that Griswold did iron castings for Alcoa, perhaps on an exchange basis.



Figure 3

The aluminum waffle iron in Figure 3 has a very unusual handle, light weight wire wrapped around a steel handle which in turn is riveted to the waffle paddle. This handle is not typical with Griswold. The waffle iron does sit on a typical Griswold iron base, however. The patent date of May 14, 1901 on the waffle iron reflects the patent of the (acorn) hinge, patented by Griswold. This style waffle iron is usually found marked "Wear Ever." Wear Ever was the brand of the Aluminum Cooking Utensil Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Alcoa created to sell Alcoa produced aluminum cookware. The Wear Ever waffle iron sits on an iron Griswold base. How ironic! By 1909, Alcoa was the third largest aluminum cookware producer in the U.S. One has to ask, would Alcoa have entered the cookware market if it had not been unwittingly forced by Matthew Griswold to do so in order for them to market their new product, aluminum?

References: *From Monopoly to Competition*, Cambridge University Press 1988; *Saturday Evening Post*, Feb. 1949, *Unfinished Rainbows*, Wilding Pictures c.1945

Back Issues of Kettles 'n Cookware Available by Volume (6 issues)

Volume 1 \$15
Volume 2 \$13
Volume 3 or 4 \$20

Kettles 'n Cookware

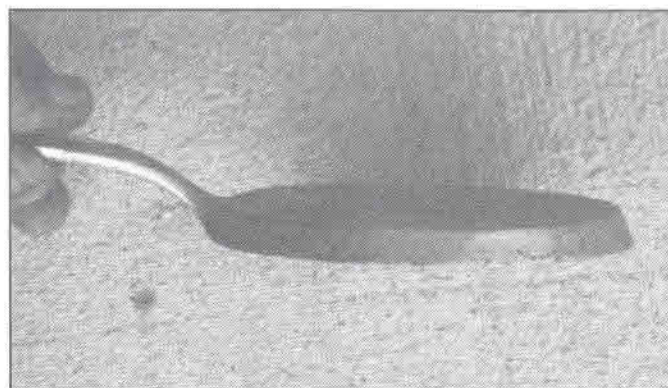
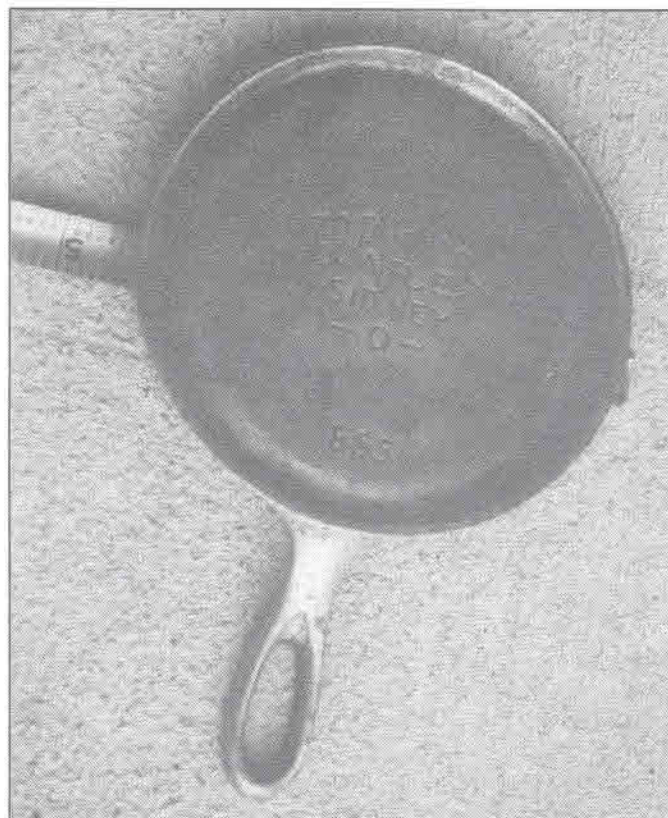
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Casting Call

This Wagner Ware aluminum toy handle griddle submitted by Jimmy Gilmore of Lorenzo, Texas measures about 4 1/2 inches in diameter. Usually made from iron, this piece is quite uncommon in aluminum.

If you have a special piece you would like featured in Casting Call, send in a clear photo with a brief description.



Happy Halloween!



The Swap Shop

KEY:

p/n	=	pattern number
w/	=	with
SR	=	Smoke Ring
HR	=	Heat Ring
TM	=	Trade Mark
Btm	=	bottom
EPU	=	Erie, Pa. USA
var	=	variation
emb	=	emblem
mkd	=	marked

FOR SALE: I'm selling my complete collection, individually, as follows: 300 pieces of Griswold iron, 30 pieces of Griswold Aluminum, 50 pieces of Wagner iron and aluminum, 10 pieces of Wapak iron, 20 pieces of Favorite, etc. iron. Send SASE for list; many hard to get pieces. Irv Wagenschnur, 772 Pulaski Hwy., Bear, DE 19701-1227. (302) 322-6990 evenings. (Note correction of phone number)

For Sale: Misc: #7 Favorite "Best to Cook In," some orange peel, \$25; #3 French Oval Roaster \$125; Favorite No.12 Skillet \$70. **Wagner:** "U" Turks Head \$175; #10 alum Skillet Cover for #10 Deep Skillet \$50; Magnalite 4007 Roasting Pan \$50; No.3 Oval Roaster, block lettering \$150. Griswold: 3-in-1 yellow & gray Cliff Cornell \$150; Skillet Grill \$135; #849 Steak Plate, mint \$60; #850 Service Plate, mint \$165; #4 Mail box, fully marked \$75; 4# & 6# "Griswold's Erie" Sad Irons, 2 for \$175; Electric Waffle Iron in original box \$125; #16 Gem var. 3 \$65; #16 Gem var. 4, small casting flaw #200; #3 Gem var. 1 \$240; #8 Gem var. 7 \$225; #26 Vienna \$160; #770 Sq. Ashtray \$35; #570 Ashtray \$25; #100 alum Heart & Star \$350; #7 Erie ISR \$35; #2 Patty Irons in box \$40; "O" Red & Cream, mint \$100; "O" black iron \$90; #773 Smokers Kettle \$65; 5 & 6 Slant/EPU Skillets \$35 ea.; #6 Slant/Erie \$40; #6 Iron Mountain \$30; #240 Turks Head \$450; #10 Block, SR \$60; #8 Iron Mountain w/out lid \$40; #3 Raised Letter, yellow porcelain, Lid \$300; #8 & #9 Dutch Oven Trivets \$30 ea.; #53 Egg Skillet \$35; #15 Oval Fish, nickel \$250; #5 Oval Roaster, some pitting \$250; #283 Cornstick \$150; #28 Whole Wheat \$225; #42 Snack Skillet \$45; #9 Deep Skillet, smooth btm., block \$100; STAR Tobacco Cutter \$150. **WANTED:** #2 Slant Smooth, 24,26&28 Bread Pans, #1 Vienna, "O" Worlds Fair Griddle, 855 Service Plate, mint only, #5 Gem Pan w/logo & EPU. Call Dave at (814) 899-7926 or leave message.

FOR SALE: One of the larger & premiere collections of Griswold in the United States. Rare, one of a kind, museum pieces, sets of skillets, mixing bowls, griddles, waffle irons, etc. If you are looking for that special item, we may have it. Over a thousand different items, all in mint condition, too numerous to list all items. This is an award winning collection & has been featured in many magazines. Come visit us or call (717) 485-3412. Col. Richard Miller, RR #2, Box 172, McConnellsburg, PA 17233.

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: #8 Skillet, slant/Erie \$45; #9 Skillet, sm logo \$20; #10 Popover Pan \$25; #8 Hinged Deep Skillet, Small logo, p/n 2528 \$40; Skillet Cover #8, 1098C \$35; Hinged Double Skillet Top, has carbon deposits \$30; #4 Skillet, small logo \$2. **WAGNER FOR SALE:** "Wagner" Sidney O #11 skillet \$100; National #9 Skillet \$45; Fat Free Fryer \$40; Corn Stick pan 13 3/4 x 5 7/8" \$30; #10 Skillet, stylized logo 1060H \$20; #8 stylized logo 1058H \$15; #6 Skillet, stylized logo 1056V \$10. Pam Osborn, Box 15596, Santa Fe, NM 87506.....or call (505) 989-3575. UPS extra.

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: p/n 957 Corn Bread Pan #24, rarity 9, sell/trade. Dan Griggs, P.O. Box 299, Wallisville, TX 77597. (409) 389-2431.

WANTED: Wagner Pie Skillets. Please contact Josh Delp (610) 678-5384.

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: #16 Wide Band Gem Pan \$3150 or best offer; Lamb Cake Mold \$85; Rabbit Cake Mold \$270; #11 Waffle Iron w/Griswold Mfg EPU in raised letters, wood handles, high base \$160; #6 Dutch Oven, smooth top, block emb. \$175; #9 Brownie Golf Pan \$175; #262 Cornstick Pan \$60; #28 Whole Wheat Pan \$245, #28 Wheat & Corn Pan \$275; #17 Gem Pan fully mkd. \$150; #9 Golfball Pan w/p/n only \$80; #12 sm emb., SR Skillet \$35; #12 block/EPU w/SR Skillet \$70; #3 & #4 sm emb., grooved handle, red & cream porcelain skillets \$40 for both; ERIE Scotch Bowls w/Pat dates, #2 \$50, #5 \$65; #3 alum Oval Roaster Trivet, fully mkd. \$80; **WAGNER FOR SALE:** "Wagner" Toy Skillet \$55; "Wagner" #6 Handle Griddle \$70; W.W. Hot Pot w/lid, p/n 1363 \$85; W.W. Aluminum #6 Dutch Oven Btm, \$35 or will buy lid. Robert Karle, 344 Rt. 147, Middlefield, CT 06455. (860) 349-1212. Best time 8-9 PM Eastern.

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The Swap Shop

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GRISWOLD FOR SALE: #8 Muffin pan w/logo \$200; #19 golfball pan, full writing \$550; #140 Turkhead Pan \$200; #283 Stick Pan \$175; SR&Co Stick Pan (made by Griswold) \$95; #14 Skillet \$200; #12 Skillet, big logo \$95; #11 Skillet \$195; #6 Skillet, block w/SR \$100; #7 Dutch Oven, raised writing on cover, w/trivet \$125; GRISWOLD-ERIE Sadiron w/handle, nice, \$100; #1 Ice Shaver \$125; #10 Popover Pan, USN \$150; #8 3 leg Kettle \$45; #10 Dutch Oven, writing on top \$125; Skillet Rack \$300; Sq 2606 Skillet \$200. #866 Lambs \$95. Over 300 other pieces. Phone (541) 746-9456.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: GRISWOLD: 5 IN 1 Skillet \$150; No. 18 Heart Star Waffle \$165; American Waffle size 8&9 \$65; Waffle No. 7 \$60; Wafer Iron \$225; Gem Pans No. 15 #315, No. 272 \$135; Tite Top Dutch Oven w/ Cover #8 \$45, No. 9 \$60; Heart & Star alum Muffin Pan No. 100 \$365. **OTHER:** No. 30 open frame Turks Head Gem \$50; Wagner 'E' Muffin Pan \$45; Wagner 'EE' Muffin Pan \$60; Andersen Cornucopia Wafer Iron \$100; Griswold No. 12 slant logo waffle \$485. **WANTED:** No. 'O' Griswold Tea Kettle, 'O' Dutch Oven Cover & Trivet; 3 to 5 Cup Muffin Pans, unusual Filley, Wagner, and Favorite Gems as well as other makers. Want No. 6, 11 Filley Muffin Pans. Want Wagner Muffin #K, L, N, O, Handled 1 & 2. Also Griswold Gem Pans #1,2,3 logo 4, 5 and logo 7, 13, 14, 14 rectangular, 15, 16, 16 Wideband, 17, 17 Wideband, 20,26,Bread Pan, 50,100,280,2700,2800. Any 3 Cup Waterman. Also looking for anything in Cast iron. **TRADE:** Griswold No. 12 Waffle; Jaquette Bros. No. 3 Eggbeater, No. 15 Griswold Muffin Pan. Craig Dinner, Box 4399, Sunnyside, NY 11104-0399. (718) 729-3850.

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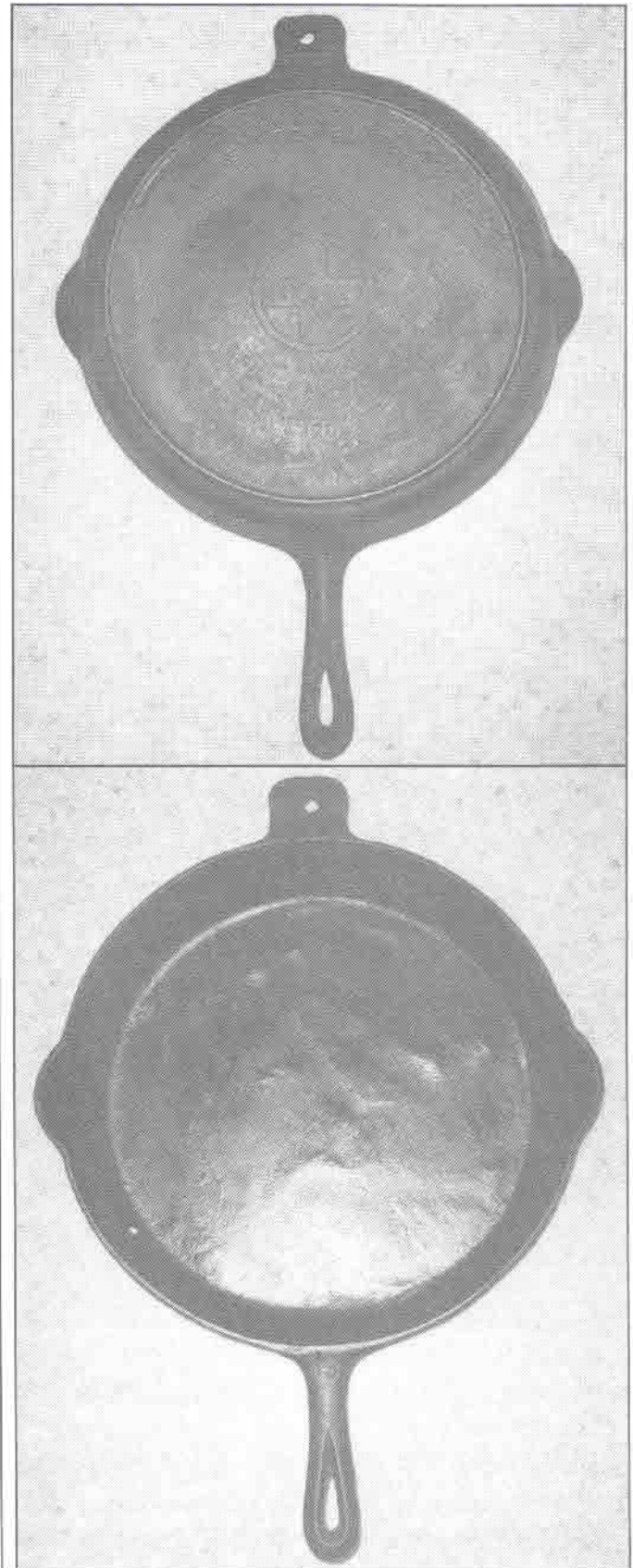
GRISWOLD FOR SALE: 'O' Dutch Oven w/knob cover handle, inside pitted, outside good \$450; 'O' Tea Kettle \$395; #11 Skillet, block EPU, small area of pitting on btm. \$150; Snack Skillet \$65; #27 Wheat or Corn, patent number \$275; 8&9 Waffle Iron, finger hinge \$125; Cliff Cornell Breakfast Skillet \$225; #7 Dutch Oven, raised letter cover w/applied handle \$65; #9 Deep Skillet, block EPU smooth btm. w/plain high dome cover \$145; #11 Erie Skillet \$125; Erie Was Ladle \$95. Alum Deer Platter, p/n A2083 w/ wood base \$125; #3 Patty Mold Set (w/patty bowl) in box \$125. **WAGNER:** Wafer Iron w/iron rod handle \$145; #5 Oval Roaster w/ringed cover (pg. 247 of The Book) \$225. **OTHER:** Mi-Pet Chicken Fryer \$75; Marietta Sauce Pan \$45; Marietta Glue Pot \$35. Dave Smith, P.O. Box B, Perrysburg, NY 14129. (716) 532-5154.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: NOV. 20th

Repro Alert!

Reproduction No. 13

Griswold Skillet: The casting quality is poor. Note the improper tab handle opposite the handle. Thanks to Chuck Wafford for submitting these photos.



ESTABLISHED IN 1865

THE GRISWOLD MANUFACTURING CO.

COOKING



UTENSILS

MARVIN E. GRISWOLD, PRES.
ELV GRISWOLD, VICE PRES.

R.W. GRISWOLD, TREASURER
B. M. OXToby, SECRETARY

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

January 5, 1925.

Mr. Frank Doyle

Port Leyden, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

We were very sorry to learn from your letter of December 30th that a #16 Bailed Griddle of our manufacture cracked while in use. Every product bearing Griswold trade mark is guaranteed to give satisfactory service to its user and we thank you for following out our policy in making replacement, free of charge, to your customer.

We are sending to you, by express prepaid, a new #16 Bailed Griddle which will be covered by our no charge invoice. When it is received we ask that you completely destroy the cracked griddle you have on hand as the transportation charges to our factory would amount to more than the scrap metal the griddle contains.

Very truly yours,

THE GRISWOLD MFG. CO.

NEM-AH

Original letter from the Griswold Mfg. Company

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

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