

KETTLES



COOKWARE®

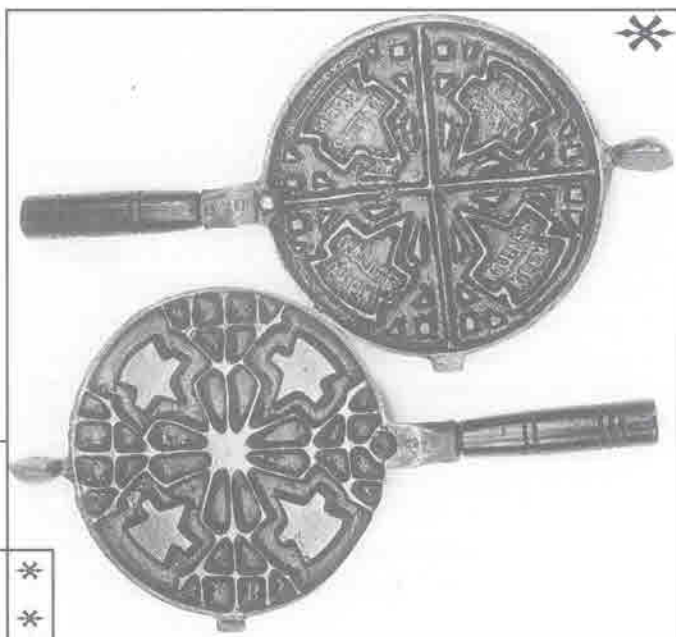
NOW IN ITS 9TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOY STORY

by L. Joel Schiff

Introduction: Since the article in Volume 8, No. 5 of Kettles 'n Cookware about identifying Toy Waffle Irons, the toy featured in this article was sent to me by a collector for my opinion. This piece is very confusing due to the very fine finish of this piece, with the exception of the interior pattern, which is very poor. It is also generally believed that a legitimate toy Keen Kutter was never manufactured. However, the quality of this piece seemed

BELOW: EC Simmons-Keen Kutter Toy Waffle Iron. The question is: is this piece legitimate?



ABOVE: Keen Kutter plates or paddles. The interior pattern is very ornate.

too good to be a reproduction. Consequently, I passed it on to the person who I feel has the very best knowledge about toy cast iron cookware pieces and has a meticulous diagnostic eye – Joel Schiff. He didn't let me down as you can see by the following article. The Stover Toy Waffle iron referred to in his article was illustrated on page 52 of KnC, Volume 8. – ed.

There seem to be more reproductions among the toys than any other area of cast iron cookware. And among these, there are possibly more different toy waffle iron repros – almost all of them in the '0'/practice' (3"+) size rather than the 'Toy #2/pretend (2"-) size – than any other toy category.

We have had a 'fantasy' Griswold 'Heart & Star' with nicely turned handles; and incredible numbers

(Continued on Page 39)

From The Editor

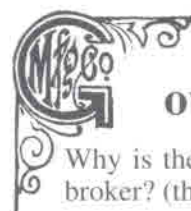
For the past couple of issues of *KnC* I have managed to gain a couple of days each issue, my goal being getting it mailed and delivered by the first of the second month for that issue. With this issue I take a giant step backwards. I just have too many things going on, not the least being the final review and edit of the new book. This plus our daughter getting married and a large family reunion all in the past two weeks have put a dent in my time to do *KnC*. Hopefully, things will slow down a bit from now on, but, I am probably being too optimistic.

The new *Book of Wagner & Griswold* (we flipped the title) has finally gone to the printer. The delivery date has now been set as mid November. Up to this point, the projected dates have been guesses. However, because of a number of delays and negotiations with the publisher, we have been unable to get it to print earlier. We refused to push the book along until it was the best possible product that we could do. We are now satisfied, and hope you will be also. I will do a review and announcement in the next issue of *KnC*. Also, Chuck and I have exclusive distribution rights for the first sixty days. This was negotiated so we can recover the thousands of dollars we have invested in its preparation.

On another note: Earlier this year I was contacted by a reader about a seller who had contacted him with several very desirable Griswold items for sale. The seller was Cheryl Hostetter from New Buffalo, Pa. For many of you, this would raise a red flag. Cheryl and Cleve Hostetter had been investigated by the G&CICA Ethics Committee and discharged from the Association for unethical dealing in cast iron, ie. swindling buyers. After contacting *KnC*, the reader then requested the pieces be shipped before he sent payment; the deal fell through. Apparently Hostetters were at it again.

June 3rd, I was contacted by Barbara Jeffries of Midland, Michigan. She is a collector of Moon & Star pattern glass. She had been contacted by Cheryl Hostetter who apparently had found her name in the Moon & Star glass book. You guessed it; she had sent payment to Cheryl Hostetter and received no merchandise. Indeed, Hostetters are at it again!

Be careful out there. — Dave



To ponder over morning coffee...

Why is the man who invests your money called a broker? (that shouldn't be a mystery to anyone!)

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians should be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked and dry cleaners depressed?



The KnC Iron Net

Email addresses - New listings are in **bold**

David G. Smith	panman@utec.net
Mike Allen	mallen@wilbankscorp.com
Don Arner	donarner@biosensors.net
D.K. Axley	dkaxley@hotmail.com
Joannie Baldini	thespider1@aol.com
Tom Beadleston	uptotime@msn.com
Dick Barnes	rbarnes@endor.com
Dave Bollinger	dbollinger@stny.rr.com
Dick Bradford	alaskaantiques@webtv.net
Grady H. Britt, Jr	ghbjr@vnet.net
Steve Buis	mila@goldrush.com
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Doug Guynn	DDGUYNN@aol.com
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Lou & Nancy Wright	ecoacres@msn.com
Patricia Young	GRISANA@aol.com

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



The Melting Pot

Dear Dave: Enclosed are photos of the Wagner piece we discussed on the phone. You identify this in *The Book* as a double casserole. What makes it a "double"? Is there more to this piece? Is the knob on the lid original? Can you give me a ball park circa and value? Incidentally, I use a cloth buffing wheel on a 1/2 horse, 3600 RPM motor and Novis 2 buffing compound (found in plexiglass outlets). It is a polish intended for plexiglass but works great on aluminum. Also enclosed are photos of a gas hot plate I picked up last week shown with a #2 skillet for size comparison. Casting is excellent, gas is fed through wood handle. Can you tell me anything about it? -RC



RC: 1) You have two pieces of a four part set when complete. There is another dish and cover which sandwich with these two. These are very similar to the Griswold double casserole. I would date them in the late 20's and 30's. It appears to me the knob is original. Also, thanks for the tip on polishing! 2) I know nothing about the little gas burner. Perhaps some our readers can offer some info. -ed.

Dave: I have what I was told was a very old #14 Chuckwagon pot (cast iron) marked 14 00 or CO, Made in USA and the letter D. I was told that it could not be old because no cast iron pots were marked USA before 1960.

Is this true? I thought maybe it could be an early Lodge pot, but now I am not so certain. Thanks. -DL



DL: My rule-of-thumb is that no pieces were marked USA before 1970; however, I suppose it is possible that mark was used by 1960. From the marking, I would guess your Chuckwagon Dutch oven was made by Lodge, or if the cover has a solid lifter (handle) with a hole through it, it is Century Ware made by the Birmingham Stove &

(Continued
on Page 38)

The Melting Pot

(Continued from Page 37)

Range Co. -ed.

Hi David: Have you ever seen or heard of a tin cover for the #2 toy scotch bowl? It also fits the #2 three legged pot and probably the flat bottom kettle. I bought the scotch bowl with cover attached. There's a little tab that holds it on. This cover was made with a punch and die and not hand made. I was a tool and die maker for 17 years and after close examination I have come to this conclusion. Much thanks. -JH

JH: You have a great find! If you will go to page 74 of The Book of Griswold & Wagner you will find a patent

drawing which illustrates a cover which will fit the configuration of the kettle ears where the bail fastens to the kettle. Yours is identical to that drawing. Note how the tab on the cover fits under the kettle ear. My guess is that yours was used as a salesman's sample. Again, what a great find!! -ed.

Dave: I have a question about this monk pan that I have... this pan is very similar to the ones pictured on page 136 of the Griswold Muffin Pan book. It has the same slotted handle, same dimple where the handle meets the pan, same rim and diameter. However, my pan does not have any p/n or Andresen Monk Pan markings. On top of the pan, if I were to hold the pan up above its handle, at an 8 o'clock position on the face of the pan there is a raised, curved, rectangular block (1 3/4" long by 1/2" wide) on which there is raised lettering, AA&CO. At a 10 o'clock position, there is another raised block on which there is raised lettering, MPLS. If you flip the pan over, at a 12 o'clock position opposite the handle are a pair of incised 1/2" letters IW or it could be 1W. I figure this must be an Andresen pan because of what the markings say (I assume it's Alfred Andresen & Co, Minneapolis) and its exactness to the pans in the muffin pan book. What I can't figure out is, if Andresen never made their own items, then who made this pan? Did Griswold make this before they used part numbers, as in their early "ERIE" skillets? Or did some other company make this before Griswold stepped in? I appreciate your help on this. -JM

JM: It is generally believed that Griswold was not the only manufacturer for Andresen. Also, the style you refer to is generally a Scandinavian style piece. It would be very easy to make the square plate you describe and fasten it to the pattern to individualize the piece for a particular company or distributor. In fact, this was commonly done. It appears that Griswold adopted this style piece in its early production. This is evidenced by the pattern numbers



found on these pieces, pattern numbers which later showed up on their own styles. Who made the particular piece you have? I don't know. But I do believe it was not Griswold. -ed.

Dave: The inside of this ERIE #12 skillet has casting flaws but no cracks. The back appears to have had the molten iron roughly spread or perhaps molten iron spilled on this skillet. A magnet will adhere to it and I don't think it is a repair. As you can see, it covers about half the surface area on the back and covers the CEI, in ERIE. What do you think? Have you seen this before? -RP

RP: The deterioration of the center of the bottom is caused by the skillet being used exposed directly to the fire box on the stove. This is accomplished by removing the lid of the stove top. Over a period of time, the chemicals (particularly sulfur, I believe) in the burning coal or wood eats away at the iron causing the rough surface. This is actually quite common on early skillets. -ed.



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Toy Story

(Continued from Front Cover)

of repro 'Wagner 1910s', an occasional Wapak, and E.C. Simmons/'Keen Kutter' fakes — all with fat, short, snub/thumb wooden handles that are round on the outside and flat on the inside. There are also reports of similar Stover repros but I don't recall seeing any, and with the number of toy 'Stover Juniors' readily available, many still available in their boxes, one wonders why 'they' would bother. Compared with the legitimate toy waffles/wafer irons, all of the fakes are of uniformly rough texture, particularly on the inside (fortunately, so far a general feature of most repros).

Now another toy E.C. Simmons/Keen Kutter waffle has come up and this one is really puzzling.

All together, the set (including the base, and the 'solid' raised logo and 'open'/indented logo pattern paddles) weighs 1 1/2 lb. In comparison, the toy Stover weighs 1 1/4 lb. While, due to casting variation, not too much emphasis should be put on 'weights', when a piece is finely cast, getting an idea of the 'weight range' may be helpful. At present, I know of only this one example of the Simmons Keen Kutter toy waffle iron.

Considering the base/frame, and the plates/paddles separately, I think that it may be useful to first indicate a few of the standard features, to provide a context to what appears to be different and/or special.

The Base: The base weighs 7 oz., the same as the Stover, which NB appears to be smaller but thicker.

In this newly found Simmons/Keen Kutter waffle, the open space across the top of the 'collar' is 4" ID (4 7/8" OD across the outside of the grease trough at the bottom) x 7 1/4" L. from the outside of the bottom grease trough to the tip of the base's skillet handle x 7/8" high at the collar (1" tall at the ball socket). Equivalent measures for the Stover are 3 7/8" ID at the top x 7" L. x 3/4" high at the collar (1 1/8" tall at the ball socket).

1) The Keen Kutter base is exceptionally smooth — all over — inside and out.

2) The 'tolerances' of the frame are also very fine, the collar being only 3/32" thick where it surrounds the plates. (That on the Stover Junior is closer to 1/8").

3) The 'handle cuff' (that cradles the 'handle neck' on the paddles where the handle joins the plates) has the typical Stover form of a raised W which 'centers' the indented 'handle neck' on the paddles to help keep the turned plates flat. But, a) The raised center triangle/wedge of the 'W' in this base is much thinner and finer than the thicker wedge on other Stover-type bases; while b) Overall the 'W' 'handle neck cuff' is also broader (3/4" W. at the top, 7/16" W. at the bottom) than that in the toy Stover (approximately. 5/8" W. at the top, and 3/8" W. at the bottom).

4) The 'ball socket/cuff' [fig. 3] which serves to hold the 'ball hinge' of the plates, is also thin and fine, but here has a solid, continuous, circular socket, without the open 'V'/slit in the back of the other Stover-type ball sockets. However, a fake may have the same type of 'ball socket/cuff'.

5) The 'stop tab cuff' is also substantially larger here

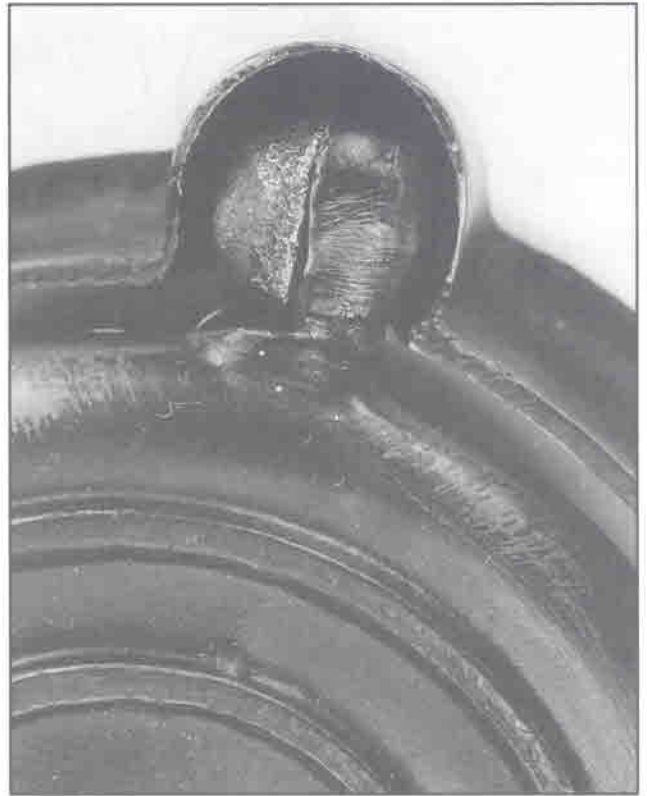


Figure 3



Figure 4: Bone or ring handle. Notice the wear and smooth patina.

(Continued on Page 42)



The Swap Shop

KEY:

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

WAGNER FOR SALE: #2 Skillet, stylized logo \$90; #13 Skillet with c/n 1063 \$375; 1508 Baking Dish \$225; #9 Deep Skillet c/n 1089 & Lid c/n 1082 & 1070 \$150; 'O' Bailed Griddle \$110; 'O' Tea kettle \$125; 'O' Skillet \$40; #975 Butter Paddle \$15; Senior Cornstick in Aluminum \$35; Cheese Slicer c/n 300 \$75; Bundt Pan marked W. WARE, B & c/n 1310 \$225; 'A' Gem Pan marked 'A' only \$45; #1327 Art Deco hammered T-Kettle \$40; (2) Speckled Porcelain Ashtrays, mint condition, two for \$45; Hinged Double Skillet Lid only \$35.

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: Griswold fully marked aluminum Pup \$250; Loaf Pan \$350; #9 Puritan Handled Griddle, p/n 1509 \$40; #666 red & Cream Colonial Breakfast Skillet, mint condition, \$100; #27 aluminum Wheatstick \$100; #10 aluminum Popover Pan \$55; Royal Host Advertising Ashtray \$95; #s 5, 7, 8, & 10 Button Logo Skillet Lids (black iron) 4 pc.s for \$575; #s 7, 8 & 9 Dutch Oven Trivets, 3 for \$100; #5 Oval Roaster Trivet \$125. Call Dave at 814-899-7926. Best time 9:00 - 10:00 PM Eastern.

GRISWOLD WANTED: Cover, p/n 2554 for No. 11 Dutch Oven, p/n 836. Don Dolezal, 7406 W. Villa Theresa Dr., Glendale, AZ 85308. (602) 938-5382.

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: #2700 wheat Stick Pan \$335; One Set of Finger Hinge French Waffle Paddles w/Wood Handles - No Pattern Numbers \$125; #3 Low Smooth Skillet cover (deplated) on Small TM Late Handle Skillet \$395; Brown Wood Skillet Display Rack \$395; Aluminum Wood Handle Griddle Block TM \$15; #8 Pressed Aluminum Dutch Oven Trivet \$10. **WAGNER FOR SALE:** #0 Skillet marked "WAGNER" \$55; #0 Bailed Griddle Stylized Logo \$100; #4342 Large Magnalite Sizzling Platter w/Original Oak Handles \$25. **MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE:** Ober #1 Toy Flat Iron \$150; Wapak #2 Toy Flat Iron \$85. We are always

interested in Iron Wood Handle Skillets and Griddles by any major manufacturer. All "for Sale" pieces are of black iron unless otherwise noted. Buyer pays postage and insurance. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. Contact PAT & GRANT WINDSOR, P.O. Box 72606, Richmond, VA 23235-8017. (804) 320-0386

GRISWOLD FOR SALE OR TRADE: Aunt Ellen Cookbook (1928)—\$115; Small logo #4's—Late or Grooved Handle- \$30 ea.; #9 skillet lid (p/n 469-fully marked)—\$85; No. 18 Popover Pan (Var. 6)- \$75 (or trade for other Var.). **WAGNER CAST IRON FOR SALE OR TRADE:** Pie Logo No. 3 skillet— \$22; No. 4 WW s/r skillets w/ and w/o c/n— \$45. No. 4 no s/r w c/n— \$65. No. 11 "WAGNER" (arc) skillet— \$95; "R" Pan (c/n 1336), no cut outs— \$48; No 10 top writing skillet cover (c/n 1070)—\$150. **WAGNER ALUMINUM FOR SALE OR TRADE:** Sizzling Steak Platters (hammered), c/n 3441—\$18.; Sizzling Platters, c/n 4342— \$18; Sizzling Host Platter, c/n 4343—\$22. Coffee Scoop (c/n 911)—\$20.; MISC.: Fully marked "R" pan, solid, c/n 478—\$26; Solid Handle Ice Cream Spade (w/o c/n 940, as found)—\$65; Cheese Slicer w/ or w/o c/n 300 choice for \$95; Long Flat Spoon (c/n 711)—\$55; Spoon with Hook (13 in., No. 6, c/n 714 but no c/n)—\$35; Tom and Jerry Ladle (c/n 717, with hook but unnumbered)—\$32; Lard Ladle(c/n 975)—\$18; Spatula (c/n 972 but unnumbered)—\$35; Picnicker—\$57. **WAGNER SKILLET COVERS WANTED:** Ringed Top— No. 14 (c/n 1073); Covers With Knob— any size. **CAST IRON SKILLETS WANTED:** SIDNEY— No. 0 and No. 2. and all marked with the script logo, except Nos. 8, 9 and 11; **GRISWOLD'S ERIE** skillets (all but Nos. 6, 7 and 9). **MISC. FOR SALE OR TRADE:** Stover Jr. Waffle Iron—\$125. Vollrath No.8 lid w large inside writing— \$55. Shipping extra. Contact John W. Wright, POB 3640, Prescott, AZ 86302, 520/445-3639 or wright@northlink.com.

GRISWOLD FOR SALE: Griswold Santa Mold, Excellent Condition with Tongue and Casting line in Toy Sack, \$535; Griswold No.31, fully marked Variation 4, Excellent Condition, \$175; Griswold "O" Skillet Red and Cream Porcelain Exc., \$50; Griswold No. 17 French Roll Exc., \$130; Griswold No. 0 Rectangular Waffle Iron "BASE Only", Exc., \$360; Griswold No.9 Hammered Griddle Exc...\$120; Griswold No.15 Oval skillet, Excellent, \$235; Griswold No. 28 Wheat Pan, Var.1, \$235; Griswold No.16 Wide Band Muffin Pan, Excellent, \$1920; Griswold / Skinner Marked Odorless Skillet, \$200.

(Continued on Page 41)

The Swap Shop

(Continued from Page 40)

WAGNER FOR SALE: WW Little Gem Muffin Pan ALUMINUM, \$110; WW Twin Waffle Iron 1892 Dates, Exc. \$200. **WANTED:** Atlantic Bread Pans; Barstow Stove Bread Pans; 6 Cup Cloverleaf Donut Mold; Waffle Irons with Unusual Patterns inside; Waterman 3 Cup Muffin Pans; Waterman Waffle Irons; Tilter Tea Kettles. Prices do not include shipping. Robert Karle, 344 RT.147, Middlefield, CT 06455. Phone Best Time 8-9 PM Eastern Time. Email bkarle@prodigy.net

GRISWOLD: Chicken Pan & Lid sm logo, smooth lid \$70 Iron Mtn. Chicken Pan & Lid \$60, #9 Skillet Lid, full writing \$60; #9 Dutch Oven, full writing \$65; "Prototype" #15 Oval Skillet Lid as appeared in KnC with full markings of a late #5 Oval roaster but cast 3/8" longer on each end & a tab cast outside the seal rim for a snug fit...think only a few were made \$550; #8 1295 Dutch Oven bottom only (takes glass lid) \$25; #10 Skillet sm logo \$35; 18 #8 Griswold Dutch Ovens (1 is aluminum) - all different variations - will make an attractive price for the lot for about a week or sell as singles thereafter.

WAGNER: #9 Aluminum Dutch Oven, full writing \$35; #480 Alum muffin pan \$12. **MAGNALITE:** #4240 Dutch Oven, 4506 Skillet & Lid (extra nice), another no lid, 3 skillet/sauce pan lids 7.5" 8.5" & 9.5", Loop Handle Dutch Oven, lid...whole lot \$50; **OTHER:** Wax ladle looks like Erie only long slender loop handle, no mark \$14; **SWAP:** any of the above + or - \$ for Griswold Santa, 4 qt. Alum Sauce pan, #15 Roll pan, slant chicken pan, Wagner #6 Dutch Oven, w' concentric rings, Wagner #9. Call with wants. Rich Weingarten, 22412 Delhi Ave., Port Charlotte, FL 33952. H: 941-743-7183, O: 941-575-3674 rich.weingarten@co.charlotte.fl.us

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Sept. 15th



Heavy Metal News

Paul and Bunny Baker presented the "Cooking With Griswold" workshop at the 1999 G&CICA Convention held in Rochester, New York. Since then, Paul and Bunny have presented the "Cooking With Griswold" demonstrations for local Historical Societies and as special guests at area antique shows. The cooking demonstration is done from a custom cart built by Paul which includes a propane-fueled Griswold hot plate and a Griswold Bolo Oven. In May of this year, they were featured in the local city of Auburn (NY) newspaper. The Bakers have a significant Griswold collection and enjoy using their cast iron daily.



Casting Call



This Griswold No. 9 Tite Top Baster has a slant EPU marking. The unusual thing is the layout of the Erie Pa. USA. This piece was shipped to the KnC editor. Go to the last page to see how it arrived.

If you have an item you would like featured in Casting Call, send a clear photo and a brief description.



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Toy Story

(Continued from Page 39)

than in the Stover.

6) In both this Simmons/Keen Kutter waffle and the Stover Junior, the grease trough (1/4" W.) around the base stops at the side of (ie. does not extend around) the ball socket housing. But the Keen Kutter iron's grease trough is only very slightly indented to catch the grease runoff (about 1/16") considering its thickness (about 1/4" high); while that in the Stover seems more well defined/'grooved out'.

7) This KK base's 'skillet' handle [fig. 4] (extending 2 15/16" out from the side of the grease trough) has the Stover form in its flattened handle neck (7/16" vs. the Stover's 3/8" min. W.), but, a) In general has a fuller, more rounded and 'sculptural' form at the handle neck than the usual Stover handle, and b) Has a much, much larger, almost rounded ellipse/ovoid () 'hanging hole' (11/8" L. x 3/8" max. W.), with an approximately 1/8" bevel around the hanging hole, running along both the top and underside of the hole, for its entire length (vs. the 1" L. x 5/16" max. W. of the Stover's ovoid teardrop).

It appears that the fake has this same form of 'hanging hole', so only a comparison of their aspect and dimensions is likely to show if there is a difference other than in the degree of external polish/finishing.

8) The black paint on the base of this Keen Kutter is probably not 'Japanning' in its usual sense, as: a) It is occasionally 'streaked' [fig. 5] and comes off too easily (especially on angled surfaces), indicating that it is not a baked glass/enamel, and b) While partially rubbed off around the hanging hole where the fingers might contact the handle, it is



Figure 5: The outside of the paddles is very smooth. Also note the streaked wear.



Figure 6

not rubbed off either around the bottom of the base or other places where the paddles would be expected to contact/scrape against the base. If this is an old piece, it is then a bit surprising that it was apparently picked up a lot, while seemingly not much 'dragged' over a surface, or 'worked' with the paddles.

The Plates/Paddles: The weight is 1 lb. 2 oz. together — around 9 oz. each, compared to the Stovers' weighing approximately 14 oz. together, 7 1/2 oz. separately.

The plates are 3 13/16" diameter (not including the 'stop tab') x around 11/16" thick together (not including the raised rings on the outside of each plate). The Stover dimensions are 3 3/4" D. x 9/16" thick when both plates are put together.

The outside of the plates [fig. 6] have 2 raised circles (2 7/8"D for the outer, 2"D for the inner), each circle being 1/8" + wide, and raised 1/16" up from the

(Continued on Page 43)

Toy Story

(Continued from Page 42)

outer surface, with "E.C.", and "Simmons" set raised, in 2 lines within the inner circle. For comparison, the circles on the Stover are 3 1/16" W. for the outer, 2 5/16" W. for the inner.

The insides of the Simmons' plates have the traditional, 4 section, very intricate either 'solid', or 'open' 'Keen Kutter' logo pattern (the logo looking like an 'upside-down' version of 'The Little King', for those who remember that '40s-'50s Sunday cartoon character).

The 'solid' pattern [fig. 7] has the Keen Kutter logo as a solid raised 'knob' form surrounded by a larger logo outline, with a stylized lattice-work design bridging between each of the four sections.

In the 'open' form [fig. 8], the logo is an outline with "Keen Kutter" inset in miniature, in raised, reversed letters, so as to make a waffle come out with the correct 'reading'. Surrounding the logo, 8 square and triangular knobs 'fill' the space to the section divider.

The 'open' paddle has a substantial raised 'centering knob' inside (3/16" W x 1/8" up, vs. the Stover's much smaller 1/8" W. x 1/16" up), where the 'handle neck' joins the plate; while a 'receiving pit/indentation' is molded at the complementary position on the opposing 'solid' logo plate. In the KK iron, this 'dimple' interrupts the



Figure 7: Solid pattern



Figure 8: Open form or pattern

circumference/edge of the plate, while in the Stover, the 'pit' lies inside this border.

Also inside, on the flat part of the 'handle neck', the 'open' plate seems to be marked with an indented 'B' (1/8" lg.), while the 'solid' plate sports a 'C' in that position. While the base does not seem to bear any mark, one likelihood is that it is the 'A' form, while another possibility is that the 'B' and 'C' markings are just 'quality control' marks.

The outside of the 'handle neck' has the standard Stover 'recessed rectangle'. This, as indicated earlier, fits over the 'W' in the 'handle neck cuff' on the base to stabilize the paddles (along with help from the stop tabs) in the horizontal position after they have been turned. In this KK waffle, the 'recessed rectangle' inside is surprisingly wide (3/8" IW); while in the Stover, it is much smaller (1/4" IW.)

1) The outside of the plates of the Keen Kutter are exceptionally smooth [fig. 5, 6 & 8].

2) In contrast, the inside – especially of the 'open' pattern paddle – is quite rough and poorly cast! It might be thought that perhaps the intricacy of the pattern, being set in such a small space, made the mold difficult to cast or 'release'. But as this roughness/poor casting extends even to the top of the waffle rim, as well as the inside of

(Continued on Page 44)



Figure 9: Stop tabs appear poorly cast and are barely long enough to touch the receiver in the base.

Toy Story

(Continued from Page 43)

the 'stop tabs' and the handle cylinder, it is likely that no 'finishing/parting agents' were used to make the inside pattern well defined and smooth, as they almost certainly were on the outside.

3) The semi-circular 'stop tab' (5/16" W. x 3/16" out x 1/8" thick; set half-way between the handle and ball hinge) forms a cylinder (about 7/16" thick) when the two paddles are put together. a) However, the 'stop tabs' are only barely long enough to touch the 'stop tab cuffs' on the base [fig. 9]. b) And although fairly rough at their ends, they don't look either broken or ground down. Both of the above would then seem to be the result of either poor design, or bad molding. Conceivably, since other mold 'gates' are not apparent, if the 'stop tab' openings were used to funnel the metal into the rest of the mold, and too little melt was allowed, when the iron solidified, the tabs would have become too short.

4) The 'ball hinge' at the top of each plate is a flat hemisphere, set facing 'right' (on each open/upturned plate); so when the two plates are set together, facing each other, the two hemispheres form a complete ball. Since each half hinge is raised at right angles to the plane of its plate, each has a mold line marking that half of the ball which was contributed by the inner vs. outer pattern when the waffle was made.

a) As with the outside of both plates, the outside half of each of the ball hinges also seems smoother than that part contributed by the inside patterns. This once again indicates that the results from the inner patterns did not get nearly as good a finishing as those for the paddle's exterior.

b) A mold line between these two halves on each ball seems the only place with any evidence of grind in the entire waffle. That is, while we do not have the usual grind generally associated with either late production or current reproduction, there is also no clear evidence of

early 'gates' that might have been finished by grinding or filing.

c) The inside half of each ball is larger than the outer half. But this KK ball hinge is considerably larger (5/8" D.) than that of the Stover (1/2" D.). Parenthetically, the ball on the 'open' patterned plate has been broken off, and glued back on (likely with either epoxy or crazy glue — so in addition to not being struck at that location, it is probably a good idea not to heat the iron). The gluing was fairly competent, but the two ball halves are now not closely aligned.

5) The wooden handles [fig. 10] are 2 1/8" l. x 1/2" max. w. at the end, vs. the Stover 2" l. x 7/16" w. They are screwed onto a post extending from the handle cylinder. In contrast to the snub/thumb handles on the known Simmons/KK fake (as well as all except the bogus Griswold 'Heart & Star' toy waffle), the handles here are tapered dowels, painted black, with no metal ferrule at the top. They furthermore have an inner pair of decorative turned rings (set 5/8" out from the 'handle neck'; 1/8" apart), and an outlying set of 3 rings (1 1/2" out from the neck, so the last ring is 3/8" in from the end of the handle). In these last 2 features they are like most of the Stover variations (although a few have some extra shaping towards the inner area of the handles).

In these '0' size toy waffles, the handles (as most of the Stover variety) appear not quite up to the Griswold, Wagner etc. finishing. But although it would not be hard to fake a decent pair of wooden handles, if this has been done, it was likely done 'after market', by a specific individual. Those producing the wholesale fakes coming in from Taiwan so far haven't appeared to bother.

All told, it seems that the base is exceptionally smooth and finely cast, as is the outside of the plates; while the inside of the paddles is almost terrible. Yet, the plates and many of the features of this Simmons/KK toy waffle are both larger, and occasionally distinct from those of the legitimate Stover iron.

The inside pattern of the standard E.C. Simmons/Keen Kutter waffles are extremely intricate. The early versions did not contain the "Keen Kutter" inscription inside the logo added in the later years. Yet on the notion that 'more sells better' (a modern reversion to the Victorian paradigm), so far all of the repros, whether of the regular #8 size, or the fake toy, have all been of this late form (which contains the inscription).

The bottom line would then seem to be: was the fake toy originally made from some legitimate prototype — of which the above might be our first authentic example

(Continued on Page 45)

Toy Story

(Continued from Page 44)



Figure 10

— or was it a scaled down version of something that was never originally produced (like the ‘fantasy’ toy Griswold hearts & star waffle)?

While faking a mold might appear pricey, when one is going into mass production — witness the flood of stuff coming out of Taiwan — the mold cost is trivial. The initial mold patterns could have been easily handmade by very competent, inexpensive woodcarvers — such as all traditional cultures have in plenty (including the erstwhile American immigrant and frontier society that made our foundry patterns). But with modern computerized laser sculpting (instead of Industrial Revolution pantographs and pattern lathes), image capture, reduction and/or alteration, and pattern production is a snap. Practically anything can be reproduced.

Yet as both Marx and Darwin noted in different ways, the cost is not in production, but in reproduction — how much effort and ‘finesse’ is worthwhile putting into each and every result? Considering the necessary investment, how low can one go and still remain competitive, considering the profit/success? So far Taiwan hasn’t wanted to have money chase after quality.

On the flip side, where one is not talking about mass production, although the ‘middle position’ of the ‘back yard repro’ is probably not here an issue, there is also the possibility of the ‘art fake’ — where part of the con is not just the intermittent profit, but the ability to do it and carry it off. But why then ‘shoot yourself in the foot’ with a crummy internal pattern? With that much competence, why not just ‘do it right’?

Assuming that Stover made both its own and the

Simmons/KK toy waffle (as that for Arcade) — or a Stover prototype was used for the pattern — and in reproduction the iron generally shrinks, and has coarser and poorer tolerances, the presence of so many larger, fine, and perhaps distinct features would suggest authenticity. Yet the quite coarse character of the inside patterns is a problem.

If the Taiwan fakes turn out to have roughly the same aspect and dimensions, one possibility is that a fake was used as ‘raw material’ and carefully ‘sand blasted’ with a finishing ‘media’ until the outside was as smooth as the proverbial ‘baby’s bottom’. With all of the small obstructions on the inside, a similar smoothing without catching some of the corners of things and creating a problem (destroying features, cratering, holing) would have been much more difficult — a good reason why the inside remained rough. This would also account for the apparent black-paint ‘pseudo-Japaning’ that seems to be quite different from that on the eg. Stover pieces.

Still, the amount of time, effort, and money needed to do the great job that we see here on the outer surfaces, one would generally think prohibitive. While one of the fakes would thus seem to be needed to check the dimensions, another question is whether the quality of the Taiwan metal is good enough to allow it to be finely finished. At present ‘the game is still afoot’ — or at least not firmly to hand. □

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(From Page 41)



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