

Glass Jars Reveal

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disk on threaded jar.

One section of the exhibit also includes a display of some containers which preceded glass. When used, these crocks were filled with the food which was to be preserved and sealed with wax.

Manufacturing glass jars, she says, began with hand-blown processes. These jars can be identified by their ground tops — in contrast to the smooth-lipped machine-made jars.

According to collector Gallo-way, the market for canning supplies became very popular, with hundreds of patents and competing companies—all of which makes a great history and adds interest for a collector. Included in that variety are small versions of the jars probably given away promotional pieces such as banks and salt and pepper shakers.

Some of the company names from the earlier era are still familiar, like Ball. Other names relate to the area of geographic origin, like Keystone, a Philadelphia based company. Atlas, Hero Fruit Jar Company, Consolidated Fruit Jar Company and the Mason Fruit Jar

Company are a few of the other names you might see on jars in the exhibit.

The experimenting by manufacturers also led to what attracted Laurie to collecting in the first place: the colors in the glass.

"Early jars were darker colors such as amber and cobalt blue," she said, "which was better for food preservation, but made it difficult to see the contents of the jar. Subsequent colors range through yellow, green, and blue." Some jars are even pink, she continues. This coloration came from adding too much manganese as the manufacturers sought a clearer, colorless glass.

Laurie is also interested in pieces related to the manufacturing of the jars. The exhibit includes an early shipping box for 12 pint jars, boxes of lids, and related supplies.

In our age where machine made uniformity can be mind-numbing, collectors look for the unusual: Bubbles, swirls or whittle marks. These probably would have been considered flaws by the glass workers, but can now add to a specimen's beauty and are prized

by collectors.

In her collecting, Laurie has also discovered and named a process which destroys a jar's value: *pickling*. When there is a chemical reaction between food and the jar which discolors the glass, it becomes nearly impossible to clean the jar. She thinks this is caused by long exposure to specific foods. And as a collector, it makes the risk high when considering a jar which is dirty or has food in it. However, a jar with a closure has about twice the value as the same jar without the lid.

Will Laurie ever discover that \$10,000 has hidden in the shadows of the antique shop or in a box at a flea market? She really doesn't know, but carries her *Collectors Guide Red Book No. 7* with her to consult whenever she is considering a purchase.

You can see the more ordinary specimens at West Overton until the season ends this fall on October 16.



Munchsters Lead New Pork Effort

CHICAGO, Ill. — The pork industry is continuing its push to educate children about nutrition by employing a lovable, furry bunch of creatures called the Munchsters.

Geared toward preschool children, the nutrition program is funded by the pork checkoff in partnership with the beef industry. Inclusion of Munchsters into the pork education program is a direct result of the Youth Initiative, which was adopted by the pork industry in 1993. This plan established age and message priorities as well as program reach and meat attitude goals.

"Younger children are our top-priority age group because of their ability to absorb new information. We want to instill a strong basis now to assure a consumer marketplace that will realize the many positive nutritional attributes of pork," said Lowell Gemar, a pork producer from North Dakota and

chairman of the Pork Information Committee of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. "This is an opportunity to help them build strong nutrition skills and at the same time influence lifetime healthy eating habits that include meat."

Munchsters kits are being distributed to child-care centers with a learning program and to pre-schools. They feature colorful drawings of the Munchsters involved in activities that help children learn about food and the importance of eating a well-balanced diet for good health and growth.

Included are five full-color posters with a lesson plan and language and cooking activities on the reverse side, a teacher's guide, poster for the parent bulletin board and parent handouts. The role of meat in a healthy diet is shown on the cover of each poster and included in the recipes inside.

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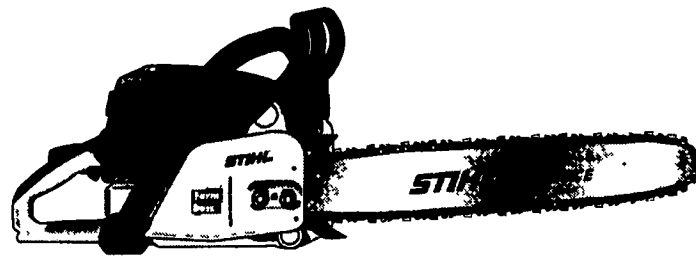
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