



Historic Middleton *The Skinner Depression-Era Glass Collection*



Jean Skinner

The Skinner Depression-Era Glass Collection

housed at the Rowley House Museum in Middleton, Wisconsin was created by Jean C. Skinner (1923-2011), a founding member and a long-time volunteer at the Middleton Area Historical Society. In addition to her passions for genealogy, poultry and collecting Christmas decorations, Jean recognized the importance of the affordable glassware associated with the hard economic times of the 1930s, and she added Depression glass to her collecting interests. The collection she gave to MAHS has been enlarged by her friends and by the Depression Era Glass Society of Wisconsin. The collection now includes examples of over 150 patterns, and it is widely recognized as one of the best such collections in the Upper Midwest.

Depression Glass was an American machine manufactured glass produced from the 1920s through the 1940s and distributed in the United States and Canada. It was used to introduce cheap and often free colored glass as an incentive to patronize a company and allowed formerly unattainable glassware to be collected by the average person. Dish nights were popular at the movies, where glassware would be put out, with new pieces each week. Boxes of cereal and laundry soap often contained Depression glass pieces with the product. More pieces could be bought in the same pattern at your local grocery store.



Dancing Nymphs, Consolidated Glass Co.



*Middleton Area Historical Society, Middleton, Wisconsin
www.middletonhistory.org
Rowley House Museum, 7410 Hubbard Avenue
Middleton Depot Tourism Center, 1811 Parmenter Street*

One of the more interesting pieces of the more than 150 patterns, of Depression Era glass, at the Rowley House Museum is this Shirley Temple Black pitcher. As a child star, Shirley Temple, was a top box-office draw from 1935-1938. General Mills contracted with Hazel Atlas Glass and U.S. Glass

companies to produce this cobalt blue pitcher (left) as part of a breakfast set which included a mug, bowl and pitcher. The mug was the most popular giveaway being only available in a box of Bisquick. The cereal bowl and milk pitcher could be purchased from stores or through the mail.



Hazel Atlas Glass Co.
Shirley



Anchor Hocking Glass Company
Royal Ruby
1938
Plain Ruby Glass



U.S. Glass Company
Flower Garden and Butterflies
1925
Floral and Butterflies

Hazel Atlas Glass Company
1930s
Ships

