A Cap for What?

By Barry L. Bernas

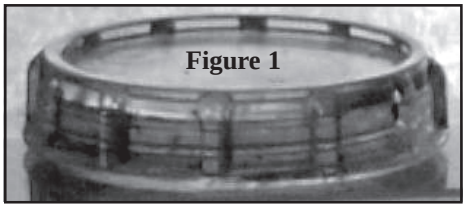
Are Clues Helpful?

From the time I began to write about the Anchor, Capstan and Perfection Glass Companies, I always was a staunch believer in the principle that a set of clues would eventually create a path which led to an answer for any pressing question concerning these firms or the glassware their hands turned out. Regardless of the source, these vital snippets of data could usually be amalgamated to suggest a plausible response to the query at hand.

Once again, I'm going to test my belief by putting it to work against an identification problem. Hopefully, my theory will be successful and, in turn, adequately address the question posed as the title of this article.

Crux of the Issue

An unidentified glass screw cap is pictured in **Figure 1**. It came to me via June Lowry of Raymore, Missouri. For several years, June has been on the lookout for specific styles of glass caps that were made to the specifications of patents issued either to William B. Fenn and Russell Uhl or inspired by the former gentleman. She thought the example in Figure 1 might fit the criteria.



General Characteristics

The general characteristics of this cover are as follows: height – 5/8 inch; outer diameter – 2 7/8 inches; inner diameter – 2 ½ inches or 63 millimeters; embossing – none; weight – one and three-fourth ounces and profile - resembles a Hat model in the SIMPLEX in a diamond line.[1]

Five Parts to this Screw Cap

Now let's look at the five parts of this closure in more detail. The regions on it to discuss are: outer skirt, inner skirt, bottom edge, inner surface and top surface.

Outer Skirt

The first one to inspect is the outer skirt. It has three main subsections: underlying form, grippers (ribs) and bottom band.

Along the initial part, the underlying form has a minute inward slant which runs from the top of the bottom band to the junction with the outer top surface.

There are twelve grippers evenly spaced around the outer skirt. These ribs start at the top of the bottom band and end at the top of the outer skirt. Undoubtedly a tool for making the opening and/or closing process easier, these features are each ½ inch long and 3/16 inch wide. Their uniform profile resembles a log in appearance. Semicircular throughout, every one of these exterior traits has an abruptly slanted up and inward segment for their upper 1/8 inch. This angled portion is clearly visible in the picture of the screw cap's profile in Figure 1.

Finally, the bottom band is 3/16 inch in length and composed of two segments.

The first or top part is quarter-circular in form. Following directly is a slanted inward part which terminates at the bottom edge.

Inner Skirt

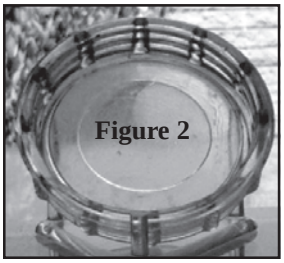
Next up for inspection is the inner skirt. This section slants inward from the bottom edge to the junction with the inner surface. It is 7/16 of an inch in length. Around it winds a 1/16 inch wide, semicircular-shaped, raised screw thread which circles the inner skirt about two times.

Bottom Edge

The third area to examine on the sealer in Figure 1 is its bottom edge. This flat, smooth and 1/8 inch wide segment starts at the end of the slanted section of the bottom band and proceeds to the intersection with the base of the slanted inner skirt.

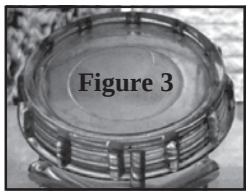
Inner Surface

The inner surface on this example is the next element to detail. A picture of it can be seen in **Figure 2**. At the junction of the inner skirt and the inner surface, the circular flat region has an outer diameter of 2 3/8 inches. About 1/8 inch inward along the inner surface is a raised, semicircular-shaped ring that is 1/16 inch wide. Next is a 5/16 inch wide flat but circular surface. Thereafter comes a very slight vertical rise (approximately 1/16 of an inch) to a flat-surfaced circular plane with an outer diameter of 1 ½ inches.



Top Surface

Lastly, I'll turn to the cap's top surface. See **Figure 3**. The first feature after the outer skirt is a 1/8 inch wide, smooth and slightly slanted inward ridge. At its innermost point, a 1/8 inch vertical drop occurs. The outer diameter of the depressed circular tier is 2 5/16th inches. This region is flat to the touch.



Similar Glass Caps

Now that the screw cap shown in Figures 1-3 has been described, I want to introduce other glass covers that were either patented by Messrs. Fenn and Uhl or inspired by one of them to see if any visual clues arise that will help to identify our unidentified specimen.

In **Figure 4**, the profiles of five glass screw caps are depicted. The far left sample with a Hat outer motif was made to the May 3, 1904 patent granted to William B. Fenn.[2] Next up and second from the left is a cover manufactured to the October 24, 1905 and February 12, 1907 patents issued to the same gentleman.[3] In the center is our unidentified closure. The example second in from the right is a glass sealer that was probably inspired by Mr. Fenn.[4] Finally, the cap on the right side carries the abbreviated patent date – PATD DEC.5.05 - on its top surface. It was molded to the same day patent registered to Russell Uhl, a former business associate of William B. Fenn.[5]

Cap One

The first circular example in Figure 4 has been reported to have at least seven different outer shapes, including the one shown as the Hat profile on the far left. This motif is the mostly commonly encountered variety. At a minimum, it was manufactured by two different glass companies between early 1906 to late 1908.

This particular model was employed to seal the smooth lip SIMPLEX in a diamond embossed and unembossed packers' jar and the machine made condiment container

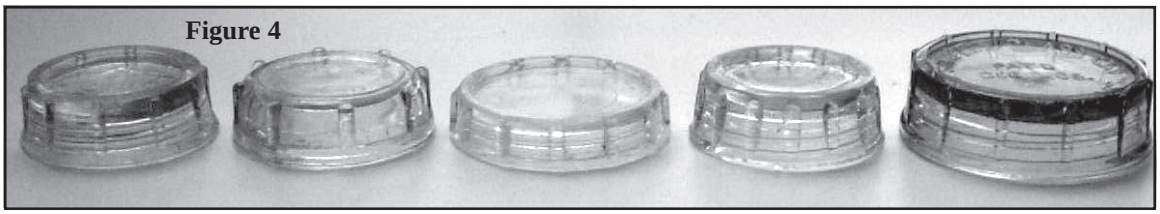


Figure 4

inscribed with FLACCUS BROS STEERS HEAD FRUIT JAR.[6]

Of note, earlier editions of the same kind of screw cap[7] have been found on the raised lettered, T. C. Co. front-marked product vessel; on a similarly embossed jar that carries a label for prepared mustard from the Wheeling-based Flaccus Brothers firm and on an internally fluted container of the same profile that has on it an original label for mustard from the Kidwell Brothers Company of Baltimore, Maryland.[8] All three of these models were machine made.

Cap One- General Characteristics

The essentials of Cap One are: height – 7/8 inch; outer diameter – 2 9/16 inches; inner diameter – 2 1/16 inches; embossing – SIMPLEX in a diamond; weight – two and one-half ounces and profile - Hat.

Cap One – Outer Skirt

The underlying or core form for Cap One has a discernable inward slant from the top of the bottom band to the outer top surface.

There are ten grippers evenly spaced around its outer skirt. They start at the top of the bottom band and end just short of the top of the outer skirt. Each gripping tool is 5/8 inch in length. In my estimation, their individual shape resembles a downwardly pointing cannon barrel. At the apex, the first section is represented by a one-half vertical slice of a pointed cone stacked atop a semicircular surfaced barrel-like form. The second part has side walls that angle slightly inward, being 3/16 inch at the top and 1/8 inch at the bottom.

Finally, the bottom band is 3/16 inch in length. It is composed of two quarter-circular subsections that give this decorative feature an overall semicircular outer profile. Halfway between both sections is a mold seam. The semicircular shaped bottom band on Cap One's outer skirt terminates at the bottom edge.

Cap One – Inner Skirt

Next up for inspection is the inner skirt. The internal side wall slants inward from the innermost point of the bottom edge to the junction with the inner surface. It is ½ inch in length. Around it winds a 1/8 inch wide, semicircular-shaped, raised screw thread which encircles the inner skirt a little over two times.

Cap One – Bottom Edge

The third area to examine on this sealer is its bottom edge. It starts at the end of the second quarter-circular subsection of the bottom band and proceeds to the intersection with the slanted inner skirt. This semicircular-shaped and smooth-surfaced part of Cap One is 1/4 inch wide. There is a mold seam at the intersection of its innermost point and the edge of the inner skirt.

Cap One – Inner Surface

The inner surface on Cap One is the next element to detail. A picture of it can be seen in **Figure 5**. At the junction of the inner skirt and the inner surface, a smooth-to-the-feel, convex-shaped, unembossed, circular area is present. It has an outer diameter of 1 7/8 inches.

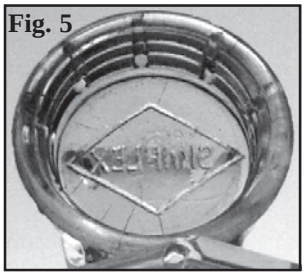


Fig. 5

Cap One – Top Surface

Cap One's top surface can be seen in **Figure 6**. Its first feature after the intersection with the outer skirt is a 1/4 inch wide, slightly slanted inward, smooth-surfaced ledge. At its innermost point, a 1/8 inch vertical drop-off occurs. The outer diameter of the single, concave-shaped, depressed, circular tier on the top surface is 1 3/4 inches. In the center of this recessed region is the embossing noted in the general characteristics section.

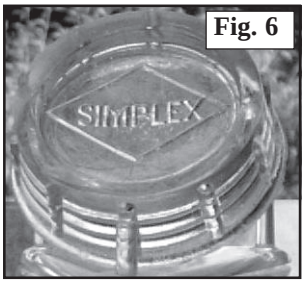


Fig. 6

Cap Two

The second model in from the left in Figure 4 has two patents for its pedigree. Also a William B. Fenn invention, this circular issue superseded his Cap One design after the patent rights to the May 3, 1904 edition were lost in a ruling handed down in an involuntary bankruptcy proceeding against him.

This unique sealer comes in two sizes but with only one outer motif. The smaller of the two is pictured.

I believe it was employed on the circa-1907 Federal jar turned out by the Federal Glass Company of Columbus, Ohio.[9]

Cap Two – General Characteristics

The essentials of Cap Two are: height – 13/16 inch; outer diameter – 2 5/8 inches; inner diameter – 2 1/8 inches; embossing – WARM CAP SLIGHTLY TO SEAL OR UNSEAL (around the outer top surface) PAT'D OCT 24 1905 (on three lines in the center of the top surface); weight – two and one-fourth ounces and profile – Hat-like.

Cap Two – Outer Skirt

The underlying or core form for Cap Two has a vertical side wall, rising from the top of the bottom band. This part of the outer skirt ascends about two-thirds of its length before curving inward for the last one-third of its height.

There are eight grippers evenly spaced around its outer skirt. They start at the top of the bottom band and end barely over the top surface. Each gripping tool is 9/16 of an inch in length. In my estimation, their individual shape resembles a log. From the side, these opening/closing assistors have a semicircular-shaped surface with rounded upward tops and straight sides. A standard width of 3/16 inch is maintained throughout their length. Finally, the bottom band is 1/4 inch in length. It has a protruding bracket-shape. The following grammatical symbol -] - approximates its form if the top and bottom line components are extended to the left. Two-thirds of the way down its outer surface, there is a mold seam. The bracket shaped bottom band on Cap Two's outer skirt terminates at the bottom edge.

Cap Two – Inner Skirt

Next up for inspection is the inner skirt. The internal side wall section of Cap Two slants inward from the innermost point of

the bottom edge to the junction with the inner surface for 5/8 of an inch. It is composed of three subsections.

Right after the bottom edge terminates, the first part of the inner skirt is a smooth-surfaced segment that slants down and inward for 1/8 of an inch before jutting straight outward toward the center of the cover as a 1/16 inch wide flat surface.

Following it is another slanted inward subsection that is 1/4 of an inch in length. On it is a pattern of raised features which were put in this location to hold a composition sealing gasket in place. For Cap Two, the design has three vertical lines next to a rectangle with two slanted lines therein. This assembly of forms appear three times around the middle segment.[10]

The last slanted piece to Cap Two's inner skirt intersects with the inner surface. It is 1/4 inch long and has a smooth, facing inward outer surface.

Cap Two – Bottom Edge

The third area to examine on this sealer is its bottom edge. It appears to start on the outer skirt at the mold seam on the bottom band and proceeds to the intersection with the first subsection on the slanted inner skirt. Curved on both ends with a 1/8 inch wide flat and smooth-surfaced segment in between, this feature is 3/16 of an inch in total width.

Cap Two – Inner Surface

The inner surface on Cap Two is the subsequent element to detail. A picture of it can be seen in **Figure 7**. At the junction of the slanted inward inner skirt and the inner surface, a smooth-surfaced, flat to the touch, unembossed, circular area is present. It has an outer diameter of 1 15/16 inches.[11]

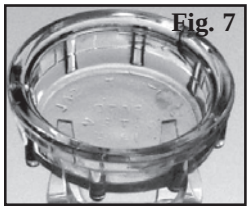


Fig. 7

Cap Two – Top Surface

Cap Two's top surface can be seen in **Figure 8**. The first feature behind the grippers is a 1/8 inch wide, smooth-surface that gently curves up and inward. At its innermost point, an approximate 1/64 of an inch vertical rise occurs. The outer diameter of the single, flat, slightly raised, circular tier on the top surface is 1 15/16 inches. In the center of this region is the embossing noted in the general characteristics section for this cover.[12]


Fig. 8

Cap Three

The specimen entered second in from the right in Figure 4 is Cap Three. As far as I know, this example comes only in the size and shape shown. Its outer design and internal sealing mechanism suggests that William B. Fenn's 1904-1907 patent work inspired officials from the Illinois Glass Company to mold a knock-off and use it to seal their version of an all-glass packing container. Called the Sunshine jar, it was advertised in their 1908 and 1911 product catalogs.[13]

Cap Three – General Characteristics

The essentials of Cap Three are: height – 15/16 inch; outer diameter – 2 9/16 inches; inner diameter – 2 1/16 inches; embossing – none; [14] weight – two and one-half ounces and profile – Hat-like.

Cap Three – Outer Skirt

The base of the outer skirt on this example starts at a mold seam which intersects with the bottom edge. From this point, the exterior side wall slants up and inward for about 1/4 of an inch. Blending into the remainder of the outer skirt with a gentle curve, the rest of the outer side wall ascends toward the top surface with a slightly inward cant. Around the outer skirt, there are fourteen inverted, tear drop-shaped ribs that are 3/4 of an inch in length. With rounded upward tops and rounded downward bottoms, each of the raised and semicircular contoured grippers has slightly curved sides which are 1/4 inch wide at the top and 3/16 of an inch in width at the opposite end. These opening and/or closing devices end about 1/8 inch below the intersection of the outer skirt and the top surface.

Of particular note, there is no bottom band on this cover.

Cap Three – Inner Skirt

Turning our attention to the inner skirt, the interior side wall on Cap Three slants inward, starting at the intersection with the bottom edge and proceeding to the juncture with the inner surface. It is 9/16 inch in length. On it is a 1/8 inch wide, semicircular shaped, raised screw thread. This sealing mechanism winds its way along the inner skirt about two turns before merging into the inner surface.

Cap Three – Bottom Edge

The next area to inspect on this sealer is its bottom edge. This part starts at the mold seam on the outer skirt and proceeds to the intersection with the slanted inner skirt. Slightly curved throughout, this subsection is a little more than 3/16 of an inch in total width.

Cap Three – Inner Surface

A photograph of the 1 7/8 inches in diameter interior circular region can be seen in **Figure 9**. From the intersection with the inner skirt, there is a 3/16 inch wide, flat, circular ledge. At its innermost point, a 1/16 inch long vertical drop occurs, resulting in a 1 ½ inches across, more or less flat, unembossed, circular area.

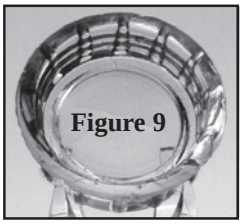


Figure 9

Cap Three – Top Surface

Cap Three's top surface can be seen in **Figure 10**. The first feature after the intersection with the outer skirt is a 1/4 inch wide, flat and smooth ledge, running around the outer edge of the cover's top. At its innermost point, a 3/16 inch curved down and inward drop off occurs. The outer diameter of the single, flat, unembossed, circular depression on the top surface of Cap Three is 1 7/16 inches.

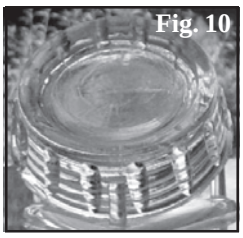


Fig. 10

Cap Four

The circular sample on the right-hand in Figure 4 is the last closure to introduce. Cap Four comes in just one size as shown. Russell Uhl was issued a patent for it on December 5, 1905.[15]

Up to this point, this kind of all-glass cover has been reported with six different outer motifs. The exterior design on this cover is one of the most commonly found shapes.

Probably manufactured between early 1904 and late 1908, its original purpose was to create an airtight seal on the SIMPLEX (arched) MASON embossed fruit jar manufactured by employees at the Washington, Pennsylvania factory of the Perfection Glass Company. Subsequently,

it was advertised for use on the ATLAS MASON'S PATENT marked jar from the Hazel-Atlas Glass Company or for use on any Mason jar with a standard size of mouth (70 millimeter) and a screw style of finish.[16]

Cap Four – General Characteristics

The essentials of Cap Four are: height – 1 1/16 inches; outer diameter – 3 5/16 inches; inner diameter – 2 7/8 inches; embossing - SIMPLEX GLASS CAP FOR MASON JARS (dot) around the outer depressed top surface with PATD DEC.5.O5. on two lines in the center;[17] weight – four and one-fourth ounces and profile – Jeweled Hat.

Cap Four – Outer Skirt

The outer skirt on Cap Four has a broad band adjacent to the bottom edge. This protrusion is 1/4 inch in height. It has a bracket shape -] - with the left facing top and bottom extensions being curved outward and down and upward and in, respectively. This design gives the exterior of the band a curved to straight to curved appearance. There is a mold seam on this segment about 2/3 of the way down its outer surface. Above this outward extension is the canted inward side wall. It measures 3/4 of an inch in length.

There are twelve grippers evenly placed around Cap Four's outer skirt. These start at the top of the bottom band and end just above the junction with the top surface. Each gripping tool is 3/4 of an inch in length. In my opinion, their individual shape resembles a cannon barrel that is pointing downward. From the side, these opening/closing features have a semicircular-shaped outer surface with rounded upward tops, rounded downward bottoms and angled inward sides. At the apex, each rib is 3/16 of an inch in width. As you move down their outer surface, the sides angle inward, reducing the nadir to a 1/8 inch width.

Cap Four – Inner Skirt

The inner side wall of Cap Four begins at the intersection with the bottom edge. A slanted inward, 1/8 inch long segment starts off this part. Next, there is a mold seam. Thereafter, the angled inward side wall resumes and descends for 9/16 of an inch until the inner surface is reached. Around this area winds a 1/8 inch wide, semicircular-shaped, raised screw thread.

Cap Four - Bottom Edge

The third area to examine on this fruit jar cover is its bottom edge. This section starts at the mold seam on the broad band on the outer skirt and proceeds to the intersection with the slanted inner skirt. Curved throughout, this feature is 1/4 of an inch in total width. On the rounded outer surface of the bottom edge, there is a raised, semicircular shape, 1/16 of an inch wide sealing ring, running around its middle.

Cap Four - Inner Surface

The circular inner surface on this model has a diameter of 2 9/16 inches. Throughout, it is flat to the touch except for the ½ inch wide, cone-shaped dot that rises out of the middle of this region. See **Figure 11**.

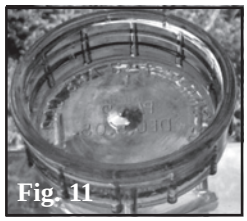


Fig. 11

Cap Four – Top Surface

Figure 12 shows the top surface of Cap Four. The initial part is a 1/8 inch wide surface that curves gently up and inward. On this version, there is a 1/32 of an inch wide raised mold seam that follows. At the innermost point of the second feature, a 1/8 long vertical drop occurs. This leaves a circular, embossed, somewhat concave-surfaced depression with a 2 11/16 inches outer diameter.

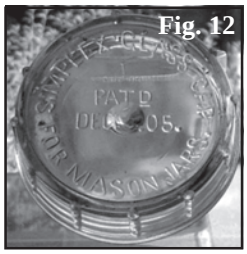


Fig. 12

Observations

All of the empirical information about the five closures in Figure 4 has been documented. In this section, I'd like to record some observations I've made about these facts while I assembled them. My comments will be grouped under the topical headings that I used to describe each of the caps.

General Characteristics

The unidentified model from June Lowry is by far the shortest of the five Hat shaped examples pictured in Figure 4. This factor may be a signal that it was used as a sealer on a product container and was not affiliated with a fruit jar.

In a second observation, I don't believe the inner diameter of June's screw cap qualifies it for consideration as a Fenn patented or inspired cover.[18] Its 2 ½ inches internal measurement is too large to create an airtight seal on the threaded finish of a SIMPLEX in a diamond, FLACCOUS BROS. STEERS HEAD FRUIT JAR or T. C. Co. embossed packers' jar. In addition, the same inside dimension would make it an equally improbable host for the unembossed models with a similar finish design like the Sunshine jar from the Illinois Glass Company and my self-promoted Federal jar from the Federal Glass Company.

Finally, the 63 millimeter inner diameter on this unidentified sealer could align it with the 70 millimeter measurement on the Russell Uhl patented sealer. Both internal diameters were prominent on product and fruit jars from the 1920s forward. At this point, it can't be determined whether this apparent association is significant and correct or coincidental and misleading.

Outer Skirt

After assembling the statistical data about the unidentified cap's outer skirt and comparing these facts against similar hard points from the other four covers, I found no clue that hinted a linkage between June's discovery and the other editions in Figure 4.

Likewise, nothing stood out to either confirm or deny the packer and domestic canning container relationships suggested in the previous section.

Inner Skirt

The underlying form of all of the caps in Figure 4 was the same. Each example had an inner skirt which slanted inward as it traversed the distance between the bottom edge and the inner surface.

The only notable difference I could discern among the participants was the width of the screw thread on the unidentified version. This 1/16 inch measurement was smaller than the width of the screw thread on Caps One, Three and Four. Since the latter specimens were used exclusively on product and home canning jars of the first decade of the twentieth century, I believe the theoretical association mentioned in my third observation under the initial category now appears to be coincidental vice significant.

Bottom Edge

There is only one closure in Figure 4 that used this part as its sealing point.

Caps One, Two and Three were sealed

by one of two methods. The first two covers used a rubber and/or composition and waxed vertical gasket. Cap Three employed a muslin disc treated with some sort of waxed substance. Cap Four achieved an airtight quality by means of a horizontal rubber ring. I think June's model garnered a tight seal along the screw cap's inner surface with a method similar to my first suggestion under Cap Three. Before moving on, let's review each sealing method in more detail to see when the bottom edge played a roll and when it did not.

For Cap One, the upright rubber sealing ring was threaded on both sides. To seal, this device was screwed down onto the jar's threaded finish. Next, the internally threaded cover was screwed down over the gasket, compressing it between the cap's inner skirt and the container's outer finish.[19]

Alternately, the composition and waxed specimen for Cap Two [20] was smooth on the exterior and could be either threaded or smooth around the interior. To seal this edition, the upright model was slightly heated and pressed against the projections along the closure's inner skirt. The screw cap with attached vertical sealing mechanism was then screwed down over the jar's threaded finish, compressing it between the cap's inner skirt and the container's outer finish.[21]

Turning to Cap Three, the sealing tool was either a small disc or a larger disc, perhaps the size of the outer diameter of the cover. I'm not certain which one was used because the description of the disc in the 1908 Illinois Glass Company catalog didn't go into any more specifics about it. I presume the former was used but it could just as well have been the latter.

Theoretically, the smaller disc could be placed on the 3/16 inch wide circular ledge, running around the cap's inner surface. Then, the internally threaded cover with implanted disc was screwed down over the jar's threaded outer finish, achieving a seal when the disc was compressed against the ledge on the cover's inner surface by the top surface on the jar's lip.

For the latter hypothetical technique, a larger and more flexible disc was placed over the mouth of the container to be sealed. Next, Cap Three was positioned over the disc and forced downward, compressing the larger disc against the cap's inner surface and along its inner skirt. The once horizontal disc now assumed the basic shape of the cover's inner surface and inner skirt. By turning the all-glass closure, this final step forced the skirt of the disc between the threads of the cap's inner skirt and the jar's outer finish.[22]

On Cap Four, a rubber ring was placed over the jar's mouth, resting on its shoulder. Next, the threaded Uhl style of cover was screwed down over the finish. As a part of this process, the horizontal gasket was compressed between the cap's bottom edge, which has a raised, semicircular-shaped ring molded onto it, and the container's shoulder.[23]

Inner Surface

I mentioned in the previous section that I didn't think the bottom edge on the unidentified model was employed as part of the sealing technique for this screw cap. Rather than this area, the features on the unknown cover's inner surface point to this region as the most likely spot where an airtight seal was achieved.

The 1/16 inch wide raised, semicircular-shaped ring along with the initial 7/16 inch in width flat surface on the inner surface of June Lowry's former cover seems to have been designed to receive a horizontal gasket (rubber) or disc (composition material or cardboard that has been waxed). If my thoughts are correct, when the unidentified all-glass closure was screwed down onto the receiving jar's threaded finish, the circular insert inside of it would be compressed between the initial region on the cap's inner surface and the top surface of the container's lip. The raised, semicircular shape ring on the sealer's inner surface would bite into the gasket or disc and prevent it from slipping out of place.

Top Surface

With the exception of Cap Two, all of the other covers in Figure 4 have basically the same design.

Opinions

The statistical details and observations about the closures in Figure 4 have been stated. Before I move on to the final section and develop any conclusions about June Lowry's former sealer, I'd like to present some opinions about this unidentified specimen.

Opinion One

All of the identified sealers are proportional to the outer diameter of the jar they were intended to seal. I would expect the same to hold true for the middle specimen in Figure 4 as well.

Opinion Two

The height of June Lowry's former screw cap doesn't compare with the same dimension on Caps One through Four. Rightly or wrongly, the short stature of the unidentified cover suggests to me that it was used to seal contents that wouldn't spoil quickly or at all, such as jelly, ointments, creams, powders or string.

Opinion Three

Caps One, Three and Four all have a screw thread on their inner skirt which is 1/8 inch wide. Conversely, the unidentified specimen has one that is 1/16 inch in width. I believe this slight difference has importance. In my estimation, this abnormality places the unidentified sealer into a different use category than its surrounding identified mates.

Opinion Four

The internal diameter of the cap in question doesn't compare with the same measurements on the three packing jar covers (Caps One, Two and Three) or the all glass sealer for a fruit jar (Cap Four). This fact may be another indicator that the unidentified specimen probably closed a container which had contents different from the containers sealed by Caps One through Four.

Opinion Five

The timeframe for when the four identified screw caps were made and used is known. Basically, this era was between 1903 and 1908. While I think the unidentified closure was from the same general era, I've no proof to back up my opinion.

Opinion Six

The unidentified sealer weighs much less than its Figure 4 mates. This prime factor undoubtedly reinforced my impression that it was molded to less durable standards than the covers intended to seal product or fruit jars.

Opinion Seven

Caps One through Four each had a mold seam either on the bottom band or at the junction of the outer skirt with the bottom edge. Even though the unidentified specimen had a bottom band, there was no

mold seam discernable on it. This point illustrates that the latter cap wasn't pressed on the same machine(s) as the other versions in Figure 4. If my assessment is valid, then there is no relationship between it and the other four closures I've discussed.

Conclusions

I think you'll agree that a plethora of clues about the unidentified sealer have been presented. Some are facts while others are observations and/or opinions. Now let's put them together to see if the title query can be fully answered.

Conclusion One

The unknown all glass cover isn't a member of the Fenn or Uhl family of screw caps.

Conclusion Two

This model wasn't manufactured or marketed by the Sterling, Perfection, Hazel-Atlas, Illinois or Federal Glass Companies.

Conclusion Three

The closure in question wasn't meant to seal a fruit jar.

Conclusion Four

The specimen found by June Lowry was intended to seal a product container of some yet to be discovered style.

Postscript

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to completely answer my opening question. Nonetheless, by using the trail of clues available for this sealer, I believe I was able to state with some confidence what it wasn't. Also, I speculated about what kind of vessel it could have sealed. If you do know what type of jar our unidentified sealer closed and the probable contents of it, I would surely like to hear from you.

Likewise, if you have any information to share about it or would like to further discuss my process or critique it in any way, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. In my opinion, an in-depth discussion about the finer aspects of a topic is one of the attractive facets of our hobby.

BLB

Endnotes:

[1] *Cataloging Process for the Fenn-Designed, 1904 Patented, Screw Cap*, Barry L. Bernas, *The Guide To Collecting Fruit Jars Fruit Jar Annual Volume 10 – 2005*, Jerome J. McCann, 5003 W. Berwyn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 1996, pg. 9.

[2] *Patents Issued to William Beach Fenn* (Part 1 of 2), Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, January-February 2007, pgs 32-33.

[3] *Patents Issued to William Beach Fenn* (Part 2 of 2), Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, January-February 2007, pgs 36 and 39-40.

[4] *Another Glass Cap and Jar Inspired by William B. Fenn*, Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, Spring 2006, pgs. 54-55 and 57.

[5] *Cataloging a Russell Uhl-Patented Glass Screw Cap*, Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, Spring 2004, pgs. 29-33.

[6] *Evolution of the* SIMPLEX in a Diamond *All Glass Screw Cap* by Barry L. Bernas. Look for this article in a future edition of *The Guide To Collecting Fruit Jars Fruit Jar Annual*; *The Flaccus Family of Wheeling, West Virginia*, Thomas W. Caniff, *The Guide to Collecting Fruit Jars Fruit Jar Annual, Volume 1 – 1996*, Jerome J. McCann, 5003 W. Berwyn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 1996, pgs. 8-15 and *Perfection Glass Company, One of Many Glass Houses in Washington, Pennsylvania*, Barry L. Bernas, 239 Ridge Avenue, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 17325, 2005, pgs. III-XVIII and XXX-L. In addition to the Hat shape, other May 3, 1904 styles have been found on the same jars. The above references are germane.

[7] The unlabeled T. C. Co. marked container had a Curved Crown shape of cap on it. A Flaccus Brothers labeled version of the same style of jar carried a Jeweled Crown cover. Finally, the internally fluted vessel with a Kidwell Brothers Company label came with a Curved Crown style as well.

[8] *Granny Kath's Kitchen*, Vivian S. Kath, *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector*, October 1995, pg. 56; *The Label Space*, Tom Caniff, *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector*, July 2006, pg. 41; *Fruit Jar Rambles*, Tom Caniff, *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector*, January 2007, pg. 6 and *Other Packing Jars* by Barry L. Bernas. The first three sources reported on the T. C. Co. embossed jar. Look for the last article in a future edition of *Bottles and Extras*. It shows a related container.

[9] *Sunshine Jar: Myth or Reality?*, Barry L. Bernas, *The Guide To Collecting Fruit Jars Fruit Jar Annual Volume 12 – 2007*, Jerome J. McCann, 5003 W. Berwyn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 2007, pgs. 9-20.

[10] *Cataloging a Glass Cap Dated – Oct 24 1905* by Barry L. Bernas. Look for this article in a future edition of *The Guide To Collecting Fruit Jars Fruit Jar Annual*. The pattern on the second subsection of the inner skirt of Cap Two is one of six possible designs that have been found on this style of glass cap.

[11] Ibid. There are three different inner surface characteristics for this style of sealer.

[12] Ibid. There are other examples of this style of sealer that have a slight circular depression vice a slightly raised circular tier on the top surface. Also, there are two wording combinations for the instructional phrase around the outer top surface.

[13] *Another Glass Cap and Jar Inspired by William B. Fenn*, Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, Spring 2006, pgs. 54-55 and 57 and *Sunshine Jar: Myth or Reality?*, Barry L. Bernas, *The Guide To Collecting Fruit Jars Fruit Jar Annual Volume 12 – 2007*, Jerome J. McCann, 5003 W. Berwyn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 2008, pgs. 9-20.

[14] *Another Glass Cap and Jar Inspired by William B. Fenn*, Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, Spring 2006, pgs. 54-55 and 57. There is an embossed version of this screw cap. See the above article for more information about it.

[15] *Cataloging a Russell Uhl-Patented Glass Screw Cap*, Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, Spring 2004, pgs. 29-33.

[16] Ibid and *Perfection Glass Company, One of Many Glass Houses in Washington, Pennsylvania*, Barry L. Bernas, 239 Ridge Avenue, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 17325, 2005, pgs. XIX-XXIX and LI-LV.

[17] *Cataloging a Russell Uhl-Patented Glass Screw Cap*, Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, Spring 2004, pgs. 29-33. More information on other embossing styles and cap shapes is available from the above article.

[18] *Cataloging Process for the Fenn-Designed, 1904 Patented, Screw Cap*, Barry L. Bernas, *The Guide To Collecting Fruit Jars Fruit Jar Annual Volume 10 – 2005*, Jerome J. McCann, 5003 W. Berwyn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 2008, pgs. 4 - 20; *Sunshine Jar: Myth or Reality?*, Barry L. Bernas, *The Guide To Collecting Fruit Jars Fruit Jar Annual Volume 12 – 2007*, Jerome J. McCann, 5003 W. Berwyn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 2007, pgs. 9-20 and *Another Glass Cap and Jar Inspired by William B. Fenn*, Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, Spring 2006, pgs. 54-55 and 57.

[19] *Patents Issued to William Beach Fenn* (Part 1 of 2), Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and*

Continued on page 43.

A Cap for What? by Barry L. Bernas Continued from page 37

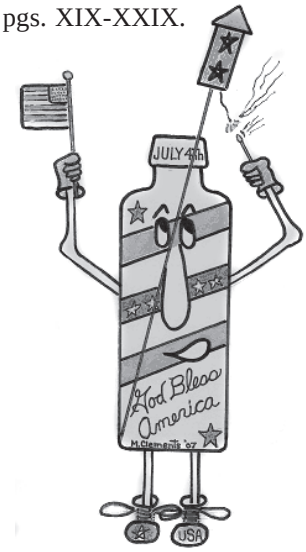
Extras, January-February 2007, pg. 19.

[20] *Patents Issued to William Beach Fenn* (Part 2 of 2), Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, March-April 2007, pgs. 36 and 39-40. I used the generic term "composition material" and the word "waxed" to describe the elements of the vertical gasket which was used to seal Cap Two. The two patents for Cap Two carried the following descriptions of the material that comprised the packing gasket. As you will see, these were more precise: "…A packing device formed as herein described and composed of fibrous material saturated with paraffin or other preservative material…a ring composed of asbestos fiber and paraffin or of wax…"

[21] Ibid.

[22] *Sunshine Jar: Myth or Reality?*, Barry L. Bernas, *The Guide To Collecting Fruit Jars Fruit Jar Annual Volume 12 – 2007*, Jerome J. McCann, 5003 W. Berwyn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 2007, pg. 15. In this article, I opined the second of my assumptions was the correct sealing technique for Cap Three on the Sunshine jar. In retrospect, either one could have been valid.

[23] United States patent Office, application filed May 20, 1905, Serial No. 261,319, Patented December 5, 1905, No. 806,602. For more information on the Uhl style of screw cap, please consult the following references. *Cataloging a Russell Uhl-Patented Glass Screw Cap*, Barry L. Bernas, *Bottles and Extras*, Spring 2004, pgs. 29-33 and *Perfection Glass Company, One of Many Glass Houses in Washington, Pennsylvania*, Barry L. Bernas, 239 Ridge Avenue, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, 17325, 2005, pgs. XIX-XXIX.



Clarke and Kelly: Hounced in Richmond, by Jack Sullivan, continued from page 41.

Figure 32: Anti-Saloon League at the Virginia Capitol

Most of Virginia voted itself dry in September of that year, but Richmond, along with Alexandria, Danville and Norfolk rejected the idea under a local option provision. Prohibitionists, however, kept the pressure on and in November, 1916, three years before National Prohibition, the Virginia Legislature — disregarding the views of Richmond voters — completely banned sales of liquor, wine, and beer throughout the state.

The Fates of Clarke and Kelly

Remember that Eliza successfully escaped over the ice floes from the pursing canines and found safety. Henry Clarke and his sons were not so lucky. The same year that Virginia went dry, the firm that had survived for 32 years in two states disappeared forever from Richmond directories. Henry Clarke and his sons also fade from view, victims for the second time of Prohibition forces.

Kelly was similarly affected. In 1915, the year before the Prohibition ax fell, the firm moved to 427-431 N. 18th St. That was the last year it was listed in Richmond directories. After Virginia went dry the business appears to have moved operations to Baltimore. A cork pull bearing Kelly's name indicates a location at Baltimore and Howard Streets in that city (**Figure 34)**. Kelly does not appear to have prospered there and if the firm was still extant in 1919, it did not survive National Prohibition.

Despite their ill-starred efforts, both firms left notable legacies. Kelly in the short period of 10 years amazingly was able to produce an elaborate array of brands, bottles, jugs, and giveaways that today are avidly sought by collectors. From Henry Clarke and his sons we have inherited colorful advertising materials, labels, and souvenirs. These items remind us of two enterprising Richmond whiskey merchants that struggled hard to survive but ultimately could not escape the bloodhounds of Prohibition.

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Notes: Material for this article was gathered from a number of Internet and written sources. The Clarke and Kelly items shown here are largely through the courtesy of Ed and Lucy Faulkner, Marv Croker and Lou Sutton, all highly knowledgeable Virginia collectors. The photo in Figure 32 is from the Library of Congress. Portions of this article appeared earlier in the *Potomac Pontil*, the newsletter of the Potomac Bottle Club.

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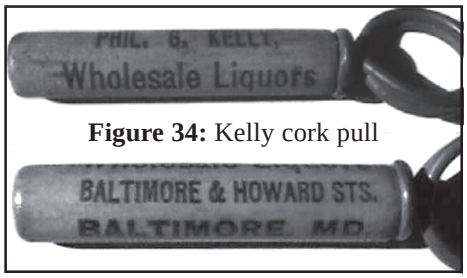

Figure 34: Kelly cork pull

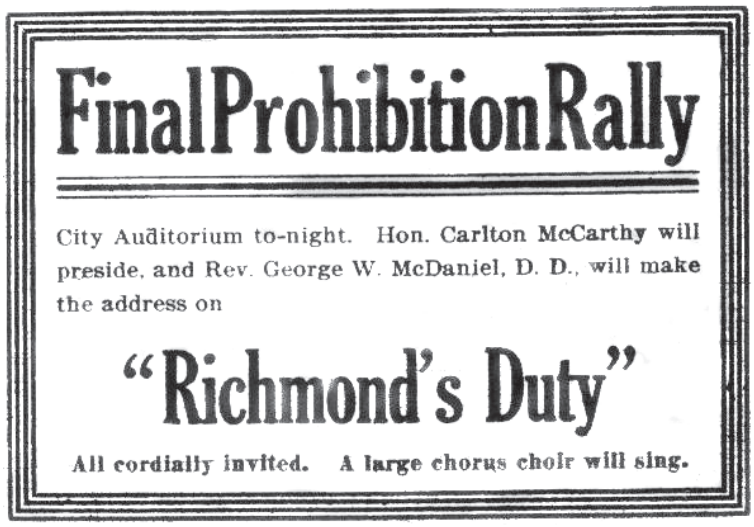

Figure 33: Richmond prohibition rally poster