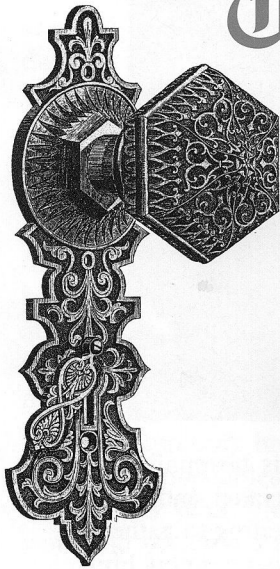


The Doorknob Collector



Number 121

September - October 2003

A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

2003 ADCA CONVENTION

Fabulous and Fantastic

By Rich Kennedy

Those of us who attended this year's convention in San Antonio, Texas were treated to a whirlwind of activities. Brad and Suzanne Kittel, our hosts, outdid themselves in every detail!

Some members came early enjoying a leisurely day along the River Walk, seeing the Alamo, and enjoying a revolving panorama of the city while eating lunch 870 feet up atop the Tower of the Americas.

Tuesday evening many members braved the rain and wind from hurricane Claudette and headed to Architectural Antiques, Barry and Lindsay Rusler's establishment. They are new members of ADCA and graciously hosted an "early bird" reception. Their home above their store was one-of-a-kind, an eclectic gathering of the old and the new. Claw foot tubs, stained glass windows, clever Murphy bed made of old doors, telephone niches, and a "very special" bedroom for their grandson in the old safe (complete with the original door) with a small window for light were some of the delights to our eyes.

Wednesday's bus tour was a learning experience from the get-go, as we proceeded to Gonzales, the hometown of the Kittels, we watched a video "Show Me Texas". We were privileged to visit the R.S. Dilworth House, a 1910 Greek Revival style home. We marveled at the original wall tapestries, clever window latches, original hardware throughout, and the wonderful lighting fixtures. There are few homes today that have not undertaken multiple "upgrades" that have obscured the intent of the builder. This is truly the exception and well worth seeing.



Newsletter Deadline - Monday, October 18, 2003

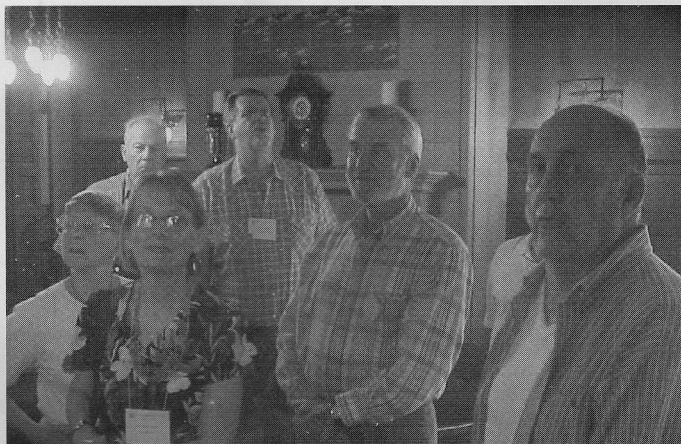
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The old courthouse and jail were on the list of places to see in town and we heard the ghostly tales that accompany the buildings. The story concerns an innocent man who was hanged but stated before his death that his innocence would be proven when the town clock went haywire, and it has ever since despite master clock smiths' attempts to correct the situation. Seeing the crudeness of the jail was sobering, but when we learned it was in use until the 1970s it was almost unbelievable; no comforts here.

Many, many thanks to Dawn O'Donnell of the Booth House B&B and her crew for providing us with a scrumptious Southwestern meal. at the Boothe and Lewis Building. The chocolate mousse and blueberry trifle were out of this world!

Our tour guide, Paul Frenzel of the Chamber of Commerce, gave us a fingernail sketch of the importance of Gonzales in Texas history and its place in the Revolution (Texas, that is). As we settled back in the bus for a road tour of Gonzales our guide pointed out many historical homes of various styles and the revitalization in progress. Gonzales remains a charming town with beautiful trees and homes and a unique green park strip down the center of the boulevard that will perpetually be free of private buildings.

A visit to the home of Suzanne and Brad's home was again a lesson in using antique artifacts to decorate. Because of their high ceilings, furniture that would never fit in a modern home is perfectly



suiting to the large rooms. A wonderful period bathroom takes you to a time of unhurried life; time to lounge in the tub. The kitchen also used many items from the past and yet is most efficient. The interior moldings were all stripped of their decades of paint and were truly a pleasure to the eye.

Our final stop in Gonzales was at Brad and Suzanne's store, Discovery Architectural Antiques. There was so much hardware, it was hard to decide what to purchase. If you are every out this way it is well worth a stop. A comment that was heard numerous times was the tasteful display of the items, from period furniture, hardware, doors, plumbing supplies, and even things like small kitchen items. Brad's display of his personal collection of knobs is like visiting a museum. Just beautiful!

Upon returning to San Antonio, about 45 minutes to the west, some members returned to the hotel after a very full day. However, others continued on to the final destination of the day, La Fonda, the oldest Mexican restaurant in San Antonio, which is owned by Cappy Lawton, an ADCA

member. His hospitality was much appreciated and it was the perfect setting to gather as a group and get to know him.

Thursday morning came fast for those of us who spent a late hour in the hospitality lounge chatting with old friends and new members. Thanks to Brad and Suzanne for keeping the tab straight and sharing their room.

Buying, selling and trading

The Doorknob Collector®



Published six times a year by **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America, Inc.**

P.O. Box 31, Chatham, NJ
07928-0031

Richard and Faye Kennedy, Editors
Phone (973) 635-6338

FAX: (973) 635-6993

Annual Membership in US \$25.00

Foreign rates on request.

Single issue of *The Doorknob Collector* \$5.00

Founded Sept 1981, the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** is a non-profit organization devoted to the study and preservation of ornamental hardware.

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seem to captivate us all. The displays were fantastic and it was difficult picking winners. Both days were well attended by the public and we were kept busy answering many questions. The local TV station KENS channel 5 spent hours interviewing members and we had our 2 minutes of fame that evening on the local news!

Friday morning brought us all back to our tables for that last look at some great hardware and possibly a last minute deal. Norm Blam's lecture on cleaning hardware reinforced an old rule, clean gently if at all!

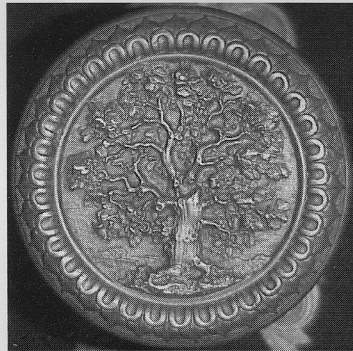
Our Friday evening after a wonderful dinner, Joanna Parish from the San Antonio Conservation Society presented a slide program about the city's early days and how the River Walk came into being. A major flood of the San Antonio River had a lasting impact on the way the city developed. Her talk was of great interest to the group.

As we all gathered for breakfast Saturday morning, most eyes and hands were on the staggering amount of hardware up for bid. Jackie Rode, our auctioneer, had her own list at hand as did the other members. Upon the death of Florence Jarvis the club inherited most of her collection which became the bulk of the auction. There was one knob that Florence had told Jackie to make sure that it went for at least what she paid for it. Well, it did. The bidding got under way for the "star of the show", the Lone Star Knob, but it finally stayed behind in Texas after a

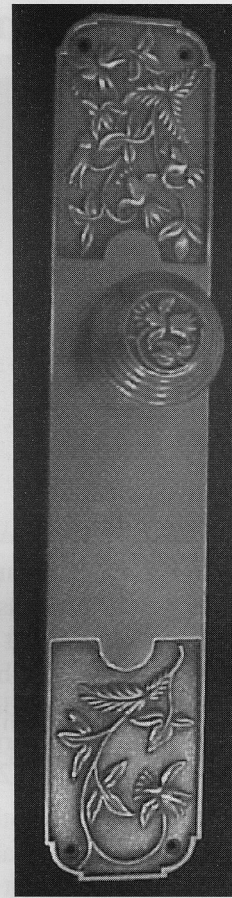
fierce bidding war. It was fun to watch as a Texan and a Pennsylvanian went at it, driving the price to a level that would warm the heart of Florence. Thanks from the club, guys.

As we all went our separate ways, I heard time and again, "See you in San Francisco". That is the place to be in 2004 - be there!!!

Spectacular Hardware on Display at the Convention



Charter Oak Knob



Columbine - State flower of Colorado



The Family of Barbara Menchhofer wishes to extend thanks to all ADCA members and their families for the calls, cards, flowers, contributions, thoughts and prayers. The ADCA was a very important part of Barb's life, and she truly enjoyed being a member of this exceptional organization.

Steve and Mike Menchhofer,
Julie, Joe and Megan Mann

In Memoriam



Barbara Louise Bennett Menchhofer (#233) passed away on July 24, 2002 at the age of 60. Barbara was born on October 6, 1942 in Indianapolis, Indiana, and married her husband, Steve in 1962.

Barbara was a mother, grandmother and homemaker. She was active throughout her children's and granddaughters' school careers in Girl Scouts and parent organizations. Additionally, she was a volunteer in the schools and was involved in school extra-curricular activities. Barbara was also an active member of Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ in Indianapolis, where she served on

the board of directors and numerous other committees.

Barb and Steve began collecting hardware in the mid 1960s. They became involved with the ADCA after they attended their first convention in 1983 in Naperville, Ill. Since that time they attended every convention until this past year.

Barb and Steve have maintained the archives of the ADCA since 1989. As a very active and dedicated member of the club, Barb served as a member of the ADCA board of directors and was an able vice-president as well.

Barb enjoyed collecting hardware and was a dedicated to educating others about the preservation of antique hardware. In recent years she gave numerous presentations on hardware at church events and though the OASIS program.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Steve, son, Mike, daughter, Julia Mann, son-in-law, Joe Mann, granddaughter, Megan, and her sister Sandi Hall.

Our condolences go out to the family. Barbara will be missed by all who knew her.

Your New Board of Directors

President:

Steve Rowe

Vice President:

Brad Kittel

Treasurer:

Al Joslyn

Secretary:

Rich Kennedy

Win Applegate

Vicky Berol

Norm Blam

Len Blumin

E. Rhett Butler

Cathy Galbraith

Liz Gordon

Steve Menchhofer

Loretta Nemec

Patty Ramey



picture on pg 6) to keep with the Texas theme.

Patti Blumin showed us how beautifully the antique hardware blends with their Victorian home and flower garden."

Patty Ramey had a marvelous display of MCCC/RE medallion border knobs mounted in a gorgeous wooden frame that included the "Charter Oak" knob pictured on page 3

And last but not least, **Steve Rowe** was not to be out done and exhibited an eclectic grouping of different schools of design all beautifully mounted in a picture frame making them even more spectacular.

Display Contest Winners

There is a picture of the happy display contest winners on page 7. As in past years this is a very interesting part of the convention. Members are asked to create interesting displays of their knobs following a theme. Creativity is always apparent.

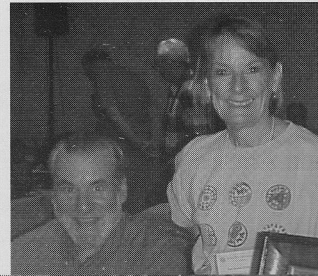
A first-time attendee, **Joe Gum**, won with his display of "fantasy knobs", commercial logos laser cut into antique mineral knobs. He also had several walking sticks that he had made with doorknobs used as the grips.

Debbie Fellenz had a clear glass cowboy hat filled with knobs (see

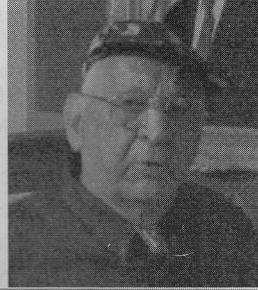
Fun at Convention 2003



Debbie Fellenz



Len and Patti Blumin
Liz Gordon and Steve Rowe



Carlos Ruiz
Joe Mueller



Checking the Auction Items



Marshal Berol



Suzanne and Brad Kittel (hosts)



Bill Byington



Joe Gum



Tracy Rowe



Rich Kennedy and Barbara Liesman



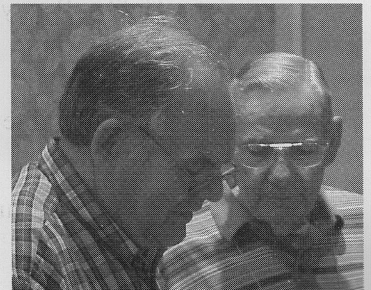
Larry Bolen and Norm Blam



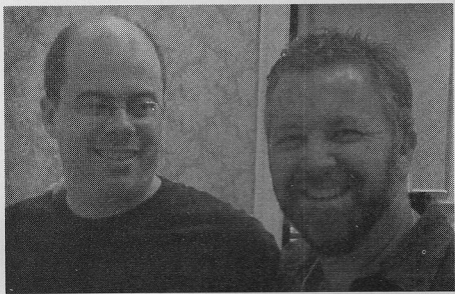
Steve Arnold



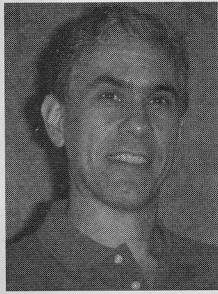
Faye Kennedy, Allen Joslyn, Rich Kennedy



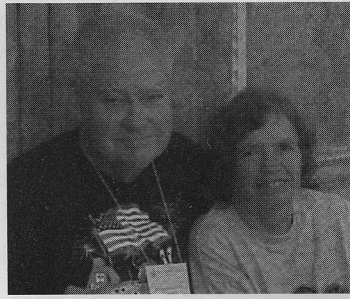
Zane Mead and Bill Byington



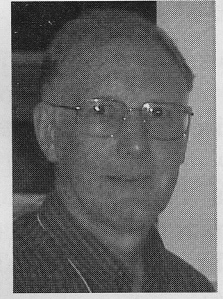
Rhett Butler Steve Rowe



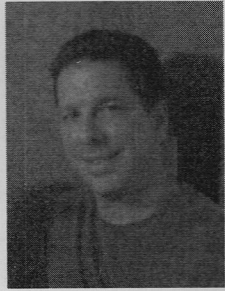
Gary Fischman



Dick and Carolyn Hubbard



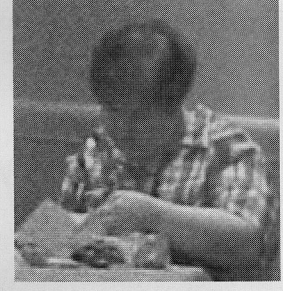
Philip Austin



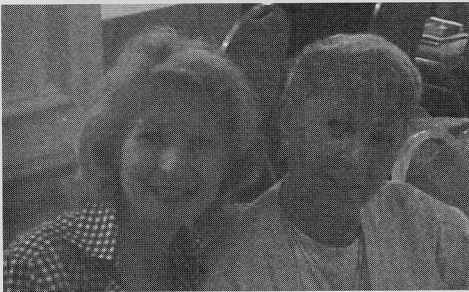
Courtney and Steve Takes



Larry Bolen and Win Applegate



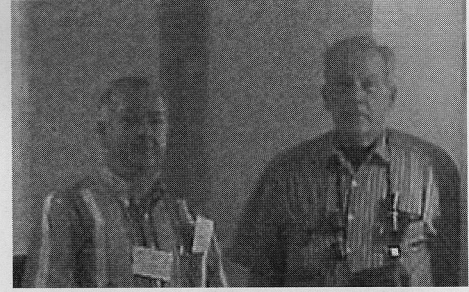
Hilary Applegate



Sally Hyslop and Vicky Berol



Patty Ramey



Win Applegate and Bob Rodder



Steve Rowe, Patty Ramey, Joe Gum,
Patti Blumin and Debbie Fellenz

Display Contest Winners



Several other members avoided the camera. But all had fun.



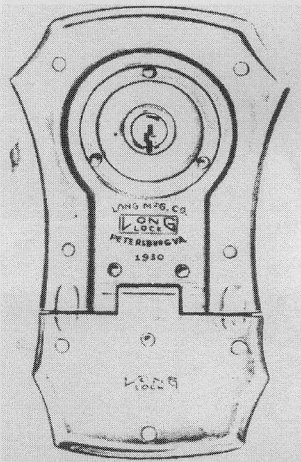
Loretta Nemec (top)
Lindsay and Barry Rusler (back), Gary Fishman (front)

The Doorknob Exchange

Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade, or wanted at no charge. ADCA is not responsible for any transaction or the condition of the items advertised.

Wanted:

Complete, Fancy, Victorian, Brass Trunk Locks



Trunk Locks manufactured by Long Lock Co., 1930, steel. (see illustration)

Barrel Keys

Vicky Berol (#450)
2527 Gough Street
San Francisco, CA 94123-5012
(415) 771-9899
sfgofer@yahoo.com

Trivia Quiz

By An Observer

Who forgot their underwear and had to buy replacements at Victoria's Secret?

Who fell asleep at their display table?

Who kept drinking a suspiciously clear substance that looked like scotch?

Who wore the same outfit to the banquet that was worn 10 years ago?

Who apologized for things they were about to do?

Who wore a price tag on their head?

Who had a late night Friday so was late to the auction?

Who said they would defer to "the older gentleman" at the auction?

Who encouraged another to stand up when the octogenarians were announced?

Who snuck off to Mexico for lunch?

Who conveniently placed M&Ms at their table?

Who was that popular member serving homemade cookies at their table?

Which smoking members were smoking in non-smoking hotel rooms?

Who was the ONLY member allowed into the spoon collectors showroom who was not immediately removed by the charming "Spoon Matriarch"?

Choices:

Larry Bolen
Patti Blumin
Len Blumin
Rhett Butler
Win Applegate
Steve Arnold
Loretta Nemeč
Bob Rodder
Patty Ramey
Steve Takes
Barbara Liesman
Steve Rowe

The 2004 ADCA
Convention
will be held
in the
San Francisco Bay
Area

So plan to "Leave
your Heart in San
Francisco" next
summer.

Keep in Touch

Mail:



ADCA Box 31
Chatham, NJ
07928-0031



FAX:

(973) 635-6993



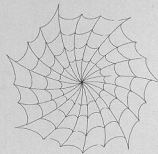
Phone:

(973) 635-6338



E-mail:

Antiquedoorknobs
@comcast.net



Web Site:

www.Antiquedoorknobs.
org

E-mail:

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