

Joe and Jackie Young Collection

By John Stanley

The Sunday (12/20) before Christmas of 2020, I was talking to Jackie Young and she said that she and the family were at her storage unit going through the large can opener and cork-screw collection. She had decided she wanted me to start selling the collection. She told me that Jeff, her son-in-law, would be calling soon to work out a meeting point to deliver some of the collection. Later that afternoon Jeff called and said he could be in Asheville, N. C. the next day by 3PM. I was a little amazed but quickly agreed I could make the four hour drive from my end and we agreed to meet just off of I-40. Jeff would be driving Jackie's small SUV and I thought a few boxes would be coming down. He planned on camping near Asheville that night.



Jeff and I met in the parking lot of a Wells Fargo Bank. The transfer took about 20 minutes and top right is the neatly packed SUV he drove down and the bottom three are of my twice as big Ford Expedition that was packed when the loading was finished. Not near as neat but everything was picked up. I do remember a lot of rattling on the trip back to Durham. Jackie had told me she had to move out of her house on short notice so most of the tubs just had corkscrews dumped in, good and bad in one tub.

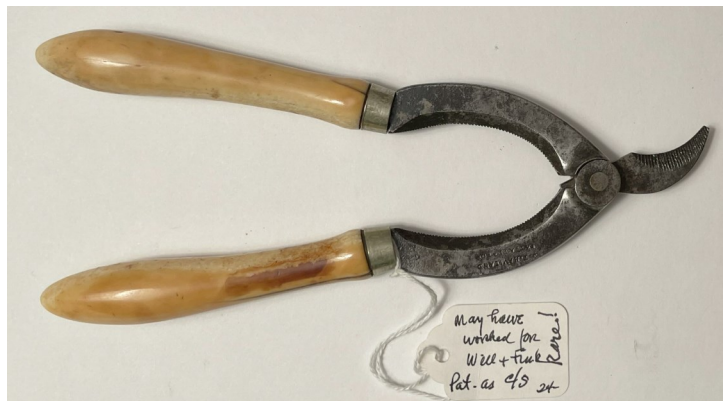
Jeff got a shot of us and my backend loaded down. Most of this load was corkscrews with some miscellaneous openers and advertising go-withs. It is amazing what Joe and Jackie had accumulated in close to 50 years of collecting.

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Boxes on the spare bedroom bed. Tubs in the garage. The sorting process had begun with the bottom four pictures and I was a happy camper looking at it all.

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Each box usually contained some surprises. Three group shots show how good and average would be mixed in. Three individual shots were of a rare razor with a corkscrew, a Murphy with prongs under the button and a one-of-a-kind John T. Haviland of San Francisco "corkscrew" patent #104,453 from June 21, 1870. Saying it is a corkscrew is a stretch but that is what the patent says.

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A week was spent sorting but word got out and a lot of Facetime with Tommy Campnell and some with Josef L'African occurred. Sales were brisk and fast as is always the case when you start selling a collection. The first month most of the "good pieces" were sold and it took about three more months to move out most of the remaining corkscrews. By the end of April, the first half of the Joe and Jackie Young collection had been dispersed.

Jackie and the family then contacted me the end of June about selling the rest of the collection which this time would be mostly can openers. An arrangement was made for Jeff and one of his sons to rent a large van and drive down to Durham and drop the collection off.

The big day was June 29th and I had asked Don Bull to come down and help. Below are pictures of the storage unit and Jackie's daughter Amy sitting in the back of the van after everything was transferred. Bottom is a recently made copy of America's first patented can opener by Ezra J. Warner of Waterbury CT #19,063 on January 5, 1858.



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The van was taller than our 10 foot high garage. Jeff and John starting out. Thankfully Jeff's son Edward was there to help. It was a hot day and my side of the garage was full. Mostly can openers but also boxes of nice corkscrews. Time for the searching to begin.

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We started with a empty kitchen table and this was the focal point to bring in the corkscrews. Don and I both went through all of the boxes in the garage and then he was in charge of sorting on the table. Bottom two pictures are of the metal handle and wood handle can openers.

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There were several boxes of books. Three pictures of very unusual combination can openers and corkscrews. Right pictures show one case of better can openers and then two versions of the rare Jeremiah Greenwood barmount can opener.





Second case of better can openers. Don and I worked on sorting all afternoon and along with Pat had a nice supper. He stayed at local hotel and after some more looking the next morning headed home. The Sunday after the drop off I was talking to Tommy Campnell and as we talked he booked a flight to Durham for the next day, returning home Tuesday night. His visit coincided with a visit by John and Marcia Eblen on Tuesday. Tommy arrived late Monday night but we spent all day Tuesday letting him look. Part of the collection was about 30 bar-mount corkscrews and they stayed in the garage. The rest were in the house with boxes everywhere. Tommy and John had a lot of fun looking. After three weeks I had sorted the can openers on our extra bed, first with metal handles and then with wooden handles.

Somewhat like the first round the second round of corkscrews eventually sold in about three months. The can openers were another story as early patent pieces are popular but most after 1900 are not fast movers. I did swing by Jeff and Amy's Chicago home the first of August to pick up some leftover storage unit items but not much in the way of openers or corkscrews.

By the start of 2022 many of the can openers had sold and Amy sent an email asking if I could make a final run to pick up what Jackie had in her apartment (next page). Unfortunately Jackie had passed away on November 28th. The Youngs had an amazing knowledge of kitchen collectibles. I learned a lot about can openers through their collection.



The trip to Chicago started on February 8th. I stayed in Indianapolis that night and arrived at Jeff and Amy's home near downtown Chicago about 10:30AM. My Expedition was full of empty boxes as I had a second trip to make that afternoon. The last of Joe and Jackie's collection barely fit in and I stopped at Tommy Campnell's to reorganize.

From there I was heading to Janesville WI to pick up the collection of Bob Kimball as Don Bull had completed the deal as I was traveling up. I met with his son Todd at the Kimball house and started loading up at 5:30 that evening and had 90% in boxes before coming back the next morning to finish loading the Expedition (top 3 pictures). Thankfully Todd and a one of his worker's, Ashton, did the loading. I made it to Beckley WV that night. The next day was a short trip to Don's house in Moneta VA. After unloading, I helped him sort things (middle 2 pictures).

Bob Kimball had a great collection with a lot of really nice corkscrews. The pool tables pictures were about 30-40% of the collection.



Don got an awesome corkscrew cane collection from BK. Top middle picture was when I left Durham to go on the trip with my back end full of plastic tubs.

Three great pieces from the last run of the Joe and Jackie Young Collection. Top right is a "Double Duty" wall mount in great shape. Above is the only known example of a Joseph Holsen of Manitowoc WI Corkscrew/Can Opener Patent Number D53,658 July 29, 1919.

Besides some mainly nice corkscrews and can openers the last pickup of J&J stuff included many miscellaneous collectibles such as "cap bombs", figural pencil sharpeners, and many neat kitchen go-withs.

By the end of March I had completed selling the J&J Collection. It was a pleasure and a big job. Joe and Jackie had great tastes when they were buying kitchen collectibles.

