

THE DuBOIS GLASS CO.

by Bill Lockhart, Pete Schulz, Carol Serr, and Bill Lindsey

In the October 2009 issue of the Milk Route Paul Doucette answered a question in the Information Exchange section about the DuBois Glass Co. While Paul's information about the company is correct, we have some additional data that may be of interest to the Milk Route readers.

History

DuBois Glass Co., Falls Creek, Pennsylvania (1914-ca. 1921)

The Fitzpatrick Glass Co. opened at Falls Creek in 1900, making window glass by the cylinder method. J.J. Fitzpatrick was the president and treasurer, and the plant operated one tank with 48 blowers. The

1915:578,582; 1921:782, 784). In 1920, the factory employed 115 men and four boys – with 11 office staff.

The company did not appear in the 1927 listing. Unfortunately, we have a gap in our factory directories from 1922 to 1926, so we cannot pinpoint the closing date. However, since we have found no other Pennsylvania documents that mention the firm, it probably closed ca. 1921. Schadlich ([ca. 1990]) placed the location at DuBois, Pennsylvania, an intuitive identification, also based on an entry in the Massachusetts Department of Standards Bulletin #11, printed in 1918. Falls Creek is actually located just over two miles northwest of DuBois, and the factory owners probably chose the name of the larger community, simply because of its size.



Figure 1 - DBGCo30 Heelmark

company became the Crystal Window Glass Co. in 1908 but went out of business in 1911 with the advent of machines to make window glass (Aravich n.d.; Roller 1997).

The DuBois Glass Co. took over the old Fitzpatrick factory in 1914 and sold the remaining window glass paraphernalia for junk. The plant had its own mold section, operated by James McCoy to make milk jar molds (American Flint 1914:35; Aravich n.d.; McKnight 1917:472). The DuBois Glass Co. was listed in the Thomas Registers as a milk bottle manufacturer from 1915 to at least 1921 (Thomas Publishing Co.

Containers and Marks

DBGCo30 (1914-ca. 1921)

Al Morin (personal communication, 2/16/2007) noted that bottles in his collection with the Massachusetts "D" seal, are accompanied by heel codes of DBGCo30 or D.B.G.CO.30 (Figure 1). Schadlich & Schadlich (1984: 4 - 5) cited the Massachusetts Department of Standards Bulletin #11 (1918) as listing the DuBois Glass Co. as the user of the "D" seal. This

solidly associates both the Massachusetts D Seal and the number "30" with the DuBois Glass Co.

A numbering system for milk bottle manufacturers apparently began between 1910 and 1912 in New York. By 1912, both New York and Wisconsin required that any glass house selling milk bottles within the boundaries of these respective states have a number that represented the factory embossed on each milk bottle. Other states joined in, and the number system was pretty solidly in place by 1916 (Dept. of Commerce and Labor 1912:318; Milk Dealer 1916:58-59; Orange County Times-Press 1910).



THE DuBOIS GLASS CO.**(continued ...)****Massachusetts D Seal on Milk Bottles (1914-ca. 1921)**

From 1910 to 1947, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts required that all glass factories selling bottles to dairies within the state mark their containers with an embossed Massachusetts seal. From some



Figure 2 - Massachusetts D Seal

point after 1910 (probably ca. 1914), factories began embossing the seal on the shoulder of each bottle, usually in a circular format embossed "MASS (arch) / {factory designator} / "SEAL (inverted arch)." These often appeared in a small plate mold. The DuBois Glass Co. used a "D" in the Massachusetts seal embossed at the shoulder of its bottles (Blodget 2006:8; Schadlich [ca. 1990]). The mark was probably used from ca. 1914 to ca. 1920 (Figure 2).

Discussion and Conclusions

Although we have discovered little about the history of the DuBois Glass Co., a few things are clear. The factory was located at Falls Creek, Pennsylvania, from 1914 to ca. 1921, and it made milk bottles during its entire existence. The plant embossed its initials "DBGCo" (with or without punctuation) on the heels of its milk bottles, apparently always accompanied by its designated number "30." It is highly likely that the company used the "DBGCo30" manufacturer's mark for its entire existence. It is also likely that DuBois bottles used by Massachusetts dairies had the Massachusetts "D" Seal embossed on the shoulders of the bottles in a circular format during this same period.

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