



**Samuel Comely Dyke**  
(1856-1924)

## **A SPIN ON THE PAST**

The Origin Story of the Modern American Toy Industry, as it  
Occurred in Akron, Ohio,  
Including the Story of S.C. Dyke and the First  
Mass-Produced Toy -- Clay Marbles.

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(Edited by Carol L. Robinson)

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# INTRODUCTION

## KENMORE BOY ENTERS FINALS FOR U.S. TITLE

### Al Huey Masters Four Others for Marble Crown

*Akron Times-Press* (Akron, Ohio) Monday - July 2, 1928

By Paul W. Van Camp (The Times-Press Marble Man)

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. July 2—Little Alfred Huey, 12 year old Kenmore [a suburb of Akron] mib king, representing the Akron Times-Press in the Sixth Annual Marble Tournament, Tuesday meets Dominic Cartelli of New Britain, Conn. for the marble championship of the United States.

#### Grimly Fighting

Starting the day with a bang, Huey took two games from John Melone, pride of Hoboken, N.J. He won the first 7-6 and the second 8 to 5.

In his second set today, Huey fell before the accurate knuckles of Gladys Coleman, Harrisburg, Pa., *girl flash* and the most popular of all the marble contenders. The girl won the first game 12 to 1.

Following this defeat, Huey appeared somewhat discouraged. It looked bad for the Times-Press' championship hope.

He dropped his discouraged look when he knuckled down, but the girl proved she knew her marbles. Gladys took the lead 5 to 0 and Al's backers thought it was all over.

But the little Kenmore lad was not to be downed and he took the remaining seven marbles in the ring without a halt.



The National Marbles Tournament, Atlantic City, New Jersey, 1928.

Little Alfred Huey went on to win the National Marbles Tournament, and he was crowned the Champion of the United States. His picture was on the cover of every newspaper in the U.S.. His winning the tournament was the opening footage of newsreels shown in every movie house in America. When he arrived home to Akron, the city gave him the biggest and longest parade ever held – a record that still stands today.

As for Gladys “*girl flash*” of Harrisburg – if she had taken just two more marbles in that game of *Ringer*, the history of the United States might have been radically different.

Think I’m kidding?

Then you don’t know about MARBLES.

Marbles are probably the oldest game known to man. In the days of the Pharaohs in Egypt (5,000 years ago) beautiful marbles of all types and styles were made for play. King Tut was buried with his favorite marbles. Moses undoubtedly played with them as a child. And, it is my opinion that marbles were used to build the great pyramids of Egypt, using them like ball bearings to roll two-ton blocks of stone into place. Of course, I’ve yet to prove this theory, but that’s another story altogether. Throughout recorded history almost every culture on the face of the earth used little spheres made of clay, stone or glass in games, the names and rules of which are now mostly long forgotten.

In the United States, the history of marbles can be traced back to the Mayflower’s voyage to the New World. There is the “known fact” that one little Pilgrim boy brought on board a bag of marbles to play with during the long passage at sea. Unfortunately, these deeply religious people considered *Games of Chance* a sin. When they caught the little boy playing marbles, he got a whipping and his marbles were tossed overboard into the deep Atlantic. It is also a “known fact” that Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln were champion marbles players as boys. Oh yeah, and FDR – another known marbles player – was also a U.S. president. The problem with these wonderful, long told and cherished stories: none of them are true, nor can they be documented. Like that story of young George Washington and the felled cherry tree, these stories just seem to be passed down from generation to generation.



My involvement with marbles began in 1989, when I was operating a small toy manufacturing company in Akron, Ohio. Business was brisk, and I needed larger quarters for my growing company. So, I moved everything into an old factory near the University of Akron. While moving in, carrying a box of papers from my car, an old-timer in the neighborhood stopped me and said, "I hear you're going to make toys here. Did you know that this used to be a toy factory? They made marbles." Once our production line was back up and running, I started to think about the odd coincidence of making toys in an old toy factory.

To my knowledge, marbles hadn't been a part of the American toy industry since the 1960s. In my spare time, I went to the library to look up this old marble company. However, I didn't find anything at all. I asked local history experts lots of questions, and I received big smiles and a question in return: "Have you lost your marbles?" (Ha! Yeah. That's funny.) I also went to the stores and couldn't find a single marble for sale anywhere in town. Then, one day, while poking through the attic of the house I was leasing next door to the factory, I came upon some big old dusty boxes. What I discovered: the entire corporate records of *The M.F. Christensen & Son Company* (Akron, Ohio; 1905-1923), "The first and original glass marble factory in America."



Sales pamphlet M.F. Christensen & Son Co. (circa 1911).

This was a spectacular historic find. These boxes contained ledgers of all types: sales material, advertisements, photographs, etc.. And they also contained an equally spectacular collection of marbles, many in their original boxes. The records were so complete that they accounted for every penny earned and spent by the company for almost twenty years. Using this new data, the names and information contained in these papers, I went back to the library and into the newspaper microfilm

collection. There, I found hundreds of articles about marbles, from manufacturing to tournaments. As it turns out, *The M. F. Christensen & Son Company* wasn't the only marble company in Akron. It was the *last* company to manufacture glass marbles in Akron.

The oldest toy company I identified was *The Akron Toy Company* (incorporated in 1883). Its president was Samuel C. Dyke. Before Sam Dyke, manufactured toys were rare and exclusive to the wealthiest families in the U.S.. In 1880, only a small fraction of the total population were of this economic class. All other children made due with something less, something like a stick and a barrel strap, or something a grandpa made for them out of wood or clay, or a baby dolly a mom sewed from old rags. So, the first toy factory, *The Akron Toy Company* (1883-1887), was the first company in the United States to mass-produce toys. It seems that this company was also the first to market a children's product directly to children, intending for them to purchase a toy with their own money. For a penny, a child could buy a small handful of marbles. The idea was to use the process of mass-production to reduce the cost of toys to a price where any child could afford to buy them. What Sam Dyke did with this revolution in marketing through mass production was to make toys available to all children for the first time in history. Almost overnight, *The Akron Toy Company* created the toy and children's product industry.

Throughout my research over the past ten years, I've come to know and understand that the American childhood experience is generally misunderstood and insufficiently examined by scholars. And I've come to know and understand that the history of marbles is obscure at best.

While Sam Dyke's new idea of marketing directly to children was sound and profitable, it didn't immediately sit well with politic society in Akron. They imagined that Dyke might be, in some way, stealing money from the pockets of little children. Then they realized that Dyke was well on his way to becoming a millionaire, at which point some of these well-to-do citizens opened their own marble factories in competition with Dyke's. They patented their own machinery and developed their own unique style of marbles. At that point, the availability of many new and different types of marbles caused the market to grow even larger.

The new concept of marketing low cost toys directly to children was not lost upon some fellows working on the other side of town. These fellows were always attempting to find new uses for rubber. (By the

1880s, Akron was the nation's largest producer of rubber goods.) These booming rubber companies, eager for new markets, quickly jumped on the children's product wagon and generated the first mass-produced rubber balls, rubber duckies, balloons, dollies and rubber baby buggy bumpers. The oldest rubber toy I've been able to discover in my research was – get this – a rubber snake. If you go into any dime store today, you will still find rubber snakes for sale.

Thanks to Sam Dyke's inspiration, Akron became the birthplace of the modern American toy industry. Then, in 1902, local toy company heads founded the first toy trade association, locating its offices in New York City. This location allowed American toy companies to better market their goods to foreign markets. By 1929, the year of the stock market crash (and a year I've not researched past), there were over 100 toy companies in operation within a 30 mile radius of Akron.

It is important to understand that childhood, children's toys and their play-value has changed radically over the past 100 years. Nothing illustrates this fact as well as Letters to Santa, which were commonly published in the newspapers at the turn of the twentieth century. Around Christmas time, a city editor would send a runner to the Post Office to collect a handful of letters to Santa from the Dead Letter Box. These were then published in the newspaper. (The U.S. Post Office doesn't allow this any more.) Reading these old Dear Santa letters gives us a fascinating window into the hearts and minds of children of that time, the time of our grand- and great grandfathers and mothers. At the end of the 1800s, the most popular item asked of Santa, and more than half of the letters asked for the same thing: an apple tree. Still, marbles were the most popular toy in the entire history of the U.S., and no toy has yet to equal the popularity of marbles. Electronic games will have to sell at their present rate for another 100 years before they can match marbles' historic dominance of playtime in the U.S.. (In Mexico City, they sell more marbles-per-month than the United States sells in one year. The reason is that children in Mexico are not as affluent as American children today; they are more like American children were 100 years ago.)

Oh, and that little girl, Gladys "girl flash" Coleman, who just missed winning the National Marbles Tournament in 1928, well... her defeat came as a relief to marble manufacturers. At the time, knuckling down in the school yard for a game of *Ringer* was almost exclusive to little boys. If a girl had won, heaven forbid, little boys might have gotten the idea that marbles was a game for sissies and would have abandoned its

play. Later, the National Marbles Tournament, at the urgings of the country's toy marble companies, set up a separated category and trophy for girls – just in case a girl might beat a boy at the Nationals. However, the market realities, which often differ from what the slow-to-learn-meathead-toy-industry-experts believe, suggest if a girl won the National Marbles Tournament in 1928, chances are the market would have doubled the demand for marbles, as more and more little girls knuckled down to best the little boys in the neighborhood. And, for children at such an impressionable age, who learned many of life's most important lessons at the edge of a marbles ring (fair-play, cooperation, competition, dedication, playing for keeps, the rules of the road, etc.), if they had learned in 1928 that girls were boys' equals... well I'm sure you know where I'm attempting to lead you. The history of the United States *would* have been radically different.

So, the story you are about to read is a history never before told. It's about Ohio, particularly Northeast Ohio, and the origins of the American toy industry. It's about Sam Dyke. It's also about little children and a game they loved to play – marbles.



## MARBLES.

The Play Ground or Out-Door Games For Boys  
(Dick & Fitzgerald, New York, 1866)

# CHAPTER ONE:

## Samuel Comley Dyke

(1856-1924)

### Father of the American Toy Industry

The father of the American toy industry did not start out as a toy-maker, nor did he even appear to want to grow up to become one. Actually, the whole idea was dropped into his lap by an eccentric newspaperman. A few years before the Civil War began, Garrettsville, Ohio was not much more than the sleepy crossroads of an agricultural village. It is here that John and Ellen Dyke, recent immigrants from Devonshire, England, briefly settled in hopes of raising a family. Samuel Comely Dyke, their second child, was born on July 2, 1856. On the eve of the Civil War, John Dyke moved his growing family to Panola, Illinois, then to Indianola, Ohio and finally settled for good in the wild parries of Iowa. The Dykes had a total of six children, five boys and a girl: Actaeon L, Samuel C., Thomas, Robert, Darrell and Lottie. Sam received his education in a one-room schoolhouse in Iowa. His first job was delivering mail to his pioneer neighbors. At the age of 14, he traveled back east – hopping from riverboat, to canal boat, to Great Lakes steamer, making his way to New York while working as a cabin boy. His big brother, A.L., lived in Buffalo.

A.L. was in the newspaper delivery business, and he put Sam to work as a news butcher. A news butcher is a young boy who sells newspapers to customers sitting on streetcars. The idea was for the boy to hitch a ride on the streetcar and walk down the isle *hawking his rags* (i.e., selling his newspapers). The conductor would allow the little butcher aboard as a convenience to his passengers. The streetcar company used it as a marketing ploy – ride the trolley, pick up a paper on the way and enjoy a good read while you ride. Although it served the trolley company's interests, this business was not in the habit of offering free rides to anyone. So, as soon as the butcher sold what papers he could, the conductor would throw the kid off the trolley at the next stop. The butcher would then wait for the next trolley and start the process all over again. This was not an easy or safe way to make money, and to become a successful butcher the child had to quickly learn the arts and skills of a salesman.





Type of horse drawn street car worked by news butchers in the 1870s

How and why what happened next is long lost to history, but after several years passed, Sam and his brother moved from Buffalo to Akron, Ohio. The year was 1879, and Sam was 23. Sam and A.L. lived together in a house that still stands at 129 South Maple Street, in Akron's near west side. That year, A. L. opened a small newsstand in an old hotel located in the heart of Akron's business district. He sold candy, books, newspapers, magazines, tobacco, playing cards and certain personal items a traveler might need while staying at the hotel.

Sam took a job in the distribution department for a newspaper, called the *Sunday Gazette*. His boss was a crusty journalist named Carson Lake. Back then, the vast majority of newspapers were political party organs, expressing the "unvarnished truth," according to the party line. Ohio at this time was hugely Republican, in the process of electing five Republican Ohioans to the office of the President of the United States, and almost all marched to the tune of the Grand Ol' Party of Lincoln. Akron was a hotbed of Republican politics. The *Sunday Gazette* was supposedly a politically independent newspaper, but in truth it bent more to the Democratic view of things. This made sales more than difficult -- on top of the fact it was one of three local newspapers fighting for readers. The other competition were another Democratic paper, *Akron City Times*, and the *Akron Daily Beacon*, a Republican paper and the only daily in town.

Into this scene came a swaggering reformer of a journalist named Walter Wellman. He was a real fireball. With money he'd earned from selling a Cincinnati penny press, Wellman proceeded to open up the fourth newspaper in Akron, *The Akron Daily News*, a daily which was most certainly expressing things in the Republican light. Wellman's idea, the same as he successfully proved in Cincinnati, was to sell his newspapers for a penny (on long term contract). Wellman hired Sam away from Carson Lake and put him in charge of subscription sales.

# THE DAILY NEWS.

AKRON, OHIO, SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 20, 1882.

sent might be improved, and the answers are being "shaped" that view be ... .. fact and an authoritative ... ..

BUYING A RAILROAD.

next payment, it was discovered that there was called on along the line of

AFTER

*The Akron Daily News* started right off by tearing into the local utility companies, harping on how they were fixing rates and cheating their customers. With citizens now flocking to buy copies of *The Akron Daily News* to learn the latest scandal, the reputation and influence of this newspaper soared, and the local utilities were forced to reduce their rates.

*The Akron Daily News* held a dedication toward uncovering governmental corruption, and with this reformer's attitude, the paper intentionally hit a raw nerve. 1882 was a congressional election year, and *The Akron Daily News* was fed-up with Akron's Republican Congressman, Hon. A. S. McClure. So, the newspaper did something outrageous. This Republican newspaper backed the Democratic nominee David R. Paige, Jr.. With this move they became *Mugwumps* -- Republicans who back Democrats. The act astonished local party leaders of both sides. And, stranger still, the unimaginable happened: the citizens of Akron elected a Democrat to represent them in Congress. Afterwards, *The Akron Daily News* was in the editorial cross hairs of the Republican party and their newspaper, *Akron Daily Beacon*. *The Akron Daily News* never again attempted to play up to the Democrats in town (it was the principle of the thing), but the newspaper's act unleashed a hornet's nest of hurt upon itself, which kept on stinging well after the election.

Carson Lake, Sam's former boss at the *Sunday Gazette*, perceiving *The Akron Daily News* as particularly vulnerable, took this opportunity to get in a few jabs which escalated to . . . well let me back up a bit and describe Carson Lake.

## JAW WORK ON JOURNALISTS.

**Brainy Men Who Pull the String While Akron Dances.  
Special Correspondence of the [Cleveland] Penny Press.**

*Akron City Times*, July 27, 1883 - 1:3

AKRON, O., June 12. - This is a great country down here for lakes. There's Congress lake and Springfield lake and Carson lake -- but hold on there, not so fast, I'm getting my lakes mixed. Carson is a Lake with a big L, and the editor and proprietor of the *Sunday Gazette*. Carson's a queer case. He's a Summit county boy, I believe; ran the Daily Argus, a red hot democratic organ,



(may it rest in peace) here some years ago, subsequently engaged in journalism in Columbus and at some other points in the State, if my memory hasn't stepped on a banana-peel, returned to Akron, bought, the *Gazette*, and by his indefatigable energy and industry has developed it into quite a neat piece of newspaper property. That fellow works like a rolling mill, and I believe he would walk all around the earth with shingle nails in his shoes to hit an enemy in the neck with a brickbat. Lake is a bright, quick, snappy fellow, always doing something, or, going somewhere or looking for something, he hasn't lost. He's too nervous to sit down long enough to rest himself, and when he isn't fishing he's mending his nets. In politics he's, as uncertain as buying pools on base ball, but I guess if you asked him he'd tell you that he's an "Independent Democrat." He's one of these rule or ruinists and he can hate so hard and stir up strife so artistically that newspaper men usually give him a place in the procession pretty close to Allen O'Myers, of the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, and Mack of the *Sandusky Register*.

As you can tell from the above article, Carson Lake was regarded by others in his profession as a pretty disagreeable fellow, if not an outright fool. Soon, *The Akron Daily News* and *Sunday Gazette* were waging an all-out editorial war. Whatever it was that Walter Wellman wrote in his editorial that caused Carson Lake to start tossing brick bats at *The News* is lost to the banana-peel of history, but the following events relating to this newspaper war changed Sam Dyke's life forever, to say nothing about Wellman's.

*Akron City Times*, May 9, 1883

The Wellman Brothers sold the Akron Daily News on Saturday to a company who have put Clarence Moore and S.C. Dyke in control of the paper - Mr. Moore to have control of the editorial department and Mr. Dyke to have control of the business management. The change of ownership involves no change in the character or policy of the paper. To all parties we extend an earnest wish for their future prosperity.

Wellman turned over the ownership of his newspaper to Sam Dyke and Mr. Moore. Moore became ill and soon afterwards left Akron, leaving everything in Sam Dyke's hands. It was at this point when Walter Wellman stepped back into the scene as editor and proceeded to filet Carson Lake in *The Akron Daily News* editorials. Lake responded by jumping on his 'high horse,' going to court and claiming he was libeled by *The Akron Daily News* -- starting a 'round two' in the newspaper war.

*Akron City Times*, June 20, 1883

WHEN CARSON LAKE, Esq. editor of the *Akron Sunday Gazette*, instituted a suit for Libel against the *Beacon* - the suit is yet pending - he did not undertake to suppress its publication; but when he instituted a suit for Libel against the *Akron Daily News*, which he instituted while the Republican party was holding its State Convention, he invoked legal process and the strong arm of the sheriff to suppress its publication. Why this discrimination? Is it because the *News* is considered more dangerous than the *Beacon*?

The way the story goes, according to a local historian:

One day [Wellman] printed an editorial in which he vilified Lake in scandalous fashion. Lake promptly filed suit for libel and Wellman, knowing he had stepped out of bounds, prepared to leave town. But before he departed he used his last role of paper to put out a farewell issue. In it he tore Lake limb from limb, picturing him as the worst scoundrel that ever drew breath. Then, while the sheriff was rattling the front door, he passed out the still wet newspaper to newsboys, grabbed his valise and hastened out the back door and out of Akron." (Karl H. Grismer, *Akron and Summit County*, Summit County Historical Society, circa 1950s.)

That's not exactly how it happened, but it's a great story. What really happened was that Wellman stayed in Akron through the summer and then eventually left for Chicago to work for the *Chicago Herald*. Sam Dyke, the new owner of *The Akron Daily News*, was left holding the bag. Sam fought Lake in the courts for more than a year. Lake slipped out of town for parts unknown, leaving the *Sunday Gazette*, owing debts to dozens of creditors and the *Sunday Gazette's* financial backer eventually had to pay Sam for the damages done to his newspaper, *The Akron Daily News*.

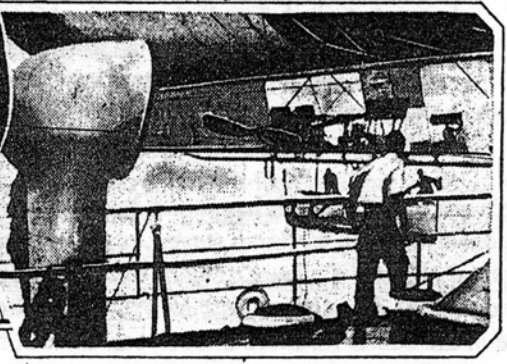
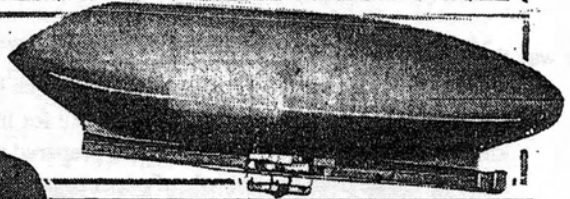
Wellman was quite a character, and his eccentricity made a dramatic impact upon Sam for the rest of his life. He became that newspaper's Washington correspondent and also quickly became the highest paid American journalist in the nineteenth century. Wellman is credited with locating Christopher Columbus' first landfall in the New World. He made two attempts to be the first to the North Pole by airship. He was the first to attempt an Atlantic crossing by air, in an airship, and in a round-about way, he convinced *The Goodyear Tire and Rubber* company to go into the business of building airships -- dirigibles and blimps. But there was one last important thing Walter Wellman did before he left Akron. He incorporated the *Akron Toy Company*.

# Attempted Ocean Flight 20 Years Ago

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Left: Walter Wellman, former Akron newspaper editor, who 20 years ago attempted the first air crossing of the Atlantic ocean.  
Upper right: The crude dirigible in which Wellman and his crew set out on their hazardous and epochal journey.  
Lower right: Rescue of the America's crew at sea by the mail steamer Trent 375 miles east of Cape Hatteras.

he founded the Post first penny ne- necessary to ground the wireless. to Date to Awarded

Caption reads: "Walter Wellman former Akron newspaper editor, who 20 years ago attempted the first air crossing of the Atlantic Ocean." (*Akron Beacon Journal*, October 16, 1930) Wellman's airship was named *American*. Its lifeboat, which was put to good use, is now in the collection of the *Lighter Than Air Society* in Akron, Ohio.

## THE AERIAL AGE – A THOUSAND MILES BY AIRSHIP OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

### Over the Atlantic Ocean

Walter Wellman

*A.R. Keller & Company, New York, 1911, p 129*

One theory I have always held, and still cling to it. It is that the great newspapers of the world should take the lead in all good works for the public benefit – reformations, constructions, experiments, explorations, furtherance of all worthy activities in all the fields of progress and endeavor. In my efforts I have had the support of some of the greatest journals on both sides of the Atlantic, and I am proud of it. I hope the day may come when our newspapers will be still more enterprising in these fields, and when journalistic breadth will be found sufficient to welcome, recognize and encourage all good work, no matter if made under the auspices of others in the profession. The old idea that newspapers are rivals, and must fight one another, ignore the other's activities or belittle and sneer at them – even questioning the motives and assailing the character of individuals – is a narrow, short-sighted one, savoring far more of the country cross-roads than of metropolitan journalism.

## CHAPTER TWO: Rum, Romanism and Rebellion

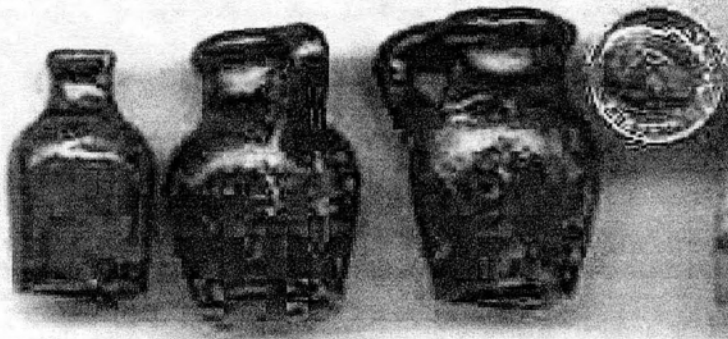
### Little Brown Jug

Written by: Unknown

Copyright: Unknown

Me and my wife live all alone.  
In a little log hut we call our own;  
She loves gin and I love rum,  
And don't we have a lot of fun!

Ha, ha, ha, you and me,  
Little Brown Jug, how I love thee!  
Ha, ha, ha, you and me,  
Little Brown Jug, how I love thee!



Little Brown Jugs discovered in a recent archeological dig at  
Dyke's marbles works on South Main Street, Akron, Ohio

By 1884, Sam Dyke seems to have gotten his feet into all sorts of shoes. That year, Sam married a pretty little woman who was his neighbor. He moved in with her family, and they had a little girl named Maude. That year, he was still tied up in a gigantic legal fight to salvage something from the newspaper he somehow obtained from Walter Wellman. And by that year, he had become somehow tied up with a toy company, which was entrepreneurship at its most daring – what did this newspaperman or anyone else know about the toy industry? “The Akron Toy Company, of Akron, capital stock \$10,000, was incorporated at Columbus on Wednesday” (*Akron City Times*, August 8, 1883 -- 3:1). It's never

made any sense to me, but personal histories are filled with such untied shoelaces. Needless to say, in all of Sam's later stories he neglected to mention his association with the newspaper business. His stories go strait to the manufacturing of *Little Brown Jugs* -- miniature replicas of whiskey jugs. (Sam was a fascinating story teller, leaving behind numerous examples of this exploits, mostly to newspaper reporter s in his waning years.)

There was, at the time, the above song. Perhaps it was one of those *Why-didn't-I-think-of-it?* brilliant ideas, which are so simple that they're dumb, but certainly this drinking song was in the back of Sam's mind when he came up with the idea of using his newly acquired toy factory to make those miniature whiskey jugs. Today, we might think of it as a children's song. Back then, it was a drinking song, with the words made up as you went along, and the drunker you got, the more naughty the lyrics became. (It's no wonder nobody has wished to take credit as the song's author.)

Anyways, so you're a little kid in 1884: you've got one of these *Little Brown Jugs*, maybe even a handful, and you still can't figure out why they're supposed to be so fun. Nor can you figure out why these little trinkets became an overnight success with production in the tens of thousands -- unless you suppose it had to do with a free ride on the coat-tails of this most popular song of the time. But still, you'd be missing something truly important.

The 1884 presidential election is without a doubt the most fascinating presidential election in the entire history of American presidential campaigns, and Sam Dyke wound up being right in the thick of it. The two candidates running were James G. Blaine and Grover "The Good" Cleveland. The Republican Blaine was the powerful and flamboyant Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Democratic Cleveland was Governor of New York State -- a reformer and all-around fighter of graft and corruption. (By the way, he had a few of his own wild sex scandals waiting to pop out, having something to do with an illegitimate child born to a *very* young, fallen woman.)

What does the Republican (Mugwamp) Sam Dyke have to do with this election? Well, go visit the Smithsonian Museum of American History over in Washington, D.C.. There, you'll discover that it has on continuous display a collection of presidential campaign memorabilia, and one of the most interesting items on display is a *Little Brown Jug*



with a small, nickel sized, lithograph of Grover Cleveland pasted on its side. But don't jump to any conclusions, yet!

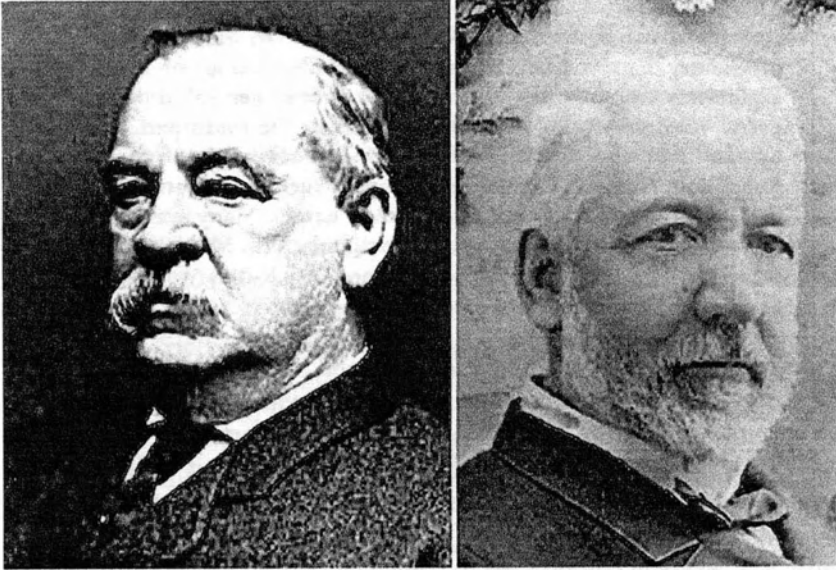


A Little Brown Jug, with a lithographic image of Presidential candidate Grover Cleveland pasted on one side, 1884 (Size 2 ½”).

You must keep in mind the Ohio political attitude of the day, which was overwhelmingly Republican, and not a single Democratic nominee from “The Party of Rebellion” had ascended to the Office of President since the Civil War. Sam Dyke was no left wing, liberal Democrat -- even though the newspaper he worked for at the time supported one for Congress -- he was a tried and true Republican to his grave. So what on earth was Sam Dyke doing manufacturing Cleveland for President campaign novelties? The answer was that he wasn't. It's far more interesting than anything that simple.

Although no Democrat was thought of as a serious contender in those days, Cleveland's reputation was raising more than a few Republican eyebrows. This Democrat was a reformer, a graft and corruption buster,





President, Grover Cleveland (left) James G. Blaine (right)

who scared every Republican who owed a portion of his income (wink, wink) to this status quo of doing “business”. Besides, New York State held the largest number of electoral votes and one just couldn’t be too careful, especially with those ax-wielding ladies from the Women’s Christian Temperance Movement threatening to put up their own candidate and steal off a sizeable percentage of Republican votes, making it slightly possible for a Democrat to win. As a means to woo the temperance crowd to the Republican’s side and enjoy a bit of fun in the process, Sam Dyke made *Little Brown Jugs* with Grover Cleveland’s image. They sent a political message: *Cleveland’s a Drunkard!* (Oh please! Clearly, political campaign tactics have changed little in 100 years: at the 1996 Republican National Convention held in San Diego, California, political operatives were selling condoms with President Clinton’s image printed on them.) So much for so on and so forth, but the story doesn’t end here. An absolutely remarkable thing happened late in the campaign when James G. Blaine made a campaign stop in Manhattan to speak with the New York clergy.

### BLAINE AND THE CLERGY WHITE CHOKERS THICK IN THE FIFTH-AVENUE HOTEL

*New York Times*, October 30, 1884 – 3:3

White chokers and silk hats of various ages and denominations began to congregate 10 o’clock yesterday morning in the lower

corridor of the Fifth-Avenue Hotel. The Rev. Dr. MacArthur, of Calvary Baptist Church, and the Rev. Mr. King, of the Eighteenth-Street Baptist Church, acted director-general of the party, who meekly followed those leaders to the south parlor on the floor above. On a table there lay noteheads of the Republican National Committee, on which such of the party as had no cards to leave might register their names. Many availed themselves of this thoughtful provision. Dr. MacArthur presented the Rev. Dr. S.D. Burchard, of Rutgers Female College, as Chairman of the meeting . . .

The article goes on and on -- bla, bla, bla -- and ends with a series of very solemn prayers. The most remarkable thing which happened at the event was missed entirely by the *New York Times* reporter. The good Rev. Burchard gave a most remarkable speech and ended it with an utterance describing Cleveland as being the man of *Rum, Romanism and Rebellion*. And, while the *New York Times* reporter missed it, a reporter friendly to Cleveland couldn't get to Cleveland's headquarters fast enough with the news. Soon, every newspaper in the United States was sharing the good Rev. Burchard's impolitic utterance. *Rum* -- how unfair it was to call Cleveland a drunkard. *Romanism* -- as if Catholics couldn't be real Americans because they owed their allegiance to the Pope in Rome. Then the good Reverend brought up old wounds of the Democrats, the Party of *Rebellion* -- those were fighting words. *Rum Romanism and Rebellion* were among the most damning words ever uttered in American politics.

**A PRIEST DENOUNCES BLAINE.  
RUM, ROMANISM, AND REBELLION  
HAS A GOOD EFFECT IN CONNECTICUT**

*New York Times*, November 3, 1884 - 1:4

HARTFORD, Nov. 2. -The Very Rev. James Hugh, Vicar-General of this diocese and Pastor of St. Patrick's Church in this city, is the most influential and esteemed Catholic clergyman in the Diocese of Connecticut. He has for 27 years continuously been Pastor of St. Patrick's Church. Up to the present campaign, he has never taken any part in politics . . . until this morning. He delivered sermons at all the masses this morning in which he took the approaching election as his text. He dwelt severely on bribery and corruption . . . He denounced Blaine in the sharpest and severest language for the prostitution of his official position for corrupt purposes . . . He also reviewed Blaine's religious life and particularly denounced his renunciation of the Catholic religion. He then referred to the

Democratic candidate, Grover Cleveland. As Mayor of Buffalo and Governor of the State of New-York he had shown himself to be the very embodiment of honesty, which was so earnestly desired in our public men. A man, he said, who had so successfully and honestly administered the affairs of a great State was the proper person to elect to the Presidency of the United States . . . .

The City Hall of New York City, run by 'Boss Tweed' from the 1860s through the 1880s, was among the most corrupt in history. It was named after the Society of St. Tammany, which was an Irish and Democratic organ – but strictly anti-Cleveland because of his want to rid corruption from government. The Catholic vote, especially the Irish of New York who owed so much to the corruption and graft of Tammany Hall, were all expected to vote for Blaine to maintain the status quo and keep their dinner pails full. So, were it not for the utterance of Rev. Burchard, maybe the face of "President Blaine" would grace the U.S. thousand dollar bill instead of that of Grover Cleveland.

Oh! And, that young child of Grover Cleveland's, the one that almost ended his political career, the daughter of a very young woman of ill repute – upon the start of the election, the Republicans started chanting "Ma Ma! Where's my Pa?" At the end of the election, the Democrats were chanting "Ma Ma! Where's my Pa? Gone to the White House. Ha! Ha! Ha!" Grover Cleveland was the first President to marry in the White House. His daughter was the first child born in the White House. Cleveland was the only President to serve two non-consecutive terms in office. He had another daughter while between his terms and that child had a candy bar named after her, Baby Ruth ([http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/presidents\\_and\\_first\\_ladies/34661](http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/presidents_and_first_ladies/34661)).

Back home in Akron, Sam Dyke was probably looking around for a rock big enough to hide under when he read the good Reverend's remarks. Of course, there was a certain distance between a manufacturer of novelties and the prominent, upstanding member of the religious community like Burchard. Still, Sam was doing the same thing Burchard did and was probably thinking he would be held equally accountable for Blaine's defeat. Lucky for Sam, Carson Lake split town and could not be found to answer Sam Dyke's counter-suit to recover damages from the libel suite Lake brought upon *The Akron Daily News*, which subsequently had a ruinous effect upon his trade (*Akron City Times*, July 23, 1884). And, because Lake refused to show up in court, the \$10,000 bond Lake put up to cover his suit was forfeited, and Sam finally got something for the

newspaper for which he had somehow gained ownership and responsibility from Walter Wellman. The money came just in time. The election was over, so that big rock to hide under turned out to be a trip with wife and little Maude across the seas to England.

When Sam returned from Europe, something wonderful happened: "Mr Dyke . . . soon after one of the Cleveland campaigns. . . at his Akron, Ohio factory, manufactured many thousands of little brown Jugs that were used as campaign emblems. After the election the little brown jug industry of course slumped and it was then that Mr. Dyke began the manufacture of marbles." (April 3, 1924, *The Parkersburg Sentinel*, Parkersburg, West Virginia.)

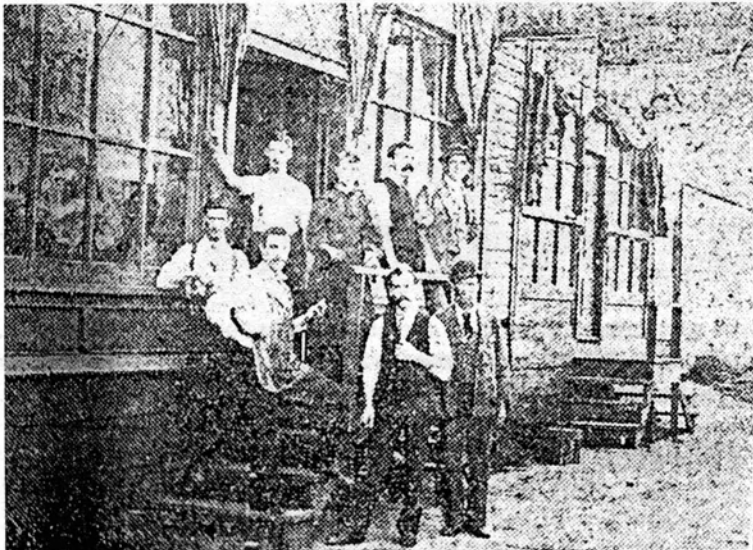
## CHAPTER THREE

### THE FIRST MARBLES MADE IN AMERICA

*Akron Daily Beacon*, July 25, 1888 - 1:3

Yesterday afternoon in this city S.C. Dyke, at his factory on South Main Street, for the little toy jugs that have helped make Akron known in all parts of the country, made the first marbles ever made in America for market....

Okay, so maybe not actually the very first marbles made, but without any question these were *the very first mass-produced marbles*, and as far as big time claims go, these were also the very first mass-produced toys of any type. And, okay, so that wasn't even such a big deal because some evidence suggests Sam Dyke was mass-producing clay marbles maybe back as far as 1884, or at least 1885 (*The Parkersburg Sentinel*, May 10, 1924, Parkersburg, West Virginia). The thing is, the headline was great. Sam was of course a newspaperman, a marketing man and the protégée of Walter Wellman, so why not use the newspapers to give a big boost to sales? What Sam was really announcing was the completion of this brand new state-of-the-art toy factory, the *S.C. Dyke & Co.*, on Main Street, in Akron, Ohio.



The S. C. Dyke & Co., South Main Street, Akron, Ohio, circa 1890s.  
(From an unnamed newspaper in a Dyke family scrapbook,  
belonging to Sam's granddaughter, Ula Weidie.)

The most interesting thing about this new factory was its ability to turn out so many marbles, up to one million per day -- one million marbles is five railroad boxcars full (*Akron Daily Beacon*, June 18, 1890 -1:3, Akron, Ohio). Mass production allowed for this magnificent feat, and that allowed the retail price of a toy marble to plummet. Before, a penny couldn't have even purchased a single common ordinary clay marble (called 'commies'). Now, for a penny or two, a child could afford to buy a whole handful of commies.



Catalog advertisement, 1889, for Dyke's American Marbles.

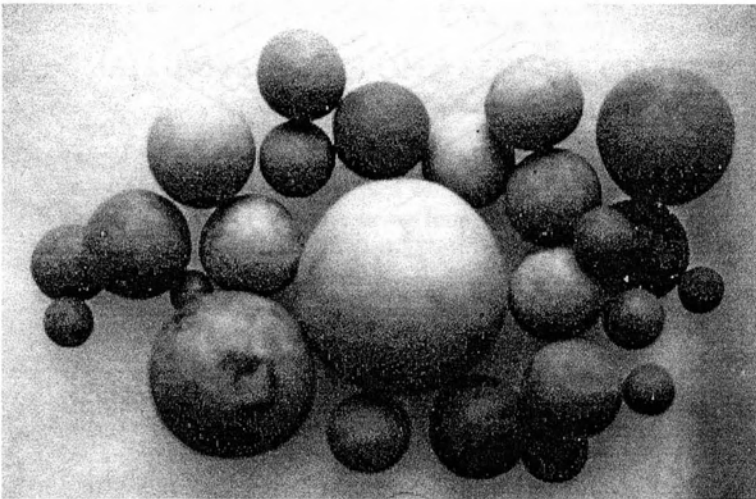
Caption reads: "The above cut represents American made Marbles which are entirely new and original. Being made in a great variety of variegated colors, they are very pleasing to the eyes. These marbles are packed in strong and neat boxes, much superior to those in which foreign marbles are put up."

This was one of those overnight success stories that only took about four years for people to notice. But, take notice they did, and not just the wee folk interested in knuckling down for a game of *Keeps*. The adults in town took notice, particularly those most proper sort of polite society who were somewhat confused by the nature of his business. *After all, wasn't this the fellow who attempted to smear the President of the United States as a drunkard? I mean, he was a Democrat and all, but still, the President! Surely, Dyke must be up to no good. Imagine! The nerve: he's come up with a way to steal money from the pockets of little poor children.* It was difficult for people to understand, at first, that children could be consumers, directly marketed to as though they were adults. This was too revolutionary an idea: *children buying something other than sweets or other consumables, when they should be saving their money to help with rent and their clothes!* Talk like that must have gone on until people started to realize that, with every day's production of a million-plus marbles, this fellow must have been making a mint. He was



operating something just short of a goldmine right here in our good city. And with that realization, just like that, others forgot these so-called moral issues and started up their own marble factories in competition.

The first fellow to openly compete with Sam turned out to be his brother, A.L.. In a letter, one of Sam's grandsons wrote that A.L. had somehow "wormed his way into the business" (letter from Sam Brightenson to Fred G. Wright). Sam and A.L. had one of those love-hate relationships. There were a number of times when the two of them lived and worked together and got along famously. Then their relationship would bust-all-to-hell, and they would split-up to become bitter rivals for a time. This makes it all the more difficult to clearly establish what, where and with whom Sam was working in the years between 1884 and 1888. What is clear is that, in the year 1889, the city directories listed A.L. as a manufacturer of toy marbles.



A small collection of "commies," common clay marbles, in various sizes, from under a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " to over an  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". You might notice that some of these marbles are not perfectly spherical. The technique to produce perfectly spherical marbles was not developed until after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The basic idea behind the business was pretty simple: design a machine to turn out small clay spheres and rake in the money. As Sam Dyke owned a patent on his machine, the problem these new entrepreneurs faced was inventing a different machine they could patent for themselves. However, that turned out to be a lot harder than first imagined. The biggest problem was that science had yet to define the physics involved in perfect sphere making (such as the making of perfect



ball bearings), so designing a machine that would make perfect clay balls was a challenge. As these eager entrepreneurs experimented with the art of clay marble making, they were stumbling blindly through a process modern man didn't fully understand – a process that lead directly to the scientific breakthrough defining the physics of spheres. Sam's machine (actually more of a device than a machine, as its working parts were mostly comprised of the arms of a laborer) was the easiest clay marble forming machine imaginable. (At the time, they referred to it as a machine.) The best thing about Sam's machine was that it was patented,

S. C. DYKE.  
 APPARATUS FOR ROUNDING PLASTIC CLAY SLUGS.  
 No. 432,127.                      Patented July 15, 1890.

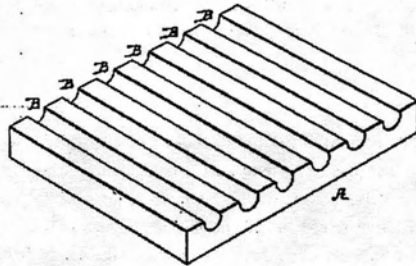


Fig. 1.

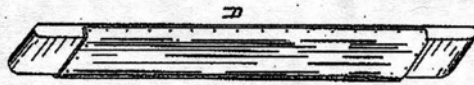


Fig. 2.

*Witnesses.*  
*Chas. L. Brown*  
*C. E. Humphrey*

*Inventor*  
*Samuel C. Dyke,*  
*by C. E. Humphrey,*  
*Attorney.*

and no one else could use his technique, not even his big brother. A.L. hired a long experienced ceramics man to invent a very complicated machine to roll chunks of clay around something that looked like a wagon wheel on its side, with a bit of Rube Goldberg thrown in for good measure. (Truthfully, I can't imagine that A.L.'s machine ever worked as well in the factory as it did on paper. Do you know Rube Goldberg? <http://www.rube-goldberg.com/>.) Another fellow, named Matthew Lang, invented a revolutionary means of injecting clay-slip into molds to make marbles. Matthew Lang's company, located on the east side of town,

was called *The East End Marble Company*. While the company didn't stay in business very long, Lang allowed other marble companies to use his invention to make porcelain marbles -- for a price. He received a royalty on every porcelain marble his process turned out.

So by 1890, there were three marble factories in Akron, each one turning out a product that was slightly different. Each company promising to deliver the finest and best clay marbles, the most uniquely colored, etc.. Of course, this suited the young misers who were always looking for that great new marble -- the one they could tempt their neighborhood kids into laying down big ante for the chance to play. As more and newer and different marbles came onto the market, the size of the market grew tremendously. There was seemingly an infinite market out there and the little folk just couldn't get enough. But, there was a down-side to that amount of temptation these wonderful marbles created.

### SMALL BOYS TAKEN ON A SERIOUS CHARGE

*Akron Daily Beacon*, April 3, 1889 - 4:2

Early this evening a number of boys broke a window in the rear of S.C. Dyke's marble factory on Main street and succeeded in getting a few bags of marbles which had been stored next to the window, some of these being found since in a lumber pile near by. Charles Haase, of Bell street, a boy engaged in selling papers and aged about 10 years, was seen looking in the broken window apparently as though interested in the affair. He was arrested by Officer Daady and taken to the city prison where he spent the night. The boy says that he was entirely innocent of the crime either of stealing or breaking the glass. On being asked how he came to be there, he stated that he was playing with other boys on High street and on hearing the crash of the breaking of the window ran to see what had taken place. He says that he knows the boys who did the act but none of his companions. The lad says that he is not obliged to sell papers but wishes to buy a new suit of clothes for himself this keeping him out so late at night. It is reported that it is not an unusual occurrence for the boy to be out all night and hence no search was made for him even though his parents knew nothing about where he was. Warrants have been issued for the arrest Charles Bennett and Joseph Byers as being two of three boys who committed the crime. The trial was continued until after the arrest of these boys.

The above article should give you the idea that, in some corners, childhood has changed little in 120 years, and yet it's radically different in other ways. There are still juvenile delinquents breaking and entering.

That hasn't changed. However, today few children are forced to earn the money to purchase their own clothes. The most important thing it shows, Sam Dyke's marbles were coveted to the point where some children were willing to break the law to get them. That says a lot about Sam Dyke's marketing success.

It seemed the only way to stay on top of the competition was to keep introducing better and more interesting marbles into the market. By this time, while marbles were made of different colored clays, they were still all in earth colors. Some marbles were painted or dyed bright colors like: red, blue, purple, green and yellow. Others, which were expensive, were glazed: mostly brown, some cobalt blue. The clay marbles glazed in colors other than brown or cobalt blue were the most expensive of all. But little else could be done to make mass produced clay marbles unique. The one thing that no American company had ever successfully tried and marketed was now about to change the marbles market for all times.

## NOW ITS GLASS

*Summit County Beacon*, November 24, 1890 - 1:2,3

### FIRST GLASS MARBLES EVER MADE IN AMERICA TURNED OUT IN THIS CITY THIS MORNING AKRON TO-DAY INTRODUCES AN INDUSTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

The first glass marbles manufactured in the United States were to-day turned out by S.C. Dyke & Co., at their large marble factory on South Main street, between Mill and Market Streets. A BEACON reporter called on Mr. Dyke at his office this morning, and that gentleman informed him that the actual work was begun this morning, although a few were completed last Tuesday. The company has a furnace with eight crucibles, in which the materials for making the glass are melted and the glass made. The white sandstone used in the making of the glass is procured in Akron. He said it would be several days before any headway could be counted upon as the glass workers would have to be taught their task. While he would be able to procure any number of glass workers, it would be impossible for them to take up the making of marbles at once as they would be inexperienced in that class of work. An expert glass maker has been secured and is teaching those who are to be in that department how to mold glass into marbles.

In each crucible is a different colored glass for making different colored marbles by mixing the various colors, marbles of mixed colors are made. Not only are glass marbles made here, but glass goose eggs, for ornamental purpose are blown. They are perfect in shape and will be made up into all the fancy colors. It is

necessary to keep the fire in the glass furnaces burning continually as it would ruin everything if the fire was allowed to go down.

It is certainly remarkable the demand there is for marbles. There are about 175 employed in the marble factory and the last two weeks' payroll amounted to over \$1,300. Two persons are kept busy packing and shipping the goods, which are sent to all parts of the United States. Mr. Dyke is also at present the only manufacture of clay marbles in the United States which are turned out at the factory by the wagon load. Two molding rooms are filled with girls, who take small chunks of clay and fill a bottom mold. After which they place a corresponding mold over the top and running it back and forth over the under one and the marbles are turned out nice and smooth. Then they are placed upon a drying pan, put upon a rack and allowed to stand until they are sufficiently hard to be put into the pots that are placed in the kilns. One kiln holds about 75 bushels of marbles and three days are occupied in laying, burning, and drawing the kiln. After the kilns have been drawn, the marbles are turned into large bins. From these they are taken and put into a large tin band, holding about two quarts, which is placed on a piece of sheet iron nailed over a table. Here the coloring liquids are poured over the marbles and after being shaken together they are turned out in number of different colors. They are then placed in small pasteboard boxes and then placed in boxes ready for shipment.

Mr. Dyke is to be commended in his undertaking and there is no doubt as to the venture being a success.

The manufacture of glass marbles was not anywhere as easy and as simple as described above. In fact it was extremely difficult and expensive. There was no profit made on glass marbles. They were marketed in what we today would call a loss leader. The idea was to be the first in America again and to be capable of offering a complete line of marbles. There were always a few young mibsters able to scrap together the funds to buy one of these exceptionally beautiful glass marbles. Others relied upon the more direct timeless approach of begging and bugging Dad to the point of giving in on that special occasion for the honor and neighborhood bragging rights of owning a real glassie.

By this point, big money was taking an interest in what the two Dyke brothers where doing on the opposite sides of Main Street. They'd watch boxcar after boxcar roll off the lines, full of clay marbles. They were beyond the point of amazement and now looking at it as an investment possibility. Imagine if they could merge the two companies into one.

They could monopolize the entire manufacturing business of toy marbles. There'd certainly be a tidy profit to be made if that could be arranged.

## BUSHEL OF MARBLES. HOW THEY WILL BE MANUFACTURED IN AKRON.

*Akron Sunday Republican, July 26, 1891 -B:5*

### Organization of the American Playing Marble Company With Paid In Capital Stock of \$100,000.

A new stock company has been formed among some of Akron's most prominent business men for the manufacture of marbles. The two marble plants formerly owned by A. L. Dyke, and located on Center street, west of South Main street, and by S. C. Dyke located on South Main street, between Mill and Market streets, have been united as one plant and will be used by the new company. The company has been formed with \$100,000 stock capital and will be known as the American Playing Marble Company.

There are interested in the new organization Burdette Dodge, R.W. Sadler, J. A. Kohler, F. M. Alterholt, Ira Miller, Judge C.R. Grant, Walter Folter, J. F. Seiberling, M. N. Crumrine, Robt. Iredell and others.

The Dyke brothers have been engaged in the manufacture of marbles on an extensive scale for a number of years and theirs were the only marble factories in the country and their business, on that account, has been continually on the increase from year to year until, at the present time, they are unable to manufacture them in sufficient quantities to supply the demands which are being made for their goods. The two carried on their business independently of each other and consequently they each manufacture some branches of goods different from the other.

S. C. Dyke was the one to turn out the first glass marbles which were made in America and which have proven a great success. A. L. Dyke has carried on in connection with the manufacture of clay marbles and the making of clay pipes in nearly all the shapes imaginable, jugs, boots, bottles, slippers and various other small articles, all of which have found a ready market and he now has orders for millions of marbles and other kinds of goods. Being an extensive dealer in candies he conceived an idea of packing the goods he made with candy in such an attractive manner that little people could not help but be ready purchasers.

When the two gentlemen started out, marbles were all made by hand but by close application and careful study they succeeded in patenting machinery to do the work which was formerly accomplished by a large force of hired help.

A SUNDAY REPUBLICAN representative in company with Mr. A. L. Dyke paid his factory a visit yesterday and was informed of the extensive improvements which were to be made at that place.

Work will be begin at once for the erection of buildings and kilns upon the vacant land in the rear of his present plant to fill in the entire space north of Center street and which runs to a point between the railroad and canal, so a large dock will be built on the canal so that coal and wood necessary to burn the kilns can be received in that manner. A large two-story structure will be erected at the southwest corner of the present building and will extend to Center street. On the north side of the present building a structure 100 feet square will be erected with furnaces for the manufacture of glass marbles and about 150 will be employed day and night in this department.

In addition the large amount of machinery which is already being used for the making of different articles will be more than doubled. While the force that is employed throughout the works will be greatly increased, of course work done is mostly by boys and girls, who are overseen by men of experience.

Mr. Dyke is at present getting out a large order of small jugs for Buckley Post and they will be taken to the encampment at Detroit.

The plant which is now occupied by S.C. Dyke will be run as at present, at its fullest capacity until definite plans have been arranged by the company.

Akron being the only city in America where marbles are made and this one company now owns and controls all of the patents which are necessary for the manufacture of their goods it cannot help but prove a great success and paying investment to those interested and add to this city another large industry.

The above article gives an excellent idea of what was going on at these toy factories -- from their size, to the production processes employed, the products they produced -- and provides a good but brief background of the two companies involved. (Newspaper articles like this one proved to be of great value when a team of archeologists recently examined the factory site and found -- among other things -- hundreds of jugs, boots, bottles, slippers, marbles, etc..)

So, anyways, the two Dyke brothers were back in business together again, and they were as happy as \$100,000 could make them. It's difficult to imagine how much money \$100,000 would be worth today. If you figure that the average wage of a common laborer in 1891 was 2 ½ cents-per-hour and in 2000 the minimum wage was around \$7.00 per-hour, then the value of that \$100,000 was something like \$28



million. Give or take a few ten million, it's a lot of cash. Of course, it was corporate money and so not all there to play with as if it were their very own. These funds would be used to expand the business and expand the market, which meant their investment would grow and grow and grow.... With that kind of money, you would think that they could overlook the basic sibling rivalries that had kept them apart or at each other's throats for so long. Yes, in a perfect world I suppose, but not in this one. I imagine it came down to one of those, you-buy-me-out-or-I-buy-you-out sort of partings. In the end, Sam walked and became the competition again.



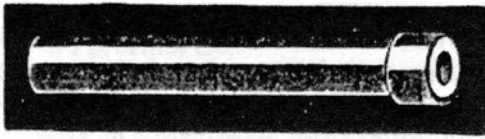
Photograph showing the marbleworks of *The American Marble & Toy Manufacturing Co.*, circa 1900. It's the building on the right hand side of the picture with the two smoke stacks. The Ohio canal runs right next to the building. A fire destroyed the marbleworks on September 6, 1904.



A. L. DYKE, GEN'L. MANAGER.

## The American Marble and Toy Mfg. Co.

American  
Playing  
Marbles.



Electric  
Insulators  
and Tubing.

AKRON, OHIO, U. S. A. Dec. 9, 1898.

Letterhead from *The American Marble & Toy Manufacturing Company*, dated December 9, 1898. By this date A.L. Dyke was making electrical insulators.

Sam right away began construction of a new marbleworks. His new factory would produce all types and styles of marbles -- from the most basic commies to the most beautiful and expensive glass marbles. The only type of marbles his factory didn't make were stone marbles. No one was manufacturing stone marbles in America. These were still imported from Germany, and they were the most highly prized by serious marble kings.

While Sam was on one of his travels through Europe, he visited the Black Forest of Germany and witnessed the manufacturing of marbles from stone. All he needed was to convert a water powered grain mill into a marble mill, just as they did in Europe. The opportunity arose through the offices of a friend, who happened to own a very old mill in desperate need of rehabilitation. It was located on the Cuyahoga River a few miles from town, up the Ohio canal from Akron in a sleepy little village called Boston.

### MARBLES FROM STONE

*Summit County Beacon*, November 29, 1892 - 3:3

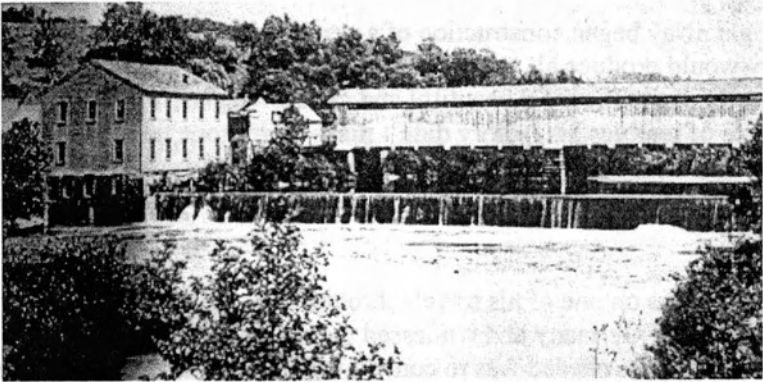
#### A New Industry S.C. Dyke is Establishing At Boston

The first attempt to manufacture stone marbles in this country will be made this week by the newly organized Akron Stone Marble Company. All stone marbles have so far been imported, nothing but clay marbles being made in this country. The company has leased the old flourmill and waterpower at Boston, O., and the necessary machinery is being placed in position now. It is expected to be in running order by the last of this week. The stone is there convenient in abundance and 10 "runs" will be operated producing 200,000 marbles a day.

The marbles are ground out of block stone. The new enterprise will be managed by S.C. Dyke, formerly in that business as predecessor of the American Marble and Toy Company. Mr. Dyke claims the distinction of being the person to make marbles

in this country. He predicts that the new business will be a great success. Probably 20 or 30 people will be employed at the start. The office of the company will be in the Hall block this city.

(The reporter who wrote the above article seems to have overlooked the fact that glass marbles were being turned out in large numbers in Akron – well not anywhere so large in numbers as clay marbles -- and *The Beacon* is filled with stories about glass marble making. Today, some self-righteous citizen might write a letter to the editor pointing out the error that “nothing but clay marbles being made in this country.” )



The old grain mill, to the left of the covered bridge, was converted into the marble mill of the *Akron Stone Marble Company*. The site in Boston, Ohio is today in the middle of the Cuyahoga National Park. (Photo circa 1900.)

Sam was now the only toy marble company in America offering a complete line of toy marbles – clay, glass and stone -- for the little boys of America (and a few tomboys too). After a few years, Sam began to diversify into other areas of the ceramic trade, which was now undergoing a boom – electrical insulators. The Wizard of Menlo Park, Thomas Edison, introduced the idea that man and woman needn't sit out their nights in the dark, and houses in America began to wire-up and burn down. The ceramic electrical insulator allowed homes to both have light and not burn down, if properly installed of course. The electrical insulator manufacturing process relied upon the invention of Mathew Lang's injection molding technique. With the correct molds and the right mix of clays Sam easily added electrical insulators to his production capacity. Now he was involved in big business. No longer just playing around with little kids' stuff. Sam applied his knowledge and experience with ceramics and quickly became one of the nation's leading authorities in the field. This brought him to the attention of a group of wealthy industrialists, who saw the eventual and total electrification of

America. In 1896, Sam went in with these investors, moved to East Liverpool, Ohio and helped develop what would become the world's largest producer of electrical insulators, the *US Porcelain Company*, later known as the *General Porcelain Co.*

1896 was also a Presidential election year. That year, William McKinley, another in a long line of Republican presidents from Ohio, won the election. In 1898, President McKinley appointed Samuel C. Dyke to represent the United State of America as Ambassador At Large for Trade. This position took him to all corners of the world to explore and obtain new manufacturing techniques, open new markets for American goods, etc.. Sam never lost his zeal for politics, and I suppose his political tactic with those crazy *Little Brown Jugs* didn't hurt his reputation among this crowd one bit. However, Sam appears to have ended his association with the U.S. State Department upon McKinley's assassination and returned to the private sector. He never moved back to Akron. He visited occasionally. All his children lived there, and he eventually got back with his brother A.L.. He retired from the trades in 1922, at the age of 66, as President of the *General Porcelain Company* in Parkersburg, West Virginia. In his retirement, Sam spent a lot of time in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and it seems he enjoyed himself tremendously.

One of the things he did upon retirement was to get back into marbles.

# CHAPTER FOUR

## WHO IS AKRON'S MARBLES CHAMP?

*Akron Press, February 7, 1923, Akron, Ohio*

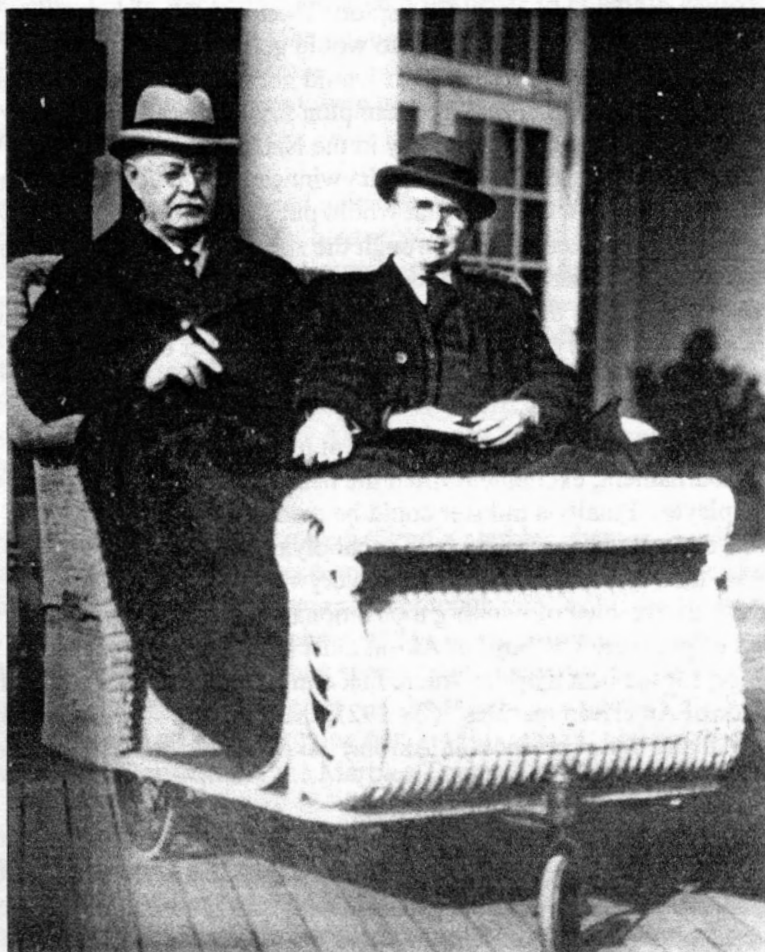
He's to be Picked in a Big City Tournament.



In 1922, the first nation-wide marbles tournament took place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Little research has been done on the subject, (I am not even sure what game they played), but this is what I know so far. It was mainly a mid-Atlantic-states tournament with children participating from New York City, New Jersey and Maryland. The winner of the tournament was Frank J. (Bud) McQuade from Baltimore, Maryland.

The Philadelphia tournament sparked an idea. A newspaper marketing man working for the *Cleveland Press*, Max Cook, came up with the idea

of using marble tournaments to promote the sale of newspapers. Newspapers sponsoring marble tournaments wasn't a new idea, but Max Cook painted with a big brush for a huge nation-wide chain of newspapers, the *Scripps Syndicate*. His plan was to sponsor tournaments in every city where Scripps owned a newspaper, from California to New York. Like every great national event, this new tournament needed a figurehead. It needed a man like Samuel C. Dyke, the first American to make marbles! Max caught up with Sam in Atlantic City, and it wasn't difficult to get Sam's cooperation. After all, Sam knew a few things about newspapers himself. Plus, Atlantic City looked like a great place to hold his tournament.



Sam Dyke (left) and Max Cook (right) on the boardwalk at Atlantic City, New Jersey (circa 1923).



As big ideas go this tournament would be a logistical nightmare, but there was assurance that the bigger and more complicated the scheme, the more newspapers could be sold. The place to begin this tournament was in the schoolyard. Traditionally, this is where all little boys learned to *knuckle down*, *For Keeps*, to *stick* their shooter with plenty of *English*, the advantages of *rounders* and what might happen if caught *hunching*.

In order to pull off the tournament, each *Scriptt's* newspaper had to obtain the cooperation of every school in their market. They had to hold a marbles tournament in every classroom. The winner of each classroom tournament would go on to play for the championship of that grade level, then play for the title of School Champion. Then, neighboring schools would hold tournaments to decide who would go to play in a district tournament, and these district winners would get together to decide who was the city's champion. The City Champion mibster would be sent by the newspaper to Atlantic City to play in the National Marbles Tournament. All through the process, the winners would get their picture in the newspaper and a write-up that would put to shame some of today's sports writers. Day after day, all through the spring, readers could follow the progress of their favorite neighborhood mibsters. The most impressive aspect was this: each photograph and article appeared on the front page of every *Scriptts* newspaper nation-wide, not buried in the sports section.

In the Akron area, as soon as the word went out that there would be a marbles tournament, excitement filled the hearts of every aspiring marbles player. Finally a mibster could be recognized for all the hard work and dedicated hours spent in the schoolyard and back alleys perfecting their techniques. Little boys everywhere throughout the United States dreamed of winning the Nationals and got down to the business of practice. The boys of Akron must have felt they had an advantage, for the best marbles were made in Akron, and Akron was the birthplace of American marbles. (By 1923, there'd been some 25 marble factories in and out of business in Akron.) Akron, Ohio was the home of the *Akron Press*.

### ROOTERS HONOR MARBLE CHAMP

*Akron Press*, April 13, 1923, Akron, Ohio - front page

#### Winner of Mason Tournament Is Allround Athlete

An enthusiastic crowd of rooters hoisted Carl Rhodes, 13, of 420 Power St., to their shoulders and bore him about the field in triumph, after he defeated all "comers" for the marble



championship of Mason School in The Press Marble Tournament.

Carl played a scientific and careful game throughout, taking very few chances. In only one of his final games with Harry Tilford, the runner-up, did he take a chance.

He lagged to the center of the ring and Tilford killed him. Thereafter he took no chances, shooting hard and making all his shots from the ring line. . .

Every day, on the front page of the newspaper, readers were able to keep track as more and more school champions were eliminated and the winners moved up to the big day, the Akron District Marbles Tournament. The *Akron Press* spared no expense to entertain its budding champions. It took them to the circus, took their pictures with baby elephants and wild animal trainers, stuffed them full of hot dogs, candy and soda pop -- these children were treated as visiting dignitaries (of the 12-year-old variety).

Thousands of people came out to watch the finals of the Akron District Marbles Tournament in 1923, held at Summit Beach Park. The Mayor of Akron started the event by ceremoniously shooting the first marble. Then, one- by-one, the field of potential champs were eliminated. Tensions grew and excitement filled the air. Shot after shot taken, as marbles disappeared from the ring. The remaining few became that much harder to hit when, with one heroic effort, in one shot, it was all done. The winner of *The Press* Akron District Marbles Tournament in 1923 was Izzy Freed.

Izzy, the first and reigning king of Akron's marbles champs, traveled to Atlantic City by train with his own marbles coach and the Marbles Editor of the *Akron Press*. As the train rolled through various towns on the way, they picked up other marble champs. *The Press* took their young champs to Washington D.C., where they spent the day visiting the monuments before they headed to New Jersey. At the station in Atlantic City, Samuel C. Dyke, backed up by a marching band in full regalia, greeted the arriving champions exiting the Marbles Train.

Sam Dyke shot the first marble to start the tournament. Sam Dyke took all the champions on a boat ride out in the Atlantic Ocean. Sam Dyke sat for numerous interviews with local Marble Editors from all over the United States. Sam Dyke crowned the winner of the 1923 National Marbles Champion, Harland McCoy (of Columbus, Ohio). Sam Dyke obviously loved every minute he spent with "his" mibsters.



Magazine cover of *The Country Gentleman*, March 10, 1923, showing Samuel C. Dyke's technique of knuckling down.

In the spring of 1924, Sam Dyke became an active participant in the Parkersburg, West Virginia Marbles Tournament, working with the local newspaper and schools. It's the last thing he did. Before their marbles champion could even be decided, on May 9, 1924 Sam passed away.

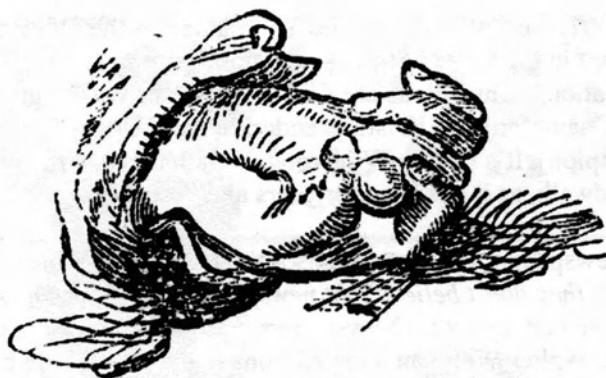
Sam's family brought him back to Akron and buried him along with the rest of his family in Rose Hill Cemetery. It's a peaceful place. If you go there for a visit, don't be surprised if you find a few marbles left by an anonymous admirer.

Today, in 2001, the National Marbles Tournament is the oldest children's sporting event in the United States -- and going strong at 78 years old. The 2001 National Champions are Tim Ratliff from Washington County, MD (Boys Champion) and Kristie Vanderzee from Upper Darby, PA (Girls Champion). It's held in Wildwood, New Jersey, on the beach, just off the boardwalk, as it has been for years and years.

However, newspapers no longer sponsor the National Marbles Tournament: *they don't believe that newspapers should create news anymore; they just report it.* Newspapers no longer sponsor events like they used to. Walter Wellman's expeditions to the North Pole by airship were sponsored by his newspaper. The Spanish American War was started by and reported exclusively, in the beginning, by the *Hearst Newspaper Syndicate*. Today, newspapers claim they only cover the news that other people make. But they sure do help events unfold the way they like, such as through their editorial comments.

In 1938, the *Akron Beacon Journal* ended the Akron District Marbles Tournament when they bought out the *Akron Press*. For a few years, until the outbreak of World War II, the American Legion tried to run a local Akron marbles tournament, but the effort was overwhelming and cost prohibitive. Today, the schools of Akron are far too busy attempting to force their young scholars to pass State mandated proficiency tests and have no time for marbles. But the one thing that really killed off local interest in the arts and games of marbles was the black-topping of school yards. Traditionally, mibsters knuckled down in the schoolyards, playing the game on dirt. With the goal of keeping the classrooms and hallways clean and neat, the laying of asphalt almost killed the game of marbles.

It's taken the dedicated efforts of a few thoughtful individuals to keep the game alive. Marble King and Jabo-Vitro, Inc., American's last toy marble manufacturers, along with the City of Wildwood, New Jersey are the sponsors of the National Marbles Tournament today. There are still some isolated pockets in the Mid-Atlantic States where marble school tournaments are still held. But, the vast majority of marble champions come from cities where dedicated local volunteers fund and hold tournaments. From personal experience, I can tell you it's a lot of work, but a lot of fun if you've the heart.



## HOW TO HOLD YOUR MARBLE.

### APPENDIX A: MARBLE TALK

**For Keeps:** Any marbles game where the player gets to keep those marbles shot out of the ring.

**Playing Fair:** The opposite of the above. Each player returns the marbles won to the original owner.

**Knuckling Down:** A rule in the game of shooting marbles. One knuckle of the shooting hand must remain affixed to the ground while shooting. Lifting a knuckle off the ground while shooting earns a penalty.

**Hunching:** The name used to define the action of lifting one's shooting hand off the ground while shooting and thrusting the hand forward to assist the shooter's chances – a violation of the rules, earning a penalty.

**A Stick:** Shooting seven marbles out in one turn.

**Lagging:** Shooting or tossing a marble at a fixed line to determine who shoots first. The closest to the line gets to go first.

**Rounders:** A player may take a shot from any point outside the circle, usually to take the greatest possible advantage of the shooting angle.

**Snooger:** A near miss. A marble within a hair of being "out."

**Foamer:** A rabid collector of toy marbles; a nuisance; one to avoid.

**English:** Placing a spin on the shooter marble, as in a back spin.

**Neighborhood Rules:** At the beginning of each game, the rules for the game should be clearly defined. In some neighborhoods, the rules vary slightly so it's important to learn and know the rules which apply if playing in a foreign neighborhood.

**Ringer:** The name of the marbles game played at the National Marbles Tournament

**Droppies:** A game played by younger children who do not yet have the hand coordination and skills to shoot a marble. The object is to stand at the edge of the circle and drop your shooter into the ring with the hopes of knocking a marble out.

**Potties:** A game played by digging a small shallow hole into the center of the marbles ring and attempting to shot your marble into that hole.

**Mib:** The Latin name for marble, also sometimes the name for targets marbles.

**Mibster:** One who plays the game of marbles

**Mibologist:** One who studies marbles or the arts and games of marbles.

**Shooter Marble:** A marble, larger than a target marble, used for shooting. The largest sized shooter marble allowed for the National Marbles Tournament play is  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch.

**Target Marble:** A marble smaller than a shooter. For National Marbles Tournament play, a target marble is always  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch.

**Peewe Wee Marble:** Usually defines a marble smaller than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. These are rarely, if ever, manufactured today. They were popular product items from the 1930s to the 1950s. The legendary Hall of Fame, New York Yankee baseball player and Team Captain, Peewee Reese, took his name from this marble. Peewee Reese was a short fellow who loved the game of marbles. He often played marbles on the ball field in Yankee Stadium before games.

**Boulder:** A marble  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch and larger, also called *a crusher*, *a bomber*, *a bowler*, etc.. The bigger it is, the less good it is for anything other than bragging rights or for little children playing *droppies*. The largest machine-made glass marble ever made was 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches (the size of a tennis ball) made by the *M.F. Christensen & Son Co.* of Akron, Ohio between 1905 and 1917.

**Taw:** An antiquated American name for a shooter marble, sometimes still used in Great Britain.

**Commie:** A common clay marble. Also called *a brownie, an alley, a chalkie, a mib* or *an agate*.

**Crockies:** Glazed ceramic marbles.

**China:** A porcelain marble. When unglazed, Chinas make some of the finest shooter marbles because they have a slight texture which allows for a better grip, control and the application of *English*.

**Agate:** Properly defines a stone marble made from agate, but used from the 1880s to 1950s to also describe glass marbles. Also called *aggies*.

**Flintie:** A shooter marble made of flint. Flinties were, and still are, some of the most coveted shooter marbles among the championship crowd. No material is harder, and they can be seen to spark if shot in the dark. They are very rare and always have been. They must be hand-made and are labor intensive.

**Onyx:** Glass marbles product name -- as in National Onyx or American Onyx -- collectors today call these *slag* marbles. They were the first mass-produced, machine-made glass marbles.

**Glimmers:** Hand-made glass marbles containing tiny flakes of mica -- collectors today call these *micas*.

**Steelies:** A ball bearing used as a shooter marble -- not allowed in tournament play.

**Clearies:** Clear glass marbles without any design. They can be of any transparent color or clear glass. Manufactured in large numbers from the beginnings of the machine-made glass marble era, they originally were intended for industrial purposes and not sold as toy marbles. Occasionally, a laborer would bring home some of these industrial marbles to his children. Because of their rarity they became one of the most coveted of all marbles by young mibsters. It took the manufacturers about 30 years to realize this fact before they finally introduced these otherwise unimpressive marbles into the children's product market -- where they became an overnight sensation.

**Puries:** Opaque marbles of any color -- usually sold as board game pieces, as in Chinese Checkers.

**Cat Eye:** A clear glass marble with four or more veins of colored glass inside. Originally developed in Japan in the 1950s, this became the most popular marble design for the next 40 years. It became so popular with manufacturers,



it eventually bored children, as few other marbles were being produced. This helped to cool interest in the game.

**Oilies:** In the late 1980s, manufacturers began applying an iridescent finish to their marbles. This iridescence looked to children like the multi-color film of oil on a puddle of water – thus the name.

**Industrial Marbles:** The first use of marbles for other than children's play were produced by the *Standard Toy Marble Company* of Akron, Ohio (1896-1936). These were filtration marbles used in municipal water treatment plants to purify water. Since the turn of the century, the vast majority of marbles produced have been for industrial purposes. Because glass marbles are inert and impervious, they are widely used in the chemical and petrochemical industry. Shake a can of spray paint and guess what you're hearing inside.



## **APPENDIX B:**

# **OFFICIAL MARBLE PLAYING RULES**

### **THE NATIONAL MARBLES TOURNAMENT**

RINGER is played in a ring 10 feet in diameter, with 13 marbles arranged in the center in the shape of an "X". The object is to shoot these marbles out of the ring, the player with the largest number of marbles out of the ring in any game being the winner of that game.

No less than two and no more than six may play in one game of RINGER, except in tournament championship matches where only two may play. All tournament play is "For Fair" (all marbles must be returned after each game).

\* \* \* \*

**EQUIPMENT**, the playing surface shall be a smooth, level area of ground, hard clay, or other suitable substance. The Ring is inscribed upon the area 10 feet in diameter, and all play within this ring. (Outline of this ring shall not be so deep or wide as to check the roll of the marbles in play.)

With the center of the Ring as a point of intersection, mark two lines at right angles to each other to form an "X," which shall be a guide for placing the playing marbles. Place 1 marble at the intersection of the "X" and 3 marbles on the 4 branches of the "X." Each marble must be 3 inches apart.

The LAG LINE, is a straight line drawn tangent to the Ring and touching at one point. The PITCH LINE, is a straight line drawn tangent and touching the Ring and directly opposite and running parallel to the Lag Line.

Playing marbles shall be round and made of glass. All marbles in any one playing ring must be of uniform size. The standard size shall be five-eighths (5/8) inch in diameter. Slight variations may be allowed by the referee for manufacturing fault.

Shooters, shall be round and made of any substance except steel, or any other metal, and shall not be less than on-half (1/2) nor more than three-quarters (3/4) inch in diameter, as determined by the referee.

**PLAN OF PLAYING.** The Lag is the first operation in RINGER. To Lag, the players stand toeing the Pitch Line, or knuckling down upon it, and toss or shoot their shooter to the Lag Line across the Ring. The player whose shooter comes nearest the Lag Line, on either side, wins the Lag.

Players must Lag before each series of games. The player who wins the Lag shoots first and the others follow in order as their shooters were next nearest to the Lag Line. The same shooter that is used in the Lag must be used in the game following the Lag.

On all shots, except the Lag, players must knuckle down so that at least one knuckle is in contact with the ground. They must maintain this position until the shooter leaves their hand.

Knuckling down is permitted, but not required in Lagging. Starting the game, each player in turn shall knuckle down just outside the Ring Line, at any point the player chooses, and shoot into the ring to knock one or more marbles out of the Ring.

A player continues to shoot when he knocks one or more marbles out of the ring - provided the player's shooter remains inside the Ring. When a player's shooter passes outside the Ring, whether or not the player has scored on the shot, they shall cease to shoot. The player shall be credited with the marbles they have scored.

After a miss, a player picks up their shooter, wherever it lies, until their next turn, and then it's permitted to take rounders and shoot from any point of the Ring Line.

\* \* \* \*

**PLAYING REGULATIONS** Marbles knocked out of the Ring shall be picked up by the player who knocks them out.

Whenever a marble or shooter comes to rest on the Ring Line, if it's center is outside the Ring Line, or exactly on the Ring Line, it shall be considered out of the Ring. If it's center is inside the Ring Line, it shall be considered inside the Ring.

If a shooter knocks out two or more marbles in a combination play, he shall be entitled to all points on the shot.

When a shooter slips from a player's hand, if the player calls "SLIPS" and the referee is convinced that it is a slip, and if the shooter did not travel more than 10 inches, the referee may order "No Play" and permit the player to shoot again. The referee's decision is final.

The game shall end when one player has knocked seven marbles from the Ring.

At the National Marbles Tournament there are seven inning played in each game, with the exception of a tie. If at the end of seven innings both players have the

same score, the game is extended to nine innings, with the winner of the original Lag shooting first.

If a game is still tied after nine innings and it is preliminary play, each player must Lag. The winner of the Lag wins that game. In the finals at the tournament, the players continue regular play until a winner is reached by a score of seven points, regardless of the number of innings it takes.

**SCORING.** For each marble knocked out by a player, they shall be credited with the score of ONE point.

The player having credited the largest number of marbles at the completion of the game shall be the winner of that game.

In a game where more than two players are engaged, if two or more players lead with the same score, those in the tie shall play a new game to break the tie.

A player refusing to continue a game, once it is started, shall be disqualified.

The score of a forfeited game shall be 7-0.

**OFFICIALS.** The officials shall be a referee and a scorer, if a scorer is available, otherwise the referee shall also keep score.

The referee shall have complete charge of the play. He shall interpret these rules and have power to make decision on any points not specifically covered by these rules. He shall have the authority to disqualify any player for unsportsmanlike conduct. He shall have the authority to order from the ring or its vicinity the coach or other representatives of any player who conducts himself improperly.

The scorer shall keep a record of the game, making score of each player, shot by shot, and at the end of the game, shall notify the referee of the score and the referee shall announce the winner. The scorer shall assist the referee in enforcing the rule against coaching, and call to the attention of the referee any infraction of the rules.

\*\*\*\*

**PENALTIES.** A player shall NOT:

Lift his/her hand forward until the shooter has left that hand. This violation is known as "HUNCHING."

Smooth or otherwise rearrange the ground or remove any obstacles. A player may request the referee to clear obstructions. **PENALTY:** If any marbles were knocked out or dislocated on the violating shot, they shall be restored to their place and the player shall lose his shot.

Changing shooters during the course of a game. A player may choose a new shooter on each Lag, provided he/she uses that shooter in the subsequent games. **PENALTY:** The player shall be disqualified from the game.

Communicate in any way with their coach during the course of a game. **PENALTY:** Forfeiture of all marbles that have been knocked out of the Ring, said marbles to be returned to the game and placed on the "X".

A coach shall not give instructions to either his/her own or any other player engaged in a game. **PENALTY:** Coach shall be ordered from the playing field, if after being warned once, they continue this violation.

Players must not walk through the marble Ring. **PENALTY:** After a player has been warned for this violation, the referee MAY require the forfeiture of one marble to be returned and placed on the "X".

\*\*\*\*

**ADDITIONAL RULES:** In Lagging, players shall Lag together and at the same time. If either shooter strikes the backboard, or the marbles or rack in the Ring, that player loses the Lag. If both players strike an obstruction, the players Lag again.

**BACKSPIN:** Each player shall be responsible for the result of backspin. If the shooter on its return strikes any part of the player's body, the shooter shall lose the turn, but shall be entitled to any marbles knocked out on the shot.

**MARBLE IN ACTION:** A player shall not pick up any shooter or marbles while in motion and shall not stop a shooter's or marble's motion. Violation of this rule shall be considered a fou and the player shall lose his/her turn.

**PRACTICE SHOTS:** A player shall not take practice or warm-up shots into the Ring while a game is in progress or ready to start. Violation shall be considered as a shot. Players may take practice shots on the surface outside the Ring.

**BROKEN SHOOTER:** A player may not change shooters during a game EXCEPT if a shooter is broken. The referee may permit a change, if the shooter has become damaged enough to impair good shooting.

**WIND ACTION:** If, before a shot, the wind moves a marble, the referee shall return it to its original position. However, any marble or shooter set in motion during a shot shall be allowed to continue until it comes to a full stop and if the wind carries it out of the Ring, it shall be considered out. The marble or shooter shall be considered dead once it comes to a complete stop. If the wind moves it thereafter, it shall be returned to position.

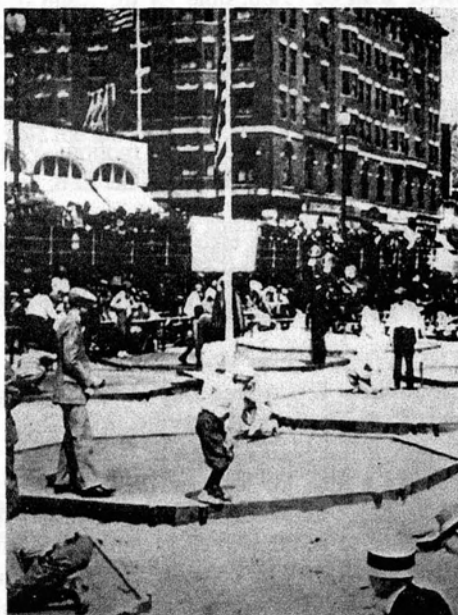
**WRONG SHOOTER:** If any player carelessly shoots with one of the playing marbles, he/she shall lose the shot and any marble knocked out with the illegal shooter shall be returned to position.

**PICKING UP MARBLES:** Players may use their own judgements as to whether to pick up their marbles after each shot or wait until they are finished shooting, excepting any marble that has bounced back into the Ring, must be picked up immediately.

**FORFEITING GAME:** Each player shall be responsible for keeping informed as to the progress of the game. If before the actual completion of a game, a player mistakenly believes he/she has lost and throws his/her marbles into the Ring, that player shall be considered to have forfeited.

**SLIPS:** The rule regarding "Slips" shall be strictly enforced and whenever the shooter travels more than 10 inches it must be considered a shot. If a player picks up his/her shooter on a "Slip," before it has stopped, it shall be considered to have traveled more than 10 inches and the player loses his/her shot.

**THE LAG:** Players shall Lag before each set of games and the winner shall shoot first in all odd-numbered games.



The National Marbles Tournament, Atlantic City, New Jersey, 1928.



## **APPENDIX C:**

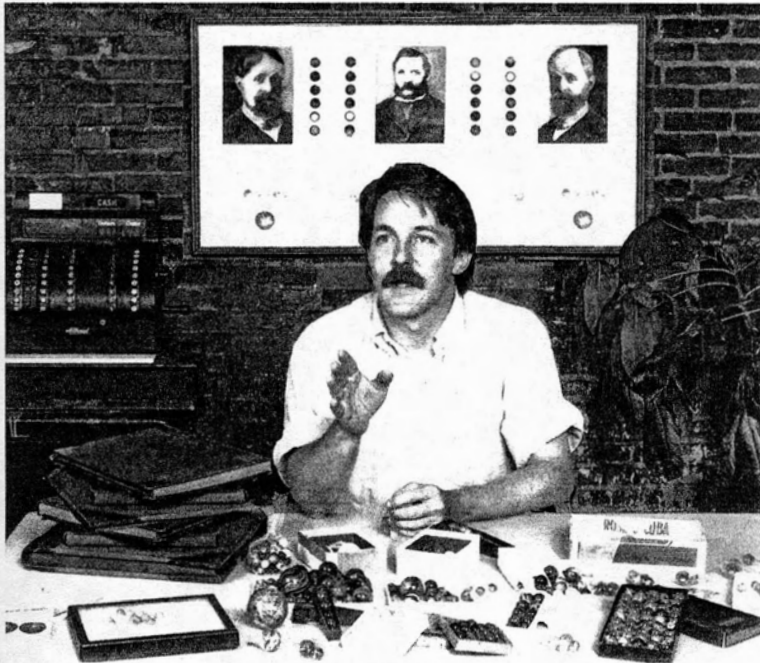
# **Ohio Winners and Runner-Ups of The National Marbles Tournament**

- 1923 Winner: Harland McCoy (Columbia, OH)
- 1928 Winner: Alfred Huey (Akron, OH)
- 1929 Runner-Up: Mike Batche (Akron, OH)
- 1930 Winner: James Lee (Columbus, OH)
- 1937 Winner: Bill Koss (Canton, OH)
- 1942 Runner-Up: Jack Kean (Canton, OH)
- 1948 Runner-Up: Carol Birchfield (Canton, OH)
- 1951 Winner: Ida Hopkins (Cleveland, OH)
- 1952 Runner-Up: Jeanette McClincey (Lakewood, OH)
- 1955 Winner: Karen Olson (Niles, OH)
- 1956 Runner-Up: Vietta Ward (Dayton, OH)
- 1957 Runner-Up: Margaret Leonard (Niles, OH)
- 1958 Runner-Up: Sandra Wallace (Cleveland, OH)
- 1959 Runner-Up: Margaret Leonard (Niles, OH)
- 1961 Winner: Anita Danyluk (Niles, OH)
- 1984 Runner-Up: Time Suhr (Northbridge, OH)

*For more information, go to  
The National Marbles Tournament Internet Homepage:  
[www.nationalmarblestournament.org](http://www.nationalmarblestournament.org)*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** I would like to thank the following people for their help. In relation to the volume and quality of research and personal insights shared, no greater thanks is due than to Fred G. Wright of Kokomo, Indiana. Thanks to Brian Graham, there is no better way to research a subject than to do it with someone else, to have one as knowledgeable on the subject, so that ideas and theories can be openly and thoroughly discussed. Brian's keen instincts and base of knowledge allowed him to discover so many aspects of this subject, and his friendship is cherished. For the information and photograph of the Akron Stone Marble Company, I would like to thank local historian and Peninsulaologist, Randy Bergdorf. Special thanks goes to Sam Dyke's granddaughters, Ula Wiedie and Thelma Rappold, who provided personal and touching insights, as well as mountains of information and materials about their grandfather. Countless hours were spent in libraries and archives throughout Ohio, reading microfilm, dusty books and searching through old photographs – librarians and archivists are really great people. They'll say they're just doing their job, but if civil servants were as helpful, we'd be living in a utopia society. Paula Moran, director of the Summit County Historical Society, provides constant inspiration and encouragement, helping me to stay focused and involved. When it comes to looking at and examining the old marbles made in Akron, one could not ask for a better friend than Richard Dickey, marble collector extraordinaire. It also helps to have a good friend like Stephen Mills, to share in the discoveries, throughout the process. And none of this would be possible without the love and support of my family.

**This book is dedicated to.....  
my Sara, young John & Michael,  
Billy, Zach, Jessica & Amanda, Steven & Kara**



**Michael C. Cohill**