

Grandma's Cookie Jar

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NAPCO "Cookies All Over" Cookie Jar



LA Potteries Cookie Jar

"It's unknown when or where Grandma bought her cookie jar or how much she paid for it."

The Mystery and Mystique of Grandma's Cookie Jar

Remember going to 26 Delaware, saying "Hi" to Grandma, grabbing some M&M's from the candy dish on the coffee table, and then going to the kitchen to see what was in the cookie jar? How could we forget Grandma's cookie jar?

Pretty easily, it turns out.

There has been some confusion about what Grandma's cookie jar looked like. Was it a big red apple? Nope. Was it a giant strawberry? Photographic evidence shows Grandma did have a giant strawberry cookie jar, but that's not the one I remember. Back in the early days of eBay, I bought what I confidently remembered as being like Grandma's: white with colorful cookies embossed on the sides and a walnut on the lid. I recently learned that it was made by Los Angeles Pottery in CA and was offered in Green Stamps catalogs in the 1950s and 1960s.

Turns out, I, too, was confused. As I searched Grandma's

photo albums for pictures of the cookie jar, I found only one picture with an unobstructed view of it in the far background, and I noticed something I hadn't remembered: there were embossed cookies on the lid! The Los Angeles Pottery version doesn't have cookies on the lid, but the Napco version does.

Napco a.k.a. National Potteries Corporation was based in "The Flats" in Cleveland, OH. It didn't make pottery. It imported ceramics from Japan. Napco didn't have a catalog, so salespeople carried black and white photos of their wares to gift shops, hardware stores, etc. The cookie jar with "real-as-life colored ceramic cookies molded all over the outside" was advertised in newspapers across the country in 1957. You could "start your family cookie jar tradition" for the "special" price of \$2.98.

It's unknown when or where Grandma bought her cookie jar

or how much she paid for it. The earliest photo I could find of it was taken in the summer of 1966. If you look past Grandpa's right shoulder (while Uncle Dunk is cutting his hair in the kitchen) you can see a sliver of it.

The cookie jar was, as pictured, on the left side of the kitchen counter near the door leading to the back staircase. Dale remembers there was noise-dampening masking tape on the bottom of the lid which made sneaking cookies easier.

Last year, Bob won the Friday-after-Thanksgiving bingo door prize which was a vintage Napco "Cookies All Over" cookie jar like Grandma's.

It's unknown what became of Grandma's cookie jar. Maybe one day one of us will go through a long-forgotten box in our attic or basement and stumble upon it. But until then, the fate of Grandma's cookie jar may forever remain a mystery.



The cookie jar in 1966. It is over Grandpa's shoulder as Uncle Dunk cuts Grandpa's hair.



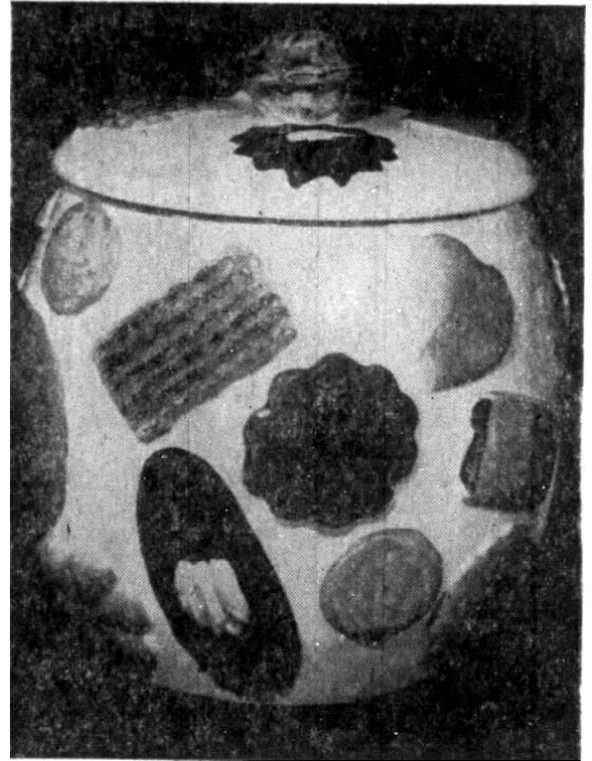
The cookie jar in 1977 as Aunt Ellen and Aunt Ruth work in the kitchen.

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