



Lesser Known Carvers of the Thousand Islands

March 1, 2014

- Part 5 of Lesser Known carvers.
- “Lesser Known”: Carvers who are unknown or poorly known on a state-wide or national level.
- They carved some excellent decoys, and sometimes carved decoys that can be confused with others.
- Information on the lesser known carvers is scattered, and their carvings less numerous.

I would like to encourage people to speak-up during the meeting:

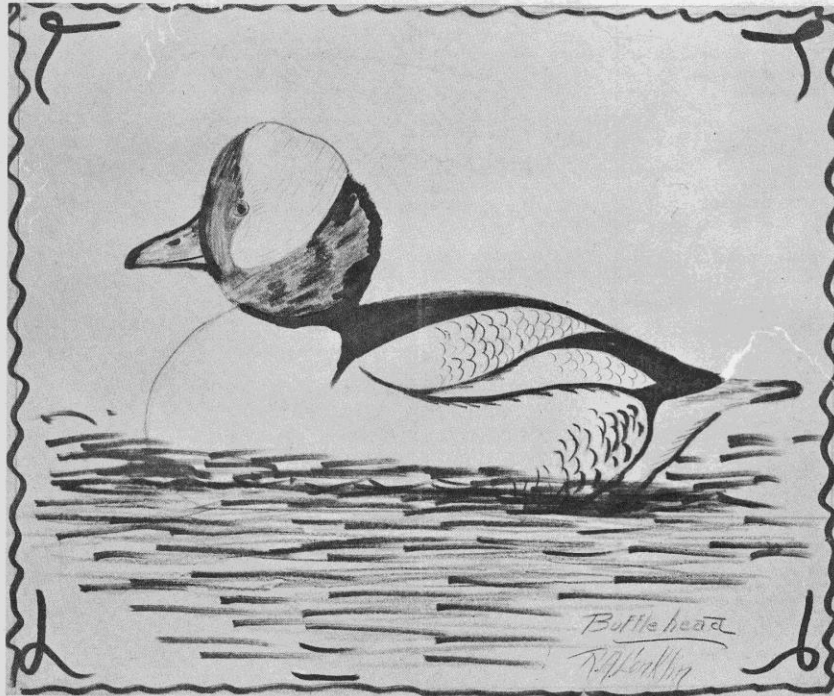
- if you have questions or need clarification
- have knowledge, insights, stories to add
- if you want to volunteer to work on something or someone, or have some information, please contact me after the presentation

Black Lake - March 2013



The Quarterly

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



October 1968

article by Keith
Norton, published
in The Quarterly,
St. Lawrence Co.
Historical Assoc.,
October 1968.

covered a number of
different carvers:

Ed & Edgar Rheome

Roy & George Apple

Ivan Delair

Ivan Delair (1899-1962)



- raised in Hammond, moved to Morristown
- made both solid and hollow-body decoys

Roy Apple (1899-1992)

George Apple (1896-1973)

James Apple (1886-1962)

Myles Apple (1906-1972)



Roy Apple hen broadbill from a rig owned by Ken Keller; purchased directly from Roy

Edward E. Rheome
(1903-1973)



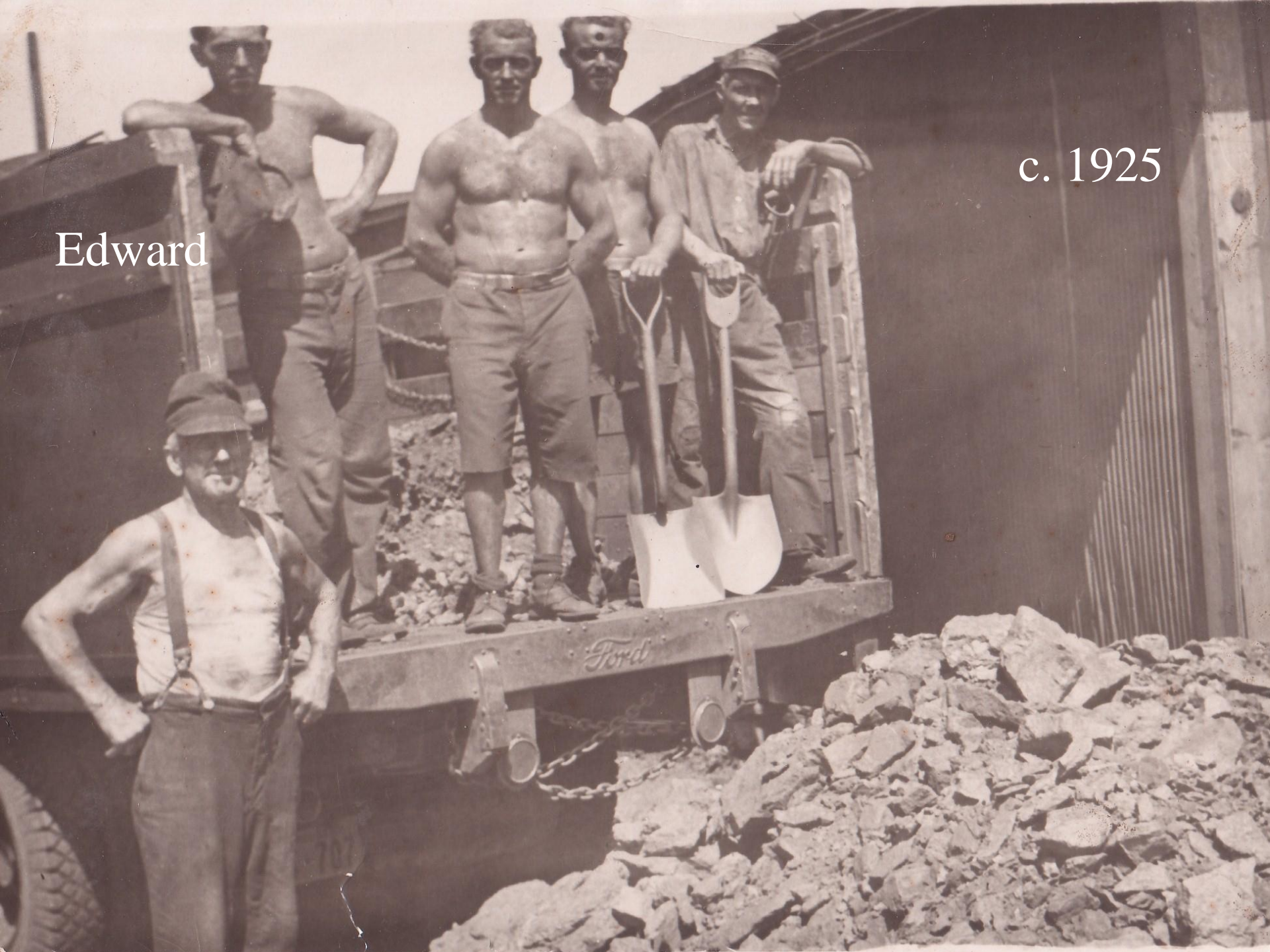


Orville George

Edward

Clarence

c. 1909



c. 1925

Edward





Sharon

Rose

WINE CELLAR
A jug of wine, a loaf of bread, and friends!







Mr. Edward Rheome
1110 Mechanic St.
Ogdensburg, N. Y. 13669

c the tail



- made for grandkids April 1969
- overall length 7 7/8 inches





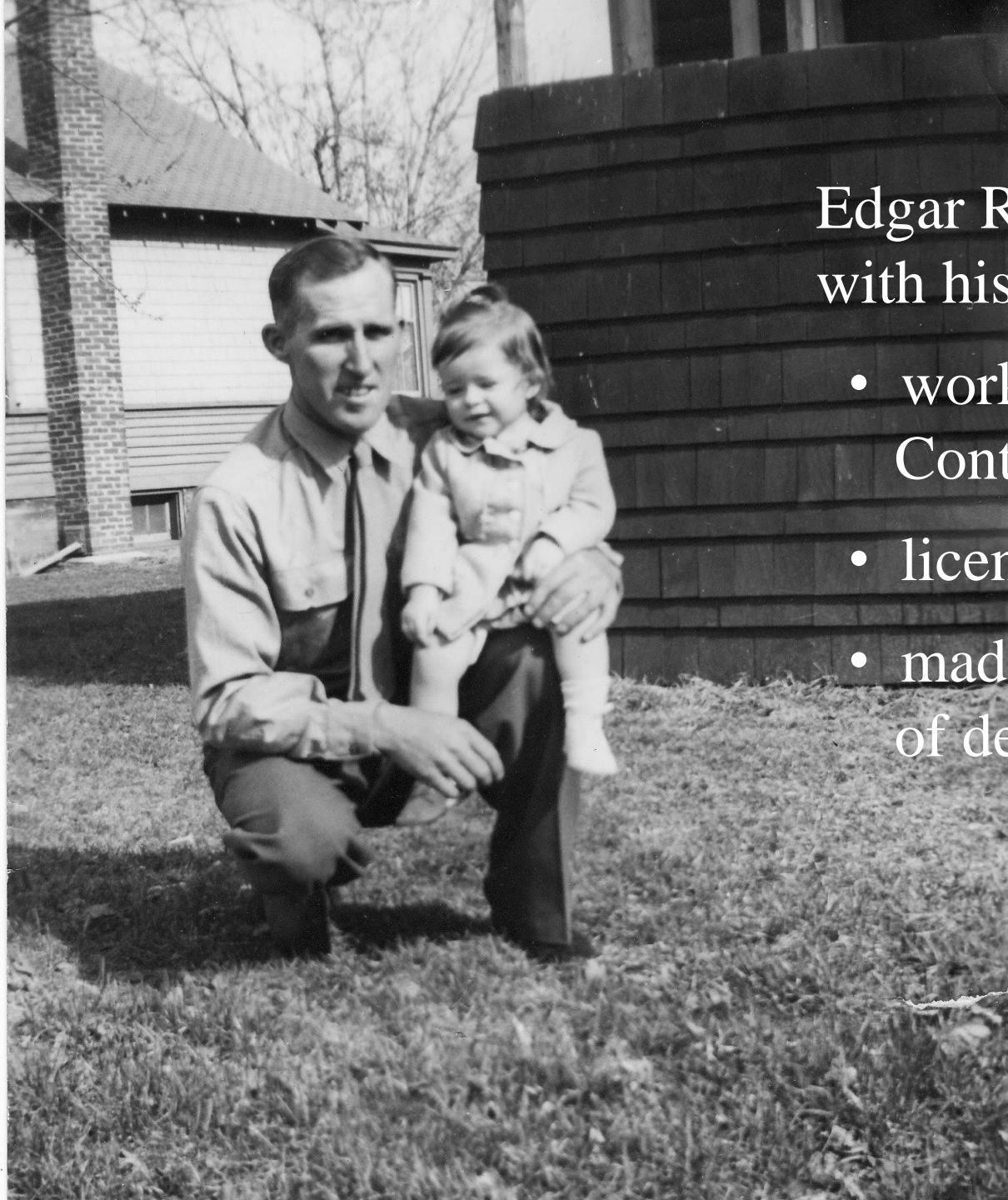
← overall 11 3/8 inches

overall 8 1/2 inches →



Lang's Auction
October 2012





Edgar Rheome (1910-1985)
with his daughter Linda

- worked Cleveland Container, construction
- licensed guide
- made a limited number of decoys

drake goldeneye by Edgar Rheome
- repainted













- Laura Rheome married Myles Apple in 1939
 - Edward and Myles often hunted together.
- Edgar Rheome was taught to fish on Black Lake by Clarence House, who operated Tourist Rest.
 - Clarence's wife was Emma Delair. Edgar became very good friends with Ivan Delair, and later married Venita House.
- Ivan Delair's mother was Belle Rheome Delair.
- Edgar, Ivan, and Roy Apple were all very good friends. Often guided together, and competed against one another shooting clay targets.



Myles Apple (left)
and Edgar Rheome
(right), c.1940

Clarence E. House
with a muskellunge,
a rare fish on Black
Lake

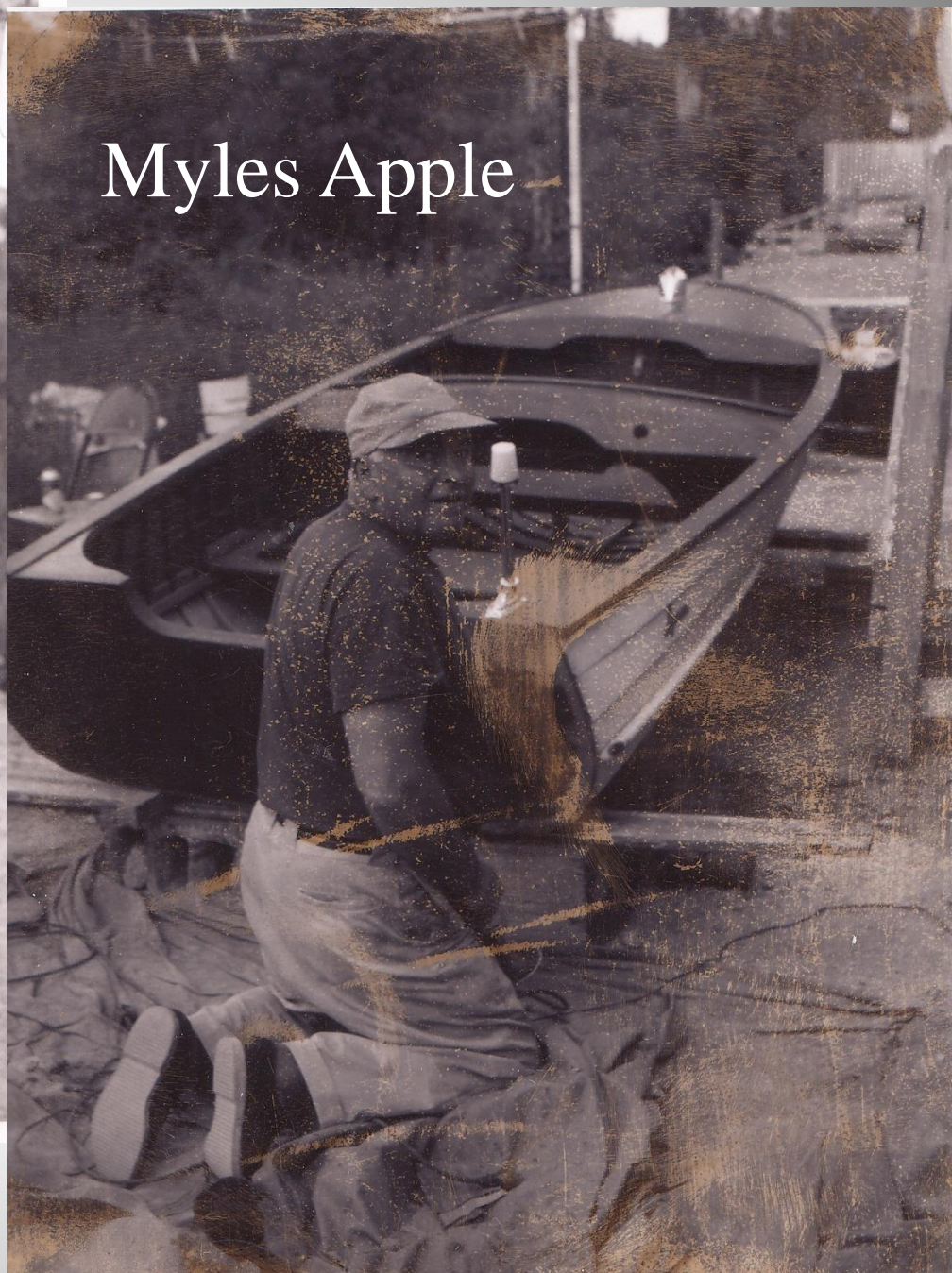




Clarence House
(left) and Myles
Apple (right) with
a huge catch of
walleye, bass, and
perch.



Edgar Rheome (center) with the Zollwegg family from Rochester



Myles Apple

Myles Apple (left)
and George Apple
(right) at Bert
Morris' camp on
Black Lake, 1960s.



Remaining Needs:

- Edward Rheome: examples of early hunting decoys
- Apple family:
 - decoys by George Apple
 - pictures of Roy Apple
- Ivan Delair:
 - examples of hunting decoys
 - photographs

Frank L. Clark (Part 1: March 2010)

- born 1875, died 1958
- Clayton businessman
 - helped operate Clark Grocery and Hardware Store
 - insurance business
 - board of trustees First National Bank
- Frank's decoys were recognized for some time as the work of an undocumented area carver

\$5.95

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1993

DECOY MAGAZINE

WHICH IS THE REAL SAM DENNY?

Varying characteristics pose questions
for collectors.



**BOSTON MUSEUM
OF FINE ARTS**
Decoys from their collection

ADELE EARNEST
Classic decoys go to auction

CHUCK HALL
Carving out the good life

JIMMY WRIGHT
A whimsical decoy maker
from Kent County, Maryland

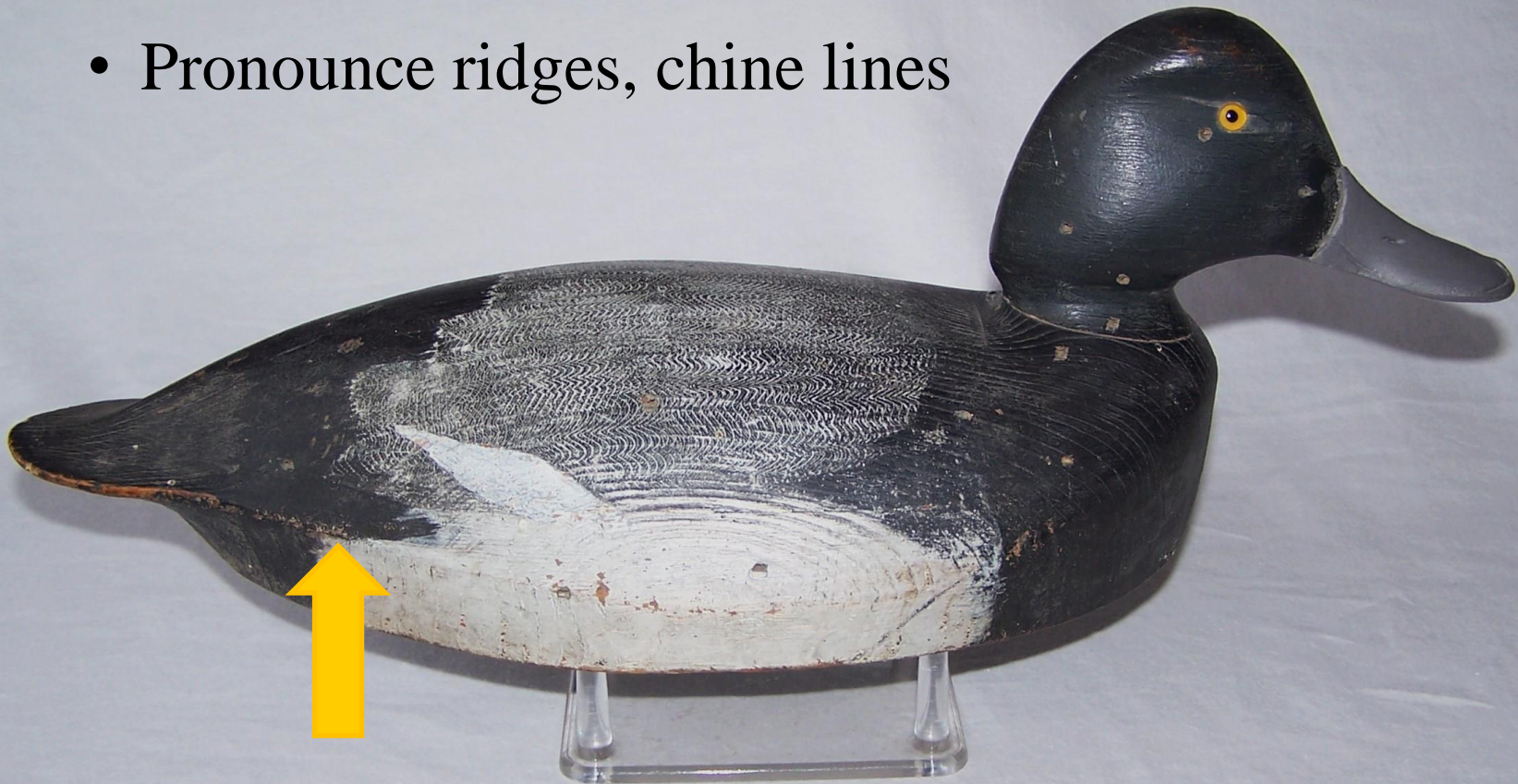
Jan/Feb 1993

Decoys of:

- Sam Denny
- “Pseudo-Denny”
- Unblocked style

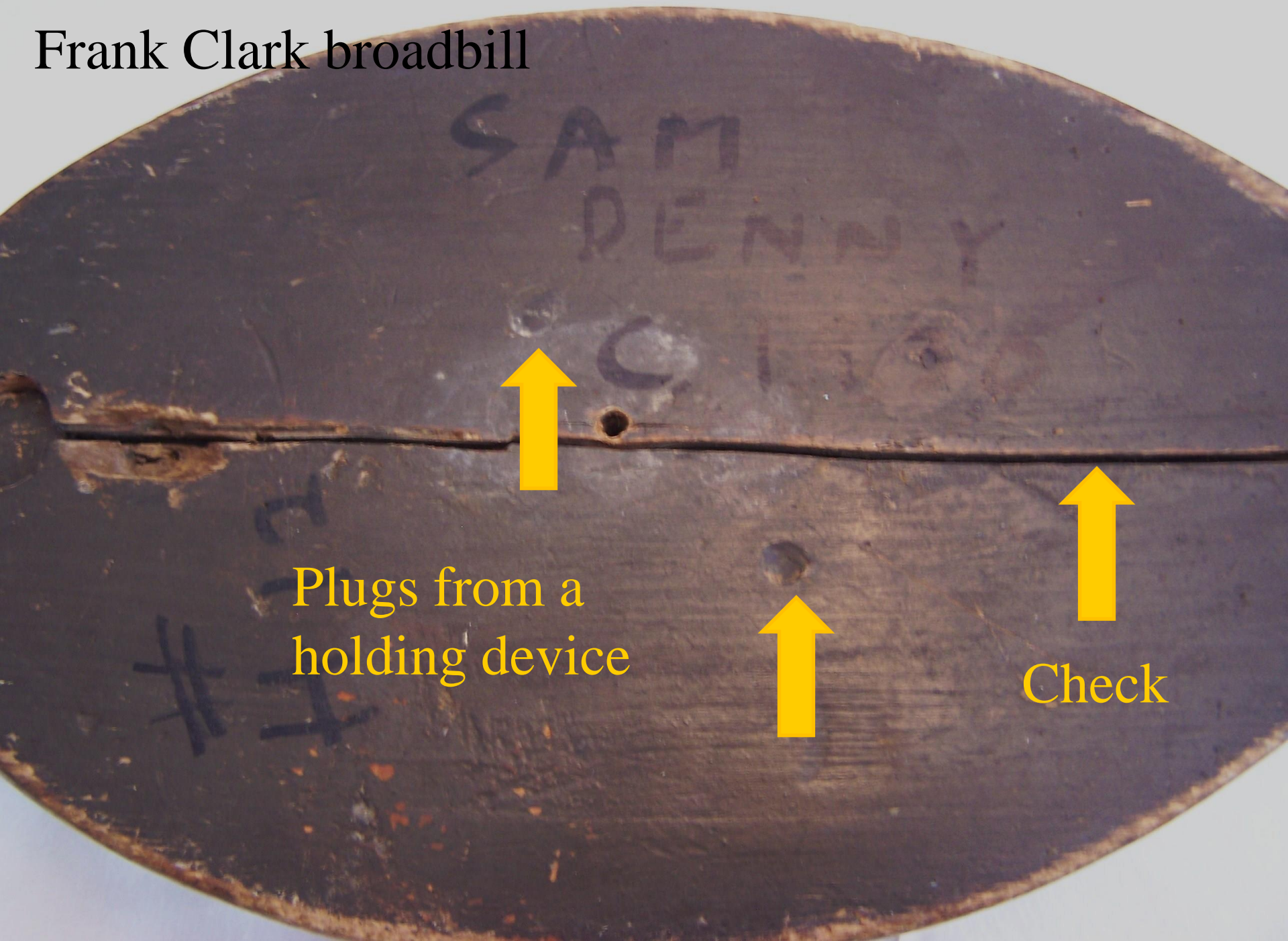
Frank Clark (former “Pseudo-Denny”)

- Pronounce ridges, chine lines



- Many of these decoys were painted by other carvers:
Sam Denny, possibly Wheeler or Coombs

Frank Clark broadbill

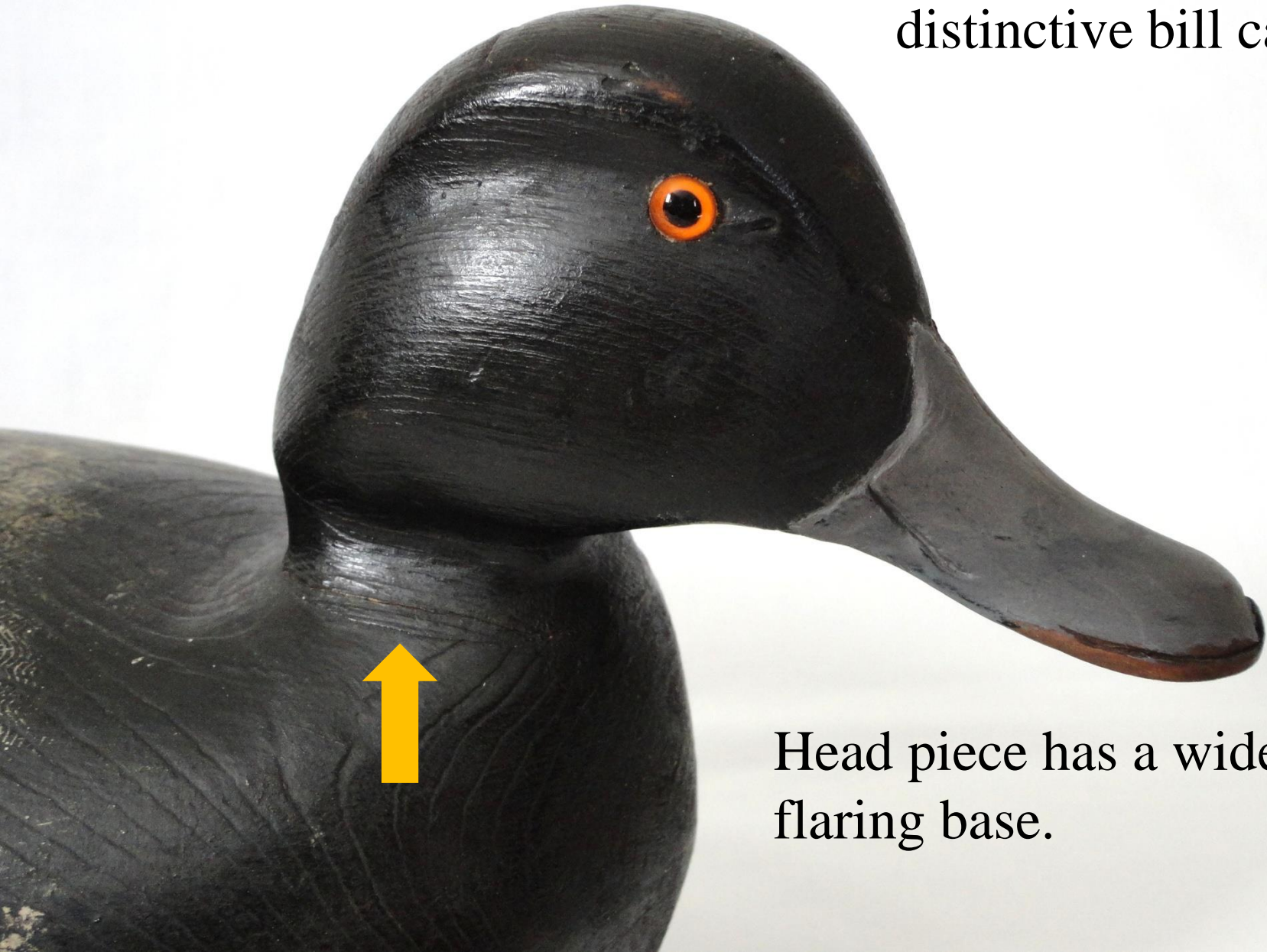


Plugs from a
holding device

Check

Frank Clark drake broadbill

distinctive bill carving



Head piece has a wide, flaring base.

Frank L. Clark hen broadbill





Frank Clark broadbills

Frank Clark redhead



- Chine line
- Bill carving: outcarved, diagonal mandible, nail

Frank Clark drake canvasback





Guyette Online Auction:
January 23, 2014



Frank Clark
Canvasbacks
- all drakes



Frank Clark black duck
- previously attributed to Wheeler









Frank Clark
black ducks



Unfinished decoy head, marked Frank Clark,
from the estate of Gordon Bennett.

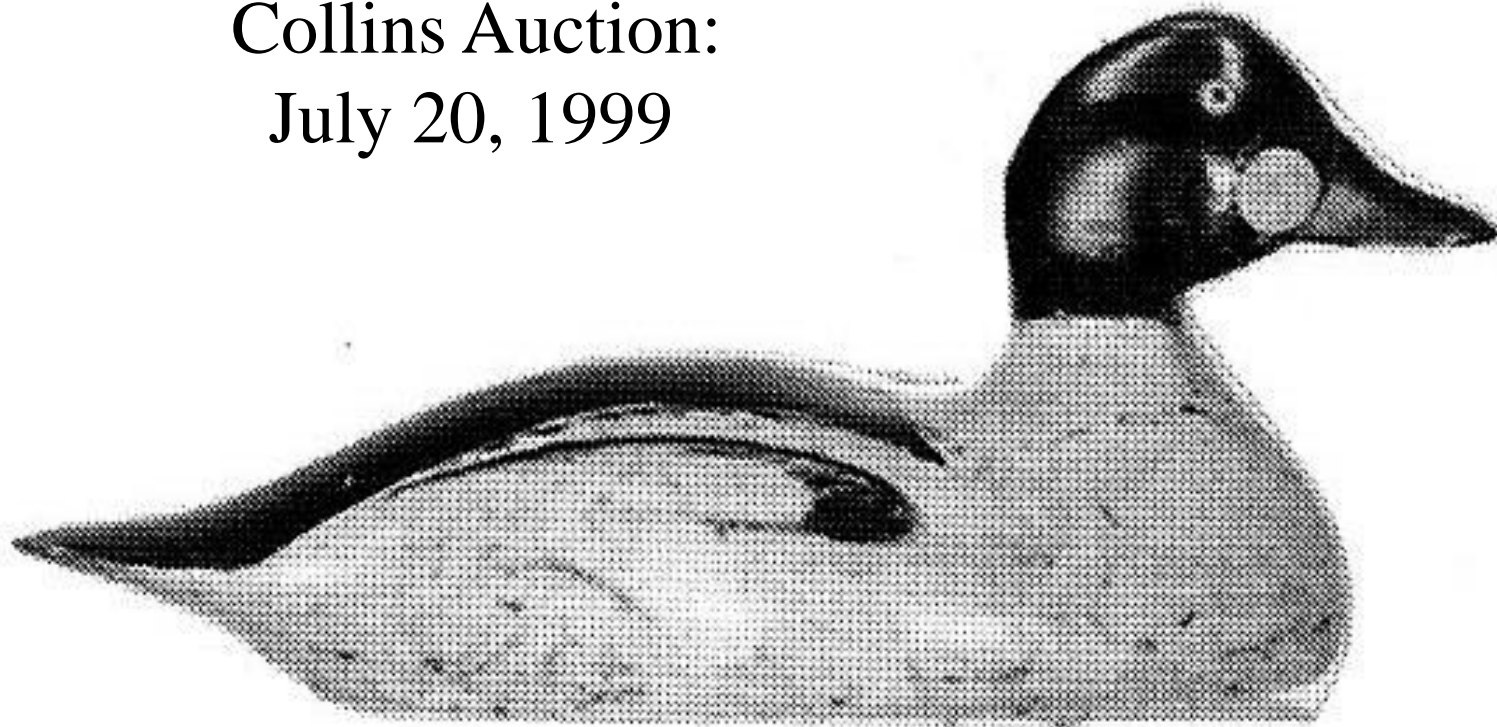


- outcarved bill
- flared neck base

Frank Clark drake goldeneye



Collins Auction:
July 20, 1999



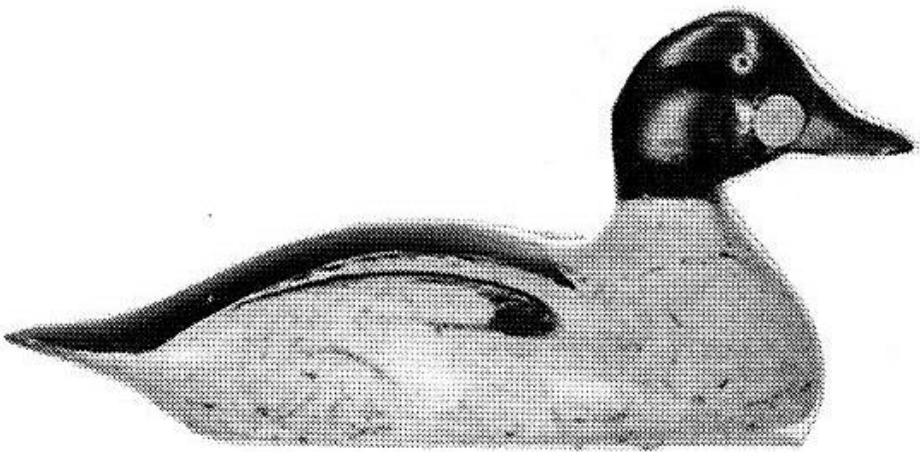
Frank Clark hen goldeneye

- delicate stipple feather painting



Guyette Online Auction
September 5, 2013





Frank Clark goldeneyes

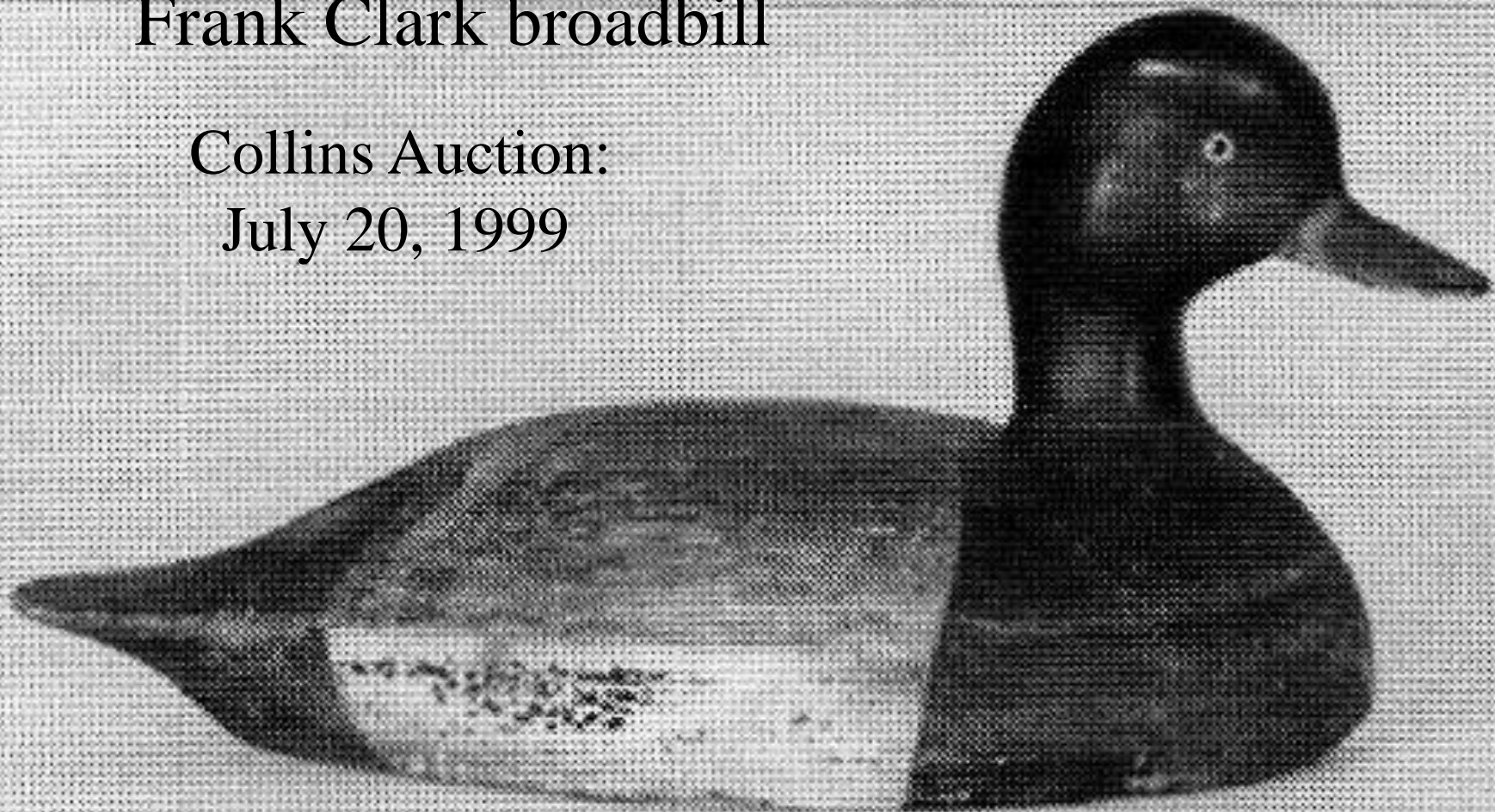


“Coombs” style Frank Clark decoy



Frank Clark broadbill

Collins Auction:
July 20, 1999



Remaining Needs:

- photographs of Frank Clark
- confirmation that the Coombs style decoys were carved by Frank Clark

Dingman family

Alexandria Bay, NY

March 2010: Part 1

- Lots of Dingman's, and lots of decoys attributed to them.
- Virtually no information on them in any of the books or magazines.
- Robert Eugene (Bob)
John Edward (Ed or Punkins)

Robert “Bob” Dingman (1866-1940)

- Fishing guide and boat captain.
- Gareth Service in a Feb. 14, 1967 article, said he was Wheeler’s whittling crony.



Ed “Punkins” Dingman (1872-1957)

- Lived on Holland Street
- Fishing guide (50 years), and caretaker on Cherry Island





Guyette Auction: April 24&25, 2014





Guyette Auction: August 1&2, 2013

Ed Dingman



from Great Lakes Decoy Interpretations by Gene
& Linda Kangas (published summer 2011), page 91

March 2005 Frank & Frank auction

Mr. B decoy:

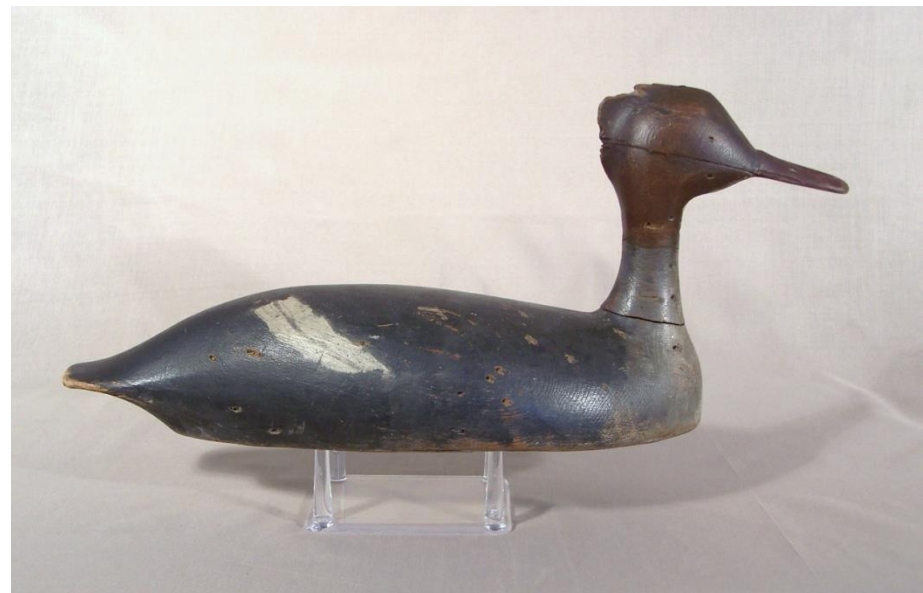
March 2012 – Part 3



Russ Goldberger's website February 2010



Ed Dingman



ebay December 2011



Mr B hen goldeneye



Mr B drake broadbill





Mr B drake redhead







Ed Dingman: Guyette Auction August 1-2, 2013



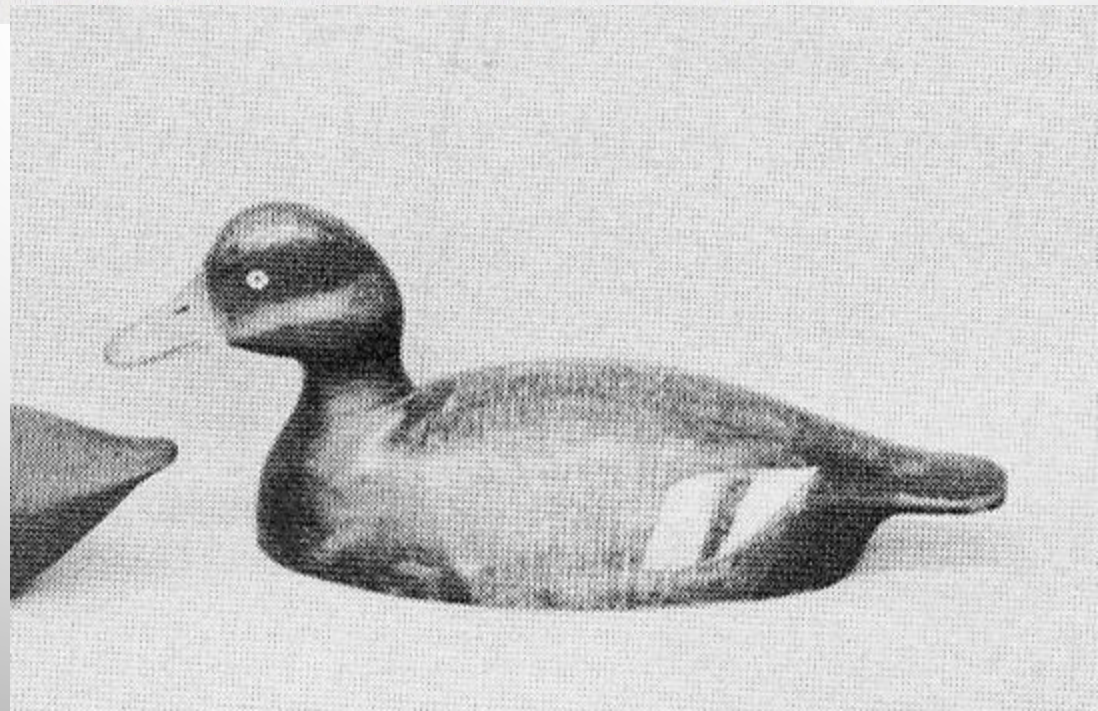






Above: Guyette Auction
April 25-26, 2002

Right: Bourne Auction
July 22-23, 1975





Justin Barrow's Auction – July 10, 2010



ebay: September 1, 2013



Remaining Needs and Questions:

- documented photographs of Ed Dingman
- ❖ confirm which styles were carved and painted by Ed Dingman

Guyette online auction:
August 8, 2013

- gouge carving
- beveled bottom edge

hollow “Dingman” type decoy



circular cast ballast weight,
with raised letters “RD”



M Bob DINGMAN

CIRCA 1900 (EARLY)

ALEXANDRIA BAH

Made very few drawings

‘Dingman’ type solid body broadbills

- schooner bows
- pointed tails



Drake painted by Chauncey Wheeler (?)



hollow “Dingman” type decoys







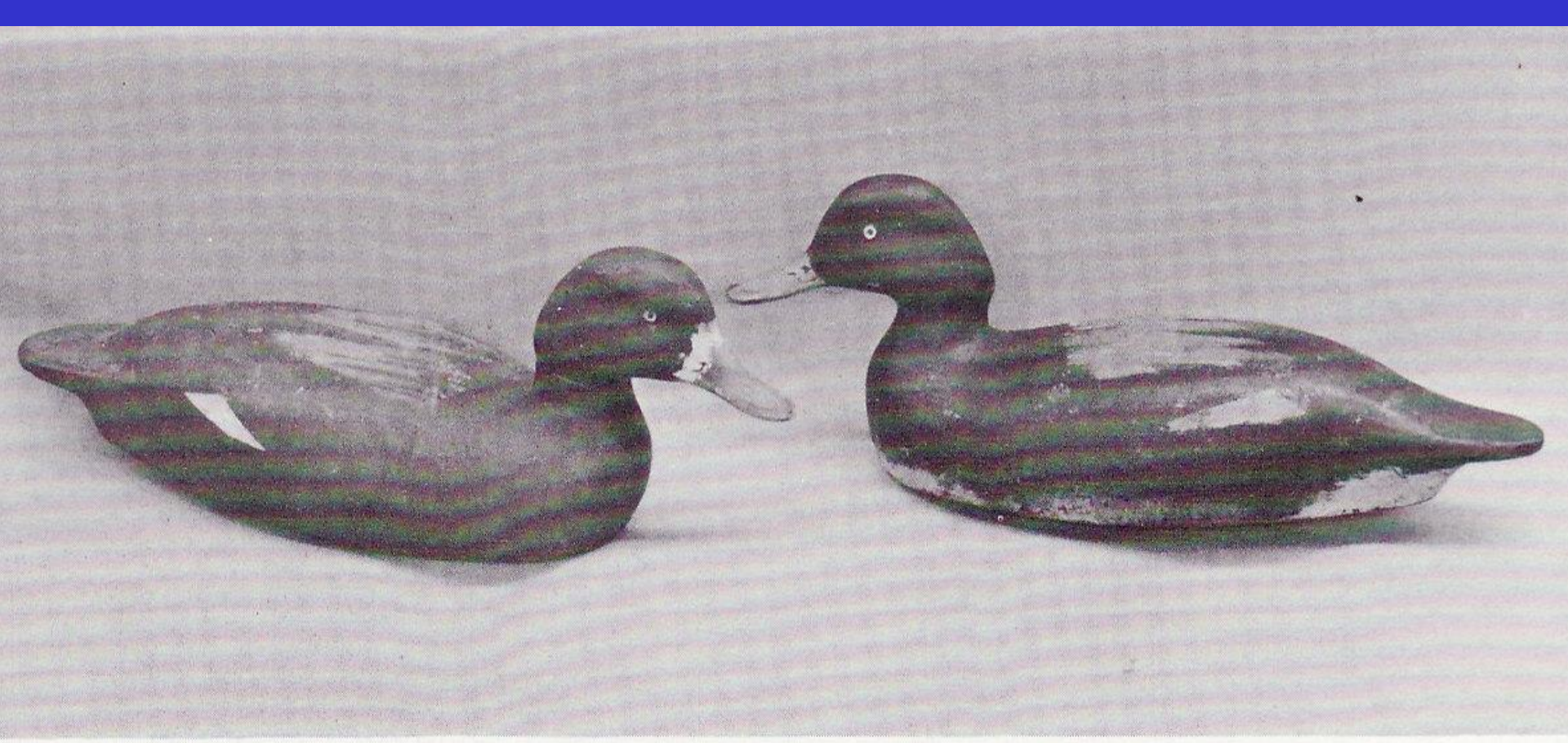
Remaining Needs and Questions:

- more photographs of Bob Dingman
- ❖ confirm which decoys were carved by Bob Dingman



South Bay Auctions: October 5, 2013

attributed to John J. Bertrand, St. Lawrence River -
OJB branded on the bottom



Bourne Auction: May 20&21, 1977

branded Owen J. Bertran and OJB, and dated 1923-24

Owen J. Bertrand

- one of three sons of Abraham J. and Marie LaRose Bertrand
- born August 24, 1904, died December 21, 1976
- Owen was a commercial sign painter, well know for his gold-leaf painting
- he was a movie projectionist, buying the Pearson Perfect Picture Theater in Clayton
- married Elizabeth Hunt on October 10, 1927; together they had 3 children

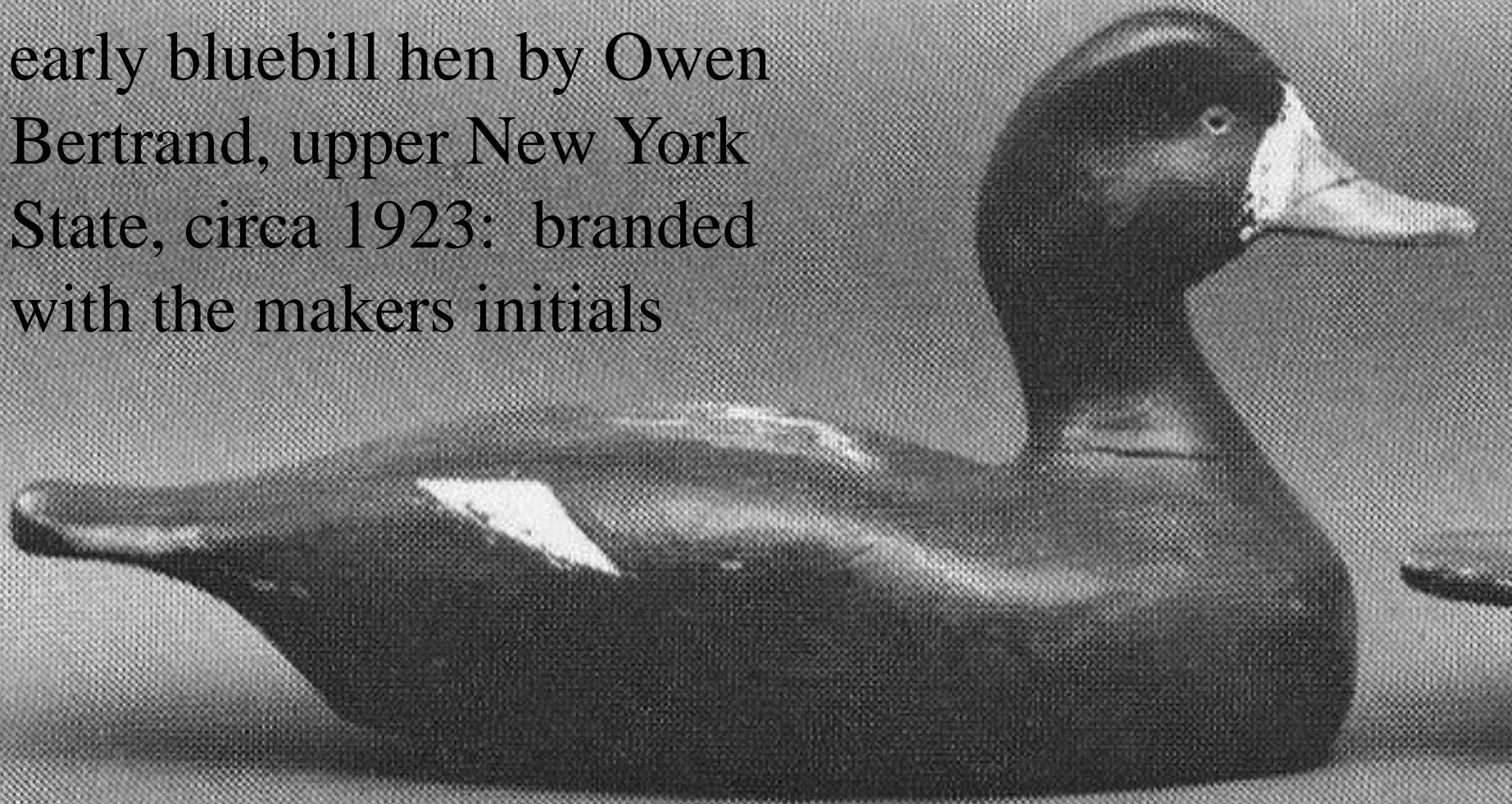
Bourne Auction: July 11-12, 1978



“by Owen J. Bertrand, circa 1923-24, bearing his ‘OJB’ brand twice on the bottom, also identified in chalk”

Oliver Auction: July 1-2, 1989

early bluebill hen by Owen
Bertrand, upper New York
State, circa 1923: branded
with the makers initials



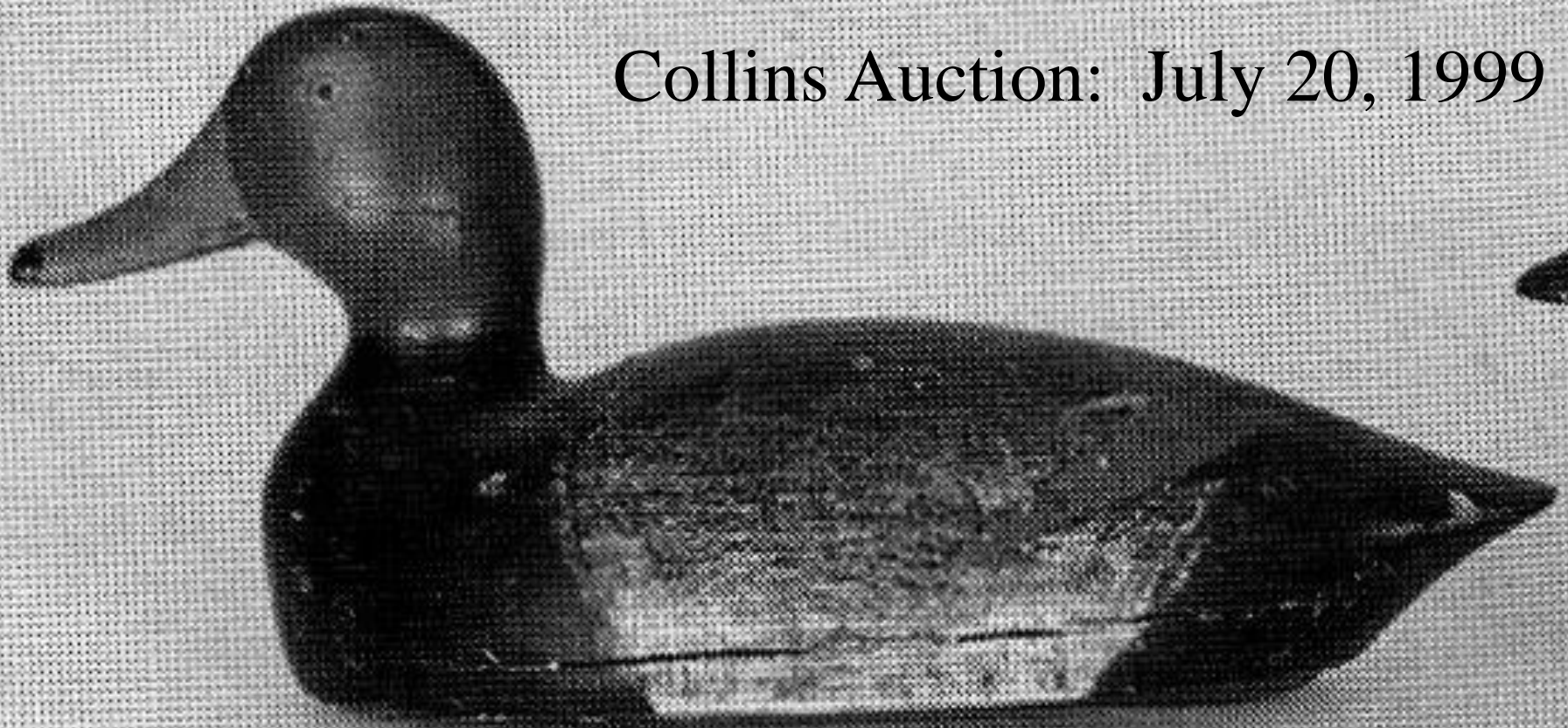
Collins Auction: July 20, 1999



Listed as Owen Bertrand, Alexandria Bay, NY:
“signed on underside and branded”

Listed as Owen Bertrand, Alexandria Bay, NY:
(no mention of name or initials branded on the
bottom)

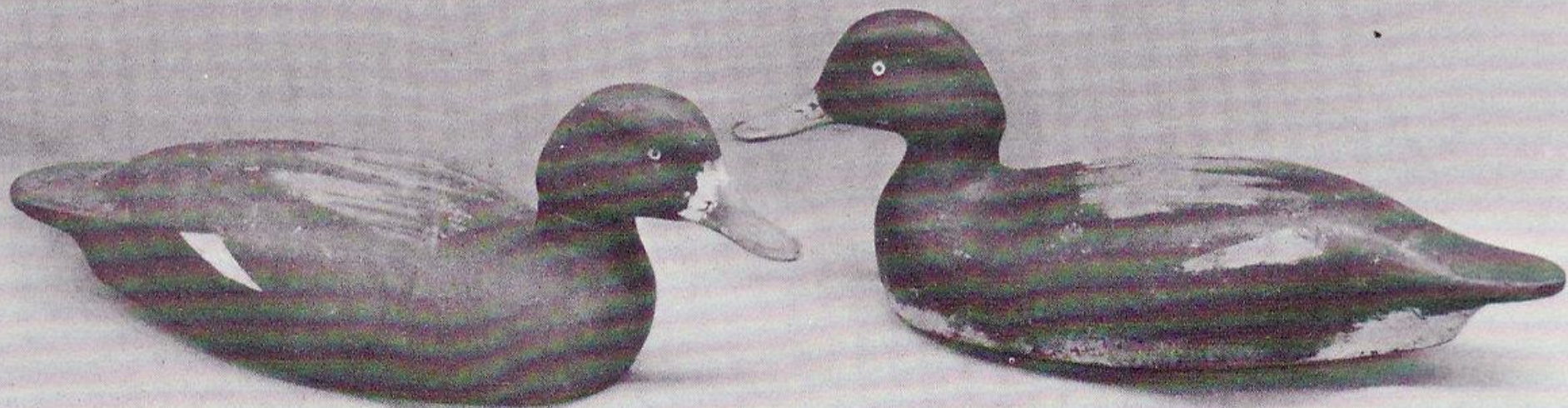
Collins Auction: July 20, 1999

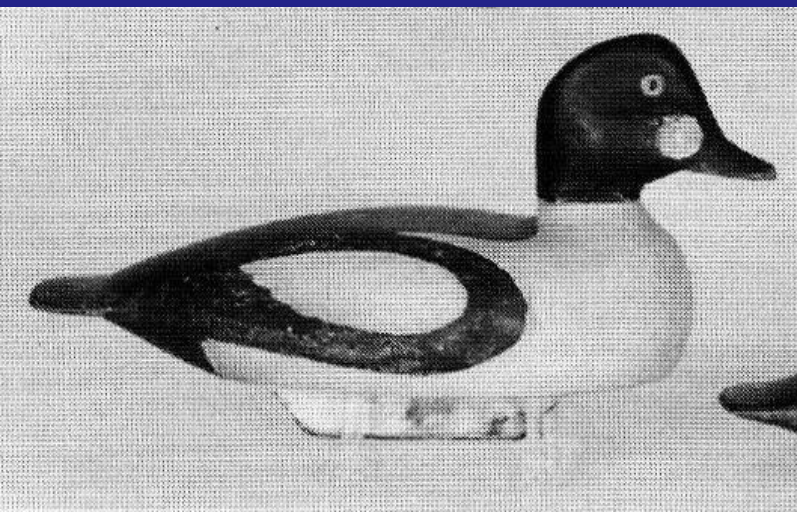
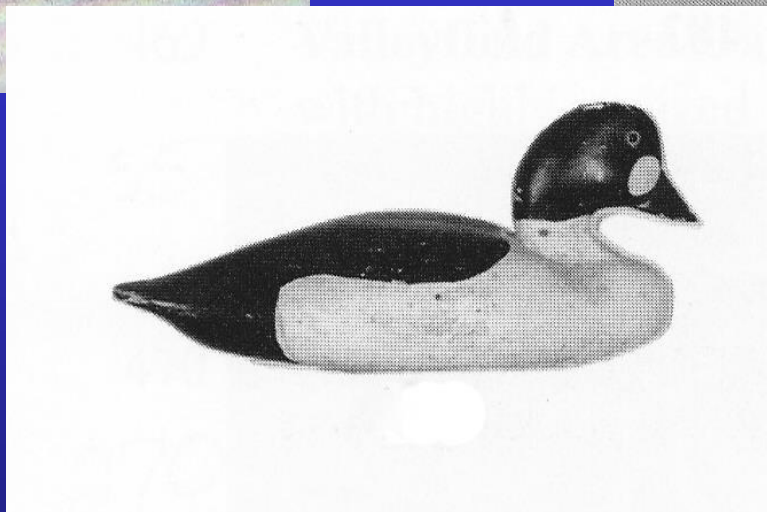


Collins Auction: July 20, 1999



Listed as Charles Bertrand, Alexandria Bay, NY
(no mention of name or initials branded on the bottom)





Remaining Needs:

- general life history, family information
- photographs of Owen
- decoys to examine and photograph

Bourne Auction: July 11-12, 1978



Attributed to J.M. Hungerford
Clayton, NY. Branded J.M. Hungerford



James Montrose Hungerford

(1863-1940)

Clayton, NY

pages 209&210 – Decoys of the Thousand Islands

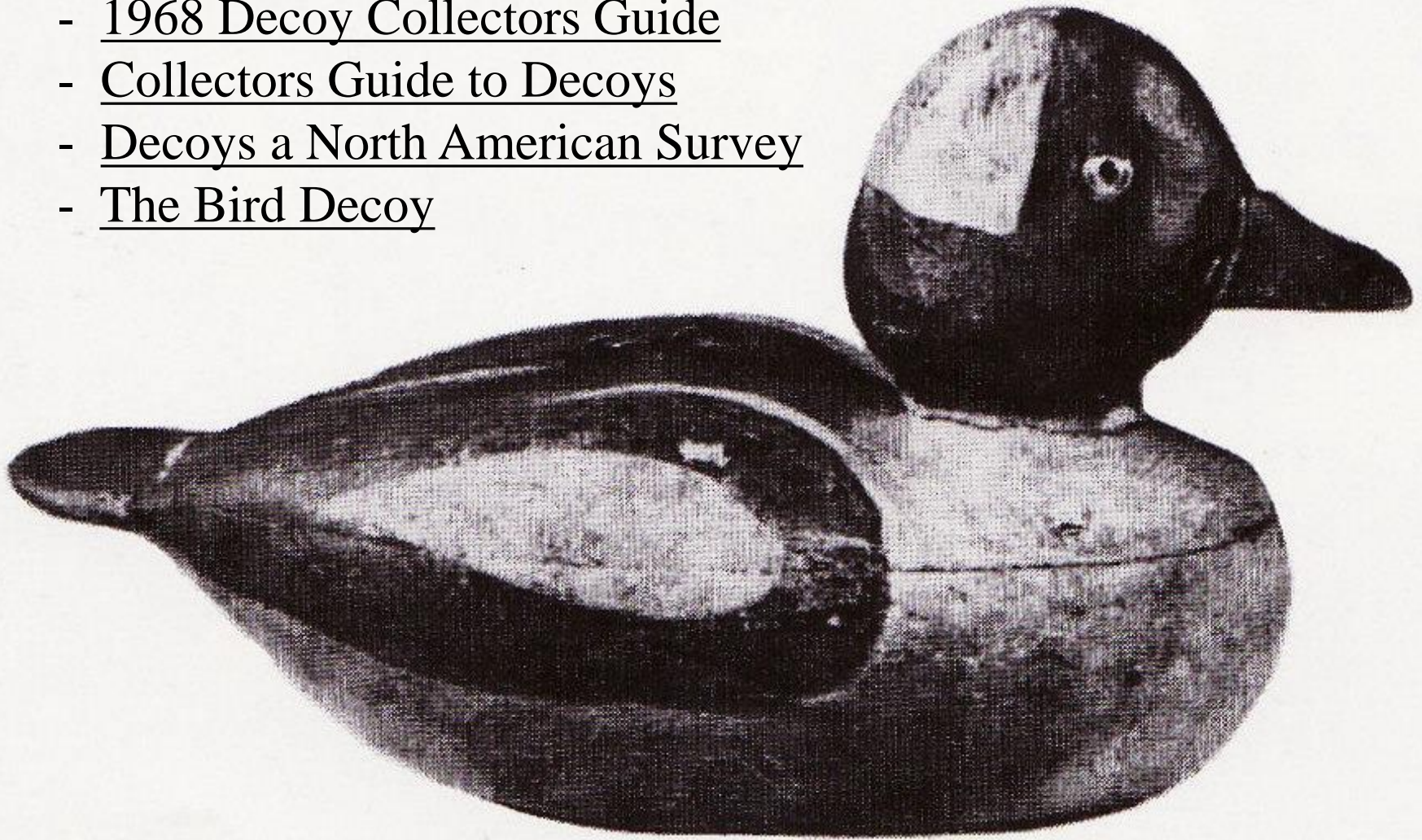
- born June 26, 1863 in Evans Mills; son of Albert and Emily Orr Hungerford
- began working in his uncle's tin shop at age 17
- moved to Clayton about 1884 and worked as an employee at Atwood Brothers Hardware store
- took over Atwood Brothers in 1888 and began building his own hardware store
- married Irene Johnston March 26, 1890; together they had one son, Stanley
- lived at 402 Hugunin Street

Hungerford decoys:

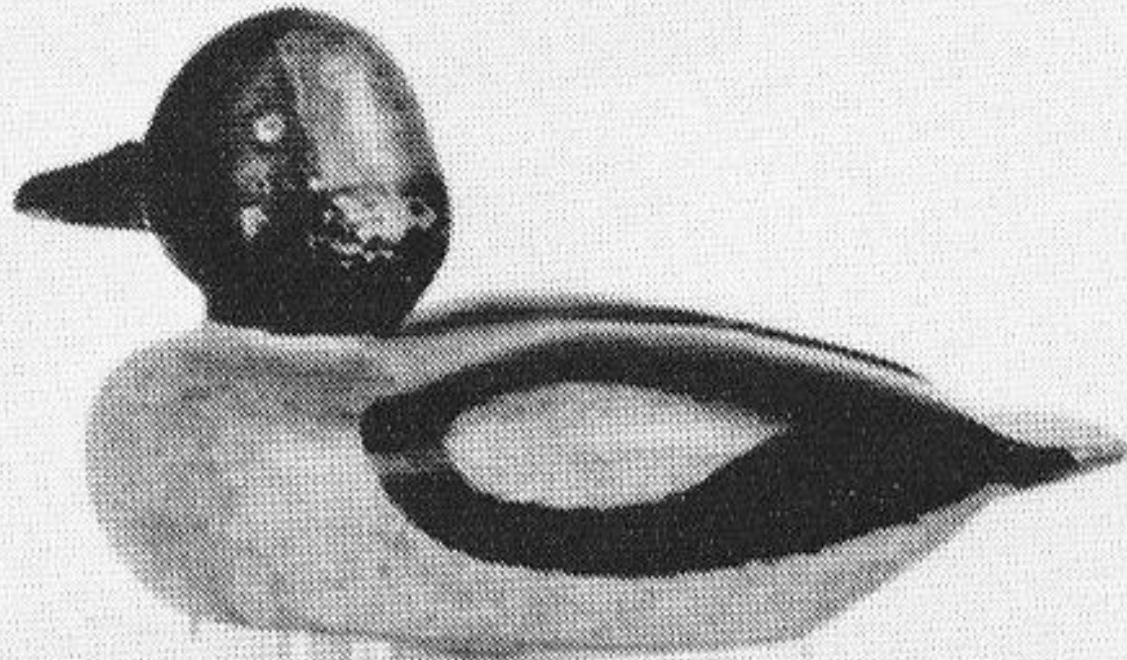
- made close to 100 decoys between 1885 and 1910
- bluebills, whistlers, and buffleheads
- some had 2-piece bodies
- J.M. Hungerford stamped into the bottoms of some
- some marked Henry Johnston or HSJ
- mostly hunted Blanket Islands and Flatiron Islands

from Decoys of the Thousand Islands

- 1968 Decoy Collectors Guide
- Collectors Guide to Decoys
- Decoys a North American Survey
- The Bird Decoy



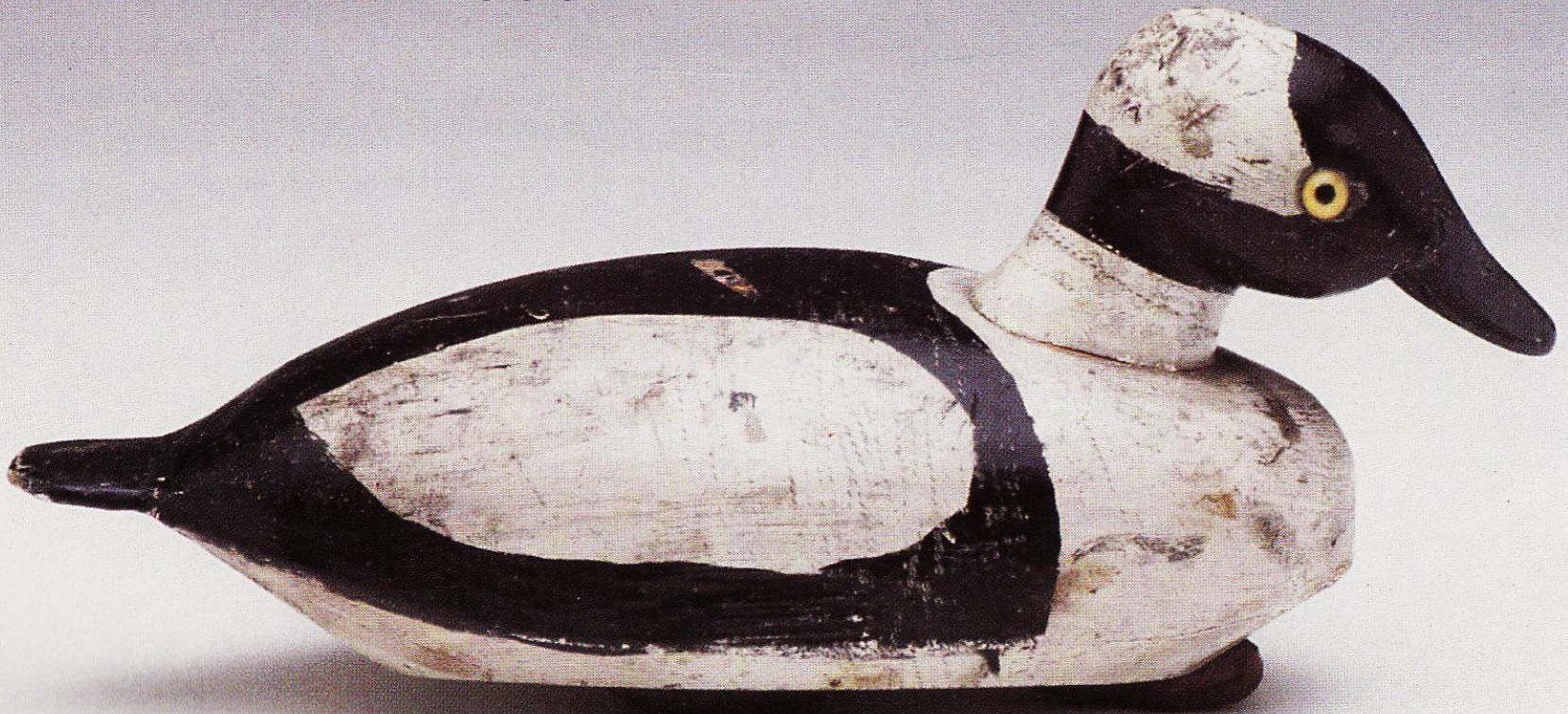
2-piece body, c. 1900

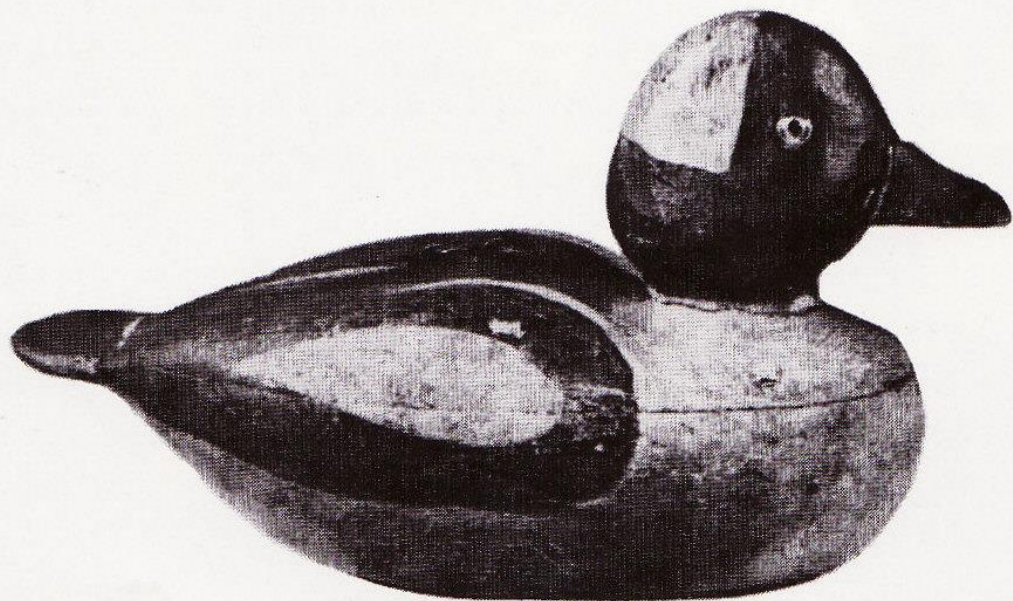


James Julia Auction: October 6-7, 1989

from Decoys of the Thousand Islands

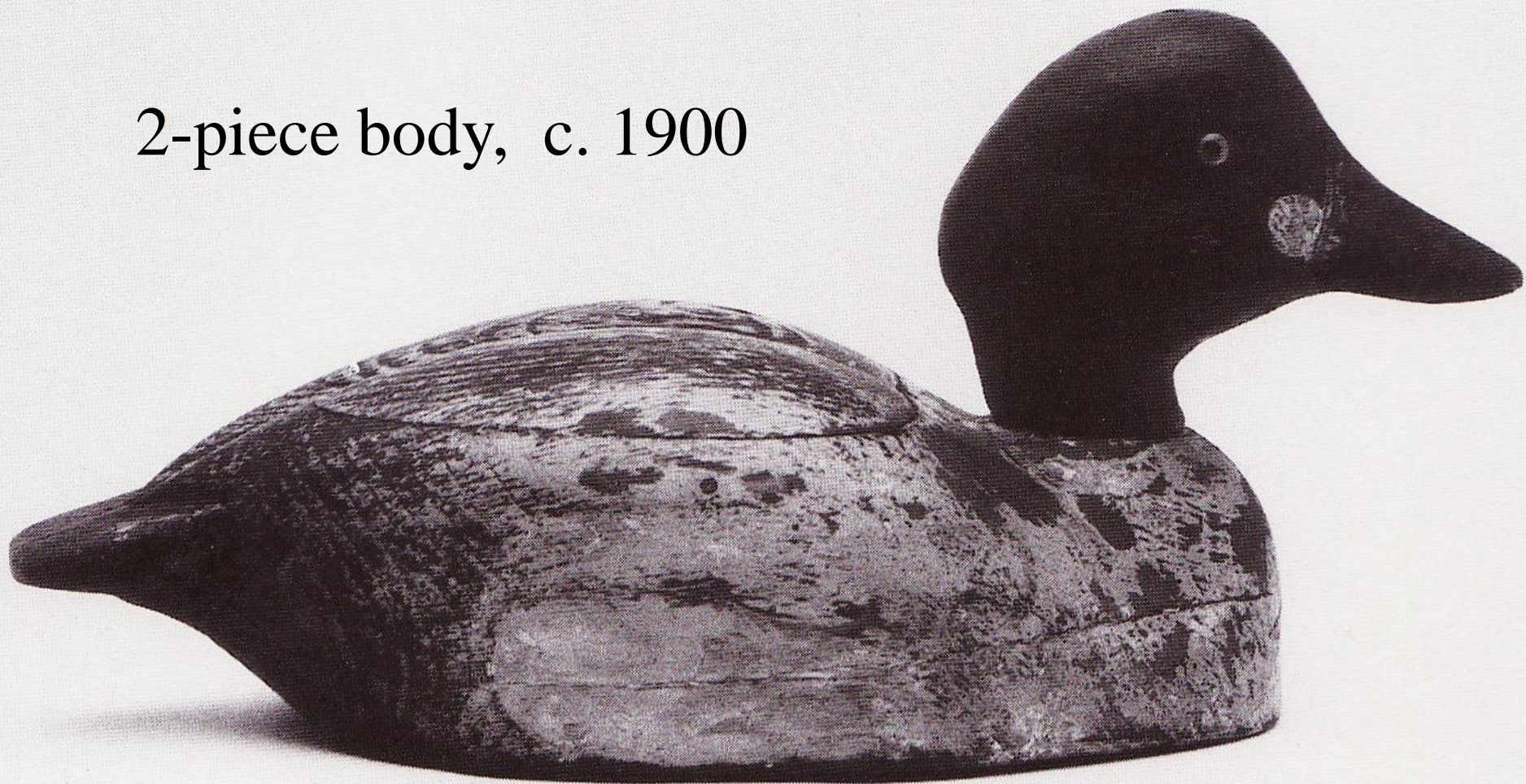
c. 1880s

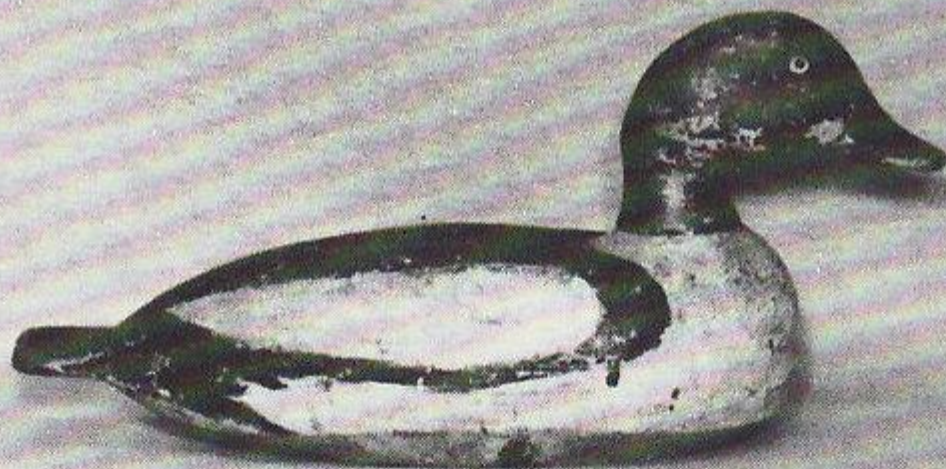




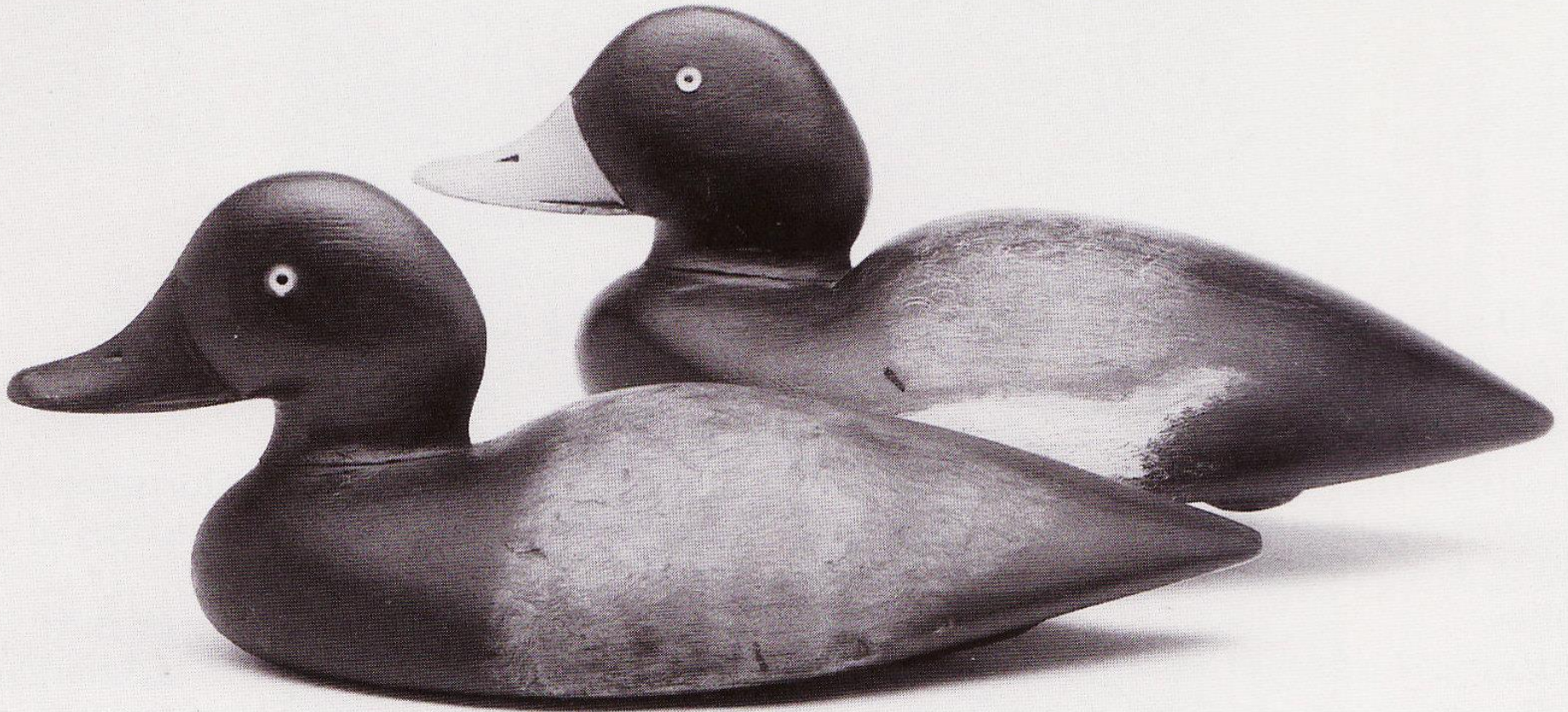
from Decoys of the Thousand Islands

2-piece body, c. 1900





HSJ initials - been in the
family for several generations



from Decoys of the Thousand Islands

Remaining Needs:

- general life history, family information
- photographs
- decoys to examine and photograph

2015 Spring Meeting

Saturday, March 7

Topics (??)

Upcoming Events:

- March 8-9: Ohio Decoy Collectors & Carvers Association , Strongsville, OH
- March 13-15: Great Lakes Decoy Association Show, and Guyette Auction, Westlake, OH
- March 29-30: New Jersey Decoy Collectors Show, and Frank & Frank Auction, Parkertown and Neptune, NJ
- April 11-12: East Coast Decoy Collectors, St. Michaels, MD

- April 22-26: Midwest Decoy Collectors Show, and Guyette Auction, St. Charles, IL
- April 25-27: Ward World Championship Competition, Ocean City, MD
- May 2-4: Havre de Grace Decoy & Wildlife Art Festival, Havre de Grace, MD
- July 18-19: Annual Decoy/Wildlife Art & Sporting Collectibles Show, Clayton, NY

2014 Clayton Show:

- TIDCA Decoy Display: goldeneyes of the Thousand Islands (assistance in watching the display would be appreciated)
- TIDCA Contests (Friday):
 - song bird carving
 - Canadian black duck
 - Ken Harris puddle duck
- Auction (Friday):



