

This will be the last newsletter of the year and the last that will be sent out until the February newsletter is sent out, so it is time now to reflect on the last year. We had to say goodbye to way too many of our members and friends this year and we hope that next year will not be so sad. While it is the time of year to look back and treasure the memories of the friends we have lost it is also time to welcome our new friends and members and look forward with excitement to the new experiences and the new memories that we will create with them. Every year we strive to learn more about Fenton with these friends and every year they and we learn more. And not just about Fenton. We had the joy of meeting Fenton artist Michael Dickenson this year and saw more of his work and he was able to convey to us just how many challenges the Fenton artists had to overcome to create some of the masterpieces that we now collect with such joy. These are the just some of the reasons we have for joining our club and attending the Gala as well as the national conventions. It is a chance to meet people who like us enjoy collecting Fenton and want to learn more about this glass and the artists who created it.



Now a word from Jason Herman, our president.

I know it seems early, but I have our hotel booking link for next year's Gala. It will be September 24th through the 26th. I have already had people starting to request rooms for next year, so I thought I should remind people how the room assignments go for people selling out of their rooms. Please make your reservation with the hotel first. Once you have done this, please contact me to let me know of your room preference. If at any point you need to cancel your reservation, please let me know so I can free that room up on my room list. Thanks for your help in starting to get ready for next year! You can get the booking link in with your emailed newsletter, or from the club's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FFOGKC/>. If you prefer to call, make sure to mention you are with the Fenton Glass Gala group to get the group rate. As normal, it is at the [Embassy Suites by Hilton Kansas City International Airport](#) and the phone number is 816-891-7788. The phone number is 816-891-7788. Other than that, I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas dinner, and have a happy and healthy new year!



Finds from the Road

Now that's Something to Crow About! By Anne Blackmore

One week recently, Max had been helping a friend with some home repair. He had been gone all day, for several days in a row. I was busy enough at home, but missed him being there. On Friday, he had planned to be home, but got a call in the morning to go and help with one last part of the project. I planned to take care of some errands in town, then head to a favorite local antique mall in a nearby town. Happily, while I was completing my necessary tasks, Max called and said he would be home soon. We met at the house, discussed our respective days thus far, and then Max suggested we head out to the very same antique mall I had planned to visit. Now we *had* to go! I laughed and shared with him that I had planned to go also.

Upon our arrival, we shopped the first big room of the three at the mall, and found absolutely nothing. Up high, down low, dark corners, nothing. Got into the second room and found a couple of things interesting enough for discussion, but not for purchase. We hit our favorite booth, the one 50-percent off all the time. Still nothing. Drat. How could both our little voices have sent us over here only to send us home empty-handed?

We stepped out of our favorite booth, and Max went right while I went left. I found nothing, and turned back to see what Max was up to. There he was with his eyes bugged out, reaching for a crystal bird on a nest covered dish. One quick glance at the "nest" and my eyes started to bug out too. We huddled, and began eyeing up the top of the dish. The detail was exquisite and very sharp. There was a little gap in the front of the bird. The berry being held by the bird in its beak had distinct bumps on it as though it was a real, bumpy raspberry. We agreed it was genuine Indiana Tumbler and Goblet Co.'s "Bird with Berry".

These covered dishes have been reproduced to no end and to find a genuine piece is almost impossible. On reproductions, the nest is very different. It will have vertical ribs rather than the crisscross pattern of the genuine. The top has ill-defined detail, and no gap in the front of the bird's chest. And the quickest "tell" of a reproduction is a smooth berry. And here was a *genuine* Bird with Berry in a nice little mall sort of in the middle of nowhere. We agreed we had to have it, given its rarity. Swallowing hard, Max turned over the bottom to see how bad the price was. He handed it to me and asked if it really said what he thought it did. I read it, smiled, and just nodded my head. For less than the cost of my favorite mocha at Starbucks, we took home a truly rare antique with a book value of approximately \$600.

Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year, dear friends!

Thank you, Anne,

Its that time of year when we look out the window and see ice and snow on the ground and must decide what to do. Do we really want to drive 10 or 40 miles to the meeting? What if no one else comes? If there is any question about rather the meeting has been cancel due to bad weather or bad roads, please call Jason at 816-799-6171. We don't want any one to have a wreck just to make a meeting. We will always err on the side of safety.

Since this is the last newsletter of the year it will also be the shortest. We know everyone is busy getting ready for the holidays so we will not take up much of your time. We would like to remind everyone about the Christmas party December 14th starting at 1:00 PM and ask anyone who has the time to come early to help Joy and Eric set up the party. If you have a door prize to contribute please bring it in, from what we saw at the meeting in November Joy already has some nice door prizes to give out but could use more. The prizes need not be Fenton, but Fenton would be welcome. This is a traditional fried chicken dinner that the club provides free to all members, but we ask that members who wish to contribute something to the meal to bring a dessert. We must warn everyone that you may gain weight at this meal but you will lose the weight while playing dirty bingo and trying to hide the prize that you might win if you hold on to it till the last game. The only business that will take place at this meeting is the vote for vice-president. Thank you for a wonderful year of collecting Fenton with friends and have a safe and joy filled holidays. See you next year.

Jackie Oglesby Secretary

Don't forget, it's time to renew your membership, please send a check to Janet Wilke for \$5 for an individual membership and \$7.50 for a family membership to FFOGKC, Janet Wilke Treasurer, PO Box 67071, Topeka KS 66667-0071. Thank you.

