

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City



The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2020** at the North Patrol Police Headquarters located at 11000 Prairie View Rd, KCMO. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM. Our meeting will be the third Saturday of the month in February due to a scheduling conflict at police headquarters so please mark your calendars so that you will not miss the first meeting of the new year.

We are very happy to report that Norma Lampton is home after spending two weeks in the hospital. She will hopefully recover fully at home with Melvin's help, our thoughts and prayers are with her to help with her full recovery.

What fun was had at our December meeting/Christmas party. Above are pictured the three winners of the dirty bingo prizes, Amanda Herman, with the oh so sadly broken Jade Green candlestick, Dan Hegwald with a beautiful Aubergine hand painted vase and Janet Wilke with a wonderful Topaz basket. Congratulations to you all. This is the last year the Joy Livengood will plan and set up the party and she did a wonderful job, again. Thank you so much Joy for all your hard work on the Christmas party, the Gala and everything else that you did for the club in your time as vice-president. Everyone will miss your attention to detail when making plans for the Gala as well as your dedication to making the club better than when you took office. Thank you again for all the work and time you gave to us while you were vice-president. We welcome Connie Duncan as our new vice-president and hope that she will enjoy her time in that position, she has big shoes to fill.



Now a word from Connie Duncan, our vice-president.

Welcome to 2020!!

Hopefully everyone has had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. First, I want to thank Joy Livengood for her years of service to our club. All the hours spent reading hotel contracts, looking for a place to have our meetings, Christmas parties and many other items. Vice President is a silent office. Thank you Joy.

December 14th was our annual Christmas party and a great time was had by all. We missed those that could not attend and hope to see you at a meeting this year.

I have been in contact with the KC North Patrol and we are all set for 2020. If anyone needs directions, please contact a club officer. Our first meeting for 2020 will be held on the 3rd Saturday of February. Please note the change. I realize we all have many activities in our daily lives. In our November meeting we discussed what would help for more members to attend. Please contact me at Fenton123@aol.com if you have suggestions. You are always welcome to bring a guest or two.

Most of you already know me because I have been around for awhile. I can't remember when I started getting interested in Fenton but a 4" sitting panda bear started it all. I first belonged to the Fenton Finders of Central Kansas and then joined Fenton Finders of Greater KC. Have attended many of the National conventions in West Virginia and toured the Fenton Factory and Gift shop many times. I was at the first Gala committee meeting held at Jon and Bev Spencer's house 20 years ago and have attended all the Galas and helped in planning. I am officially retired and enjoy spending time with my 5 grandchildren that have grown up knowing about Fenton. Enjoy the traveling I have been able to do and hope to visit more sights of our country and hunting Fenton along the way.

I always told my parents the glass is beautiful, but it is the wonderful people you meet and the friends you make.

Happy Hunting



Finds from the Road

By Anne Blackmore

At the end of the summer of 2019, Max and I decided we would try to get to Florida for the November Renninger's Antique Market Extravaganza. The initial plan did not allow for us to stop at any antique shops or malls, either on the way to, or from. But, we kept thinking of things we'd like to do, if we only had time. So we decided to leave a day earlier and drive approximately 700 miles, with no shopping stops.

Because of our push the first day, the second day we were able to stop at several shops, including a big, nationally-known antique mall in northern Florida. This is a favorite place of ours, and it seems we always manage to find something special here.

Sure enough, we got about halfway down the very first large aisle, and we stopped in a booth with a mix of different types of glass. There was a round table at the front, with lots of old pressed glass, lots of clear stuff. We know treasures lurk in these kinds of booths, so we gave it the hard scour. Then we both looked down and gasped! Max gently said, "You go ahead." And I reached for a pressed glass piece by Millersburg Glass in their Hobstar and Feather pattern.

A little background on Millersburg... John Fenton was one of the brothers who helped found Fenton Art Glass, but after a few years, he wanted to leave over artistic differences. He built his own glass plant in Millerburg, Ohio, and in 1909, began production. He produced some of today's most highly-desired carnival glass, as well as pressed patterns like "Ohio Star" and "Hobstar and Feather". Sadly, John was more artist than businessman, and Millersburg Glass folded in 1911.

The piece we found was a small candy or relish dish (from the bridge set) in the shape of the club from a deck of cards. Millersburg made this pattern both with the "feathers" shiny and with them satinized. While this particular dish has the feathers shiny, it has one attribute so very rare to the pattern the number of pieces previously known is less than seven. It has a ruby stain.

In the *Standard Encyclopedia of Millersburg Glass* by Bill Edwards and Mike Carwile, on page 70, the authors list the pieces known. They include a nut bowl, two spooners, a spade-shaped bridge piece, a club-shaped bridge piece, and a covered sugar. The other known club piece had previously been located in the former Fenton Museum. The last time the club dish sold at auction, it brought \$1,250.

We could hardly catch our breath and were almost in tears to think that we now were going to own this incredibly rare piece. Talk about a crown jewel of a collection. We were so very glad we had made time to stop. This was not the only great piece we found that day, but it was the best! And I could not have bought a cup of my favorite Starbucks mocha for what this super rare dish cost us.

Happy hunting, dear friends, and Happy Valentine's Day to you all.

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

The weather here changes day by day, one day freezing and the next it is in the 60's so there are a lot of colds going around and a lot of confusion about what to wear or not wear. But one thing remains the same – the hunt for good old Fenton glass. There are a couple of great auctions going on as this is being written with some very old rare pieces of glass that is not seen very often. How we wish we could be there. Some people like Anne and Max are able to go glass hunting all over the country and find bargains while others hunt local estate sales and go online in the hope of finding something that fits into their collections or to start a new collection. However, you enjoy hunting your glass it is done better with friends, so we want to welcome everyone back to another year of collecting Fenton with the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City. We are working on Gala 2020 already and hope that everyone is leaving the September 24, 25, and 26 dates open so that you can attend this year's Gala. We believe that it is possible

to make your room reservations already, please remember to ask for the Galal rate and if you are planning on selling glass please contact Jason Herman at jherm007@aol.com so that he can lock down which room you can have on the second floor but only after your reservation has been made. The hotel's number is 816-891-7788, if you would prefer to make your reservations online we believe that all that is needed is to find the Embassy Suites website is to enter Embassy Suites on your computer and it will get you there without having to have the website address. Bernie Johnson, our master of the auction, has reported that our auction is almost full with only about 10 slots left open the last time we spoke so if you would like to put some glass in the auction please contact Bernie at rbj052@sbcglobal.net and check with him to see if there is any room left in the auction. If there is let him know that you would like to sell some glass, he will only be able to hold a place for you once he has your list, but he will need your pictures as soon as you can get them to him in order to put your glass in the auction. He has already posted pictures of the auction glass on our website, fentonfinderskc.net so if you would like to check the glass out early to make plans now is the time to do so.

Every year we start out very excited about the coming year and looking forward to all the fun of finding that next piece of Fenton that we have to have and of course then we have the challenge of trying to find a spot in the house to highlight that new piece. We can so totally understand how some lucky and smart people start collecting Fenton and then end up selling their collection at conventions and glass shows, a little bit at a time, at which point they hope that they end up selling more pieces than they buy. But it is difficult to give up that piece of glass that is so beautiful and was so hard to find even if it has been kept in a box for five years, we want to hold on to it anyway. What is the solution except to go to shows and conventions and begin to sell the pieces that doesn't quite mean as much as another piece does, we sure cannot take all that beautiful glass with us. So, if you have reached that point consider trying to sell some of your glass at the Gala this year. It is always so much fun and you meet so many wonderful people that way. It is also a great way to check out just what glass you have, the pieces that we brought fifteen years ago are not the pieces that we are looking for now so selling that glass will make it easier to buy pieces that we want to get now. Take a little bit of time to go over what you have stored away and see if there isn't something that you are ready to let go to someone else to treasure, it really does make collecting more fun when there is room to display that wonderful new piece of glass that was just added to your collection instead of having to find a box to store it somewhere until there is more room. Glass sellers make for a great convention so think about it, there is plenty of time to sign up.



Can you guess what the program in February will be? The above picture is a definite clue. I have been trying to collect some of the older vanity sets made by Fenton in the 1920's and 1930's with limited success but would enjoy sharing with everyone the pieces that I have been successful in acquiring and going briefly into the history of Fenton's vanity sets. The picture shows two bathroom bottles, a #16-bathroom bottle made in Blue Opalescent Spiral Optic and a #17-bathroom bottle made in Green San Toy. Also making an appearance is the #53 cologne in Celeste Blue with a transparent treatment as well as the #53 perfume in Velva Rose with a stretch treatment, what a difference color and treatment makes. There is a very nice #55 Wisteria cologne also in a transparent treatment and hiding behind the Green San Toy Bathroom bottle is a very nice #56 Topaz stretch glass footed cologne. In front is a #53 puff box in Celeste Blue Stretch. There will be a lot to talk about and hopefully we will all learn a little bit about early Fenton vanity sets at the meeting February 15th at 7:00PM. Please come and share any information that you have with us and we will share ours with you. There will be more to see.

It's 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 anyone to have a wreck just to make a meeting. We will always err on the side of safety.

This is important, you will receive two mailings from us this month, one will be the newsletter and the other will be the new roster, please do not discard the second mailing and contact either Janet Willke at the below address or myself at stogles@yahoo.com or 10903 Elmwood Dr, KCMO 64137 if your information is incorrect or incomplete. Thank you.

Our meeting will be the day after Valentine's day so we will expect to see some wonderful examples of gifts for Valentine's day for show and tell. The program fits in well with that as it features perfume bottles that would make a wonderful gift for Valentine's day. Until then take care and enjoy the wonderful victory the Chiefs brought home to us in Kansas City.

Amanda Herman will be bringing the goodies this month so please come and enjoy your time with us and don't forget to bring some glass for show and tell.

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.

