

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The May meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City has been cancelled due to the stay at home order for Kansas City. At this time we are receiving conflicting information on the stay at home order from our state and local governments but we feel that we need to err on the side of safety for our members so there will be no meeting in May.

We send our condolences to the friends and family of Ferill J. Rice. Ferill J. and her husband Otis were the founders of FAGCA of which our club, as many other smaller Fenton Finders, clubs have ties to. They were in many ways founders of our clubs. Ferill Jeane's granddaughter, Kari Kamuda, wrote a very touching letter to FAGCA of which we will include in this newsletter to honor her grandmother.

I am saddened to let the Fenton Art Glass Community know that Ferill Jeane Rice has passed away. My grandmother passed away this morning and she will be very missed. She and my grandfather founded the Fenton Art Glass Collectors of America, Inc./FAGCA. FAGCA was founded January 1, 1976, in Appleton, Wisconsin. It was founded while Ferill Jeane was teaching "Adventures in Antiques" at the Fox Valley Technical College.

My grandmother was a writer and assistant editor of Yesteryear magazine, which was published at the time in Appleton. She wanted to write an article for the magazine on Jacob Rosenthal, a glass chemist and plant manager who was responsible for making Chocolate glass at the Indiana Tumbler and Glass Factory. He had also been the first plant manager for the Fenton Art Glass factory. She was not satisfied with writing the article using materials that had already been published, and therefore arranged a trip to Williamstown, West Virginia, to interview Frank Fenton.

All she and my grandfather could think about for the year following that trip was meeting Frank and Bill Fenton, the glass making process, mold making, and starting a collector's club. They received permission from Frank Fenton to use the Fenton name for the club and they were excited to educate collectors, not only on the beauty of the glass, and that Fenton made more than just white hobnail glass which is what a lot of people thought at that time, but to educate them on the glass making process itself. My grandmother was the most passionate glass collector I have ever seen or known. She could look at a piece of glass and tell you everything there is to know about it, she insisted that when you speak of a piece of glass that you use the mold number as well. Today it is common, but back when the club was formed, that was not commonplace. I enjoyed going to her lectures on glass, and watching her on identification panels, she loved her glass collecting family! I remember fondly as a young girl going to the FAGCA Conventions with her, going "antiquing", running around the Fenton factory, and visiting with Bill Fenton in his office. I would sit with him in his office and watch him work for hours, I learned so much from him as well.

My grandmother was an amazing woman and when I see all the collectors and all the different sites and pages about Fenton glass, I know that my grandmother was instrumental in the collecting being what it is today.

We also send our condolences to the friends and family of Richard Delaney. Richard passed away on April 17 after a long battle with Alzheimer. He fought in the Viet Nam War, after graduating from college with a degree in Art he went to work for Fenton where he stayed for thirty-two years. He was a supervisor for the Decorating department and started the sand carve division at Fenton. Richard designed the "Geometrics" for Fenton in 1985. Richard was responsible for many of the wonderful collections for Avon and QVC. His family and Ferill Jean's family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Now a word from our President, Jason Herman



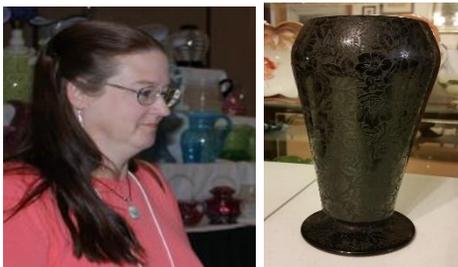


Hello again friends! Hope this month's newsletter finds you all still in good health and spirits. We are disappointed to once again be canceling the monthly meeting for May, but perhaps June will bring better news. April has brought beautiful weather here to Kansas City, so it's been rough not getting to enjoy it at garage sales, auctions, and estate sales like we are used to. Amanda's been making up for it online shopping some though! Two pieces we acquired recently are the butterflies pictured here. One is the butterfly on branch made as part of the Almost Heaven blue slag collection from 1988-1989. Amanda's excited to add this with her True Blue Friends collection she started this winter. The other butterfly is quite different. From first glance, it appears to be a Westmoreland Ice Blue butterfly, and according to the markings it is. I was told it was Fenton when purchasing, but was skeptical. For the price, I couldn't pass it up either way. However, we do now believe this to be a Fenton item made for HOACGA in 2005. Research suggests that Fenton acquired the mold and made the piece in an ice blue color, but why isn't the Fenton mark visible and why is the WG from Westmoreland still there??? If anyone knows more about this butterfly we'd love to hear from you!!

Gala news! We are still planning on having the Gala September 24-27 at this time. We are going ahead with planning and making arrangements for our speakers and glass to be sold. We will let everyone know if there is any change, but to date plans are still in place to meet this September. You can still book hotel rooms through the website or by calling the hotel directly. Remember, if you want to sell from your room, please contact me so I can try to get you on the second floor.

Your President,
Jason Herman

Thank you, Jason. So glad to hear that some of us are doing well on eBay.
And now.



Finds from the Road

When One Good Find Turns Into Two

By Anne Blackmore

One of our favorite things to do is go antiquing with friends who love it as much as we do. We had the pleasure of hosting some friends from out of town over the holidays, and of course, we all went out shopping together during their visit. Max planned our route to best use our time, and the first stop was one of our favorite local antique malls about 20 miles from home. The dealers had gone all out - booths were newly-stocked, and it seemed everyone was having a sale. We were finding lots of nice things!

We continued to meander and found ourselves in the second large room of this mall. There was a relatively new booth here and the dealer was offering 30-percent off. We all were busy scouring for whatever goodies we could find.

My friend reached into the depth of the shelving and pulled out a stunning black satin Tiffin daffodil vase. She was ecstatic at both the vase and the price. She had been looking for this particular vase for several years. As she turned the vase over and around, the base caught her eye... there was an etched Tiffin logo. Not one of us had ever seen this before. Turns out it was only done for a short period of time, and almost exclusively on those daffodil vases. She was absolutely thrilled!

Then Max turns to his left, reaches into the shelves, and turns back, and, smiling broadly, hands me a black Tiffin Flower Garden and Butterfly 8-1/4 inch dahlia-shaped vase. You could have knocked me over with a feather! Flower Garden and Butterfly is one of my favorite Tiffin designs. It is a very intricate etch pattern frequently shown in Depression Glass books, even though Tiffin Glass is not considered Depression Glass (it was all handmade and not machine made). The etch shows an extensive design of flower garden foliage, and typically one or two butterflies, depending on the size of the individual piece. It is highly desired by collectors and in black, especially so.

Our little group found a lot more over that Christmas visit, but nothing quite compared to our fancy Tiffin twins, at 30 percent off too!

Happy hunting, dear friends!

Thank you, Anne

The One that Got Away, by Jackie Oglesby

As with most of you reading this newsletter of my Fenton hunting has been on eBay or online auctions. That does not stop life from going on. And sometimes we all get caught up in the day to day routine of just living. While shopping on eBay I found this wonder puff box in Lilac with a Jade green lid (see picture on page 1) and saved it on my watch list so that when it came time to bid on it I would be ready. Sadly, life went on and the day of the auction was a busy one. So, it was not until the auction was over that I remembered that it was time to try to win the beautiful, rare 3 3/4" puff box. It sold for \$525.00 which was less than I had planned to bid. It seems that I am doomed to only see this puff box in pictures.

The Gala committee has had a Zoom meeting and we have been making plans for the Gala. It will be a welcome relief to see our friends again in the fall after the stress of living at home for so long. Our speaker has been invited and has accepted our invitation. The hotel is accepting reservations, remember if needed all are able to cancel their reservations if done in a timely matter before the Gala so don't hesitate to make your room reservation now and then contact Jason Herman if you plan to sell glass from your room so that you can get the room that you want. This is always first come first serve.

Plans are being made for the big display and as was mentioned in our last newsletter we are including including a complete list of the past 20 years of displays in this newsletter so that you can check to see if you have glass that can be included in this year's big display. We thought that it would be fun to include the list of our speakers or special guests for that year for each year as well. It will be a trip down Memory Lane. How many do you remember?

2000 Water Sets, Frank, George and Nancy Fenton with Ferill Jean Rice were our special guests

2001 Epergnnes, Dave Fetty, Frances Burton, and Don Fenton were our special guests

2002 The First Twenty-Five Years of Fenton, Ron and Pam Dick with Howard Seufer were our special guests

2003 Early Hobnail in Opal. Colors of Blue, Cranberry, Green & Topaz Dave Fetty and Martha Reynolds were our special guests

2004 Burmese in Rose, Blue, and Lotus Mist Ann Fenton and George and Nancy Fenton were our special guests

2005 The Century of Fenton Art Glass 1905 to 2005 Bob Grissom and Gary and Dodie Levi were our special guests

2006 Handpainted by... Ron Dick and Shelley Fenton Ash and Pam Dick were our special guests

2007 The Artistry of Dave Fetty Thomas K. Smith and Dave Fetty were our special guests

2008 Favrene, Rosalene, & Ruby Art and Ellen Gilbert and Howard Seufer were our special guests

2009 The Second Twenty-Five Years of Fenton Carolyn Kriner and George and Nancy Fenton were our special guests

2010 Cameo and Sand Carved John and Ann Fenton and Kelsey Murphy were our special guests

2011 The Barber Collection – 35 years later Kathleen Sponsler and Dave Fetty were our special guests

2012 Water Sets, Guest Sets, and Tumble Ups Pam Dick and J.K. “Robin Spindler were our special guests

2013 A Centennial of Glass Making 1907 – 2007 and Beyond by Debbie and Randy Coe Carolyn Kriner and Debbie and Randy Coe were our special guests

2014 Lighting the Way with Fenton Lamps Melvin Lampton, Jena Blair, and George Fenton were our special guests

2015 The Artistry of Dave Fetty Dave Fetty was our special guest

2016 Designer Special featuring Martha Reynolds Martha Reynolds was our special guest

2017 Opulent Optics Max and Anne Blackmore were our special guests

2018 Fenton Art Glass made for Others Chris Benson was our special guest

2019 Fenton Art Glass Americana Featuring Michael Dickinson Michael Dickinson was our special guest

And that was 20 years of Gala Glass in review. This brings back some very wonderful memories of beautiful glass and wonderful friends. So many are no longer with us. It does make us realize that we are only caretakers of this beautiful glass, and we can only hope that those who follow will love it as we do. This will be a special year at the Gala with us celebrating 20 years of Gala glass so be sure to spend some time checking out your glass to see if there is anything that you would like to see included in this year’s big display. This is one year in which everyone should have one or more pieces that would work on the display.

Looking back at the guest list we can see that we have been very fortunate to have so many wonderful people willing to come all the way to Kansas City to help us celebrate Fenton Glass. Many have come only once but many have made the trip several times and some have continued to attend our Galas year after year. Tom Smith told us once that the trip was well worth it just to see the big display. As many of our old timers can recall Tom Smith was instrumental in helping to get the Gala going and we will always remember and honor him. He was always willing to help new people learn

about glass if they wanted to learn. It is wonderful that so many of the dealers who come to the Gala are the same, always willing to spend time with people and help educate them about the glass that they collect. Anne and Max Blackmore are wonderful examples of that.

Have you checked out the auction yet? All the pictures are posted on our website, fentonfinderskc.net so there is no excuse not to check it out. Bernie has again done a wonderful job of organizing the auction and getting everything ready. Thank you again Bernie.

Until next month take care of yourself and your family. Keep looking for that one piece of Fenton that you cannot live without but stay safe at home while you do it and help those you can. Hope to see you soon.

Jackie Oglesby

Secretary

