

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The next meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be Saturday September 8th, 2007 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th Street Raytown, Missouri. The meeting will start at 7:00 P .M ..

Connie Duncan has had surgery on her eye to repair a detached retina. Hopefully all has gone well. Bev Spencer has a new great granddaughter. We can hope that she will bring pictures to our next meeting.

We had a very good turn out for our August meeting with lots of glass from other companies represented. Connie Duncan did a wonderful job getting this information to me but as I was unable to get a picture of the display table. (Webmaster Note: Look at end of letter for a table picture) I thought that a picture of some of my non Fenton glass will have to make due at least until there are pictures available to put in our club's history book. The program included glass from Cooperative Flint Company; a 1980 little lidded elephant; a golden glass basket with gold trim and flowers and a Beaumont white vase with hand painted bird. A Westmoreland ruby satin pitcher, a Mosser Punch bowl set in ruby carnival with plate and ladle; a Blenko strawberry; a Imperial AIG cobalt owl, lidded; and a milk glass covered candy jar with hand painted violets by Westmoreland. A Gibson cobalt carnival hatchet, as well as a piece of stretch glass by US Glass; a L.G. Wright ruby pitcher similar to Westmoreland's Paneled Grapes; several pieces from the Lundberg Studio (a California Art Glass Studio); a Rose Point Platter and bowl; Cambridge glass most popular pattern that was acid etched by hand; and a 1950's custard pitcher hand painted by Startop. A cobalt vase with gold overlay from the Czech Republic; a Gibson overlay sand carved Burmese and Favrene overlay sand carved vase; a Anchor Hocking blue sweet pea vase; a Cotton glass necklace; a Gibson Cameo Cranberry with Favrene overlay vase; a Blenko tall vase in tangerine red and a teal green vase. Also Darren Goodman mosaic vase and a yellow and orange handkerchief vase by Springfield Hot Glass Works; a cobalt blue trinket box by Westmoreland; a Northwood green sunflower plate.

Now for the glass in the picture which of course was not included in the program because I was unable to attend. There was a child's water set has the name Weisler impressed on the bottom, a large cut glass basket, maker unknown, a heart shape bowl and a tulip vase, made by a European glass maker, a glass basket by Cambridge, a cruet made with Fenton glass by Gibson and a decanter set that I believe was made by Beaumont Glass. Please forgive any errors in identification - they are mine.

The show and tell included a True Blue Friends mallard, a vase made by Frank Workman, a Orange Pulled Feather Vase by Dave Fetty, a Ruby inside case with Milk Glass Black Feather by Dave Fetty, a large tall vase with Crayola inside with hearts on the outside, a Chocolate Dancing Ladies Urn, a bear and a slipper in the new Fenton Chameleon Green color, a Black with White hanging hearts Bear, a Vasa Murrhina Salt Shaker in Autumn Orange, a new Mosaic piece made for NFGS, a Crystal with Diamond Optic with white bottom from Franks Auction, a Lamp Base Blue Font by Fenton with Crystal Base, a Moonstone Bowl and Barber Bottle, a small Vasa Murrhina vase in brown and gold, 1964, and a Burmese Hat with a Seascape Vase Design.

There are no words to express our sorrow at the closing of the Fenton Factory. All of us have spent many enjoyable hours collecting and learning about this wonderful glass. Fenton's closing will not stop this but knowing that we can no longer look forward to the new catalog and new connoisseur collections is going to be very sad. It will be a sad time next year at the national conventions with no factory to tour. We can hope that the Fenton family and their talented and creative employees will be able to recover from this blow. Many of us have gone thru the same thing at one time or another with downsizing and plants closing. But with Fenton being the last big glass making company in the USA a little bit of history is gone. A big bit of history is gone from my life with its closing. Hopefully the Fenton family will find some way to begin making glass again in the U.S. I know that even if they can, it will not be the same.

The program for next month is on Dolphins. If you have any glass with Dolphin handles, Dolphin shape, or has Dolphins painted on it or impressed on it in some way please bring it in for our program. Dolphins are the symbol we use for our club. There was very little information to be found - at least in the books that I have. Fenton used this form to decorate many of their early glassware. Many collectors have collected only glass with Dolphins on it. The Dolphin shape can be found as feet, or handles, or in the case of some just as decoration. In recent times Fenton made a Dolphin shape paperweight.

This will be the last meeting before the Gala so it is important for everyone who can be at the meeting to attend. If you are planning on bringing some goodies to the Gala for the hospitality room please sign up at the meeting so that we can plan on what needs to be purchased. Bev Spencer, Joy Livengood along with Richard and Sara Speaight have been at the Embassy for a taste test of the food that will be provided for our lunch and banquet. While I haven't heard the results of the tasting we all know that Bev is very good at getting us the very best that can be gotten. It sounds like we will be having lots of fun at the Gala. There have been around 55 rooms spoken for and 95 registrations.

Remember we will be celebrating Fenton's 102 year history with Dave Fetty and Tom Smith. They will be able to give us more information about what has been going on in West Virginia and what we can expect in the future - if anything from Fenton.

On the Gala front it was discussed and decided at the meeting that we will have to have a drawing on the special Gala glass that we had made. There are only 64 of them so to be fair there will be a drawing. It's a special piece that I think a lot of people will want. Richard will let everyone know at the Gala just how that will work.

Dave Fetty and Tom Smith should be packing up getting ready to leave for Kansas City soon. We can look forward to some good programs and lots of glass for sale and or trade. So far there have been 20 people sign up to sell glass from their rooms. We can look forward to this as well as the large display of Dave Fetty's hand made glass. The plans for our small table displays are in hand for the 19 people who have signed up for tables so far. I've seen one and it is really nice - something that as far as I know has never been used for a table display. It's really exciting to see all the different ways and kinds of glass that people bring for their displays. We learn so much from these displays.

Please come to the meeting to get the latest update on the Gala and to learn more about Dolphin glass. Please don't forget about show and tell or the bragging table as some like to call it. Be safe over the holiday weekend because we need everyone.

Jackie Oglesby
Secretary



