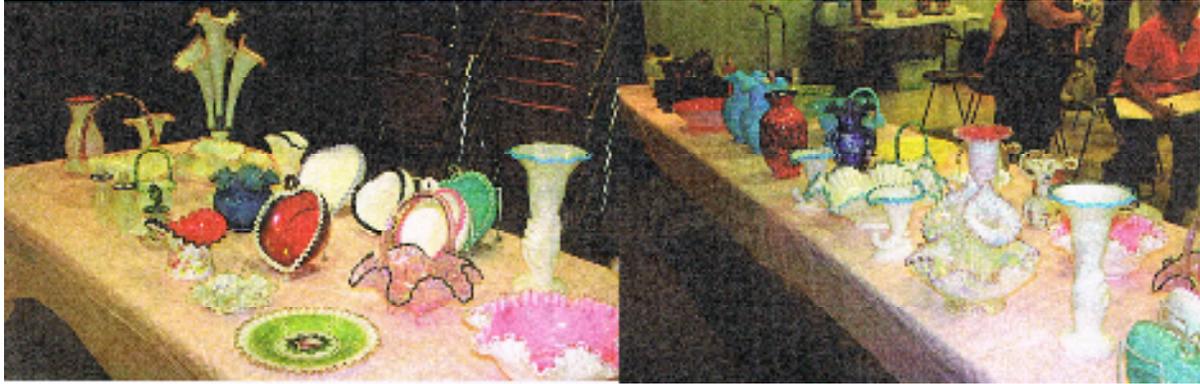


FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



Program for July 9th, 2011 Crests

Program Glass and Show and Tell



Show and Tell

Let's Make a Deal

The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be Saturday, August 13th, 2011 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th, and Raytown, Missouri. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M.

On June 25, 2011 we lost long time member Rita Chadd. Rita fought a long hard battle against her illness and I do not want to say that she lost the battle so much as she is now fighting a new battle making things ready for us when we join her. Many of us remember her setting up her display table for the Gala with some of the beautiful glass that she and her husband Bill collected. One of the tables that I remember best is the one she set up in Cameo glass. I can picture her clearly in my mind arranging the glass on her table; it had to be just so. We know her family misses her but so will we.

Sadly, on July 16, 2011, we lost Bonnie Bradshaw. Many of our new members may not remember Bonnie. She and Joe, her husband, have been unable to attend meetings for 6 or 7 years. While unable to attend the meetings she and Joe did manage to attend many of the Galas. It has just been in the last 2 or 3 years that they were unable to attend. We miss both of them. When I first started attending the club meetings Bonnie impressed me with both her knowledge of Fenton as well as all the work she did as secretary. She was the reason that when I was first asked to run for secretary that I was very unsure that I could do the job. She set very high standards. From the time I started attending the meetings until, due to health problems, she retired she did an outstanding job for the club. That was so very frightening, knowing that she would be looking over what I did to her newsletter.

Just today as I was writing the newsletter I learned of the passing of Lydiann Barnes. Lydiann was an old member when I first joined the club - over 15 years ago. She has not been able to make it to a meeting for a long time but remained a loyal member and always made sure that I knew she enjoyed getting the newsletter. Two months ago her newsletter was returned to me because her house was empty and there was no forwarding address. As you can guess I feared the worse but called just in case the post office made a mistake. Yes they had and we got to talk for a few minutes. She promised that she would take care of the mistaken mailman. We got to laugh and I resent the newsletter and it was not returned. Now it is with sadness that I must give our members the information that Lydiann passed on July 25th. She was 85 years old.

Please let Rita's, Bonnie's and Lydiann's families know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

We had a surprise guests at the meeting in July. Julie Bradshaw, a new member and Tom Smith. Welcome to the club Julie. Tom Smith was in town for a glass show in Overland Park. A few of us ran into him at the show and he agreed to attend the meeting instead of spending the night at the hotel room. He helped to ID some of our glass for show and tell and told us about a possible destination for our bus trip. Seven clubs will be joining together to present a convention. It will feature many different glass companies and there will be attractions close by that we can visit as well as attending the convention. All of us at the meeting liked what we heard. Tom promised to send Bernie Johnston and Nick Duncan more information about the

glass convention. As information is made available it will be posted in the newsletter most likely after the Gala.

Besides all that we had a very nice display of Fenton's crests. As you can tell from the picture we did not manage to get a sample of every crest that Fenton has made but we tried very hard. Without a doubt it would be very difficult for anyone to get a sample of every crest that Fenton has produced since they have made so many different ones. It has always been a very popular product for Fenton and they have made a lot of different crests. There were, however, a few people who attempted to add to their collections at the meeting.

There was some discussion on the announcement that Fenton is stopping production of art glass but will continue to produce their new line of beads and will focus on industrial glass production. The announcement that follows was made by George Fenton and will give you the information far better than I can.

Fenton Art Glass to Cease Traditional Glass Production and Shift Product Focus

(Williamstown, WV, July 25, 2011). Later this week, we'll begin to welcome Fenton collectors to their annual conventions. The National Fenton Glass Society meets July 30 to August 1, and the Fenton Art Glass Collectors of America meets August 2-4. We're currently hosting tours of our beadmaking and decorating departments, and collectors and other guests who visit us can enjoy the Fenton Museum, the gift shop and the Tent Sale.

We've had numerous questions about the future of our moulds. No decisions have been made on the moulds at this time as we are focused on the sales of our current inventory. How our inventory sale goes will be material to decisions on other assets such as the moulds.

We have decided to have an auction on November 12 of design samples and other special pieces that we are collecting from corners all around the factory.

Sales of current products have been heavy in the gift shop but there is plenty of glass still to sell. The shop is looking forward to getting new decorated items from the glass factory over the next few Weeks.

Questions have been asked about the historic glass in our gift shop's museum and the gift shop has made no decisions about this glass at this time.

The best way to keep up with news from Fenton is to sign up for our free newsletters and to visit this web site.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George W. Fenton". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

George W. Fenton, President

It has been a long hard fight but with all the economic problems that we all are facing now it is not surprising that Fenton has become another victim. Maybe we can cling to the hope that Fenton is hoping to hang on to their molds. Perhaps they are also hoping things will improve in the future.

Many of our local members are planning to make the trip to West Virginia to enjoy the National conventions and to visit Fenton. Just as I know many of you are doing right now. You have no idea how much wish I could join you. They will bring back the latest news of Fenton and how all our friends are doing in West Virginia. They may even bring back some glass!

When they get back it will be time to do all the last minute things that we need to get done for the Gala. Getting all the supplies for the hospitality room, (don't forget to pack all those goodies that you want to share with everyone, including some sugar free goodies). Almost all the glass for the auction has been picked up and it ready to be set up for the auction. Richard Speaight is getting the big display ready and has requested that anyone who has glass that they would be willing to be used in the big display to contact him. The big display will be on the Barber collection and any special sample pieces that were made for Barber at Fenton.

There are still some tables up for grabs for the small table display. So if you would like to join the fun let Janet Wilke know so that she can reserve your table. This is always a fun and educational addition to all the clubs conventions and our Gala is no exception. So please join the fun. Fenton has contacted us and it looks like we will have some special glass for sale at the Gala. These pieces will be very limited so we will be offering them to our Gala guests first and if there is any left after the Gala it will be offered to our members who were not able to attend.

With the problems that we had with the Alley Cats last year we are hesitant to make any firm commitments on the glass until we have the glass in our hands. Hopefully we will have more news by the next newsletter in September; the last before the Gala.

We have had some bad news; Delmer Stowasser will not be able to attend the Gala so we will have a Friday morning with Dave seminar instead of Friday morning with Dave and Delmar. We will miss Delmar being able to join us this year as it would have been the first time that he attended a Gala. We know that he would have added greatly to our knowledge of the Barber Collection and of Robert Barber. Kathleen Sponsler will be able to give us a lot of information on working at Fenton and working at home to decorate beautiful glass. This will be the first time Kathleen has attended the Gala so we will need to give her a real good KC Gala welcome.

Please welcome new members Lisa Holik, Norm & Julie Bradshaw and Gary and Nicki Purdy. Add their information to your roster and update Beverly Spencer's address. All of Beverly's information is the same except for her apt. #. **Addresses and phone are intentionally omitted from the internet version of the newsletter.** Welcome to the club, please let me know if there are any errors in your information and it will be corrected as soon as possible.

I must apologize to everyone. In my last newsletter I told everyone to check out Jim Worda's website to see pictures of our auction glass (along with our own website fentonfinderskc.net) . That should be Jim Wroda's website -- and all you really need to, do is search his name and his website will appear by magic.

We also want to thank the Twin City Fenton Finders Club for their gift to the hospitality room. It will help a lot. Thank you.

Now is the time to start reminding everyone that it is time to renew your membership. A family membership is \$7.50 and an individual membership is \$5.00 due by October 1, 2011. Please send renewals to Janet Wilke at:

Janet Wilke Treasurer

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City

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It has been a long hot dry month, in case anyone has not noticed. We are all hoping that the weather will give us a break soon and cool off. In the meantime try to keep cool. Our program for the August meeting will be on glass of the 80's. That includes any and all glass produced in the 1980's. This will give everyone a chance to bring in their favorite pieces that Fenton produced in the wild 80's. That would include some wonderful Burmese glass, the Connoisseur Collections of the 80's, the Opal Satin collections that included some really great scenic designs as well as the many scenic designs on Custard Glass The painted and unpainted beauty of Country Cranberry, Plum Opalescent Hobnail and too many others to name in this short newsletter. This sounds like a fun program so please bring in your fantastic glass of the 80's and don't forget to bring your glass in for show and tell. Sara Speaight will be bringing in treats for the meeting. Stay cool and be safe and remember to always brake for Fenton Glass.

Jackie Oglesby, Secretary

www.fentonfinderskc.net