

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be Saturday, February 13th, 2010 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th Street. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M.

Welcome back. Hope you had a safe and wonderful holiday. It is time to get back to everyday life now and back to our wonderful hobby of collecting Fenton Art Glass. This newsletter will include the new roster for 2010 so please take the time to check out your information and let me know if I left anything out or if anything needs to be corrected or updated. I would also like to take this time to welcome everyone back who has renewed their membership and say goodbye to those who decided not to renew. We will miss you. I am sorry that we did not meet your needs but hope that you will continue to enjoy collecting Fenton.

For those who have forgotten to renew I will include Janet Wilkes address so that you can send your check of \$5.00 for individual or \$7.50 for family. If you are unsure, check the address label on your newsletter, on the same line as your name there is a date, if you need to renew it will be 10/09. If you are paid up it will be 10/10 or 11 or in some cases 12. So, if you want to renew, please send a check to Janet Wilke at Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City, PO Box 67071, Topeka KS 66667-0071. I will send you a roster at that time.

Everyone had a wonderful time at the Christmas party. There were not a large number of members that made it but those who did had fun. I have always regretted that our

members who live out of state could not attend the Christmas party but since many of you do make the Gala you do get to enjoy the biggest party of the year for our group.

Speaking of the Gala, plans are being made for Gala 2010. The contract with the hotel has been signed and the Embassy is now accepting reservations for the Gala. The speaker for our banquet has not yet been chosen but we have a good idea of who we will have. If you wish to make your reservation early the number is 816-891-7788. Ask for the Gala rate. The dates are 16th, 17th and 18th of September.

The program for the next meeting will be group program celebrating Valentine's Day. Anything that is heart shape or has hearts in it or anything that you feel has a romantic Valentine Day feel needs to be brought to the meeting so we can explore how Fenton has use this popular holiday to promote their products.

You can find examples of heart shape glass, such as the heart shape relish bowls or the hanging hearts Barber pieces or heart shape trinket boxes to name a few that Fenton created in the years of its early production. But, the first limited edition made for Valentine Day was the Sentiments Collection in 1992. While most would agree that nothing Fenton has made is the equal of the first Hanging Heart glassware made in the 1920s. Every piece of glass Fenton made has its own beauty and appeal. The Sentiment collection was created to take advantage of the romantic holiday and of course increase the sale of glass. Before 1992 Fenton had the Sentiments Collection that included the Pearly Sentiments collection and Christine Victoria items. In 1991 the Sentiments collection included crystal bears with red hearts that were called the "Red Heart Lovers". While it can be associated with Valentine's Day the first limited edition for Valentine's Day was in 1992. It included a decorated bell (7668X8) and 3 items in Cranberry Opalescent with a "heart optic" effect. Fenton first used the heart optic moulds in the 1940's and 1950"s for perfume bottles made for various perfume companies. The moulds were used only rarely since then. It was Nancy Fenton who rediscovered the mould and put it to use for Fenton's Valentine Day collection in 1992. They continue to use this mould in Cranberry Opalescent in the Sentiments Collection until 1998. This collection was limited to orders placed by a certain time. While Fenton is no longer producing the collections of glass for holidays that they use to, they still use the heart optic mould. Many times this optic was used in Ruby Opalescent as well as the ever popular Cranberry Opal. If you were to go to Fenton's web site you will find heart optic glass ware for sale today. This mould has indeed proved to be a very popular with collectors. For more information about the Sentiments collection, check out Fenton Glass, the 1990s Decade.

It has been a long time since we got together to share our glass collecting madness so please try to make our Feb. meeting (if weather allows). We should have a lot of fun checking out all the glass that can be associated with hearts and Valentines Day. There should be a lot of glass for show and tell as well since it has been so long since our last meeting I bet that a lot of us have picked up a few pieces of glass that we want to show off, I mean share with our fellow collectors. Until then be safe and keep warm.

Jackie Oglesby,

Secretary

www.fentonfinderskc.net