

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The meeting of the Fenton Finders Greater Kansas City will be Saturday JULY 11TH, 2009 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th Raytown, Missouri. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M.

Looking at the picture of our program you can see that while there was a big effort to bring in a lot of the blue glass that Fenton made that we did not bring in an example of every kind that they produced. Of course that means that I won my bet. At first glance you see Blue hobnail, Blue hobnail opalescent, Pastel Blue hobnail, Royal Blue, Favrene, Pekin Blue, Periwinkle Blue; a vase by Dave Fetty and more. Did not see any Mermaid Blue, Aqua Blue, or Aqua Crest, or Persian Blue, Blue Swirl, or Blue Coin Spot Opal and on and on. Perhaps we can do this again and see if we can do even better.

It was decided to table the matter of raising the dues at this time after lots of discussion. So at this time the dues will remain at \$5.00 for individual and \$7.50 for family. That is good news for everyone who is keeping an eye on their expenses at this time. Guess that includes all of us right now.

Bernie Johnston reported that our website has been renewed for another two years and that we are getting 150 to 200 hits a day on the website. Think that we can say that the website is a success. If you

have not checked it out please take the time to do so. It is great.

www.fentonfinderskc.net

Janet Wilke brought in a collector newspaper, Discover, that had a article about collector clubs. It was written by Peggy Whiteneck who reported that Fenton was one of the best manufacturers to give support to its collector clubs. She also mentioned our website in the article.

If you are interested in getting insurance on your collection or collections as the case may be check out Collectibles Insurance. Their website is www.collectinsure.com It is reported that they are easy to work with, not requiring that you keep a list of all your collectibles, as you know this is difficult as collections seem to be a living thing, getting larger and smaller and changing directions without warning. So if you keep them updated on the value of your collectibles they will keep you covered. This is not something that we as a club are backing but it is a insurance that many people who have collections recommend and we invite you to check it out and see if this insurance will suit your needs.

We want to welcome new members Dan and Claudia Hegwald and Diana Werner to our club.

Address and contact information intentionally omitted from the internet version of the newsletter.

The Second Twenty Five Years was a extremely productive time for Fenton. The last newsletter included a list of the major lines of glass that Fenton produced during this time. Silver Crest was one of those. Silver Crest was used more often by the Abels, Wasserberg, & Co. (AWCO) for their Charleton line than any other type of glass produced by Fenton. Abels and Wasserberg was very creative in their painted designs as well as productive. They used other glass companies to produce their blanks but it can be seen by checking out the book, The Charleton Line by Michael and Lori Palmer that Fenton was a favorite. To quote the authors, 'Of all the glassware on which you may find Charleton decorations, Fenton art glass holds the distinction of being the most plentiful and having the widest variety of delightful decorations.'" As best as Frank M. Fenton could recall, AWCO and Fenton began their business dealings in 1941 and continued until 1958. While they discontinued producing most blanks for the company in 1958 they did continue producing lamp parts for them until the 1960's. The Charleton line of Fenton glassware can be considered part of the Third Twenty Five Years as well as the Second.

For anyone interested in Fenton and the Second and Third Twenty Five Years this book adds a lot of information to that time and is a valuable resource. I don't really like telling people to buy reference books, they are tools that we all need to use to enable us to make better and more knowledgeable selections for our collections. This book is informative not only about Fenton but other glass companies that produced glass for AWCD. But as we are primarily interested in Fenton lets concentrate on Fenton. It was during the years that Fenton worked with AWCD that Frank L. Fenton, Robert Fenton as well as James Fenton passed away. Thus the company passed into the hands of the second generation of Fentons with Frank M. and Wilmer (Bill) Fenton in 1948. This was a difficult time for Fenton as the glass demand from the war years was down.

AWCD became a valuable and large customer. They played a huge role in keeping Fenton in production during these years. Some of the types of glass that they used included Ivory and Peach Crest, Aqua Crest, Crystal Crest (made only for the first 6 months of 1942), Snow Crest, Rose Crest, Emerald Crest, Gold Crest and Silver Crest which was the most prolific crest color that Fenton produced and AWCD's favorite choice for blanks. They also used many of the overlay lines of glass that Fenton produced as well as coin spot and the pastel colors that were popular lines for Fenton. For more information on Fenton and Charleton check out this book. There is a lot of information about Fenton as well as AWCD in this book.

If this newsletter gets to you in time be sure and check out QVC on the 4th of July. Fenton will have a show on that day.

Richard Speaight still needs lists of glass for the big display. As you can see from just a partial list of the glass that Fenton made for AWCD we could do a display just on the Charleton line. But, if we are going to cover the whole Twenty Five years we need to include a lot of other glass lines. Richard has a major job ahead of him. The sooner he gets your list of glass for the display the better.

It is getting close to the time we will have to make plans on going to the national conventions. For those of you who are planning on doing a display for the national clubs please remember that your glass is already packed and labeled so it will be ready for display for the Gala as well. In the last few years we have seen how easy it would be for us to lose Fenton so let's celebrate the company that has made so many wonderful and collectable pieces of glass for us. The national conventions offer us a chance to visit Fenton as well as pick up so many pieces of old Fenton from sellers from around the country.

This year the Gala will offer us the chance to meet George and Nancy Fenton and see where they are planning on leading Fenton. This will give us a chance to get an inside look at Fenton from the head of Fenton. As well as pick up many pieces of old glass from sellers from around the country. Our tenth year will be very special so please be sure to join on September 17th, 18th, and 19th at the Embassy Suites, 7640 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway, Kansas City Mo. Call 816-891-7788 to make your reservations and please ask for the Gala rate of \$109.00 a night. So please make your reservations soon.

Our program for the July meeting will be on stretch glass.

Fenton started experimenting with plain iridescent glassware in 1917 and began to market it in 1921 as stretch glass. The original iridescent colors were Celeste Blue, Florentine Green, Persian Pearl, Wisteria, Topaz, Grecian Gold, and limited amounts of Ruby, Velva Rose, Tangerine and Cameo Opal and Aquamarine. The production of stretch glass was ended in the 1930's. So be sure to join us for our July meeting. Have a fun and safe 4th of July. And be sure to bring some glass for show and tell.

Jackie Oglesby Secretary

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