

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The meeting of the Fenton Finders Greater Kansas City will be Saturday JUNE 13TH, 2009 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th, Raytown, Missouri. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M.

We send our sympathy and prayers to Colleen Ott who's father passed away and to Bob and Marsha Becker. Bob's father passed away last month. Please let them know that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Our last meeting was very exciting; with so much glass to show off we had to pull up another table to hold all the glass.

Not only did many members bring in their treasured pieces of Levay glass but we had lots of glass for show and tell. This included a lamp that had been made from the broken pieces of a Rosaline Dancing Lady Vase. Yes Melvin Lampton has been busy again making a treasure from what many would consider trash. Special guest Tom Limbeck, who lives in St. Louis now but was at one time a very active member of our club, displayed many pieces that he had found while shopping recently. The sheer amount of glass that we had prohibits me from even trying to list the glass that we had. Hopefully you will get a idea from the picture on this page. There were a large number of pieces of Levay glass for us to enjoy including a Cranberry Overlay Blown Owl, serval Electric Blue pieces, lots of baskets, and Burmese Vases that Gary and Dodie had made by Fenton. Our program had many samples of the glass that Gary and Dodie had Fenton produce for their line of glass. There is no question that the program had only a small sampling of their glass. It is without any question that Gary and Dodie Levi created a glass legacy that will live for Fenton Collectors

for many years to come.

The Gala committee had a meeting to try to come up with some exciting and fun things for everyone to do at the Gala. We want to try to make this the best and most memorable Gala that we have ever had. Because we don't want to spoil the surprise or the fun for anyone you will have to wait for the Gala to find out just what will be going on. I think that everyone will agree that what we have planned will be a record breaking event as far as fun, educational opportunity for everyone and jots of wonderful surprises for our guests and members. If you have any hesitation about coming, maybe you are thinking about waiting for next year, I just want to be honest with you and say come this year and help us celebrate our tenth Gala with George and Nancy Fenton and Carolyn Kriner. You will not be sorry. Remember to make your reservation with the Embassy Suites at 816-891-7788 for September 17, 18 and 19, 2009. Ask for the Gala rate of \$109.00 a night plus tax. If you want to get in early to do some shopping around town the rate is also good for Wednesday the 16th as well.

While George and Nancy Fenton has not let us know what their talk will be about Caroline Kriener is going to talk about rare glass from the 30's, 40's, 50's, and 60's or as she express it "Wow where did that come from!" This should tie in great with our big display - she will have to watch Richard very close - he may pick up one or two pieces of glass for the big display.

Janet Wilke will be sending out forms for early registration soon. There will be a lot of information on it including the chance to buy our very limited Gala souvenir piece. Bernie Johnston our website master will have all the information as well as the registration on our website as soon as Janet gets it ready to ship out so you might want to check it out as well. It is one way to keep on top of everything that the club is doing. Check it out! www.fentonfinderskc.com

There will also be a major vote coming up at our next meeting. This is about something that the club has been discussing off and on for 2 or 3 years. As you all must realize our dues are most likely the lowest for any club in the nation. It costs a minimum of 44 cents for each newsletter to be posted each month. That means that with 11 newsletters going out each year the cost is \$4.84 a year per member. That does not include the cost of the paper or pictures that are included in each newsletter and we have to figure in the cost of the writer as well. Guess we might as well skip that as you know that cost is priceless. In any case you get the idea our newsletter is running in the red and has been for quite a while. When you also add in the cost of the Christmas party, and door prizes, etc. etc. etc. well you get the idea. So what Richard Speaight and the other officers of our club propose is that we increase the dues to \$10.00 a year for individual membership and \$15.00 a year for a family membership. There will be a vote on that item at our June meeting so if you want to be able to vote on it or if you have something to say about it please come to our meeting in June and speak up. For those of you who have paid

your dues ahead for a year or two don't worry, you are grand fathered in. Please let us hear from you one way or another. We know that you all have opinions on this and we want and need to hear them. Email one of us if you need to. Just check out the roster to get our email addresses. Thanks.

In our last newsletter there was some information about Satin Etch glass - guess we are going to have to fire that priceless writer that wrote it as they did not include every kind of acid etch glass that Fenton made. Easy come easy go. In any case there is also the Wild Rose pattern as well as the Halo pattern. Both are very hard to find and made in only a limited number of items. There is also a pattern that Heacock had pictured on page 37 of the book, the Second Twenty Five Years and simply called it an unknown etched design on a Sheffield bowl, ca 1937. From what I can see of the picture it reminds me strongly of the #1621 etched pattern that also has no name. It matches the pattern that is shown on the same page on a footed plate. Please take the time to check these patterns out. For those of you who collect the more popular items that Fenton has produce it will be a whole new world of Fenton.

Many things happened during the second twenty five years that Fenton was in production. It was in June of 1940 that Fenton had the only fatality that occurred at their plant. Many of us think that a glass factory has to be a very dangerous place to work but Fenton has had a very good record of being a safe place to work. However on June 29, 1940 one of the original stacks built in the factory was shut down for maintenance. The fires in these stacks are never shut down even in the two weeks that the factory was routinely shut down during the summer months. However every seven or eight years the fires are shut down and all the repairs needed on the chimney is done. In the case of this stack the repairs had been postponed due to the lack of funds because of the Depression. It was perhaps three years past the time that the repair on the joints, seams, and bricks was due. Because of this it had been planned that during the summer shutdown that the needed repairs be made. On Monday, July 1st the repairs were scheduled to begin. It was not to be. A group of Fenton employees including Wilmer "Bill" Fenton were inside the furnace when the stack suddenly made a strange "quarter of a turn" and collapsed. Someone yelled run and everyone ran with the exception of new employee Robert Eugene Smith.

Smith was only 18 years old and it was his first day of work. He either did not hear the order to run or had already been injured by falling debris and could not make it out of the chimney in time to escape the collapse. Many people were injured but because George Pickens raced to the gas house and broke in and shut off the gas to the factory there was no fire so even more injuries and damage was prevented. As it was Fenton had to rebuild. The roof and stack was gone and almost every glory hole furnace had been knocked off their platform. The damaged must have been overwhelming. Clean up crews were composed of factory workers and within a very short time, by the end of July, the factory was turning out glass. It was very

limited production, with no roof over their heads the workers suffered from sunburns and heat but they did produce glass. By July 23rd the new stack was up and soon a roof and walls would follow. The new design for the factory included steel being used where they once used wood. The plans were to make the factory completely fireproof. 1940 ended up being one of Fenton's most prosperous years. For more detail information on this bit of Fenton history please check out The Second Twenty Five Years by William Heacock.

Heacock took the time and effort to research the major lines Fenton produced during this time period. For the benefit of those who do not have this book but would like to know here is the list. Do you have any of these colors or patterns?

AQUA CREST	1940-42 1948-53	HISTORIC AMERICA	1937
AZURE BLUE	1932	IVORY CREST	1940-41
BLACK ROSE	1953-54	IVY	1949-52
BLUE OVERLAY	1943-53	JADE GREEN	1924-37
BLUE PASTEL	1954	LILAC	1955-56
BLUE RIDGE	1939	LINCOLN INN	1928-39
CHINESE YELLOW	1924-25 1932-33	MANDARIN RED	1932-35
COIN DOT	1947-64	MILK GLASS	1933-1
CRYSTAL CREST	1942	MING	1935-37
DAISY & BUTTON (#1900)	1937-39	MONGOLIAN GREEN	1934-35
DIAMOND LACE (#1948)	1948-64	MULBERRY	1942
EBONY	1922-35	PEACH BLOW	1939,52-56
EMERALD CREST	1949=55	PEACH CREST	1940-69
FLAME(ORANGE)	1924-26	PEKIN BLUE	1932-33
GEORGIAN #1611	1931-39	PERIWINKLE BLUE	1935
GOLD CREST	1943-45	PERSIAN PEARL	1911-27,33
GOLD OVERLAY	1949	PLYMOUTH #1620	1933-39
GREEN OVERLAY	1949-53	POINSETTIA(SATIN)	1939
GREEN PASTEL	1954-55	POLKA DOT	1955-56
HONEYSUCKLE	1948-49	PRISCILLA# 1890	1950-52
OPAL.		ROSE CREST	1944-47
HOBNAIL		ROSE PASTEL	1954-57
CRANBERRY OPAL.	1940-79	ROSE OVERLAY	1943-48
GREEN OPAL.	1939-40 1960-61	ROYAL BLUE	1931-39
BLUE OPAL.	1939-54 1959-64	RUBY OVERLAY	1942-48 1951-53
FRENCH OPAL.	1939-64	SAN TOY	1936
LIME OPAL.	1952-54	SHEFFIELD#1800	1936-38
MILK GLASS	1950-present	SILVER CREST	1943-1
PEACH BLOW	1952-56	SILVERTONE(SATIN)	1937-38
TOPAZ OPAL.	1941-43 & 1952-62	SNOW CREST	1950-54
		TURQUOISE	1955-58
		VELVATONE(SCENIC)	1938-39
		WISTARIA{SATIN}	1937

WOW, what a list. Again for more information on this list please check out "The Second Twenty Five Years" by William Heacock. He included in his list the color treatments that you can expect to find in this glass. This is a list of the major lines of glass only so it does not include everything that Fenton made. Nor, as Mr. Heacock explains, does it include the times that Fenton made glass for other companies. For example, Fenton produced Rose Crest in 1946 for its line of glassware but made in 1944 for L.G. Wright. Of course this is part of the joy and challenge in collecting Fenton, trying to decide just what you have, when it was made and who for.

As a reminder at our next meeting we will have a vote as to rather or not to raise our dues. So be there or lose your vote. Richard still needs your list of glass that you want considered for the big display. As you can see by the list of the major lines of glassware that Fenton produced in the Second Twenty Five years most people will have something that should be on the display. The problem will be for Richard to decide on which glass to use. Our July program will be blue so bring in as many different kinds of blue Fenton as you can and lets see if we can managed to have a sample of every kind of blue glass that Fenton produced. Bet we can't. And don't forget to bring your glass for show and tell. Until then and even after be safe and have a good summer. We want to see all of you at the Gala in Sept.

P.S. please don't forget to check out our website. Bernie does a lot of work to keep it up to date and we need to keep checking it for new information on the Gala and our club.

Jackie Oglesby, Secretary

www.fentonfinderskc.net