

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The meeting of the Fenton Finders Greater Kansas City will be Saturday August 8, 2009 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th Raytown, Missouri. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M.

We had a very enjoyable meeting in July with a lot of wonderful stretch glass on display for our enlightenment. But even with the display of old and some new stretch glass as well as some very nice pieces for show and tell, we had a lot of discussion on plans for the Gala. There is so much left to do.

There are still a few tables left for small displays. I believe 5. So if you are interested in doing a display please let Janet Wilke know and please do it soon as once we run out of tables that will be it. A display table is something that is fun to do as well as being very popular with everyone who comes to the Gala. We don't judge tables as there is no way to judge these wonderful displays of glass or even compare one table with another. There is old glass and new. Complete collections of various types of glass that Fenton has made and one of a kind samples. If you collect Fenton there is no way that you don't have something that would make a great display and add to our knowledge of Fenton. Please remember to make a list of your glass to give to Bernie Johnston so that he can keep track of your glass while it is on display. He is in charge of taking care of our displays. Also please ID your glass so that people can learn as much as possible from your display.

It is also perhaps past time for me to remind everyone that I need goodies for the hospitably room. This is always an awesome way to welcome new attendees and old familiar friends to the Gala. Everyone visits, except those who wish to lose weight, but were is the fun in that. We need all the home made goodies that we can get. We supply the serving utensil and ask that

everyone somehow marks their bowls and pans so that they can be returned after they have been cleaned up for the owners. And for those who have special recipes that they are using for their goodies, please bring your recipes along so that they can be shared with those who love these goodies. Don't forget to bring sugar free goodies for our members who are unable to enjoy sugar as well as the fully loaded sugar kind. While the club provides the barbeque dinner on Thursday night before glass ID, it would be nice to have a few salads and veggies to add to our meal. And, as always, I hope that Jeff and Paula Snow will be able to help out with our chips. The hospitality room will be open early on Thursday as always so that anyone who wants to get to the hotel early will have a place to visit with others in our group and get a muncie to eat while waiting for their rooms to be ready.

Steve and Connie Duncan have the auction list ready. They have sent the list to Bernie Johnston who will put it on our website, www.fentonfinderskc.net There are over 240 pieces of Fenton on the list and I think that there will be something for everyone on the list. There will be old glass, new glass, and some in between.

Richard Speaight is still working on the big display so if you have some glass that should be on the display please contact him and let him know. He and his lovely wife Sara are in West Virginia enjoying the National conventions. They will give us unfortunate ones who could not attend the low down on all the action in West Virginia. While there he will talk to George and Nancy Fenton about their visit with us in September for the Gala. There are still some things to talk about so that they will enjoy their stay with us as much as we will enjoy having them as our special guests. When they come back it will be time for Richard to start working on the big display. As you can see Richard has a major job ahead of him for this convention. If you look at the cover of Heacock's book, The Second Twenty-Five Years, you will see a picture of a Blue Opal Coin Dot two handled Vase, a Large Topaz Opal Hobnail basket, a Ruby Dancing Lady Vase, a Pink Daisy and Button Perfume Set, a small Peach Blow Vase and Green Peacock Bookend. These were years of change that produced many different kinds of glass so please give Richard as much info as you can about the glass that you want to see on the big display. He has to pick thru a lot of glass so he needs this info as soon as possible. Thanks.

Our program for August will be on hobnail glass presented by new member Dan Hegwald. Since he was nice enough to "volunteer" for this we are asking our members to help out by bringing in some of their hobnail glass. For show and tell wouldn't it be nice for some of us to bring some convention glass that we got at this year's convention or maybe glass that was feature as club pieces at past conventions? Don't limit it to this but please try to bring some for our enjoyment.

Talking about hobnail, it was the one treatment that has been credited with saving Fenton. Starting with Whisley's request to Fenton to produce a perfume bottle for them in 1940, hobnail became one of the most popular and highly demanded piece of glassware that Fenton ever made. It became common to try making everything in hobnail if it wouldn't sell in its original treatment. From 1938 to 1961 it was the leader in glass sales. Hobnail was produced in French Opal, Cranberry Opal, Green Opal, Lime Opal, Topaz Opal and Blue Opalescent Milk glass was perhaps the most recognized hobnail piece and the glass that was longest in production. If you visit an antique store or mall and find no other piece of Fenton glass, you will find a piece of milk glass hobnail.

While Fenton produced a lamp fount in 1935 in hobnail, it was not until 1936 when L. G. Wright brought in some old molds and asked Fenton to make some reproduction antique barber bottles that got Fenton started in making hobnail. They produced only enough barber bottles for L. G. Wrights use but a sample was took by Martin Simpson, the FAGCO's Chicago representative, to Chicago to use as a sample perfume bottle for the Whisley Company. In order to produce the bottle at the cost that the Whisley Company wanted to pay, Fenton shorten the neck and widen the opening so that a wooden stopper could be used and so the #289 perfume bottle was born sometime in the winter of 1937 - 38.

While Fenton could have survived in the pre World War II years without Whisley, it is without question that they played a major role in allowing Fenton to not only survive but increase production. Producing the Whisley perfume bottle accounted for almost 30 percent of Fenton's glass sales for 1939. Hobnail continued to be a popular treatment after its introduction as a perfume bottle. Despite the advent of War World II, when you would think that the demand for hand made art glass would lessen, the opposite was true. Hobnail continued in popularity. This was helped by the fact that many of the lines of glassware from Europe were no longer available. One needs only glance thru "The Second Twenty-Five Years" by William Heacock to see why hobnail has become one of the most recognized collections of glass that Fenton has made. Have you ever walked thru an antique show and overhear someone say, "It must be Fenton, its hobnail!" While it may seem like Fenton was the only company that produced hobnail, which is not true. We can look forward to seeing some examples of this wonderful glassware at our August meeting.

And now for a special invitation from Bev Spencer. (Address and direction intentionally omitted from the internet version)

After 31 years I am moving to a senior's complex that I really love. I will have an 'estate sale at my old home. I'm offering my fellow collectors, family and a few friends a chance to shop before opening the sale to the public. On August 8th I will open from 9AM until 5PM for my friends. If

you are unable to make it please let me know and I will also open on Sunday if needed. The address is ---- ---, Overland Park, Ks.

I have approx. 250-300 pieces of Fenton that includes Cranberry, Ruby, Burmese, Cobalt, Wild Rose, Royal Purple, Mulberry, Topaz, Rosaline, Favrene, Carnival and more. Pieces range from Lamps, Epergne, Vases, Baskets, Punch Bowl Sets, Bowls, Bells, ltd. ed. Ooak, and more.

I have 9 china or curio cabinets of all kinds including 3 antique pieces. Collectibles of all kinds, furniture, and just about anything you will find in a household. If you need to contact me the best time before the sale will be in the evenings. Hope to see all of you there. Bev Spencer.

Only two months to go to the Gala, the national conventions are taking place now and the last event of the year for Fenton collectors will be the Gala. With George and Nancy Fenton and Carolyn Kriner, Tom Smith and lots of glass dealers and collectors joining us to help us celebrate the tenth year of the Gala should be the best one we have had in, well, ten years. The dates are Sept. 17th to Sept. 19th 2009. The number to call for reservations is 1-816-891-7788. Ask for the Gala rate and someone at the Embassy Suites will be able to help you. It's going to be a wonderful celebration of 10 years of learning about Fenton Glass and a chance to learn more about the glass we love to see and collect.

It is sadly time to remind everyone of the new date for renewing your membership. October 1st will be here before we know it. Our dues remain at \$5.00 per individual and \$7.50 for family memberships. Please send a check, money order, or your credit information to Fenton Finders of Greater KC, PO Box 67071, Topeka Ks 66667-0071 and our wonderful treasurer, Janet Wilke will update your information. In turn, when you get your newsletter, you will find the date that is printed next to your name on the address label will have changed to your new renewal date. Also, at the start of the new year, you will get a new roster of our members. Please check to make sure all your information is correct so it can be corrected if needed.

Please join us for our next meeting on Aug. 8th and help us learn more about hobnail glass and bring your glass for show and tell. Until then be safe and keep collecting.

Jackie Oglesby Secretary
www.fentonfinderskc.net