

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The meeting of the Fenton Finders Greater Kansas City will be Saturday March 10, 2007 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th, Raytown, Missouri. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M..

I am very sorry to report that Imogene E. Grissom passed away after a long illness on Friday, Feb. 2, 2007. Imogene and her husband Robert have been long time members of our club and Robert is a big collector of old carnival glass - he has been kind enough to do several seminars for us on carnival glass. We are sorry for his loss and send him our condolences and prayers. We also lost George Rydings last month. While no longer a member of our club George was one of the original founders of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City and our club owes him and his family a lot of thanks for the work that he did to help create this club.

There was a lot of talk in our meeting about the bus trip that Ann Fenton is arranging for May 30th to June 2nd to the Fenton Factory. The cost is only \$165. per person and I believe that includes a lunch at DaVinca's and a dinner cruise on the river boat. For the real down and dirty call Ann at 1-888-818-6861 and she will give you all the information that you will need. The bus driver will be Paul England, the same driver who took us on our trip and as everyone remembers who rode with him and his lovely wife it was a great ride. He has a new bus and he keeps it in new condition for his riders. This will be a great opportunity for everyone who wants to go to Fenton but who is unable to make the trip on their own. Thank you Ann for going to all the work that you have to do to make the arrangements for this trip. I wish that I could go but hopefully someone will bring some pictures back for us to enjoy.

Our Gala program this year sounds really exciting. Richard plans to make it Dave Fetty glass! That should be colorful as well as educational. Can he be planning to take advantage of our feature speaker, Dave Fetty, to help him do this

seminar? Dave would have some wonderful stories to tell about how he made and designed some of the wonderful pieces that we will have on display. I'm beginning to look over my collection and am hoping that Richard will pick some of my favorite Fetty pieces for his display. Everyone who has some of Fetty's wonderful offhand pieces will want to get in on this. The only problem, and it's a little one, will be to assign your piece with a ware number. Do these offhand pieces even have a ware number? Guess its time to take pictures of all that glass again. That might make it easier or harder for Richard to pick the glass he needs for the display - there are so many wonderful pieces of Dave Fetty offhand glass to choose from. Get ready to do some hard work Richard. We know you can.

Lately when reading other newsletters from Fenton clubs I've gotten interested in stories about how people began collecting Fenton Glass. The first piece of Fenton they ever owned. So I've been searching my memory for my first piece of Fenton and when and how I realized that Fenton had become a big part of my life. Nope can't do it. I've always been a collector of something. When I was younger it was comic books, then books, then dolls and figurines. When and what was the first piece of Fenton I brought? My sister and mother had begun collecting baskets - not Fenton in particular but baskets. I was determined not to follow suit, they were expensive and took up a lot of space and were oh so breakable. But they kept passing this one basket up again and again every time we visited this antique store. I just couldn't stand it any longer and I had to buy it. It wasn't a Fenton basket, I've since learned it was made by Cambridge and I still have that basket.

But the race was on, naturally I couldn't have just one I had to have others so that meant that every now and then a Fenton basket would appear in my collection but it wasn't something that was sought out. About that time I became friends with some antique dealers and they would always bring special things to my attention, along with all the other things there were pieces of Fenton Art Glass and they began to educate me about glass, before I would just pick up what ever caught my eye, now I began to look at what I was buying and trying to learn about the glass. They introduced me to Dorothy Taylor and the Encore glass ware that she had Fenton produce - of course I had to have many of her baskets, they were after all small and pretty and didn't take up much space. That was important.

Then QVC started up and since I was already interested in Fenton I would watch Bill Fenton and listen to his stories about Fenton and one day I woke up and realized that I was a Fenton collector. We (my mother and sister, and my poor mistreated husband) had heard so much about FAGCA and it's convention that we decided to see what it was all about. The first year we flew to Ohio and rented a car and drove to Parkersburg and were introduced to so many wonderful people who collected Fenton and also were surprised to met people we knew from home, Jon and Bev Spencer, Charlie and Joan Ilk and a few others. They were happy to help us find our way around and give us hints on what were good buys and what we should look for.

So of course we went insane and brought just a whole bunch of stuff that now we would look at but never think to buy. So many different things. Anything that caught our eye and that we could afford. We backed away from the more expensive pieces - scared that we were going to pay way too much for something that we didn't know enough about. In the end we shipped a whole bunch of glass home and were lucky that only one piece was damaged. There was no focus to our collecting, just a little of this and a little of that. We started buying books and reference materials to try to learn about Fenton. And the next year we drove

to Parkersburg. And we came home pulling a trailer. Not all glass - we also picked up a piece or two of antique furniture.

At last we began to develop some common sense in our collecting. We began to see what glass appealed to us the most, my husband loved Favrene and any piece of Favrene that I brought home became his. The acid etched glass from the 1930's became a favorite, along with Dancing Ladies and nymphs. San Toy has become a particular favorite. I have managed to pick up a few pieces that would be considered rare or hard to find. Jim, my husband also liked this style of glassware and when our local club began to have conventions would spend hours helping me arrange a table to display my glass. It gave him a lot of pride to hear people compliment our table. It has been very difficult to do a table without his help and advice but it has also been a way to keep connected with him.

My mother is also gone now but my sister has developed her collecting sense as well and I think that the one thing that we had finally learned was that it was better to buy that one piece of glass worth \$500 or more than 50 or 60 pieces worth \$20 or \$30 each. It was also better to concentrate on the type of glass that you like the best and leave the flashy stuff that will just take up space alone. On the other hand I don't think there is much worse than passing by something that you like to buy something that is expensive (but you don't really like it) guessing that it will be worth a lot of money in the future. Educate yourself about what you are buying, buy the best piece that you can afford, and most important buy the pieces that you like. Since the only thing you can be sure of is that you will enjoy owning your collection but there is no guarantee that it will keep its value or that it will stay in one piece - it is glass and it does break all too often. And hey, if it increases in value you have something more to smile about.

There is just one other thing that I've learned to accept, that is in 2 or 3 or maybe 5 years in the future the focus of my collecting will probably change again. To what, I don't know? The hope is that it will bring me as much enjoyment and that I will be able to meet as many wonderful people as I have with collecting Fenton. It would be difficult to believe that it won't be some kind of Fenton Glass but there are so many different kinds of glass that Fenton has produced that the choice is almost without limit.

Does anyone want to add their story to mine? If you are interested in sharing your collecting experience or any kind of story concerning our hobby please contact me with the story by email at \*\*\*\*\*@yahoo.com or by snail mail at Jackie Oglesby, \*\*\*\*\*, KCMO 64137-1998. Thanks for spending some time to read this long winded account on how I became a Fenton nut.

We had a small turnout for the Feb. meeting, due no doubt to the very cold temperature and the threat of snow. However a few fairy lights did show up. There was only one duplication, the 1999 Periwinkle on Blue Burmese was the only one that we were able to compare and there was quite a bit of differences on the two fairy lights, from the shape of the fairy light itself to the painting on the pieces we kept finding differences galore. We only wish that there had been more duplication so that we could make more comparisons. There was also a 2 pc. Pansies on Cranberry fairy light from 1994, a 2 pc 7300 WP 5" Lilacs and Roses light from 2003, a Blue Burmese 1 piece fairy light from the 1990's that was made for F AGCA as well as a 1 piece Cranberry whimsey also made for FAGCA in the early 1990's, a 3 piece Rosaline fairy light from the special room, the oldest was a Rose Satin 2 piece fairy light from 1975 a 2 piece Ruby Accent fairy light made by Westmoreland in 1981, a Gala Whimsey with diamond Optic one

piece fairy light painted by Martha Reynolds, a L. G. Wright, a 1997 Topaz Hydrangeas 3 pc. fairy light, a Royal Purple with Col. Scroll decoration, and a Roses on Ruby 2 pc. fairy light.

Our show and tell was also kind of light but we did have some nice glass to show off anyway. There was a wonderful 2 pc. Moonstone Dancing Ladies Vase from the 1930's, the new sand carved Burmese Vase designed by Kelsey Murphy, a great Dave Fetty offhand vase, a Wisteria Ginger Jar from 1937, a Marigold Carnival glass bowl, a blue compote with an unusual design from the 1980's and a porcelain fairly fight.

The program for the next meeting will be a club program on guest sets and tumble ups so there should be a lot of glass to show off. There is always a little confusion on these two items as to which is the guest set and which is the tumble up but with Bernie to lead us all the confusion will be cleared up. Don't forget to bring your glass for show and tell.

The Gala will be here before you know it so everyone needs to set aside 3 or 4 days in Sept. (Sept. 20th, 21st, and 22nd) for the Gala, you also need to plan your table display and save your money for the glass sales as well as glass for sale in rooms and auctions. It is also time to make your reservations at the Embassy Suites, 1-816-891-7788, and don't forget to ask for the Gala rate. Keep in mind when planning your table displays that FAGCA would like us to do some table displays for them as well so sign up for FAGCA as well. I know that we all enjoy seeing all that glass.

This will be the last newsletter sent to you unless you have renewed your membership. If you are unsure of your status check your address label and it will have the date that you need to renew by. If it is incorrect let either Janet Wilke or Jackie Oglesby know and the information will be corrected. Again the dues are \$5.00 for a single membership and \$7.50 for a family.

So until Mar. 10th, be safe and enjoy the warmer weather we are at last seeing. And bring your guest sets and tumble ups as well as that special piece of Fenton that you would like to show off at our meeting.

Jackie Oglesby Secretary