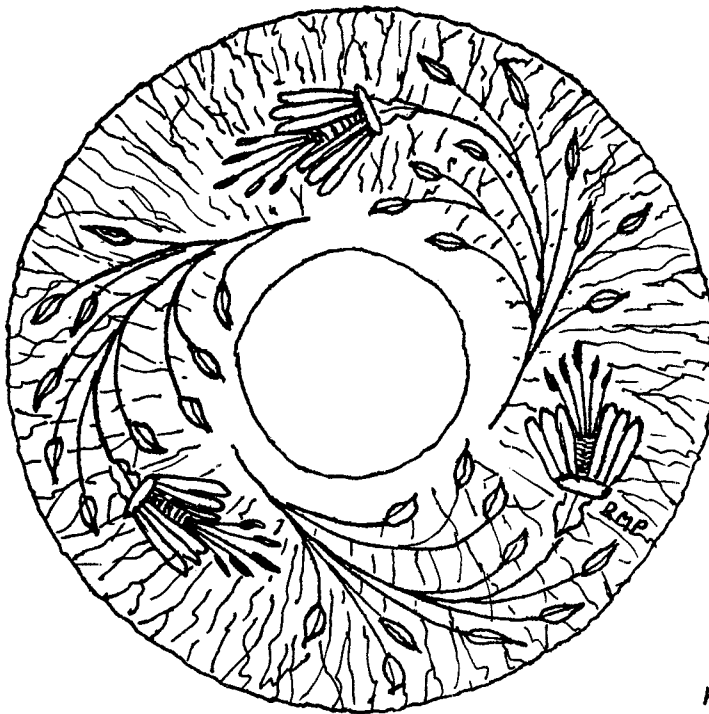


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VOLUME- I
NUMBER- 4

FOUNDED- APRIL-21-1974
DENVER-PENNA

STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1975

A message from your President . . .

My, how time passes. April 21, 1974, we organized the Stretch Glass Society. Almost a year ago, another year of our lives. Probably the best year of my life so far as accomplishment and the gaining of knowledge about glass is concerned. Thanks to all of you I have learned much about Stretch Glass and the people associated with it.

Our Convention will start April 17th but the next day will be of great importance to us all. Breakfast is scheduled at 8:00 AM the 18th, and immediately following will be our annual business meeting. At this meeting we will adopt a set of by-laws and elect officers for the coming year. I have asked Peter and Jean Eckhardt to present the by-laws for our approval. Then the nomination and election of officers with all nominations to come from the floor.

How in the world those people congregated in Denver, Pennsylvania, last year picked a Hillbill from Kentucky as the first President is beyond me. Please spend more time and give more consideration to the selection of your second one. Above all, pick someone who is interested in Stretch Glass because they love it. Pick someone who is promoting the glass and the hobby for the good of all concerned.

Pick someone who will attend all the various functions around the country where glass people congregate and where Stretch Glass can be promoted. Pick someone who can represent us in an honorable and dignified manner at all times.

Nominate those who have a genuine enthusiasm for our hobby and then elect the best nominee for each office. Last of all, attend and vote.

It has been suggested that a panel be chosen to determine just what will be considered Stretch Glass.

Stretch, Carnival patterns with stretch marks, Imperial Jewels, Fenton Florentine Line, etc., will a line be drawn and, if so, where? Should a hard and fast line be drawn? Should it be left to the discretion of the individual? Should a puritan stand be maintained?

If we select a panel, and if we categorize Stretch Glass, then let us select a panel of qualified glassmakers and authorities who are not presently connected with our association to pass judgment, for he who judges should have supreme knowledge. Mr. Revi would be a qualified person; Mr. Frank Fenton, Mr. Joe St. Clair, one of the old glass people from Imperial, Mr. Ross for example, perhaps someone who worked for Cambridge Glass Company, someone from Tiffin, and on and on. Above all, choose people in the glassmaking and research field capable of carrying out this task in the most knowledgeable way possible. We may have to live with their judgment a long, long time.

Remember, no building is stronger than the foundation on which it stands. Let's lay a solid foundation at our next Convention.

Again, thanks to all of you for your wisdom and guidance all through this past year. I will continue to serve in any way I can to promote Stretch Glass, and to help the association grow and prosper so long as there is one.

James R. Farr, President

* * * * *

HARRY NORTHWOOD (PART II)

Returning to Wheeling, Glass Genius Purchases and Revives

Former Famous Glass Works and Completes His American Career There

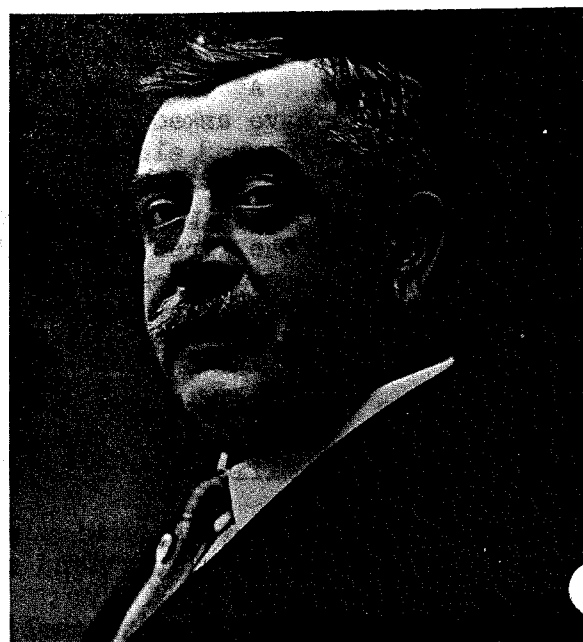
The poet, writing of man's pilgrimage, noted that "the perfect arc in heaven mends." Be that as it may, Harry Northwood traveled the full circle in his 38-year career in the American glass industry.

After three years at Indiana, Pennsylvania, the Northwood company joined the National Glass Company merger and Harry Northwood spent the year 1900 as manager of the London, England office of the combine.

When the merger faltered, Northwood returned to Wheeling, West Virginia, where he had started his career in 1881 as designer and etcher in Hobbs, Brockunier & Company. The plant had been closed since 1891. Northwood bought the factory and spent \$100,000 on new furnaces and other equipment.

Here Northwood truly became the dominant figure in American custard glass. In rapid order, he designed and pressed such great patterns in custard as Inverted Fan & Feather, Maple Leaf, Wild Bouquet, Northwood Fan, Grape & Gothic Arches, Northwood Grape and Grape Arbor.

Then, with a growing popularity of mass-produced iridescent (Carnival) glass, Northwood entered that field and in a short time became the major manufacturer of the ware.



Harry Northwood at 52 in 1913

Northwood was, perhaps, the fourth glass maker to manufacture Carnival Glass. Fenton was first in 1907; Imperial started in late 1908 or early 1909, the Millersburg, Ohio Glass Works so started in 1909. Northwood finally got the "secrets" of the metallic finish analyzed and in order from his glass kin in England and started manufacture about 1910. His N-Circle trademark was adopted in 1905. Northwood died February 4, 1919, and his factory closed in 1922. It was busy right up to its final week in making Carnival Glass. His untimely death came at the age of 58.

Pictures of Harry Northwood

The eye and inspiration of an artist are evident in the panoply of patterns from which Northwood glass in every conceivable color and type was manufactured.

Northwood designed many of the patterns which were his favorites including, Argonaut Shell, Inverted Fan & Feather, and the Northwood Grape Patterns. He also designed other patterns and faithfully supervised work of staff artists on all the Northwood designs.

Treasured by his granddaughter, Elizabeth Northwood Robb in Wheeling, West Virginia, are an oil painting and two water colors done by her grandfather. Another prized family piece is a beautifully cut cameo head of Shakespeare on a brooch. It is signed in Harry Northwood's full name in script on the back of the glass. He completed this before he left England at the age of 21 to come to America. One of the British Royal Societies for the Arts honored Northwood's artistry on the cameo by conferring a large heavy medal inscribed with his name.

Recalls Move from Family Home in 1923

Miss Robb was a small child but remembers when the Northwood family home was sold and she, with her mother and father and grandmother, moved to 6 Rockledge Road in 1923, Miss Robb's present home.

"Grandmother gave away literally barrels of glass so as not to have to bother moving them," Miss Robb wrote. Mrs. Northwood also later gave the Mansion Museum of Oglebay Institute, at Wheeling, "a number of pieces of custard glass, in fact, all she had, when the museum was established in the early thirties."

Miss Robb loaned the writer a picture of her grandfather, Harry Northwood, that appeared in the November, 1971, Custard Party Line special issue which offered a probable chronological order for Northwood's 15 major custard patterns. She was pleased with the article and the interest it stimulated, being reprinted in several antique publications.

Several collectors had asked whether a picture of Harry Northwood could be obtained. Miss Robb was unable to assist at that time on account of the illness of her mother, Mrs. Mabel Northwood Robb, who died July 27, 1972.

However, later Miss Robb loaned the writer two negatives from which she agreed some prints be made. The negatives were from the Northwood family historical files. One picture shows Mr. Northwood about 1885, at the age of 25, and the second about 1913, at the age of 52.

It is a privilege to announce these two pictures on mat finish paper, 5 x 7 inches in size suitable for framing are available now. Each is captioned on the reverse side. The two pictures are \$3.25 postpaid. Order copies of the photographs of Harry Northwood directly from Joe Olson, 4129 Virginia Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64110.

This biography was researched and written by the Editor of Carnival Glass News & Views, the Carnival Glass Elixir, and Carnival Tumbler News, O. Joe Olson, 4129 Virginia Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64110, and has been published with his written permission. Publishing rights reserved in booklet form.

The End

WHAT IS STRETCH GLASS?

By Jabe Tarter

The definition of Stretch Glass is one of the most controversial of any of the iridized glass wares. And it must be iridized in order to be Stretch. It must be remembered that all iridizing liquid has a metal base. It is a combination of different oxides of metals. But the effect of color comes from the base glass rather than the change of color of iridescent fluid.

Five years ago, when Joe St. Clair of Elwood, Indiana, had an order for 5,000 pieces of Stretch Glass from an import house in New York City, he needed the information for the making of the pieces. He asked numerous experts in the field, finally arriving at the perfect way in which it was done.

Joe St. Clair made trips to visit Dr. Domonick Labino of Grand Rapids, Ohio, and to other important glass makers in the Eastern United States. It was then that he learned the important steps in making Stretch Glass, successfully filling the order for the import house.

Dr. Labino, until his retirement in 1965, was Vice-President and Director of Research and Development for Johns-Manville Fiber Glass, and he is still affiliated with the company as a research consultant. Three of his developments for glass fibers, which have to do with insulation against extreme temperatures, are used in the Apollo space craft. And he is important enough in his glass Laboratory to have had a one-man show in the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York, in 1969, a feat not many glass artists have achieved.

Dr. Labino indicated that Stretch Glass is any glass which has been pressed, mold blown, or free blown, to which iridescence has been applied, and the piece of glass changed in form after the fluid was applied. Because all iridizing fluids have a base of metal, the glass would stretch, but the metal in the iridescence would not. Hence, a broken or onion skin effect was achieved, either by accident or on purpose.

In present-day glass making, one important step, present in all important glass houses during the iridescent period, has been deleted in some of the re-issue glass on the market. That one step is the act of fire polishing the finished piece.

Fire polishing is achieved with the use of a large iron rotating wheel which contains numerous smaller rotating flat discs. The pieces, after they have been sprayed, and stretched, or the form changed, are set on one of the smaller discs. As they rotate, they pass a jet flame of gas which is shot onto the piece of glass. This is hot enough to burn off the residue of glass, polish with heat the rough points, and smooth down the roughness of the stretched effect.

Joe St. Clair, with his brothers Ed and Paul, owner of two glass houses in Elwood, Indiana, tells us that a piece **MUST CHANGE IN SHAPE AFTER THE IRIDESCENCE IS APPLIED IN ORDER TO BE STRETCH.**

Paul St. Clair worked for several years with Joe Cunningham, owner of the Big Pine Keys Glass Company in Florida. He tells us that numerous pieces of Stretch were done there, at first on an experimental basis, and then for sales items. In his discourse he says, definitely that a piece of glass of any sort which has been sprayed with a mixture of metallic oxides and then has the form changed, becomes what the collector calls Stretch Glass. And this is for want of a better or correct name.

The term "stretch" was never applied to glass in the original glass houses making this sort of broken or onion skin type breaks in the iridescence. It has been speculated by one writer that the stretch effect was achieved by the glass getting too hot in the annealing oven, or in the furnace. After the glass leaves the furnace for blowing or pressing, it is never returned.

If there are any further steps for re-heating, it is done in the glory hole or the fire polishing mechanism.

Russell O'Brien, teacher of glass making in Kent State University, corroborates with Joe St. Clair, Paul St. Clair, and Dr. Labino, but adds that the fire polishing step is essential for the glass to have a smooth or sometimes a satinized effect. No acid is used for a satin finish, only the fire polish.

Robert Coleman, glass working teacher at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, does beautiful blown glass with stretch effect in some of the shapes of the so-called antique stretch from Fenton, Imperial, Fostoria and Northwood. According to O'Brien and Coleman, in achieving the effect of the stretch finish, the piece is blown or pressed, the iridizing chemicals applied, and then it is changed in form or shape, placed on a turntable with the gas jets for the final polishing and then placed in the lehr.

Many pieces came from the Big Pine Keys Glass Company until the death of the owner, Mr. Cunningham. And Paul St. Clair did most of the work himself. He has built a fine name for himself in blowing witches balls, vases, free form pieces, and mold pattern pieces with the stretch effect.

Edward St. Clair made a beautiful paperweight with the stretch effect. And a paperweight is not pressed or blown. It is worked with wooden blocks for shaping made from apple or cherry wood and kept constantly wet. The effect of the steam as a lubricant is the final point in shaping before and after iridizing.

One of the original pieces made by Ron and Bob Hansen in the Degenhart Crystal Art Glass when they were learning to iridize, is a definite stretch effect in a glass blob. It was intended as a paperweight, but too much working flattened the piece.

If there is any doubt about the making of Stretch Glass, re-read the very informative letter from Mr. A. Christian Revi, one of the most important authorities on glass in the world today. Because it is so full of information, it could be separated into several parts and each part read until it is adequately comprehended.

Mr. Revi's letter in the January, 1975, issue of the SGS Newsletter is so important that a single or even three readings may fail to give full understanding of the information contained therein. It is proof positive of how Stretch Glass is made.

Visit some of the glass houses. Write some of them. And in order to know without guessing it is imperative to keep an open mind. Without an open mind no real authentic conclusions can be drawn. And an open mind is an important facet in research in Stretch Glass or any other field.

These have been the opinions of the writer of this article alone, and I have attempted to show here the knowledge, NOT just the projections of some of the master glass workers in the field.

* * * * *

The Search for Stretch in the Great Northwest

By Ralph and Helen Cooper
Elmer and Velma Heffner
Portland, Oregon

We are sure that searching for Stretch Glass in Oregon is not much different than in the remainder of the States -- it's scarce; especially in view of the 400 pieces accumulated by the Peter Eckhardt's in eight months which was reported in the January, 1975, Newsletter.

In fact, here in Oregon, Stretch is conspicuous by its absence or scarcity at antique shows, shops and flea markets. The Stretch Glass trail may not be loaded with finds, but oh, the nice people you meet along the way!

To us it is rather amazing how many dealers seem not to be aware, to say the least be knowledgeable, about Stretch. They do not realize that the Stretch we collect must be pressed, not blown; and to a great many, any piece of turquoise or celeste blue is an Imperial Jewels. Now, as many know, it is the contention of the Umbraco's that most "Imperial Jewels" are signed with the embossed Imperial trademark (the Imperial iron cross) and only the signed should be called by that name.

We, the Heffners, have collected Stretch for quite a number of years, not as Stretch Glass, but we are Carnival Glass collectors and we thought this type of iridescent glass particularly beautiful. Among our special pieces we have a 3-pc orange console set, a ladies lavender cuspidor, a concave diamond sapphire blue vase, a lovely white Stretch cheese plate and server with cut design - acquired on a trip last Summer, and our most recent purchase is a lovely 10" dia. ice blue basket with silver handle; but mostly the colors obtainable are the blues and some yellows.

We, the Coopers, purchased our first piece of Stretch approximately 10 years ago, a beautiful celeste blue bowl which was thought to be an Imperial Jewels when I, Helen, started gathering Carnival Glass to show when presenting a paper on Carnival to my antiques glass club. And now I'm at it again. I've started collecting Stretch in earnest the last 8 or 10 months to again give a paper for a couple of antique glass groups to which I belong; and try as I will, have not even seen any of the hard-to-get collectibles, except I did find an 11" aqua opaque Stretch plate, a signed Imperial Jewels 7" amethyst bowl, a lush pink bowl, a Fenton 12-panel orange footed bowl, a blue candlestick vase, and I have a blue tumbler with cobalt blue handle which I purchased probably 8 years ago as a "maybe" piece of Fry glass. The remainder of my pieces are quite nice but not unusual. So, the S.O.S. is out. Anyone with the unusual to sell, color or shape, please contact me 11700 S.W. Lancaster Road, Portland, Oregon 97219.

Anyway, it is our consensus that with the publication of the Umbraco's and Wiggins' Iridescent Stretch Glass books, which are very informative, the price for Stretch has tripled in our Great Northwest.

* * * * *

Excerpts from the mail

To all of you officers of the Stretch Glass Society I say congratulations!! The newsletter is so good! I wish all of you could realize how nice it is for me to get this for ICGA. I save them in files and they are a joy to read. I've always wanted to not edit a "gossip sheet" and I feel you are the same way, and it does me good to read your newsletter for I think you are trying to be fair and not be hateful to others. Thanks again.

-Mrs. Rovene Heaton, Warren, Indiana

- - - - -

Just a word to say what a fine job you folks did on the bulletin. It taught and inspired and that is something. Stretch is one subject which we would like to learn more about. There aren't as many flea markets as there were, around New England at least, and one is nervous with the recession and inflation, so it is good to be encouraged in this worthwhile way of investing as well as enjoying. There is very little Stretch at the shows - perhaps a piece or two, but we keep our eyes open for you have encouraged us in the search for the unusual piece of Stretch Glass. I saw a dolphin candlestick last week at a Barrows Flea Market

(over 100 dealers), and the same bunch of dealers will be at the East Hartford High School the weekend of Feb. 15th and 16th. Perhaps it will still be there. It was so beautiful I assumed would be out of my class, although I do have the dolphin fan vase and lidded dolphin candy compote. Cordially, and best wishes.

Mrs. Carol Howard
West Hartford, Connecticut

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Questions for Mr. Fenton

A list of 15 questions has been sent to Mr. Frank Fenton as a courtesy to him with regard to securing some answers for you just in case it might take some of his time for reading and/or research. These questions covered most of the "problem areas" which are in the minds of our members. Those of you who did not respond by sending in questions which you would like to have answered may now do so at the Convention. Excerpts from Mr. Fenton's letter of February 21, 1975, to the Secretary-Editor are very interesting and are given you below:

The Fenton Art Glass Company
Williamstown, West Virginia 26187

February 21, 1975

Mr. Paul B. Miller, Sec'y-Editor
119 South Maple Street
Akron, Ohio 44302

Dear Mr. Miller:

Many thanks for your letter of February 17 giving me the list of questions which your members would like to have answers to. They are quite interesting and I'm not at all sure that I can answer each one to satisfaction of the members but I'll try.

I'm planning to have some slides which I believe will be interesting to the members and will help to answer some of the questions that have been asked.

We're looking forward to having you here in Williamstown and in Marietta. It may be possible for us to arrange a demonstration of manufacture of Stretch Glass if we knew exactly when the group could be here. I can't guarantee that but if you have an interest in this type of thing, please let me know as soon as convenient.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Fenton
President

* * * * *

Any members that might be interested in flying to the Convention please be advised that there are three airports serving the Marietta Area.

- - - - -

Almost everyone must have one or more odd candlesticks in Stretch in their collection. If so, any not bring any you have along to the Convention with you and it just might be that you will be able to match up that pair you've been trying so hard to get.

Thus ends the first year of the existence of the Stretch Glass Society. Four newsletters have been sent out to the membership, several went as complimentary to contributors and to editors of national publications. From the response of many of you, it is believed you have not only enjoyed reading the newsletters but in a like manner you have gleaned some very valuable information from them. Getting out the newsletter has been work as any of you who have done this sort of thing know. It has also been interesting because YOU have done most of the work in that you have supplied the articles and bits of information which have gone into the newsletter to make it what it has been. There have been articles, or statements, which might be classified as controversial or contradicting, but they have been published anyway. Perhaps our hobby of collecting the beautiful Stretch Glass has to be controversial until such time as we are all "experts." The controversial and/or contradicting articles or statements have been published because in that way we can focus on the different opinions of all the members and thus make the SGS an interesting organization.

Our membership has doubled and a little more since that lovely weekend in April, 1974, when we met in Denver, Pennsylvania, to launch out on a new collecting field. A field that very few knew anything about, really. In this respect I believe we have grown in numbers and most certainly in knowledge regarding our hobby, and we will grow even more in the coming year. All organizations suffer from many problems during their initial launching, and SGS has been no exception. We have been fortunate to have some very capable persons leading us in our first year and they have done a terrific job.

Along with these able leaders we have drawn on the knowledge of some very important people in the field of glass. Our most grateful thanks goes to Mr. A. Christian Revi, Rev. O. Joe Olson, Mr. Joseph St. Clair, and Mr. Frank Fenton, who have given of their time and talents to guide us during this first year. Grateful thanks are also given to everyone who has given of their time to write something for the newsletter, and all of you know who they are. Not one has refused a request to write something for the newsletter; that is really something and demonstrates your desire to help in any way possible toward being instrumental in making SGS a successful and informative organization.

It would be so nice to see every one of you at the Convention and it is hoped you will do your very best to be there and participate in all the scheduled events. Attending, seeing the glass, hearing our speaker, learning all you can, meeting new friends and greeting old ones is certain to inspire and enthuse you to return home refreshed in mind and body and be more determined than ever to reach out and bring others into a most fascinating world - collecting Stretch Glass.

Please keep your articles coming for future newsletters, news of new finds in Stretch, and just anything you believe would be of interest to the membership. My thanks to each and every one of you and God bless you!

Paul B. Miller, Sec'y-Editor

Membership by States and Number of Families

A breakdown of the membership by State may be of interest to you. From 21 States, including Washington, D.C., and Canada. Total members: 90.

Ohio...19	Maryland...16	New York...11	California...8	Virginia...8	Penna...3
Illinois...3	New Hampshire...3	Connecticut...3	Michigan...2	Florida...2	Oregon...2
Indiana...1	Kentucky...1	N. Carolina...1	Massachusetts...1	Minnesota...1	D.C....1
New Jersey...1	Alabama...1	Texas...1	Canada...1		

This will give you an idea of where more work will be required to bring in new members. Note that Ohio leads the list for members but is being crowded for the top listing by Maryland.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

APRIL 17, 18, 19

APRIL 17, 18, 19

SECOND STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY CONVENTION, MARIETTA, OHIO

1. Check in Thursday afternoon, April 17, 1975
2. Friday, April 18th
 - a. 8:00 AM - Breakfast Price: \$3.75 (reservations should be made)
 - b. Business meeting - election of officers and other business
 - c. Adjourn for lunch
 - d. 1:00 PM - tour Fenton Art Glass factory - see demonstration of the manufacture of Stretch Glass if arrangements can be made
 - e. 4:30 PM - check in glass for auction
 - f. 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM - glass for auction on display - visit room displays
 - g. 7:30 PM - auction
3. Saturday, April 19th
 - a. Visit local antique shops, historical landmarks and museums
 - b. 12:00 Noon - Brunch Price: \$4.25 (includes meal, tips - the works) (reservations should be made)
 Mr. & Mrs. Fenton will be our guests for the Brunch, following which Mr. Fenton will talk on Stretch Glass and answer questions sent in by members. He is planning to show some slides, and with these, questions that arise will be answered or discussed.
 - c. Boat ride on the Ohio River at 3:00 PM for all interested. Afterward you may elect to return home or stay over until Sunday morning.

APRIL 17, 18, 19

SECOND STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY RESERVATIONS

APRIL 17, 18, 19

Place: Lafayette Motor Hotel
 101 Front Street
 Marietta, Ohio 45750
 Phone: (614) 373-5522

Send to Attention: Mr. W. Robert Moseley
 Vice President & Gen'l Mgr.

Reservation request for:

- () Breakfast (Price: \$3.75) () Brunch (Price: \$4.25)

Room Reservations

- () Single - \$11.00 to \$15.00 () Double - \$14.00 to \$18.00
 () Family - \$24.00, with each () Double with twin beds -
 person over 14 yrs @ \$4.00 extra \$19.00 to \$25.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Boat ride on Valley Gem - Landing at Washington Street Bridge & Front Street, Marietta.
 Daily trips from April 1st thru November 30th. Times: 1:00 - 2:00 - 3:00 - and 4:00 PM.
 Fare: \$1.50 per person. Children under 12 - \$1.00.

**STRETCH GLASS
IN COLOR**

By Berry Wiggins

This is the first book on Iridescent Stretch Glass for immediate mailing. Who made Stretch and how to identify Stretch Glass are answered in this book. Articles on Fenton, Imperial and Northwood taken from original catalogues and old magazines.

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NOTICE: Dues for 1975-76 are due in
April. Pay at Convention or
mail check to Treasurer.

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Akron, Ohio 44302



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