

Stretch Glass Society

Founded April 21, 1974

Denver, Pennsylvania

VOLUME XII Number 4

January, 1986



Presidents Message

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY AND THEIR FAMILIES:

What a wonderful year it has been for your President! I am retired. - And in my retirement this year, without a moment's hesitation, I could say "NO" when offered a T.V. job appearing one hour a week, a newspaper writing job and one job for a national trade paper. It is great to sleep 'til 9 AM and wonder if people actually do still get up at 6:30 or 7:00 in the morning and go to work. I find that most people look at one making such statements as though he was behind the door when the brains were passed out. "Why," they say, "we have been at work for two hours by 8:00 in the morning," particularly if they work for a newspaper. Well, I guess I have just lived right. There is a saying, you know, something like this, "You work hard all your life and save your money so that when you get old you can buy only those things which young people can enjoy."

The Convention is all set, we believe. Correspondence from Ms. Lisa Miloser, Sales Manager of the BEST WESTERN UNIVERSITY MOTEL, located at 1545 Wayne Avenue, Indiana, PA (a most pleasant person to deal with), gives us assurance that we can register in the motel May 1, 1986 until 5:00 P.M. WE MUST HAVE OUR RESERVATIONS IN BY APRIL 15, 1986 - so when you receive this Newsletter, please use the enclosed card to mail in your reservation. We have 20 rooms reserved; and more can be accommodated when we arrive if there is an overflow. Be sure to specify you are with the STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY when making your reservations.

Our program has been set up as follows: (May 1) - Register and display setup in the Pine or Spruce Room on the day and evening of arrival. Tables with cloths will be furnished. ALL BOXES AND PACKING MATERIALS MUST BE PUT OUT OF SIGHT IN THE DISPLAY ROOM: we don't want to look like a disaster area with the public showings in the evening and the full day of showing on May 2nd.

The Banquet will be in the evening of May 2 in the Spruce Room, with an interesting speaker and/or slide show following. The banquet will start at 6:00 P.M. and the menu is Baked chicken with orange sauce, fresh fruit cup, Caesar Salad with dressing, baked stuffed potato, mixed garden vegetables, sherbet. The cost for the banquet will be \$8.25.

The menu for the breakfast to be held at 9:00 A.M., Saturday, May 3rd, will be: Fresh fruit juice, Scrambled eggs, Bacon or sausage, Toast, butter and jelly, Tea or Coffee; and the cost will be \$4.50. The business meeting will follow the breakfast on Saturday morning.

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S O U V E N I R S

(A report from Jabe Tarter, President)

The souvenirs will be pears this year. I have contacted many people in the glass business; and none of them is interested in making a souvenir for us - other than Joe St. Clair. They want large orders - not the smaller ones such as we have.

The cost of the souvenir will be \$25.00 as was ordered by those voting on it in 1985, but there will be a \$3.00 shipping charge for each one if they are to be mailed. It is difficult to get the boxes - again in a small number; and, of course, the mail has risen since last year.

I believe they will be well received. Order yours as soon as you can. They should all be ordered by Convention time. Send your orders with the correct amount of money - \$25.00 if you will pick them up at the Convention; and \$28.00 if you are to have them mailed. (Use the order blank at the end of this Newsletter.)



"ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS"



by John G. Miller

In the last issue of the SGS Newsletter I found myself the new membership chairman. Being the past Treasurer, I know that our membership roll call has been fading. New members are not joining (4 to 8 members per year) and they seem to drop out - so everyone in the club should be trying to recruit at least one new member this year. To help give you an idea how to do this, I have a few ideas to share with you and if you have any ideas, please send them in to share with our club.

#1 - I feel that before you get a new member, you first have to get the collector interested in Stretch Glass. Hopefully they already are, but presenting them with a bit of history on Stretch Glass (such as the origin, the makers, the years, and the availability of the glass itself today) should prove helpful. You could also give the collector some ideas of how the SGS could help them with learning about Stretch Glass. Therefore, this campaign for 1985-86 is going to be called "Getting to Know Your Stretch Glass."

#2 - One way to do the above is to go to your local library to see about setting up a display and/or a possible lecture on Stretch Glass. When you set up your display, be sure to include a membership application card along with your phone number so that interested collectors can get in touch with you. By the way, the library will usually let you put your display up for free for a couple of weeks and if you have a lecture there, they will advertise it for you in the local paper. Note! I did the above last year, putting in two display cases with twenty pieces of Stretch Glass for four weeks. I then had Bob Ragan give the lecture. We had about 20 people attending, but didn't get any new members. Most of them belong to a depression glass club and came out of curiosity because they didn't know what Stretch Glass is. Note again! I also got the library to purchase the Umbraco and Wiggins books on Stretch Glass.

#3 - Are there any antique clubs in your area? Again, a display and lecture at one of their meetings may produce a new member I would think that the carnival and depression clubs would be the best.

("Attention All Members" - continued)

#4 - At the county fairs, they usually have an open class in glass. At the Berea (Ohio), in the past several years that I went, they had about five pieces of Stretch Glass; and last year one piece of Stretch Glass was Best of Show: a vaseline piece, no less. You've guessed it - this year Cheryl and I are going to have a vaseline and lime green piece in a black-light display. Maybe we will win a ribbon to go with our collection.

#5 - Running an ad in your local paper might turn up an interested collector; or maybe asking at some of the local antique shops if they know anyone who is buying any Stretch Glass. The point is - you never know where, when, or who will turn up a new member for you.

These are only a few of the ideas I have had. If you have any that work for you and you want to share them, write to me at 1011 Brookview Boulevard, Parma, OH 44134.

REMEMBER: THE MEMBER WHO GETS THE MOST NEW MEMBERS WILL BE GETTING A PRIZE FOR THEIR EFFORTS.



Please make the following changes in your Roster:

John & Cheryl Miller
1011 Brookview Blvd.
Parma, OH 44134

Edward K. & Penelope Crowley
847 Carnation Dr.
Winter Park, FL 32792

Michael & Angela Meyer
P. O. Box 204
Belleville, IL 62222

GREETINGS TO NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased that the following have also joined our ranks:

Ray & Janice Jacob
R.D. 4, Box 173
Indiana, PA 15701

Lawrence Hartnell
Box 352
Collingwood, Ontario
Canada L9Y 3Z7

welcome



DON'T FORGET!!! The enclosed Application for Membership is Not for your dues but IS for your use in obtaining at least ONE NEW MEMBER.

S T R E T C H G L A S S

by Berry A. Wiggins*

To name who the first glass manufacturer was to make Stretch Glass is impossible. I've been through all possible research for the Stretch years and all I have come up with is that all announcements for Stretch Glass were in 1916 and 1917. From all I've read, Fenton was probably first, but I have no proof. However, all three Journals did agree that Fenton was the first to make iridescent glass in what is called Carnival Glass today. I found pictures and articles that Fenton and Diamond were still making iridescent glass until 1931 when a fire put Diamond out of business and Fenton probably for some time after that, and is still making some today.

Stretch was produced from 1916-17, but information during the WW-I years is very scarce. An article, dated 3/20/16, informs that some mold shops were put to work making shell casings instead of molds. Another, dated 8/18/18, tells us that the U.S. Government advised that new styles, etc., be eliminated for the duration of the war by glass manufacturers. Thus, no more new molds. I am convinced that Northwood Glass Company took the Grape and Gothic Arch molds and had them redone for Stretch. My Book, p. 37 - middle top, is a sugar that was done this way. In this Stretch pattern, I've seen the creamer, butter, and water set.

Thank goodness that Frank M. Fenton and his father kept all the information they could on the Fenton Art Glass Company and also on other manufacturers. The Fentons did very little advertising until the middle of the 1920's in the Glass Journals. If you didn't advertise, the Journals did not write articles and print anything about your glass or company.

The WW-I years held back promotion and sales of all glass. Good pictures and articles on Stretch Glass are from 1920 through 1925.

The first article on Northwood Stretch was in early 1917 and listed two colors - Royal Purple and Venetian Blue. Also, later on in 1917 in Topaz in a dinner setting.

H. Northwood Company made the square base compote (my book, p. 15 - bottom left) in numerous colors and shapes and in a very large quantity. The colors you don't see anywhere else from later years are Purple and Emerald Green. As named above, they had Royal Purple and I have a pair of candleholders in this color, which is the same shape as those shown in my book, page 33, at the bottom. They are very rare. Northwood Company also made a large range of colors in chop plates. Again, Emerald Green and Purple I've never seen, but I'll bet they turn up.

The Royal Purple is a very deep amethyst where the square base compotes are much lighter, more like a wisteria color.

Harry Northwood died in 1919 and the glass factory closed its doors for good in December of 1925. In between, a lot of glass did not come up to par and I feel sure the compotes and chop plates we've been talking about were made in the last few years of production.

How do we know so much about Northwood? Mr. Frank M. Fenton's father kept scrap books and stashed them away. In one were two folders showing what was for

*Berry sent this article to Jabe Tarter and Paul Miller and your editor is eternally grateful to Paul for "transcribing" it (if you've seen Berry's handwriting, you'll know what I mean).

(Stretch Glass - continued)

sale in each year. A copy of one folder is in the Fenton Museum.

Because of these folders and the Fenton catalogues, we have been able to put other pieces of Stretch to their correct manufacturer. Fenton, Northwood, and Diamond made the same shapes at times, but there is always a difference. Mr. Fenton is the one we take our discoveries to, then try to convince him we are right. He pulls out books, drawings, research, checks in the Museum and glass vault and then gives his opinion. When he agrees with you, it is always exciting! When he gives a negative answer, you know it came from the best source available on glass and you pack up and go back to work.

A few years ago we could identify only a few pieces of Diamond glass, but in the last two years we have made a lot of progress, thanks to Mr. Frank Fenton, Ernest Dugan, Virgil Henry, and myself. We learned that a lot of Diamond colors are different. They alone made black Stretch and their green is a different color from the other glass manufacturers. H. Northwood Company never made Red in Stretch, but Paul Miller has a console set in Green Slag Stretch by them which is very rare. Rosa and Carl Schleede have a Salmon Slag Console set by U. S. Glass Company which is also very rare.

I've been researching Vineland Flint Glass Company for over 16 years and if some of their bowls did not have the company stickers on them we would all be lost. I know their Stretch Glass very well but have no proof except for the few bowls* that have their stickers. They made several types of bowls and two shapes in candleholders. Some of their Stretch wasn't too good, but some was exceptional. Rosa Schleede has a Vineland candleholder in Brown Slag which is the very best. They have several shades in each color. I've seen an Emerald Green console set by them also. I've never seen anything but console sets by them in Stretch.

Whenever you hand Mr. Fenton a piece of glass to identify, one of the first things he will do is check the mold marks, especially if it looks like glass that other companies made too. As I said earlier, the color of the glass plays an important part in identification.

For several years, I had tried to convince Mr. Fenton that a gold design on Northwood Stretch was a sure way to identify Northwood glass, but he would not buy my theory. On my next trip to see him, I took 10 pieces of Northwood glass - all with the same gold design and again he wouldn't approve my discovery. After I left Mr. Fenton and headed west to Centerville Mall in Indiana, on one of the tables was a creamer with the same gold design I had been trying to convince Mr. Fenton was only Northwood. This creamer had, in its bottom, an H in a diamond, which means Heisey. Next time I saw Mr. Fenton, I ate crow and will leave the gold designs alone. After that I paid a lot of attention to the independent decorating companies' ads and there was a large number in this business. Of course, a lot of the glass companies decorated their own glass, but there is no way to say which glass company did a certain type of gold decoration. Lancaster Glass Company used an enamel decoration and then iridized over this and, to my knowledge, no other manufacturer did this.

Who were the manufacturers of Stretch Glass? We have Fenton Art Glass Company, the U. S. Glass Company, Imperial Glass Company, Diamond Glass Company; and these five were the big producers of Carnival Glass and carried their knowledge of iridescent glass over to Stretch.

(*Your Editor has one of these bowls with the sticker.)

(Stretch Glass - continued)

Lancaster Glass Company also made Stretch. Thomas Dugan, who had been with The Dugan Glass Company before it became The Diamond Glassware Company, and was voted out in 1913, made several moves and ended up at Lancaster Glass Company. He stayed at Lancaster until he passed away. Thus, Thomas Dugan was at Lancaster during the Stretch years.

Vineland Flint Glass Company, Vineland, N. J., was owned by Victor Durand, so they had the knowledge for iridescent glass. I've been told their glass was made just before the Great Depression.

Jeanette Glass Company of Jeanette, PA, made a fair amount of iridescent glass and most everyone calls this "late Carnival." One reason everyone calls this Carnival is because they see this glass in Marigold only. I have two footed bowls in Purple and Green that are documented as Jeanette, but those two are the only ones I've seen.

Central Glass Company of Wheeling, W.V, made Stretch and this is a shock to a lot of collectors. We can document their console sets and from articles in the Trade Journals, we know they made other pieces and shapes besides console sets, but I've never been able to identify them. Most of Central's Stretch is just average, but I have one console set in Purple that is outstanding.

The Black Bases which were used to set the Stretch bowls on are getting scarce and, of course, are going up in price. We are slowly finding out which glass companies made which base. Mr. Fenton has found research that has helped immensely to solve some of the puzzles.

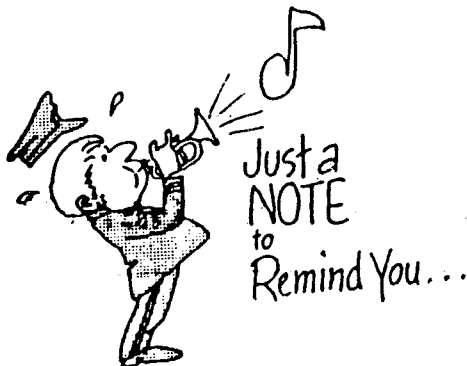
In Heacock's Fenton Glass - The First Twenty-five Years, page 89, top picture, you see what I call 3 ring BB (black bases). From Mr. Fenton's information, I slowly started to solve who made which BB and never will solve all of them. I was lucky in having boxes of BB's.

The 3 ring BB was by far the most popular one of all and made by glass companies who did not made Stretch, as well as ones who did. If you have the 3 ring BB with a number under the base, it is Northwood. None of Fenton's bases has a number in the glass. I know some of Fenton's 3 ring BB's but still have a way to go.

The only other company to use numbers on the underside of the base was The U. S. Glass Company; and if it is not a 3 ring BB, it is U.S. Glass Company with the number in the bottom of the BB.

Happy New Year To All!
Berry A. Wiggins

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1. Mark your calendar for the CONVENTION.
2. Send in your Motel Reservation.
3. Fill out the blank completely, make out your check, and send for your souvenir TODAY.
4. Plan now to make your banquet and breakfast reservations as soon as you check in.
5. Use the enclosed Membership Application Card to enroll at least one new member.
6. Dues (\$6) are due April 1st. Send to Treasurer

Those members who were at last year's Convention will remember that Eldon Dolby (our Treasurer's husband had cataract surgery around Christmas time. Well, Joanne's letters since then provide an update on his condition and I'm sure all of us will want to remember him in our prayers and to wish him well. From her letter of 10/30 - "Eldon is having additional surgery November 8th on his right eye, the one that takes the contact. This will be a brand new procedure and uses only part of someone's cornea, not a whole cornea transplant. The doctor says it will take about six weeks before he can see with it." From a letter of November 20th - "Eldon's surgery has been postponed until December 11th. He had a cold and the veins in his eye were swollen at the time of surgery. And then, from her last letter of December 16th - "Eldon just had another surgery performed on his eyes. This makes the third time in 15 months. Hopefully this is the last. He's doing quite well, but as this surgery was re the cornea, it may take 3 months before he can see."

* * * * *

Another of our members, Deloras Shiel, wrote: "I enjoy belonging to the Club and receiving the newsletters, even though I can't participate actively.

There seems to be a real scarcity of Stretch Glass in Canada lately (there never was a lot). At the shows I have attended this year, I saw only a few pieces.

I'm also looking forward to a new book and hopefully current prices in it. Especially in Canada, knowledge of Stretch Glass is very poor.

I have tried to interest a few people from the Canadian Carnival Glass Club in Stretch Glass, but I haven't had much luck. If someone would send me some application forms, I will try to have them sent out with one of our newsletters. We have over 200 members in our club, and I feel sure that some of them must also collect Stretch Glass. I don't know how any lover of Carnival Glass would resist the interesting shapes and beautiful colors that are found in Stretch Glass.

Wishing you and all the members of our club a happy Christmas and all of the best for 1986."

* * * * *

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED WRITING A LETTER OR AN ARTICLE FOR THE EDITOR? IT'S ONLY IN THIS WAY THAT WE CAN REALLY SHARE OUR KNOWLEDGE AND OUR INTEREST IN STRETCH GLASS.

We are indebted to our Treasurer, Joanne Dolby, for the following article:

"Years ago when our children were growing up I used to go with a friend who bought 'art glass.' She had beautiful pieces of glass all specially named - as aurene, cameo, cosmos, holly amber, pomona, wavecrest, etc.

One day my Mother gave me a beautiful blue vase that had been hers for a long time. As I couldn't afford my friend's art glass treasures, I decided to try to watch for pieces to match the blue vase. Later we learned this glass was called Stretch Glass and came in all pastel colors.

Since then, we have collected many, many pieces of that pretty glass, plus lots of other glass as well. There is a collection of Tiffin that has the characteristics of the new clear Steuben, Fostoria, Fenton, Cambridge, Blenko, Westmoreland and Lenox crystal. We've bought, traded and given pieces away and it has always been a 'joy.'

(Joanne Dolby's article - continued)

Our children also locate Stretch Glass for us for those special days as birthdays and Christmas. Our third bedroom has been set aside to display it. This room will someday be an inheritance for our heirs to be kept or converted into cash. Prices have been rising on old good glass. In the meanwhile, we have the joy of looking for and finding these goodies. These remembrances of our past are quickly disappearing. Our AMERICAN GLASS FACTORIES are closing down and some of this beautifully crafted art is no longer being made. Only a few of these factories are still in operation.

Besides collecting, there are glass clubs to join where new friends are made, new methods are learned to differentiate each piece of glass.

There are also museums to visit. The Cambridge Museum in Cambridge, Ohio is terrific; the Heisey Museum in Newark, Ohio is unique; and the Corning Museum and Rockwell's collection of Carder's colorful Steuben glass in Corning, New York are unforgettable.

Also try to visit those remaining glass factories and watch our AMERICAN craftsmen at work. Every year my husband, along with my sister and her husband (they collect Heisey), try to visit some of these factories and see the latest type of glass being made.

The last couple years, Tiffin Glass and Imperial Glass in Ohio and Westmoreland Glass in Pennsylvania have closed their doors and doused their fires, much to our dismay. We had enjoyed many tours there in the past and considered them all real special. Westmoreland had their beautiful smooth white milk glass, among others; Imperial had their pretty candlewick pattern and slag animals that are very collectable now; and Tiffin Glass, a favorite of ours, had fragile and lovely crystal. They also had the clear curved individualistic styled glass that resembled the new Steuben. We have bought a lot of our wedding gifts at these shops.

But - there are a few factories still operating and would be really worth your time to visit.

This last summer we took a day and a half around the first of June and went to Mt. Pleasant, in Pennsylvania, to visit the Lenox plant. This is located at the edge of town. We were lucky, as they happened to be having their sale in crystal. Their china sale is later in the year. Our basket filled up quickly with "good buys." We bought some delicate pink wines in the Navarre pattern, plus four goblets with crosses in the stem. I was told later they were originally to be Christmas bells but hadn't sold so they added a base or bottom to it, turned it over and now it was a very unusual goblet. Another group of goblets took our eye. These were slightly taller than the others and had what I call a small swan at the top of the stem just under the bowl. The saleslady said it was a brand new one and hadn't been named as yet. Since then we have seen it in the stores called "Alexandra." All of these were purchased at less than four dollars apiece.

L. E. Smith Glass was the next stop in the same town of Mt. Pleasant. The small sign directing us is on the main road but a little hard to see. The shop had a lot of Libbey Glass made in Toledo which we had seen before, so we headed right to the sales room. There we found Libbey goblets that were as fine and delicate as the "old" Libbey used to be. They were called 'Liberty Bell' and the stem was made in the shape of an eagle. These were made by Libbey for the Bicentennial and we had seen them before. They had stopped making them in Toledo, but here they were on sale. The stem had been frosted and were different, so we were lucky to get a set of them.

(Joanne Dolby's article - continued)

there is another tour route down the scenic Ohio River where you would be offered a memorable experience. No matter where you begin the tour, the next stop is never far away. Remember though, a lot of plants don't have tours during factory vacations - usually the first two weeks in July. We found that out once, but still had a good time in the gift shops. Some of them have been listed below.

Fostoria Glass at Moundsville, West Virginia: - This is called Moundsville for a very good reason. In the center of town there is a huge hill, or mound, made by the Indians a very long time ago.

Viking Glass at New Martinsville, West Virginia (Plant No. 1): - Just one block off W. VA Rt. 2 - look for the signs.

Fenton Glass at Williamstown, West Virginia: - Just off Interstate 77 - look for the signs. This is a must. Visitors are escorted through the factory and can see the hot glass made into many exquisite pieces. Much of our Stretch Glass came from this very factory. Be sure to visit the Museum upstairs where many pieces of Stretch Glass can be seen.

Pilgrim Glass at Ceredo, West Virginia: - The factory is located within 500 yards of the Huntington, W. VA airport or off I-64. We especially liked their cranberry pieces.

Viking Glass at Huntington, West Virginia (Plant No. 2): - 1500 Adams Ave. (U.S. 60) from I-64.

Blenko Glass at Milton, West Virginia: - This company has unique glass. They say to bring your camera. We did.

Most of these glass factories have brochures that list all these above marked on one map for you.

After a visit to these places, most everyone has a deeper appreciation of these remaining persons whose craftsmanship enrich our lives. These pieces of glass which we now collect had been treasured a long, long time by someone else who enjoyed their delicate colors, etc. as much as we. Happy Hunting!"

(Editor's note - Have you noticed that most of this issue is comprised of work submitted by officers - members who are already giving much of their time to our organization? My one regret concerning their contributions is that we didn't get pictures of John Miller's displays from the library.)

NOW -- PLEASE REMOVE THE FOLLOWING PAGE FROM THIS NEWSLETTER TO USE AS YOUR
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- Berry Wiggins

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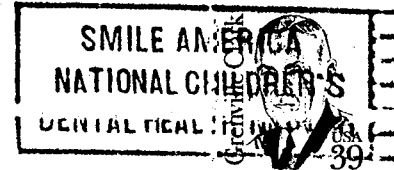
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