



July 1989

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STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

President's Message

Dear Members:

Marietta has always been a favored spot for SGS conventions, and the 1989 convention was no exception. Our accommodations at Travel Host Inn were excellent and I wish to thank Berry for doing a great job of getting everything arranged.

A number of the members attending convention have been subscribers to Glass Collector's Digest since it began publication in 1987, so we were especially pleased to meet its creator, Dave Richardson.

Of course, everyone had to catch up on news of the past year and we were pleased to have several newcomers attend. Frank Fenton joined us to sit and chat on Wed. evening and again on Thurs. for dinner.

On Sat. most of the members left for home or to visit other friends, but a few of us could not resist the call of the Fenton Glass factory outlet across the river and found our way into West Virginia before heading for home.

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(President's Message continued -)

We missed several of our regulars, but hope to have them back in our midst for the 1990 convention.

A concerted effort is going to be made during the next year to build up our membership and spread the word about the beauty of Stretch Glass. More of those plans can be found in the Minutes of the Meeting.

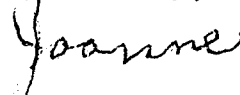
My college career ended with graduation on June 9th so now there will be more time to devote to flea markets, antique shows, and estate sales, looking for glass bargains in general and Stretch Glass in particular.

Remember to report your findings to the Secretary/Editor and send any other interesting bits of information to her for the newsletters. It is the only way we can keep in touch from one convention to the other.

Remember that your President and all the officers of the Society always welcome your comments and suggestions. Our addresses are on the newsletter.

Best wishes to each of you for a Summer filled with success in whatever you do and good health.

Sincerely,



Joanne Rodgers, President

Stretch Glass Society Officers

* * * - - - - -

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Dues: Six Dollars annually for each family - Payable to Treasurer April 1st.

Thursday, May 4, 1989 - Convention Speech
Dave Richardson, Publisher Glass Collectors' Digest
Richardson Printing

The following is a synopsis of information from Dave's speech given at the convention. We were happy to meet Dave and his lovely wife, Pam, both of whom joined the members for dinner. Dave related a bit of his family background, his personal history in the publishing business, and some insight into the creation of a new publication from idea to successful fruition.

While I have not attempted to repeat Dave's speech verbatim, I believe the meat of what he said remains.

*** Joanne

Dave freely admits that as a college graduate with a Liberal Arts degree, he knows a "little bit about everything and not much of anything." As a publisher of books and magazines on the subject of glass, Dave spoke on what he knows best, publishing; specifically Richardson Publishing and its history.

Dave came into the publishing business by way of his grandfather who was a printer. Grandpa Richardson was a "wondering spirit" who moved every year or two to seemingly greener pastures, resulting in Dave's father attending 13 schools in the course of 12 years of education.

At age 40, the shock of losing his printing business in a poker game resulted in Grandpa having a heart attack. His doctor prescribed "immediate retirement and two fingers of whisky morning and night," and predicted his demise within a year and a half or less. Grandpa followed his doctor's advice implicitly and died -- 40 years later at age 80.

Dave's Dad then became the breadwinner at age 14 and went into the only business he knew - printing. After 10 years of working for a variety of companies as a typesetter, he decided it was time to go out on his own and settle down. He wanted no part of the nomadic life of his youth.

Dad Richardson saw an ad for a print shop for sale in Marietta, borrowed \$5000 and bought the shop; met a local farm girl, married her, and still works at his "print shop" at age 74.

Richardson Printing began as printers of forms for the oil and gas industry. However, in the 1950's, when offset printing was perfected to allow the economic reproduction of color on paper, Richardson Printing saw the potential for new business. Full-color glass catalogs could now replace the salesman's cumbersome sample case. Richardson was in the heart of glass country and took advantage of its position.

Seven-year-old Dave joined his Dad on trips during school breaks and literally learned the publishing business at his father's knee, accompanying him on trips to the various glass producers. As Dave became older his involvement became greater and he soon was meeting with presidents and owners of glass companies such as Westmoreland, Imperial, Fostoria and many others, as well as decorating companies. He witnessed the creation of glass pressed into molds, blown into molds, and formed free-hand. Dave watched glass being painted, decaled, cut, etched, and stained.

From 1967 to 1975, Dave spent four years in college and four years in the Air Force. During his absence the glass industry began to feel the effects of cheaper foreign imports and labor intensive glass factories began their demise with which we are all familiar. Of the 46 companies Dave once called on, only six are still operating today.

Richardson Printing now turned what could have become a disaster into a new opportunity. "The Chinese have a saying," said Dave, "that even as the sun is setting the sun is also rising." As the sun was setting on glass production, the field of glass collecting began to rise. Collectors and researchers realized the value of documenting the history of glassmaking and soon were looking for someone to publish their works. Richardson Publishing was there. Now Dave's life had come full circle. He was an adult, travelling as a reporter and commentator, helping to preserve the history of glass he had helped to sell through catalogs and sales sheets as a child and teenager.

In his position as a publisher of glass-related books, Dave soon realized there was a void in the field of magazines/newspapers. While any number of periodicals could be found on antiques in general, there was only one devoted specifically to glass - The Glass Review. Dave began to enlarge on his idea and enlisted the assistance of Thomas O'Connor, Phd, former college professor, but operating the folding machine in the bindery in 1987. Dave convinced Tom he was the man for the job of Editor of the new, as yet unnamed magazine to be devoted to glass. Together they met the challenge of creating from scratch the Glass Collector's Digest. From a subscription base of 1000 in 1987, GCD is beginning its third year with 7000⁺ subscriptions and the anticipation of adding 3000 new subscribers by year-end.

Dave closed his speech by saying, "I am proud to say it has been a success because of people like you who are glass collectors who shared our dream and who loved the idea of collecting glass."

The business meeting followed Dave Richard's speech on Thursday evening. The results of the approximately 45 minute meeting are boiled down in the following;

Twenty-six members attended the convention, either for the full three days or for a short period some time on Thursday. It was very apparent that everyone enjoyed visiting with those whom they had not seen since the same time last year. There was much discussion of what had gone on during the year at other conventions and shows, what had happened in our various personal lives, and of course, reminiscing about conventions gone by.

During the year we added three new members to our roster and then picked up four more enthusiastic newcomers during the convention, a total of seven for the year. - WELCOME TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!!!

Nominating Committee members were Joanne Dolby and Mary Henry. They were successful in presenting the following slate of officers which the attending membership voted into office:

President	:	Joanne Rodgers
Vice President	:	Martin Stozus
Secretary/Editor	:	Mildred Bicksler
Treasurer	:	John Miller
Board Member to replace Helen Cooper:	:	Helen Stozus

The 1990 Convention will be held in Indiana, Pa. The membership voted on returning to our previous schedule of having convention on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The dates for 1990 will be May 3, 4 and 5. Arrive and set up on Thursday, Show and Sale on Friday, Banquet and Business Meeting Friday evening, Saturday can be spent in going to local sights of interest or returning home, whichever each member prefers to do. Berry is attempting to engage Ernie Dugan as our speaker. Mary Henry will take care of advertising. Best Western will be contacted to confirm if this schedule is acceptable to them and the membership will be notified in the next newsletter of their answer.

The suggestion was made to hold the 1991 convention in Corning, New York on May 2, 3, and 4. Rose Schleede and new member Art Beatum are the committee formed to make those arrangements.

The Treasurer's books were audited. We have a healthy treasury of \$2000⁺ less convention expenses. A short Treasurer's report will be included in the next newsletter.

John Miller suggested a complimentary newsletter be sent to those who have dropped out over the past few years. This suggestion will be acted upon.

It was also proposed that we advertise the SGS in several of the antique publications. Periodic ads will be placed on the Antique Trader, The Daze, and Antique Weekly.

A number of the members who are also dealers requested copies of our membership forms to take with them to the various shows they attend during the year. As soon as extra copies can be made, this will be done.

Berry Wiggins is to be commended for his great job of making the arrangements with Travel Host. The display room was large and well lit. Our rooms were very good and the food for our banquet was excellent. Every attempt was made to accommodate our needs and the employees were friendly and helpful. If you should be planning a visit to Marietta, I recommend Travel Host. It's conveniently right off the I-77 exit. THANK YOU BERRY FOR AN EXCELLENT JOB!!!

The meeting adjourned at about 10:00 p.m.

Although everyone had a good time, we missed several of our regulars who could not attend due to illness. Helen and Ralph Cooper were unable to make their usual trip from the West Coast because of Helen's poor health. Helen, we all hope you are well on the road to recovery and will be making the trip East next year.

Paul Miller and Jabe Tarter remained in Akron because Jabe had had major surgery in January and was still convalescing, and Paul was needed to keep the household operating. Hope you're up and moving, Jabe.

Fred and Barbara Lynn sent a letter to your President to let us know they were also unable to join us because of the several major problems which had plagued Fred during the previous year. Fred, our wishes are also with you for speedy and complete recovery.

Cards were signed by those who attended the convention and were sent to each of our ailing members, wishing them better health for the coming year, with the anticipation of seeing them in Indiana, Pa. in 1990.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the former editor was unable to put out a newsletter the first part of this year and the following article submitted in January 1989 by Joanne Dolby deserves printing at this time even though late but we feel it will be of interest to those who did not attend the 1988 convention held in Toledo, OH. Joanne and Eldon did such an excellent job of arranging this with the Ramada Inn. We will also be going back a bit to print part of a letter Dolbys received from Umbraco and excerpts from an Umbraco letter to John Miller--all of which we feel will be of interest to our members. EDITOR'S NOTE.

From Joanne: I am a firm believer that one should participate somewhat in every club to which a person belongs. The club doesn't gain as much as the person who does a little extra. I've made friends all over our USA and THEY are very special. It is also a duty that other club members stand behind each other's efforts.

I would like to thank all those members who brought glass to the convention. They came from six states which delighted me. (OH, CT, PA, MI, WVA, and OR). The Ramada Inn representative worked tirelessly along with us. Our exhibit room tables (17) were covered with pink tablecloths with pink pleated skirts. Large chandeliers really showed off the iridescence of our glass. The banquet room with its big round tables made us feel cozy and the family style plates of chicken and roast beef were delicious and most satisfying. Toledo is known as the Glass Center of the World so it was fitting we had Carl Fauster as our speaker. Perhaps some of you have his book on "Libbey Glass since 1818".

As Toledo was new to the members I, of course, wanted to show everyone around the town. After we closed the exhibit hall the first night (Thurs.) I suggested a trip into town where we could all eat together. We made it to the Spaghetti Warehouse in the rain and seated in old brass bedsteads, ate and looked all around at the Tiffany-type windows, an old trolley car, buffalo and moose heads, even an old Texaco Pump with its white crown which was by the entrance.

Fri. evening we were busy with the banquet but found time afterwards to have fun and fellowship in Dr. and Helen Cooper's (Oregon) room. They brought 4 spectacular pieces, a black stretch glass punch bowl, a white twelve inch cut-out stretch glass footed bowl, and two very different wide black stretch glass candlesticks.

Sat. we packed up and took a tour through the Toledo Museum of Art's Glass Section. Here there were huge cut glass punch bowls with all their cups, plus cut glass tables thirty-six inches high, and a cut glass floor lamp and table lamp. Seems impossible a human being could hold such a big piece and do such beautiful cut work. Afterwards my husband and I hosted an open house to members and served a buffet lunch. Later we drove across town to the Libbey Glass Outlet Center where members did some shopping. All in all I had a lot of fun planning

this convention and was glad to see those who came were enjoying themselves.

A few months ago we attended one of our Toledo Antique shows which charges \$3.00 to look around. There was only one piece of stretch glass there, a small pink perfume with the original stopper and the old Fenton paper label on the bottom. The dealer came down to \$30.00 from \$40.00. It was the second day so perhaps there might have been other SG pieces before but it does seem our pieces are getting harder and harder to find. Best of luck to everyone.

Joanne Dolby

From Umbraco's letter to Joanne:

"We haven't missed an antique show in our area but haven't seen any stretch for sale except for two red bowls that one dealer wants \$450.00 each. Have also seen a stack of white Imperial plates for \$20.00 each, but that is all. We've been bidding at Woody's and also Burns auctions on stretch, only got a little pink stipped rays compote. Would love to find out what the red stretch glass punch bowl went for at Woody's auction, know it didn't go cheap. Would love to go to the Stretch Glass Convention, it must be like heaven to just see all of the pretty stretch glass all at once."

Taken from Umbraco's letter May 1989 to J. Miller:

"It was very nice hearing from you and we are enclosing our check for our dues. Really wish we had more time to devote to the SGS. Since I now work on the computer full time at work I just don't have the ambition to go home and work on a typewriter. Also when you do research all day long it is a drag to go home and do the same thing even though different topics. I certainly know how the cobbler felt when his kids asked for new shoes. Newsletters are very important as that is really the only communication most of our members have. It is really hard work but wouldn't be if all members would help out even with just a note once a year. Research material is terrific and very necessary but quite truthfully what we have found that people really want to know about glass (or any collectable) is what is it worth, what type of glass, manufacturer, age, and what other colors or shapes it was made in.

We just returned from doing a major antique show in San Francisco, also did the same show six months ago, but that is all we've done in about 8-10 years. We always walk through all the shows but you do get a different perspective when selling than when buying. Of course, we are much better buyers than sellers even when we are supposed to be selling! Finally found after all these years a Fenton wisteria bedroom set. It seems that collecting around here has really changed.

Now we have so many advanced buyers who are willing to pay \$20.00 to get into a show early to hopefully get one or two good items and when the regular priced tickets went on sale the buyers immediately changed to people looking to value of what they have or what a relative has.

There were some new collectors who had no idea what Stretch Glass is and these people need and want to be educated. We do need some SGS club forms."

Russell & Kitty Umbraco

The Umbracos made some suggestions towards increasing the club membership and John Miller has supplied Application for Membership insert for all who receive the newsletter to try and get some new members.

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IN THE



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(Founded April 21, 1974 - Denver, Penn.)

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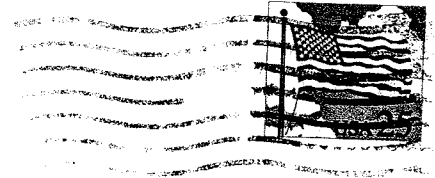
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