

FOUNDED APRIL 21, 1974 IN DENVER, PENNA

STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

Message from the Board
Helen Jones



Happy New Year!

Hello all! It's my turn to do the "Board of Directors Message". By the time you read this, the Holidays will be just a memory and some of us will be knee deep in

snow & ice! May you stay cozy with thoughts of the warm fellowship at the upcoming 2002 SGS Convention! And now a few words about collecting our favorite glass.

*Stretch Glass -- How May I Collect Thee
Let Me Count the Ways*

1. *Color*: This is a great way to collect Stretch Glass! You don't have to worry about who made it or what it is! If it's the right color it will fit the collection. And what a rainbow of hues from which to choose. If you're the type of collector that likes to find a piece almost every time you hit the malls or shops--then green or blue might be a good color to collect. White and topaz (vaseline) are also relatively easy to find. Colors like red, Russet, or Wisteria present more of a challenge. But if you really like a challenge--try for cobalt blue, black or some of the opaque colors. This category of collecting can be further narrowed by collecting pieces in one color by a particular company.

2. *Shape*: This is a fun way to collect Stretch Glass! One could collect only bowls, or plates, or vases, etc. This type of collecting can also be more focused by choosing a shape made only by a particular company, or a shape made by many companies but only in a certain color, or a shape from many companies in many colors. I collect candleholders--any color--any company--as long as they appeal to me. Bob collects Stretch Glass cups and saucers--now there's a challenge! Needless to say it's a small collection! Collections of only pitchers and tumblers, smoking items or dresser sets could be difficult (and expensive) to assemble but would be worth the effort in interest and beauty.

3. *Company*: This area of collecting would require the most research--you have to know what company made what! Collecting all the Stretch Glass pieces made by Fenton or Northwood would certainly result in a good-sized collection. For those with little display room, a collection of Vineland, or Central, or Jeannette made Stretch Glass would be ideal.

4. *Any*: This is the type of collector who buys a piece of Stretch Glass because they fall in love with it. It "speaks" to them as they walk through the antiques mall or browse the Internet. Theirs is a collection of "old friends" and each piece usually has a story.

5. *And All!*: This collector is on a quest! At least one piece of EVERY shape in EVERY color made by EVERY glass company. This is a challenge indeed which requires a LOT of display/storage space and an equal amount of collecting patience! How many out there have this collecting goal in mind? I can think of a few!

The primary goal of any Stretch Glass collector, however, is enjoyment. Enjoy the research and learning. Enjoy the hunt--whether it be real or virtual. Enjoy the art of display. Enjoy sharing your collection with friends who visit or by displaying at Convention. And even get pleasure when it comes time to CLEAN your collection--enjoy each piece again as you wash or dust.

Helen Jones

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RATES

\$22.00 Continental United States, \$24.00 (USD) Canada

Contact Bebe Geisler or Phil & Nancy Waln for NEW member prorated rates

NOTICE: If your membership renewal has not been received by the January 1, 2002 deadline, *THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2002!*

SGS Web Site

<http://members.aol.com/stretchgl/>

NOTE: Convention packets will be mailed during January; be on the lookout!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



NEW MEMBERS:

Richard Baker, 2019 Valleria Court, Sugar Land, TX 77479 rb6strings@aol.com
 Steven Tonelis, 330 S. Berks Street, Allentown, PA 18104
 Joan Ziegler, 2960 Alton Drive, St. Pete Beach, FL 33706 georgejoan@aol.com

Welcome Richard, Steven and Joan! We hope that you will take some time to get in touch and "talk stretch glass" with the other members in your areas!

UPDATES:

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 Robert Turk 585-344-2840
 Phil & Nancy Waln wan2@email.com
 Doug & Johanna Williams note spelling!

Please add the above changes to your Member Directory



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of SGS member, Suzanne Burke of Leesburg, Florida on 5 October 2001 from cancer. Her husband, Arthur, tells us that she left quietly and peacefully. Arthur also added that "most of our Stretch Glass is displayed in my living room so I can look at it and remember good memories of our trips to the conventions."

Those of us who shared these times with the Burkes at convention will, too, look back with fond memories.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK – Jan Reichling

JRStretch@aol.com



The start of a New Year always brings freshness, hope, new plans and goals, and yet, I treasure the holidays and the closeness of my family. *Somehow*, my immediate family of 36 (locally 36 with 12 more in Massachusetts, totaling 48) gather and celebrate the weekend before Christmas. This allows all other obligations for the holidays to be met with very little hassle! Of the 36, 13 range from 1 year to 18, 12 of these being under 11 years old. We gather around 11 a.m. and chat while enjoying an assortment of wonderful homemade snacks. Soon the kids can't stand it anymore, so they get to open their presents; then we all sing carols and the kids tell stories. By then dinner is ready and we eat until we are more than content. After that, the kids are required to watch the adults open their gifts, then more play time. Lastly, it is dessert time! It is a long day with brothers, sisters, kids, nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews....you get the picture. We have been doing this for many, many years and it gets better every year. The kids, especially the younger ones, nearly burst with excitement. It is so wonderful! Hope everyone's holidays were "warm and fuzzy!"

Long before January, or even the holidays, activities were beginning to escalate for the 2002 Stretch Glass Convention. Some of last years successes are being repeated...the member auction and the wonderful "Welcome Receptions." All that excitement of seeing one another again, catching up on news, meeting new folks, the Stampede, and that food!! Such good friends are indeed welcome more than ever in our lives! We hope you can join us in Wheeling for the 2002 Convention!

On another front, the Society's application for Federal income tax-exempt status has been granted by the IRS! Our official designation is 501 (c) (7) exempt. The application was completed with information and assistance from past and current officers. This task required a bit of time to read the publications and, I must say, the IRS was great about responding to questions.*

*[EDITORS' NOTE: Jan did a remarkable job of tackling this assignment. She downloaded forms and instructions off of the IRS website, made phone calls to the IRS, to former and current officers and board members, and hunted down records and financial reports. She is a "Can Do Lady!" We are very indebted to her and grateful for her hard work and perseverance.]

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS



**South Florida
Depression Glass Club
28th Annual Show & Sale**

February 2 & 3, 2002

New Location!
War Memorial Auditorium
800 N.E. 8th Street
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Early Buyers Preview Sat. 9 - 10 AM
Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM
Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM

Regular Admission: \$5.00
Preview Admission: \$10.00
(50¢ off with this card)

Directions:
Rt. 95 N to Sunrise Blvd. East,
turn South on US 1 for 2 blocks

Information:
954-985-1120
trainmon@bellsouth.net

Snack Bar • Door Prizes

CHICAGOLAND'S 30TH ANNUAL DEPRESSION ERA GLASS SHOW & SALE

**MARCH 9TH & 10TH, 2002
SATURDAY, 10AM-5PM
& SUNDAY 11AM-4PM**

CONCORD PLAZA'S
MIDWEST CONFERENCE CENTER
401 West Lake Street
Northlake, Illinois

Admission: \$6.00 per person \$5.00 with this card – Limit 2
FREE PARKING

20-30-40 Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 856
La Grange, IL 60525

E-mail: Glassclub@aol.com
Website:
<http://www.20-30-40society.org>

Renninger's FLORIDA announces their next *Extravaganzas!*

JANUARY 18, 19 & 20 and February 15, 16 & 17

Mount Dora, Florida

for additional information visit their website at:

www.RenningersFlorida.com

2001 A COSTLY YEAR FOR SHIPPED STRETCH GLASS!

"It was packed in newspapers and a grocery bag! No peanuts or bubble wrap. They charged me \$12.00 to mail it! It's really a lot more than the money. It's the fact that the piece is destroyed, it was beautiful." These are the words of SGS member, Steve Brisbine, after he opened the package of the wonderful Aquamarine, "Sheffield" vase that he won on eBay.....and paid a premium price for.



Dave and I recently received another email from SGS members lamenting the same experience. They had "just received two very rare and large items of carnival/stretch glass that the seller had poorly packed loosely in the same box. Needless to say, they arrived in about a hundred pieces. When they started out they were an **Imperial Double Scroll White Console Bowl and a matching Candlestick!**"

What they wanted to know was whose responsibility was it to file the insurance claim. "In such cases, does the buyer return the broken pieces for a refund with the seller filing the insurance claim? Is this the standard and fair way to handle broken pieces? Or, Does the buyer file the insurance claim and wait for 6 weeks for the refund, if it ever happens?"

What we advised them was to immediately contact the seller and let them know of the damage. Inform them that you will be returning the items in the original packing materials and box (may have to put everything into another box) and tell them that you expect a full refund of the price

of the items plus the return shipping. They will need to go to the Post Office to pick up a claim form and will have to provide proof of value of the items (such as a copy of the eBay auction sheet or bill-of-sale) and provide the receipt for the insurance. Once they have completed the form and given it to their P.O., the P.O. will probably need you to sign the claim too, since the damage occurred in shipment to you.

We, too, had an item purchased just before the holidays from eBay arrive in multiple pieces! It was one of Northwood's large footed bowls—and we didn't have this one! We were a little hesitant to make the bid initially because in the seller's eBay "feedback" there was a negative comment regarding a dispute over a refund. All of the other comments were positive, so we decided to follow through. The seller was upset that we sent the package back to him because he claimed that the Post Office was responsible from the time the package left his possession and that WE would have to file the claim!! We explained to him that the Post Office from which the package was sent had to settle the claim and HE was the one with the INSURANCE RECEIPT and proof of value!

When we arrived home from Florida, an envelope was waiting for us containing the claim form for us to sign and return to the seller. He marked us as the recipients of the payment of the insurance claim. As of the date of this writing, we have not received the payment; however, settlement of a claim usually takes several weeks. So, the moral of this story – BUYER BEWARE!

If any other members have bought or sold items either on-line or through the SGS Seeker/Seller classifieds and have experienced in-transit damage, please let us know what procedures you followed in either filing your claim or getting your money refunded.

It is a sad commentary about some people who can be so negligent or inexperienced, to cause us all to have to pay the high price of losing a piece of our American glass heritage.

Collectors.Org, an Internet-based collectors organization, has asked us to query you on your opinions on antique malls. Their purpose is to provide feedback in the form of a specialized on-line newsletter for antique mall dealers and managers. It is hoped that these newsletters will be helpful to these individuals in responding to the needs and wishes of their customers. The following is their request:

"Over the past 10-15 years malls have been a great place for collectors to find those special editions to their personal collection, often being able to easily see the offerings of dozens or even hundreds of dealers in a matter of an hour or two, and often find items at very reasonable prices.

In recent times the Internet seems to be replacing some of this special relationship between collectors and many of the malls. Collectors may find it easier to simply go up on their computer and locate a great variety of material related to their collecting area without leaving their home. But it does have drawbacks, like shipping costs and not being able to physically see or handle the item...and in our opinion, is a lot less fun! It's almost too easy and takes away the challenge of the hunt.

As collectors, we would like to hear your opinions. Are you still loyal to frequent visits to antique and collectibles malls in your area or during your travels? What are some things you would like to see mall managers do differently that would be helpful to you, the collector, personally? If you were a mall manager....put on your creativity cap....what 1, 2 or 3 things would you do to directly appeal to your particular collecting area....things that would be embraced by yourself and your fellow collectors? Is there any major area that you feel antique malls, in general, are "doing wrong?"

Please let us hear from you by e-mail: Info@collectors.org or by writing to: Collectors.Org, 18222 Flower Hill Way #299, Gaithersburg, MD 20879."

MORE HAND DECORATED STRETCH

by Jan Reichling

My glass buying activities have dramatically lessened for a while, but I was excited about October's Newsletter and wanted to share another perspective; Imperial's Wheel-Cut Handled Servers—especially the marigold ones. I love marigold and cuttings....always have, always will!! When I bought a Fenton marigold pitcher (Plate #271) with the cobalt blue handle, my heart began pounding!! What elegance! Not only were the colors breathtaking, but the cutting just added to the overall beauty. Somewhere cutting and glass became a twosome for me, especially when I began to collect Westmoreland's cased and cut glass from the same time period as Stretch Glass.

For reference, I have used *Imperial Glass*, by Margaret and Douglas Archer, 1978 and have used my own terminology to describe the designs. As Dave Shetlar mentions in *American Iridescent Stretch Glass*, page 81, stretch glass was not a term used by Imperial, but the glass was often represented with *Ice*, *crizzled satin*, *satin iridescent* and *bright iridescent* descriptions. If you have Archers' book, take a few minutes and look at the pages that contain what we would now refer to as stretch glass and read the descriptions. I know that Imperial published many catalogs and I do not have them, but I encourage any of you to identify those servers below with the correct Cut Number!

Whatever "cutting" technique (the terminology cutting, engraving and copper wheel cutting are alone topics for clarification according to skilled workers) that the glass company used, be assured that all decorative cutting required study and skill and was not learned overnight.

Charles West Wilson states in his book, *Westmoreland Glass*, "...at the Westmoreland Glass Company, the glass to be decorated is lowered to the upper edge of a copper wheel, like tools to be sharpened on a farm grinder, and the glass cutter views his work through the glass. In some instances, tiny wheels are used, from the size of a pinhead up to 2 inches. Sometimes a design could require 50 interchangeable wheels to arrive at the right shading and sharp outline."

I recently found a 6½" bowl (1¼" high with a base of 3⅜" and a very polished pontil). Think of a small dessert bowl; the glass itself is brilliantly clear and very high quality. The base of the bowl is clear, but the upper portion of the bowl is a light yellow/amber. One half inch of the rim of the bowl is gold with an embossed pattern. But the most striking feature of this bowl is the "engraving." Leaves that are made up of petals that measure 1/32 to 1/16 of an inch with wisps of lines finer than sewing thread. The overall design is five garlands. Each garland has a center flower with eight petals (the center of the flower is "clear-to-cut" meaning that the center is cut down through to the clear glass) and continues with leaves on each side to connect to a gorgeous hanging, 3-petal flower. Except for the center of the flowers, the shading of the engraving is consistent and even on each garland. What detail and consistency!

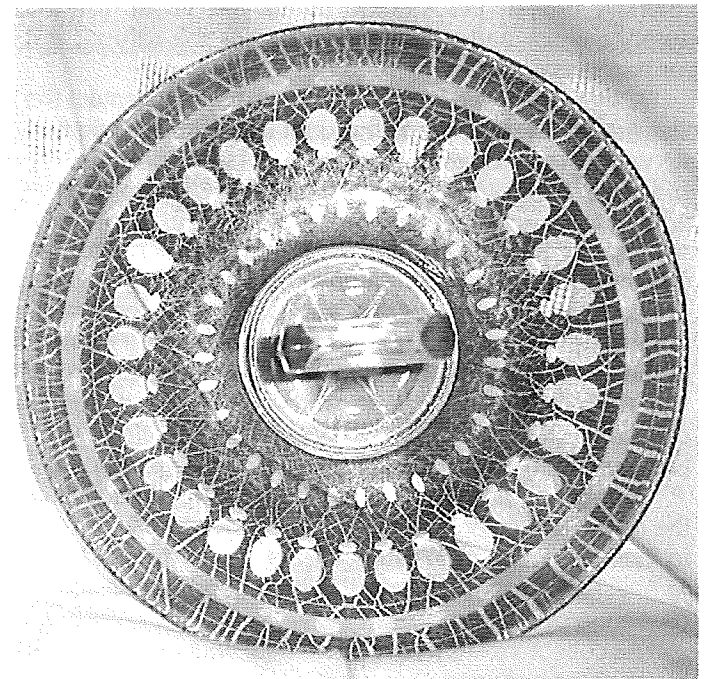
I found this bowl on the lower shelf in a locked display case; it was very dirty. I saw the engraving and that little bowl sent my heart pounding! Well, I bought it (\$10.00), brought it home, washed it, and got out my magnifying glass! Instinct told me the quality of this bowl with all the gold, color, quality of glass and engraving was worth checking. There on the bottom pontil, smaller than the eye could see, was the word "Hawkes," known for some of the highest quality glass made! My imagination kicked in and visions danced in my head.... what went with it, was there a master bowl, or something else? Guess I will have to do some research.....

Back to Stretch Glass. Please note that the cuttings on these Imperial servers are wonderful. Think of yourself as a skilled engraver, standing at the wheel, meticulously creating these treasures. Hats off to all those workers and those who have kept them safe through the years. Enjoy!



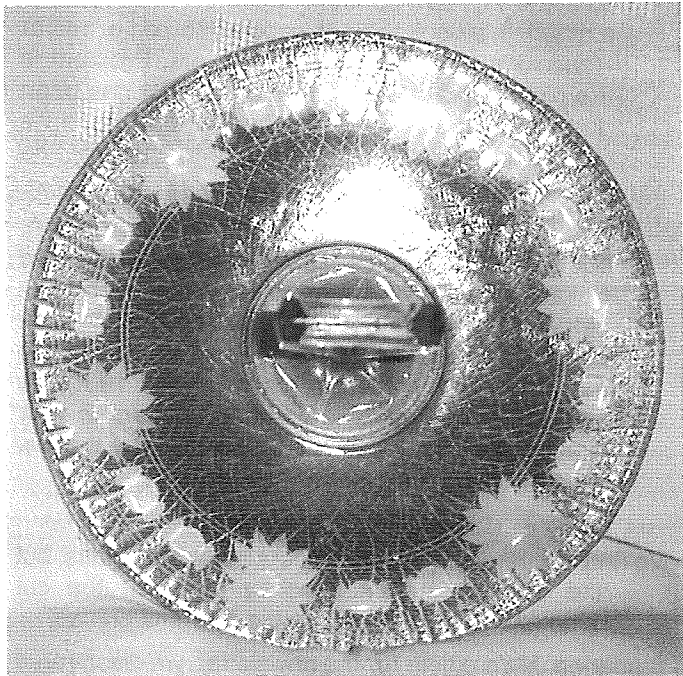
1. **Cut #12**, pictured in black and white on page 93 of *Imperial Glass*, by Margaret and Douglas Archer

Pictured is a flat handled server (I have another identical except it is cupped). Very obvious are the "balloons." Next to the edge is a ring of multiple lines encircling the "balloons." There are clear (cut-to-glass) ovals with lines and more ovals (not clear-to-cut) connecting to form the balloon-like design. I have this server in Rose Ice (marigold), Blue Ice, (smoke) and Iris Ice (crystal) iridescence.

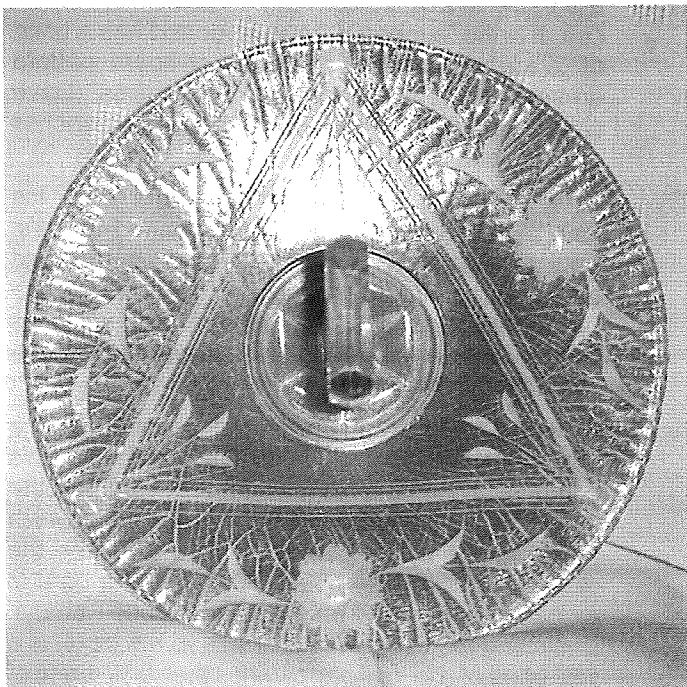


2. **Cut #30**, pictured in black and white on page 93 of *Imperial Glass*, by Margaret and Douglas Archer
Six, very pointed, 12-petaled daisy-like flowers encircle this server. The centers of the flowers are star-like and clear-to-cut. Between each flower are two, clear-to-cut circles with smaller engraved

ovals. The "connecting designs" are three, 2-line circles around and through this design.



3. **Unknown Cut #** - A triangle formed by five lines, two narrow, one wide, then two more narrow, creates a unique design. At the tip of each corner is a clear-to-cut circle. On each side of the triangle, is a floral design; an 8-petal flower with spreading leaves.

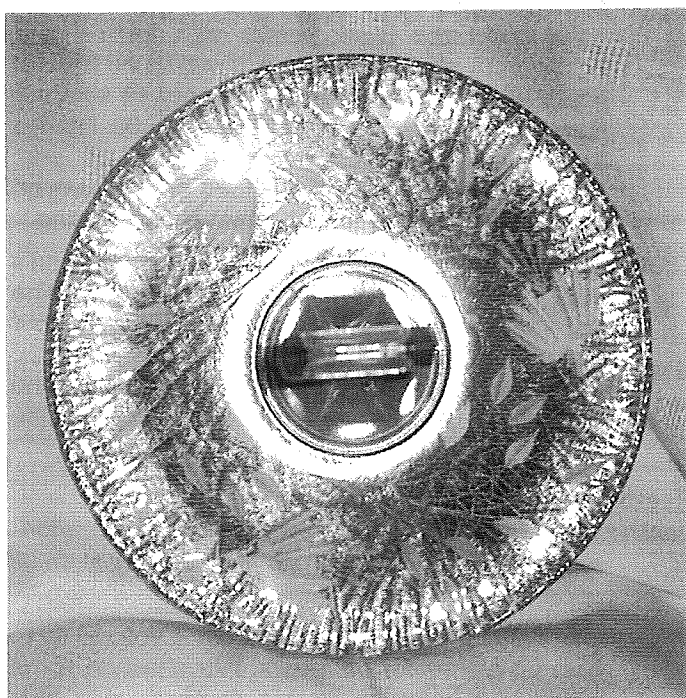


4. **Unknown Cut #** - Three large, hanging flowers adorn this server. The petals have a slight curvature similar to a chrysanthemum. Each flower base is an

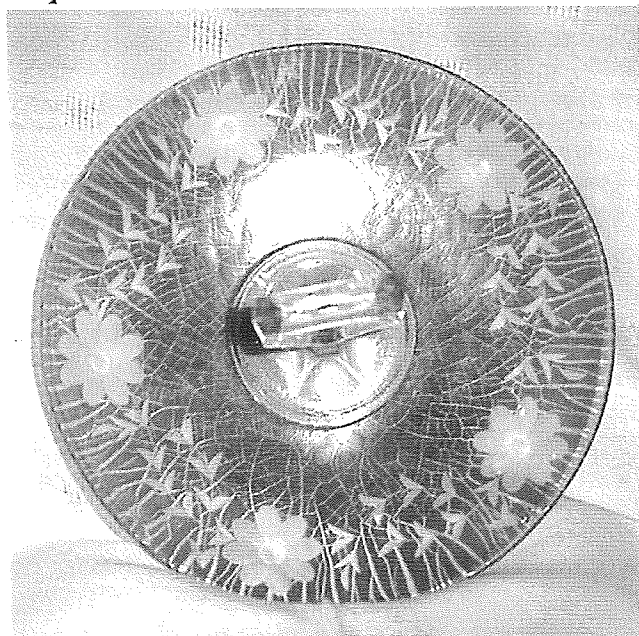
8-sided star with the petals surrounding all sides of the star. Three stamen protrude from each flower. In between the flowers and "connecting" are sprays of leaves.



5. **Unknown Cut #** - Again, three hanging flowers, fuchsia-like, with five protruding stamen grace this server. The six-petal flowers are composed of vertical thread like lines. The center horizontal petal is made up of the same thread-like lines. Springs of leaves connect to each flower.



6. **Unknown Cut #** - Five, 8-petal flowers with clear-to-cut centers encircle this slightly cupped server. The flowers are made up of thread-like lines. Two rows of 2-petal leaves connect to the flowers.



MEMBERS' DECORATED STRETCH

Photos sent in by members are shown on this month's color page. We have added a couple of our own, too.

From Alan Perry and Bob Trevino of TX

Alan and Bob sent two pictures of decorated stretch glass. Alan states both examples are in excellent condition with little, if any wear, as the decorations were fired on. Thanks to the both of you.

The blue comport is identical to Plate 573, Northwood's #637 [Ed. Note: Tall-footed Comport]. It has a rim of hand decorated black scrolls with leaves and blossoms in green and orange. It was found several years ago in an antique mall on Hwy. 19 south of New Port Richey, FL. The cost was \$45.00. I asked for a senior citizen discount, but didn't get one. Because the decorations was fired on, it shows no wear or flaking. The stretch effect is outstanding

The gold decorated Topaz comport is again Northwood's #637 in a shape similar to Plate 570. The decoration consists of two sections containing four blossoms with swirls of leaves, branches and buds. The two sections are separated with gold swags and cascades. Again, the stretch is excellent around the rim.

From Jack Targonski of IL

Jack sent us [EDITORS] a question regarding the short-footed, Topaz comport via the Society's email address--

I seem to remember reading somewhere that you will try to help ID pieces for members. I've attached some views of a vaseline stretch compote with blue

enameled flowers on the rim. The seller said he was "almost sure" it was a Northwood. I bought the piece because I like it, but I do collect Northwood, so that would be a bonus. The closest I can come to a match in a book is Northwood's #655 on p. 148 of Heacock's, *The Wheeling Years*. Problem is the picture is a drawing from an ad that has been decreased in size to fit the book's format, so it's really hard to tell. Any info would be appreciated. Thanks.

Jack, your piece is definitely a Northwood Topaz comport, #655 (correct, not pictured in *American Iridescent Stretch Glass*). We have not seen this decoration before. It could be one applied by another decorating company or some amateur could have decorated the piece of glass in the 1920s, a common past-time. The painting appears in your pictures to be well executed but is not one that we have seen on other Northwood pieces.

From Dave and Renée Shetlar of OH

Dave and I generally don't buy decorated stretch glass, but like Jan are mesmerized by many of the cut decorations—particularly on the Imperial pieces.

In preparing Jan's article for the newsletter, we discovered that we had two handled servers with designs not covered by her. Neither has a Cut Number that we can find, so if anyone has documentation on this information, we would be grateful if you let us know.

The first server, in Rose Ice (marigold), was purchased off of eBay. We had never seen this design before and are trying to acquire as many different ones as we can. It is the "cupped" (fruit) server and has a band of 1/2"x1/4" rectangles in a checker-board pattern around the rim. There are three "dragonflies" (Dave calls them) with garlands of small, leafed branches around each of the insects.

The second server is in a wonderfully dark Blue Ice (smoke). It has four gracefully stemmed flowers. Each flower has 16 petals with oval centers and along each stem are groupings of slender leaves. Both servers' designs are produced using fine lines with no clear-to-cut areas. We suspect the wheel-cut technique was used.

Another piece that we have with cut decoration is a Lancaster comport which is not typical for this company. It is in Iris Ice (crystal) with very delicate iridescence. We suspect it is the same mold which produced the flared comport (Plate 487) and the cake servers (Plates 503 & 504), but the bowl is reshaped into a straight-sided, cone shape. Encircling the base (foot attaches to the bowl) is a 1 1/2" band of shallow, narrow lines then a 1/8" band of deeper, narrow lines. Around the rim are six, 8-petaled flowers (or stars) with three short lines emanating from between each petal. Separating the flowers/stars are groupings of five, vertical 1/8" bands.



Alan Perry and Bob Trevino, Texas



Alan Perry and Bob Trevino, Texas



Jack Targonski, Illinois



Jack Targonski, Illinois



Dave and Renée Shetlar, Ohio

News/Technical Information --

New Member Profiles

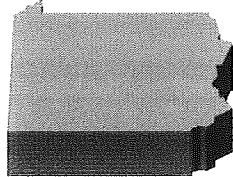
By Jan Reichling

Well, as I promised or threatened, I emailed all the new members from the January, April, July and October 2001



Newsletters. Thanks for the responses. Please keep them coming. Here are some of the ones I received.

Barbara and Richard Kish of PA



Richard and Barbara have been interested in stretch glass for many years. They bought quite a bit when their children were very young (35 years ago) and after a few accidents, some resulting in breakage, they packed it away in boxes. Now, after

all that time, they have unpacked the stretch and are enjoying the beauty of it again. They are planning on attending the SGS convention and are looking forward to meeting everyone, seeing some beautiful stretch and maybe adding to their collection.

Thank you for writing, we look forward to your convention visit. 'Northwood Stretch Glass' will be the focus at this convention. You will see some beautiful glass.

Jack Targonski of IL



When I was old enough to sit at the table, my mother served tea in two coppery colored cups with grapes and leaves on them. They were in the kitchen cupboard for years, but eventually migrated to the attic.

Fast-forward forty odd years and I'm cleaning up my Father's estate, including a huge box from the attic full of glass. Much of it went to charity, but I kept anything I felt was old. Amid some colored depression glass, crystal and clear pressed glass was three/orange coppery bowls, six sherbets and of course, the two tea cups. As I examined them, I wondered what the "N" on the cups' bottoms might mean!

Fast-forward another three years and I'm taking a short workshop course on antiques and collectibles at the University of Illinois. The instructor, an antique dealer from Chicago, discussed online sales and I began to scan eBay. Somehow glass became my prime interest. I've always felt that I wanted to dabble in antiques when I retire and moving old furniture at that point is not what I'm interested in. Next came a few (foolish) purchases [Jack, we all know what you mean] and then some books. I discovered that what I had inherited consisted of a marigold Fenton Acorn bowl on an amber base glass, a marigold Fenton Thistle bowl, a (ginger ale?) Imperial smooth rays ice cream set with great iridescence and I found out just what the "N" meant. Wow!! This stuff comes in blue and purple and green and red and.....[Sounds like Jack got hooked!!]

In the process of researching carnival, I discovered

stretch glass. While I haven't acquired a great deal of it, I do find stretch glass to be attractive and fascinating. I'm particularly pleased with a Northwood compote in vaseline that Dave Shetlar was kind enough to ID for me.

That was over two years and 400 pieces of glass ago. Some if it is opalescent, some depression and a few pieces are stretch. The vast majority is carnival and of that, most is old. When first confronted by the 3000+ pieces of carnival available on eBay at any given time, I was overwhelmed. I decided to limit my collection to almost anything but plates and bowls. That left vases, pitchers, tumblers, rosebowls, candleholders, breakfast sets, table sets and, and, and.....I've also gotten a few bowls.

I have a 15' by 16' dining room that has plate rails. They are full. I have constructed some kitchen shelves so that I can reclaim my kitchen table from all those cream and sugars. I guess a curio cabinet is in order to clear the dining room table. I just need to find one in which I can mount a blacklight for the vaseline.

I suppose that I'm more mercenary than some, but I see this obsession as an investment. I plan to sell what I have collected after I'm through with the 9 to 5 grind. Sure is a lot more fun than watching stocks on the financial page. However, my two Grape and Cable punch cups are in my will.

Jack, thanks for sharing your great story.....sure sounds like fun and the bug did bite you!!

Diane Rohow of MN



I'm a newbie to the club since March, but not to collecting glass. I exclusively collect Fenton glass (all kinds) and began in the late '60's.

My only decorated stretch piece is the Lemon Tray (Plate 283) like the one you mentioned in your very interesting article.

Recently, I attended a Fenton family signing event and had my 2001 Aquamarine SGS souvenir piece signed by Don Fenton with his name and 2001, so I think that's pretty special [we do, too, Diane] I'm delighted to have the 1994 Red Stretch commemorative [SGS 25th Anniversary souvenir] (Plate 833) which was hand signed by Frank Fenton and dated. It's one of my luckiest eBay auction finds and most favorite pieces.

Thanks, Diane, for your input. Also in Diane's letter were several questions that you will find responses for in the Q & A section of this newsletter.

Frank Sereno of IL

I enjoyed the seminar at the NFGS convention! [Dave's presentation on the Fenton Florentine Line]. I haven't purchased too much stretch glass yet, because at this point I'm buying so many different things (vaseline, Burmese, mulberry, covered animal dishes, etc., etc.), I don't know if I'll ever get to the point where I concentrate on just one thing.[You're certainly not alone in your "collecting style," Frank. We believe it is nearly impossible to collect just **one** thing! At least your collecting seems to stay pretty much within a particular "area".....GLASS. Thanks for writing!]

The Kindness of Strangers

by Darlene A. Johnson

Phillipsburg, Kansas

In November of 1998 I was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma-type Cancer. We were told that I was only going to live about 2 months. Kevin (my husband) and I were the only ones privy to this information but we did let the family know that things were not good. I was given three chances. The first was chemotherapy and radiation. The second was the chance to get into an experimental drug group and the third was a stem cell transplant. More than likely I would never have the chance of a stem cell transplant.

I was lucky enough to get into the experimental drug group. This drug would be given with my chemotherapy. I was told that I would have all the chemo side effects--weight loss/gain, nausea, hair loss, extreme tiredness and the lot. We didn't care--it was a chance for life. I think my family realized how grave it was when they saw the release for the experimental drug--it stated that we would not hold them responsible in case of death.

What does all this have to do with stretch glass? Well thanks to the chemotherapy, I had the attention span of an ant. I couldn't concentrate on a ½-hour long television show to save my life. I have no idea what I attempted to read. I COULD look at my glass. It gave me hours of entertainment because of the special glow that only stretch glass has. The colors gave my mind a chance to wander without losing focus too much. I did have to be careful handling it because the drugs had caused me to lose some feeling in my extremities and I was concerned that I would drop it.

My family wanted to do anything to help--and there wasn't much to do except watch me go through everything. I honestly think that most illnesses are much harder on the people around the patient. I just sat around and tried to save energy.

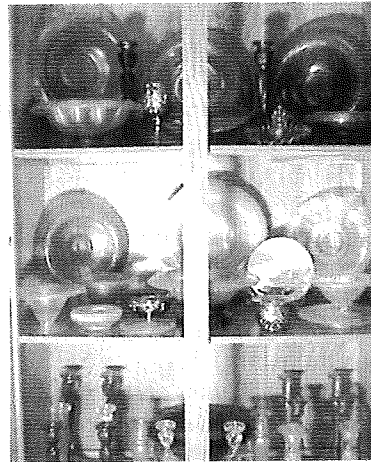
My dad was in Omaha a couple of months after my diagnosis. I was at the point in treatment that they thought they were doing some good, but no real hope was yet being given. Dad was in Omaha partly to report to his side of the family there (we have tons of relatives in Omaha). He and my uncle decided to get away with another friend for an afternoon of antiquing.

They went into one shop that they had been in numerous times before. The owner of the shop was aquatinted with both my dad and uncle. He was a high-end dealer of art glass (dad always commented on him being "very gruff"). While looking around, dad spotted a piece of stretch glass and immediately thought of me. They started discussing my situation and dad said he was surprised at the genuine interest that this man had of what was going on with me. I had never met him but he was quite concerned. The vase was reasonably priced so dad didn't even ask for a discount. He bought it and the next week I got it in the mail, it was a Pink, US Glass #310 Vase (page 152, plate 745 in THE BOOK).

Dad called me a couple of days after I received the vase in tears. I finally got him calmed down enough to talk and what he had to say really amazed me. It seems that he got a letter in the mail that day. It was from the antique store owner in Omaha. He had used the address on dad's check to write him and return the check. He wanted dad to give the vase to me as a gift with hopes of a complete recovery. Dad was blown away. I was in tears. A man who I had never met, who was always remembered as being "gruff and stand-offish," was a giant teddy bear with a heart of gold!

That vase is still one of my favorite pieces and gave me a giant lift. Anytime I was feeling down and pitying myself I had only to look at that piece of stretch glass to know that there are still people in this world that care no matter who you are.

Three years after diagnosis and 2½ years of chemotherapy, I am an amazement to the medical institution. I am cancer-free and hope to



stay that way. I always knew that if something happened to me, at least my glass and the memories it gave me, and my friends, would still be out there loved by another. Never question the healing powers of stretch glass.

[Editors' Note: We first "met" Darlene when she began telephoning us with her questions about Stretch Glass. She then progressed to emails and we have "talked" via the Woodland Chat line.

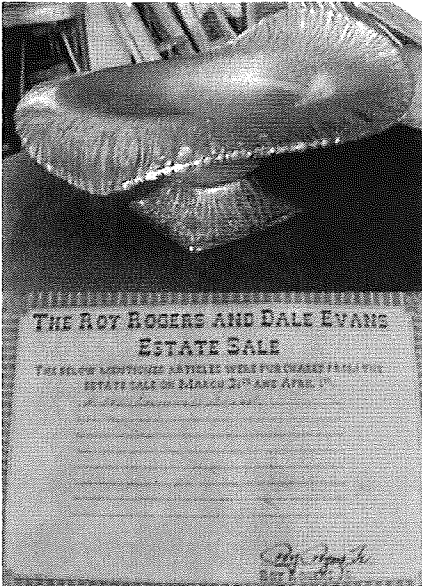
Darlene "soaks up" information as if she were a sponge. We don't know where she gets all of her energy, but she is certainly living her life as fully as any

one could ever hope to].

Celebrities Collect Stretch Glass, Too

by Renée Shetlar

While perusing eBay last spring, I came across an interesting listing under the "stretch" category. I kept an eye on the auction just to see who would be bidding on this unique offering. What was being sold



was a nice Northwood #605 (square foot with tree bark, see Plate 564) comport in blue. Not so unusual you say. Right, until you saw the provenance provided with the item. Shown in the photo (below) is the document showing that this stretch glass comport was from the estate of the late Roy Rogers and Dale Evans!

An excerpt from the auction description says: "Guaranteed a vintage piece. COMES

with 'Certificate of Authenticity' stating this came from the estate of Roy Rogers and Dale Evans and it is signed by 'Roy Rogers Junior'!!! Don't miss this chance to own a personal piece of this American Legacy!"

After the auction had ended—at well over \$300, I noticed that the 'buyer' was an acquaintance of ours from WWW.CGA—the Internet's only web-based carnival glass club—Woodsland Carnival Glass Association.

I quickly e-mailed them to offer congratulations and to ask permission to mention the auction in the SGS newsletter. I also added: "WOW! Wish we had known they [both the buyers and Rogers & Evans] collected stretch glass sooner! We would have hounded them into joining the SGS! LOL." Their response back was: "We will wait anxiously to see it in person. Ann is an old cowhand herself and has a complete collection of the Fenton anniversary Celeste stretch pieces—so it was a perfect match. She worked on a dude ranch in Colorado in her younger years."

So, there you have it; even celebrities collect stretch! Now, who among you is going to get Martha Stewart to use some stretch glass on her tv studio set instead of all that 'common' jade green stuff? ©

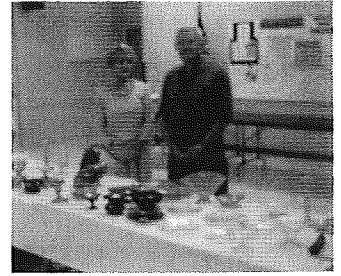


IN THE LIMELIGHT!

assembled by Renée Shetlar

This past September, Fred and Bebe Geisler of Saint Augustine, Florida made a presentation to the **South Florida Depression Glass Club** in Hollywood, FL (Ft. Lauderdale area). Lynda Randolph, who joined SGS when Bebe met her at a carnival glass meeting last year, asked them to do the program. Here's their report.

We think it went over quite well; we took examples from the various companies and gave a little history. Everyone came up afterwards and looked at the glass. We had two new pieces, one probably European, just for telling differences. Had a short "tips lesson," explaining things like -- if you see dolphins, it's Fenton, if you see tangerine, it's Fenton, "tree bark" means Northwood, etc.

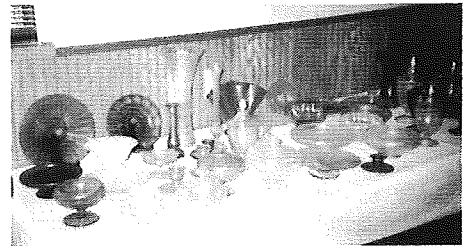


One person had brought a nice Adam's rib compote for show and tell that her husband had bought at a garage sale! She wouldn't sell! We left our cards, and don't know if anyone took membership forms or not.

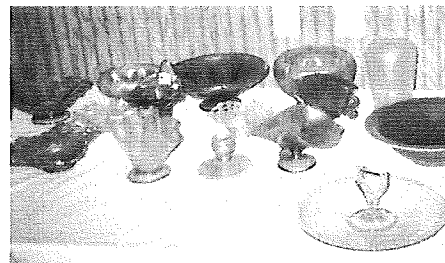
The group, who meets monthly, really is interested in all sorts of glass and does shows several places around Florida.

On Sunday, the 11th of November, 2001, the **Fenton Finders of Wisconsin, Chapter Number 1** (of the NFGS) met and had a program coordinated by Chuck and Jan Bittner using the presentation materials provided by the SGS. The **Fenton Finders of Wisconsin** is an experienced group as far as glass making and Fenton glass is concerned. This

group has visited the Fenton factory many times during their conventions. As a whole, the group enjoyed the video—many who had been on the factory tour have



not been able to observe glass making "close up and personal." The video presented this insight to them. All of the members also enjoyed the picture album of the 1996 Dolphin Collection. As part of showing the video and album, Jan Bittner laid out many materials on Stretch Glass, including

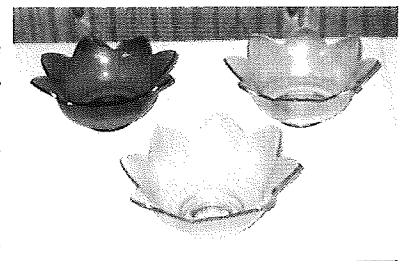


the SGS Newsletters and also provided a handout of some of the slides pertaining to the differences between Carnival Glass, Stretch Glass and Fenton Stretch Glass colors.

The group also

assembled a display of 75 to 100 pieces of Stretch Glass, examples of Fenton as well as other manufacturers with very few duplicates were included.

One of the members, Mike Getchius



[former SGS member], has a very nice collection of Stretch Glass and is very knowledgeable on the subject. He carried through on the presentation by explaining the differences between manufacturers and also how the same mold can be made into many different pieces of glass. He also talked about various colors and mold shapes used by the different manufacturers.

During the presentation, a question came up that no one in attendance felt comfortable answering, so they sent it on to us. Look in the Q and A section for this very good question [obviously posed by people who are quite familiar with glass!].

Jan Reichling will be "on the road" again in February with the **Second Collector's Market**. The same event she participated in last year representing the SGS. No formal presentation is made, but Jan will be available to answer questions about Stretch Glass and the Society. As she did last year, she will provide examples of Stretch, of SGS Newsletters, the flyers and whatever else she can think of. It's a good way to gain exposure for the Society; thanks Jan!

In March 2002, SGS members, Sharon and Bill Mizell of Silver Spring, Maryland will be the featured banquet speakers for the **WWW.CGA's** third annual convention. The convention will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina from Wednesday, March 13th through Saturday, March 16th, 2002.

Bill and Sharon's talk is entitled **World Wide Tumblerland** which will include examples from their 900+ collection of carnival tumblers from around the world. No doubt, some of those tumblers will be Stretch! Maybe they'll be willing to give us a recap of their presentation at the SGS convention in Wheeling!?

**Q&A From SGS Members
& More
by Renée and Dave Shetlar**

Q: [Question posed during the presentation on Stretch Glass made at the **Fenton Finders of Wisconsin** meeting in November] One of the questions that came up was pertaining to the "dope." Is the same "dope" used on all colors of stretch glass and is it the same as that used on carnival glass?

A: We don't think we will be revealing any company secrets by saying that in our experience (while observing the production of our club souvenirs on numerous occasions) we discussed with Frank Fenton and Jim Measell this very subject. What we learned was that, in most cases, the elemental materials—the iron and tin salts and other ingredients—are basically the same in all formulations of the "dope." What differs is the particular quantities of each substance and yes, that does differ somewhat depending on the color of the base glass. Another aspect that causes the iridescent coating to appear different from one piece to another is the technique and/or number of applications of the spray.

As far as whether the "dope" is different between stretch and carnival – NO, it is the same materials. The ONLY difference is that stretch glass is returned to the glory hole which causes the glass to expand. Since the "dope" does not expand, it "breaks-apart" creating the characteristic stretch marks. Occasionally, carnival and other iridized glass will appear to have stretch marks (usually along the rims of plates or bowls), but otherwise is the typical "shiny" surface elsewhere. This is generally caused from the "dope" being a bit more concentrated in those areas or by slight re-shaping of the item (such as crimping) while the glass is still very hot. Generally, these are considered pleasing accidents (by stretch collectors).

Q: Hi there! Your latest "Newsletter" was very enjoyable. I couldn't help from wondering if the Northwood #631 opaque white plate (with trim) fluoresced under black-light? Sincerely, Bud A.

A: Bud is referring to the white decorated plate shown on the color page of the October SGS Newsletter. Since neither Dave or I have actually looked at this plate (or any NW opaque white item) under a black light, we can't say for certain what it would do. However, we would predict that it would, in deed, "fluoresce" as would any white surface when lit with a black light—you know, even a white cotton shirt fluoresces! What we think you really want to know is—would it GLOW? We suspect that it would not have the same glowing appearance of "vaseline" glass that contains small quantities of uranium.

We'll bring a piece of opaque white to convention if someone wants to bring the black light!! Maybe we can "test" other colors as well. Hmmm.

Q: I have a question I've wondered ever since receiving my welcome packet from the SGS. The emblem has me wondering why an embellished hand-drawn plate containing a wild flowers pattern is the official emblem of the club when the definition of stretch glass is "little or no patter?" I don't mean to step out-of-bounds and do appreciate all that Rose Preznick has offered to the education of stretch and carnival glass, but wonder if it may add to the confusion of the definition between mostly patterned carnival glass and mostly unpatterned stretch glass. Diane R.

A: Thanks for your question, Diane; others have probably wondered the very same thing! The drawing that was adopted as the official emblem or "logo" for the Stretch Glass Society is an example of Imperial Glass Company's stretch line that has a wheel-cut surface decoration probably added by the decorating department. This decoration is not considered a *pattern* in the same way that we define the term on carnival glass which is molded into the glass. This is a treatment similar to that used by Fenton in producing the "Cut-Oval" decoration. (See Jan's article on Decorated Stretch in this issue). Besides, can you visualize the logo as an "un-embellished" stretch plate? We have tried using such a drawing on our personal collectors' cards and it really looks more like a badly blood-shot eyeball! © The stretch effect in a one-dimensional drawing just doesn't look right visually. No doubt, Rose Preznick discovered that for herself when selecting her drawing for the Society.

Most collectors of stretch and carnival consider a pattern to be defined as a molded, integral part of the glass. The SGS accepts minimal pattern in considering any piece as true stretch glass—especially if the company itself placed it in a category of its own. Examples of this would include Fenton's twin-dolphin, "Laurel Leaf," and some optic patterns—diamond, curtain, some rib and ring—(according to Frank Fenton—these patterned items were included in their Florentine [stretch] Glass Line). Imperial's "Floral and Optic" pattern, items with panels (which occasionally also have impressed star bases), some simple twists and swirls as in some Imperial and Northwood, Northwood's "Tree Bark" footed items, Diamond's "Adam's Rib" and ringed pieces, and U.S. Glass' 310 and 314 Lines and their open-work items.

We realize that we included several items in **American Iridescent Stretch Glass** that the SGS would not consider true stretch glass—but then the book was not produced for the SGS. It was put together for collectors. See Plate 250—the "Cornucopia" candleholders, Plate 290—the "Plymouth" basket, Plate 292—the "Big Cookie" basket—all of these probably should have been placed in the chapter covering "carnival glass with stretch effect." These pieces are considered by us and the SGS as "cross-over" pieces.

Q: [Also from Diane] I was also wondering how the surprise birthday party went for Paul Miller in May? Did I miss a mention on that? I don't know him, but through the SGS request, sent a card to celebrate his 90th year. Hope he and all who attended had a fun time.

A: Goodness! We had an up-date all ready for the July newsletter, but with all the convention news and pictures, absolutely ran out of space! Thanks for the reminder!!

Paul Miller Day Declared

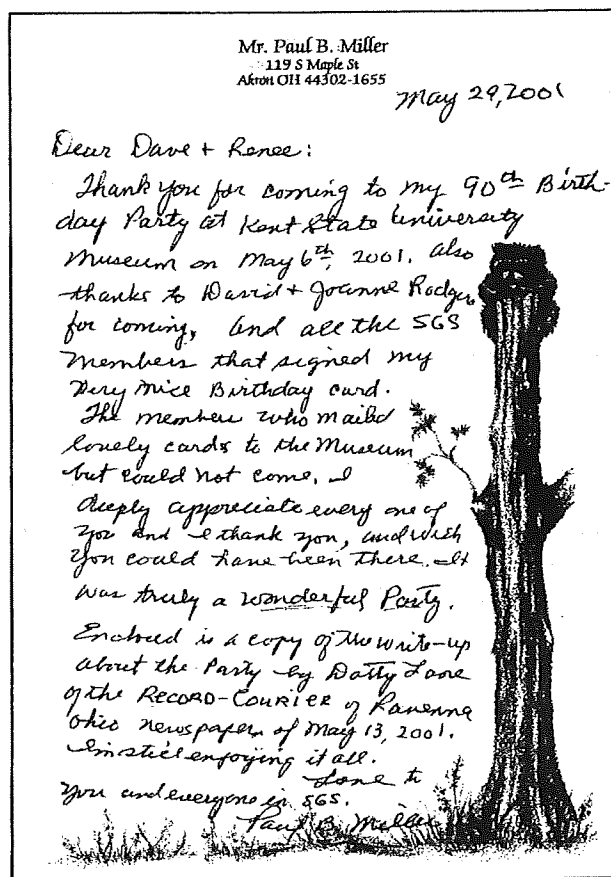
As reported by Dotty Lane of the *Ravenna Record-Courier*, May 6th, 2001 was proclaimed by Kent, Ohio Mayor John Fender as *Paul Miller Day* during a reception held in honor of Charter SGS member Paul Miller's 90th birthday. The reception, held in the atrium of the Kent State University Museum, brought some 125 family and friends from the glass and antiques community.



Paul, along with his partner, Jabe Tarter, donated a collection of exceptional glass (some of it Stretch Glass) to the KSU Museum in 1985. This contribution was the first major gift the museum had received after it opened.

Paul was known as the "researcher" of the team of Tarter/Miller. Jabe Tarter, now deceased, wrote a syndicated column on glassware and antiques for the *Akron Beacon Journal*.

Below is Paul's thank you to all SGS members who sent cards wishing him well on this special occasion.



Convention 2002

The Holiday Inn Express is located at Exit 11 off of I-70 (just east of Wheeling) and is situated on the south side of the interstate (see diagram in October's NL). They are ready, willing and able to take your reservations for the May convention. Be sure to ask for the Stretch Glass Society block of rooms which will guarantee your room rate...be sure to also let them know if you are planning to bring your pet/s. There is a one-time \$10 per pet fee charged! You will have better results if you call the hotel directly rather than going through the Internet or the "800" number. Their local WVA number is: 304-547-1380.

RESERVATION DEADLINE - APRIL 1, 2002

We will not be coordinating any official off-site activities, so if you are interested in touring any of the local museums or antiquing, it will have to be planned by yourselves. We hope that everyone will discuss their plans with others attending so that groups may go, either together, or "convoy" style. See the October NL for ideas of some really interesting things to do. We will also provide some information on area antique malls and shops.

For additional information on activities in the Wheeling area, contact the **Wheeling Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-828-3097** or on the Internet at <http://www.wheelingcvb.com/>.

For attendees arriving Wednesday to set-up for the *Stampede* (room probably not available before 1PM) or to check-in your auction consignments, there will be an "Early Bird Reception" around 5PM in the sales/display room. You may also set-up your sale tables from 7-9:45AM Thursday morning. The *Stampede* begins at 10am! Look for details in your convention packet.

After a full day of buying, selling, trading and talking glass, the "official" Welcome Reception will be held Thursday evening from 6-7PM. If you would like to help provide some of the goodies for either reception, please contact Arna Simpson ASAP (at 301-926-2276 or via stretchglassociety@columbus.rr.com) and let her know which evening you prefer and what you anticipate bringing.

And, thank you very much!

Come on folks, help us out! Volunteer to **make a presentation**—maybe describe the items that you brought for display: where, when, why you picked up those particular pieces, whatever. Or, maybe you'd like to **lead a discussion** about the changes you're seeing in malls/shops around the country due to the sales and auction sites on the Internet (for example). We have some times available in our schedule Thursday evening after dinner (9-10PM) [*the SGS Board members will not be available at this time*] and on Friday from 1-2PM. If you are interested in participating, please let Joanne Rodgers know RIGHT AWAY by contacting her at 216-226-5388 or via stretchglassociety@columbus.rr.com.

SEEKERS AND SELLERS

Stretch Glass Bought and Sold

Bill Crowl

1500 Avery Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

304 - 422 - 5042

Unusual Shapes and Colors
One Piece or a Collection

SEEKERS

Bud Ashmore
6150 Crittenden Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46220-2306

Northwood #620 black base, as marked on underside!

Marian Skedgell
245 Painter Hill Road
Roxbury, CT 06783
mokedge@earthlink.net

Black glass base, 3½" diameter for Fenton bowl #647, Plate 108. I'll pay shipping.

Keith Younker
620 Mill Creek Lane
Jasper, IN 47546
kyounker@psci.net

Amethyst/Wisteria dolphin-handled server—the SGS 1998 club souvenir!

SELLERS

Gary Young
2109 Wembley Place
Oviedo, FL 32765
407-971-1877
gyoung100@cfl.rr.com

1. Fenton Tangerine Mellon Ribbed Comport, 4"base, 10"diameter, 4"high \$145
2. Fenton Tangerine ½-lb candy jar, 6 sided base, 9"high (Plate #218) \$125
3. Fenton Tangerine 6-ruffled compote, 6 sided base, 5"high, 7 ¼"diameter, 3"base \$95
4. Vaseline with gold decorative pattern on edge Cheese and Cracker Set, 10"diameter, has 1/8" chip on edge \$50
5. Vaseline with gold decorative pattern on edge footed comport, 3"high, 7 ½"diameter \$38
6. Vaseline with gold decorative pattern on edge Sandwich Plate, 10 ½"diameter \$45
7. Vaseline Sandwich Tray, 11"diameter \$38
8. Northwood #659 Russet ½-lb candy jar, 9"high, 3 "diameter (similar to Plate #590) \$55
9. Northwood #643 Russet bonbon, 6"high, 5½"diameter (similar to Plate #592) \$55

Buyer pays shipping and insurance, all reasonable offers considered.



We Wish All A Very
Happy And Successful Year
For 2002!

