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STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

January 1990

President's Message

January 2, 1990

Winter 1989 arrived with a vengeance to most areas occupied by our members. For me, it was difficult just getting out to Christmas shop, much less to go "antiquing". The temperatures are now more moderate so leaving the house is less of a challenge. I look forward to the January flea markets and shows.

Several weeks ago I had a phone call from Berry Wiggins in which he asked that the following warning be passed on to members:

When cleaning your "black" stretch, treat it gently. Unlike the other colors, which seem to resist damage no matter how hard you rub, the finish on black stretch may be removed if you rub too hard. Berry found this out from personal experience.

Dave Richardson's "Glass Collectors Digest" has been the source of several queries regarding SGS membership. As we have suspected, there are more of "us" out there who are unaccounted for. We are currently working on an ad to be placed in one or two antique publications before convention.

(President's Message continued)

As we add new members we must provide them with more information. So, "old timers" please put together tips and information for the next newsletters. It may seem like old stuff to you but not everyone has had the benefit of fifteen years of SGS newsletters and conventions.

Our 1990 Convention will be in Indiana, PA., on May 3, 4 & 5. Note the change from May 2, 3 & 4. At the last convention members voted to return to the Thurs., Fri., Sat. format rather than Wed., Thurs., Fri. More details appear later in this issue.

As we enter the last decade of this Twentieth Century, may each of you have good health, good friends, and good "finds" to look forward to.

Sincerely,

Joanne
Joanne Rodgers, President

Stretch Glass Society Officers.

President: Joanne Rodgers

Sec'y./Editor: Mildred Bicksler

Vice Pres: Martin Stozus

Treasurer: John Miller

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

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph J. Weishar
1921 - 1989

It is with sadness that we report the death of Joe Weishar on Nov. 21, 1989. Joe was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Degenhart Museum in Cambridge. He was the Owner of Island Mould and Machine Co., Inc., of Wheeling, W. VA.

When the Stretch Glass Society held it's convention at Oglebay Park, Wheeling, Joe and his family entertained the group with a tour of his Mould shop, explaining to everyone just how glass moulds were made, and we were privileged to see his vast collection of glass on display in his private museum. Everyone in the group certainly enjoyed and appreciated his gracious hospitality and learned a lot about how he made moulds in his shop.

He has enjoyed many years of mould making and has made them for more customers than can be counted. He will be greatly missed by many.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife, Louise, and to all of his family.

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Also, word was received by Jabe Tarter that Edw. St.Clair, brother of Joe St.Clair of Elwood, IN., passed away Nov. 11, 1989. Edward was affiliated with Joe in the making of paper weights and glass novelties and after the death of Joe St.Clair, Edward worked with his nephew, Joe Rice at "The House of Glass" in Elwood.

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Joanne Dolby of Lambertville, MI, sends us the following:

At one of our local estate sales I spied a large 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ x3 $\frac{1}{2}$ light amber stretch glass bowl on a table filled with lots of other glass and china. It was a color that made it almost look dirty next to the sparkling cut glass. The price was fourteen dollars, a cheap price for such a big piece so we bought it. At home I set it up on a plate rack and imagine my surprise! It was beautiful, the inside color had turned almost to a golden aurene color and the delicate pinks and greens caught the light and made it exquisite! Later my friend and I went to Cleveland's Coliseum Show in a small town called Richfield Center, OH. We spent six hours there and saw some Stretch but they were pieces I already had so didn't buy any but there were some other "Stretch Glass" pieces that commanded a very high price. If you have guessed Steuben Glass--you are correct! These pieces were indeed beautiful. If by chance you have the book "Steuben-Seventy Years of America Glass Making" there are two incredible examples of stretch glass on the back cover of this book, a large plate in gold aurene and one jack-in-the-pulpit vase in blue aurene.

(Joanne's letter continued)

In collecting glass as a hobby, there are other avenues open that are just as interesting. Finding a piece is great but researching a piece is just as rewarding. I have spent many happy hours trying to find out more about each piece. This is almost as enjoyable as finding the piece in the first place. This researching is very educational, it seems like the more you learn, the more you want to know.

There are many interesting articles to be read. One publication "The Daze" which was a complimentary copy to me, had an article by Anne Geary called "Vases, vases, vases". In this article she showed her expertise in using her glass collection to its fullest potential. She told how seasonal flowers look great in special vases and has special colors she used at different holidays. A very interesting article.

Another special article was written by David E. Richardson, publisher of the Glass Collectors Digest. (He was our speaker at our last Stretch Glass banquet in Marietta, Oh.) In his publication he called this article "Tour de Glass". He, his wife and their three sons spent their vacation riding their bicycles thru Maryland, staying at Bed and Breakfasts on the way. They toured the Chesapeake Bay Peninsula and were delighted to find a treasury of glass in shops and private homes. This was a most interesting article.

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Joanne also wrote the following: Happiness for me was finding a beautiful iridescent red 11" stretch glass vase. It has a tall classic shape and it might be new. It is signed "Poschinger" on the bottom. Don't know if he made it or whether the name was just signed. Any ideas??

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Following is a letter received by Paul Miller in Nov. 1989 from Dr. James Measell who is a professor in the Dept. of Speech Communications and Journalism at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. Dr. Measell has written several books on antique glass - one was Greentown (Indiana) Glass and another on Findlay (OH) Glass with co-author Don Smith. Letter follows:

Dear Paul: The first Northwood book, at least in manuscript, will be completed very soon and the printer is working on the first half of the color plates. I've been going through boxes of letters to Bill Meacock, many with photos. It was worth the search as some unlisted articles turned up.

Please let me know when the SGS will be meeting in Indiana, PA. I have mid-May in my mind and I want to be sure I schedule no conflicts. Incidentally, I'd be glad to do a talk for this group, (no charge, as I'll be bringing Antique Publications books).

Sincerely,

Dr. James Measell

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Following is the full page story that appeared in The Indiana Gazette (PA) on Saturday, July 28, 1984. Since our Convention is there this year we thought it might be of interest to new members.

Glass plant flourished as top industry in area

By CLARENCE STEPHENSON

Gazette Contributing Writer

Glasses, vases, candy dishes and many other items made of glass in colors ranging from white to pastel pink, blue, green, amber or, occasionally, red, are found in many Indiana homes today and in other places throughout the United States. Some people know and recognize such glass treasures as "Indiana glass," but there are probably others who have Indiana glassware in their homes without being aware of their value and significance. People have been known to pay high prices for glassware at auctions and flea markets, thinking it to be made in West Virginia or Ohio, when in reality it is Indiana glass.

The story of Indiana glass began on Jan. 1, 1892 when a group of Indiana leaders gathered in the office of attorney and former State Senator George W. Hood to consider a proposal by Mr. Nevill, a visiting glass expert who had patented glass molds which he claimed would reduce the labor required and increase production by a third to a half.

Mr. Nevill urged the erection of a factory to manufacture glass in Indiana. He felt that here he would not encounter the antagonism of labor unions which in the larger cities had opposed his labor-saving ideas.

The result of this meeting was that \$12,000 was immediately pledged to the stock of a company. The Indiana Board of Trade shortly afterward visited the West Penn Glass Company, then under construction in Blairsville. Upon returning to Indiana, additional stock to the total amount of \$35,000 was pledged.

The company was formally organized Jan. 28, 1892, with the following directors: Harry White, W.B. Marshall, Griffith Ellis, Thomas Sutton, John S. Hastings, H.W. Wilson, and Delos A. Hetrick. Harry White was elected president and the authorized capital stock increased to \$50,000.

By Feb. 17 it was announced the factory would be located on the old State Experimental Farm (at what is now the parking lot adjoining Miller Stadium). Incorporation as the "Indiana Glass Company" followed on April 14, 1892.

In May the contract for a frame building 80x219 feet with an iron roof, was given to John S. Hastings -- to be completed by Aug. 15. A new railroad siding was put in by J.R. Caldwell and J.S. Hastings. A 130-foot-deep well provided water.

Production began Monday afternoon, Nov. 14, 1892, following a speech at 2 p.m. by Judge Harry White. Afterward citizens were invited to view the plant. The first superintendent was S.W. Vandersaal. He was suc-

ceeded by Griffith Ellis for about a year.

Things did not go well at first. By 1894 the company was in debt and had to shut down. A meeting of the stockholders was held in July and at that time it was learned that only \$34,800 of the capital stock had been paid in. The cost of erecting and equipping the factory had been \$29,000. Operating expenses until the time of closure were almost \$14,000. Indebtedness was about \$11,000. Manufactured glasswares on hand were valued at \$2,200 and accounts receivable were \$700, leaving a net indebtedness of \$8,100.

A committee was named to recommend plans for liquidating the debts and resuming production: J.W. Sutton, Griffith Ellis, S.L. Loughry, John Hastings, and J.H. Young. Their report was gloomy. The glass factory, they said, was "a failure financially" and it did not appear possible to procure more working capital. Further, because "many similar plants are idle and can be bought for a small fraction of their value" it was doubtful whether it could be sold "for even its present indebtedness."

The committee recommended leasing the plant rent-free for a year with the option of buying at the end of the year for the amount of accrued indebtedness. This was adopted by the stockholders, but the works continued to be idle for about two years.

Finally in February 1896 Harry Northwood leased the plant. He was a successful owner and operator of two other glass plants, and imported from those plants a number of skilled glassworkers. The name of the company was changed to Northwood Company. Production resumed on March 25, 1896. As plant manager, Northwood employed Thomas E.A. Dugan who had come from England to the United States. Under Mr. Dugan's skilled management the glass business in Indiana prospered during the 19 years that he lived here.

In February 1897 Mr. Northwood was considering moving the plant to Blairsville. A newspaper item at that time reported that he had requested the Indiana Borough Council to install a fire hydrant at the plant some six months previously, but council hadn't bothered to answer. He was free to leave, Mr. Northwood asserted, because "I have not yet purchased the Indiana plant." This "persuasion" motivated council to install the fire hydrant.

In March 1897 the plant shut down for a week while a new furnace was installed and it was reported:

"Manager Northwood is well satisfied with the arrangement of council for a fireplug near the works, and now comes to the front with another proposition which bears the earmarks of fairness.

November 7, 1989

(From Russell & Kitty Umbraco)

Hi,

We would like to thank everyone for their letters and phone calls inquiring about how we are doing after the earthquake. We really didn't know we had so many wonderful friends (and even relatives). As many of you know, we were without phone service for a number of days after the quake. When we did get phone service, we were not able to call out of our area code but could receive incoming calls. For a couple of days it was really strange not to have a phone. But we were so lucky that is all we lost. So many lost everything.

After the earthquake, we have found that we have so many unsung heroes- all of the people who are working 24 hrs a day to put the Bay Area back together again- actually it is everyone working together doing what they do best. In our society we are so spoilt when we lose a service like the phones, we are lost. We were lucky that more people didn't die or were hurt. Really there is a lot more damage than the massive damage that you see on tv. As with every major disaster, every single person in the Bay Area especially the Santa Cruz Area has been effected by the earthquake in some way. To see and feel the earth undulate without you having any control is scary. Also during a quake 'luck' is the only thing that saves you or not. We quite frequently sit at the very spot on I-880 that went down also many times at that time of day we have sat on the same spot on the Bay bridge that went down. It is just that day we were going to a CPR class in the other direction. Must say that CPR class saved our lives! But we missed the CPR class, so still must take it before February!

For the most part, most collectors were lucky. But some major bottle and glass collections were lost in the Los Gatos and Santa Cruz areas. The estimated loss of one collection alone would be put around \$150,000 and if all of the miscellaneous items were tacked on probably a lot more was lost.

As for collectors being lucky, many of us learned very valuable lessons with the Santa Rosa quake in the early 70's and the Southern California quakes. First item is- it is a fact in the Bay Area we are in earthquake country so make sure your dwelling is sound with a good foundation. So many places are not properly attached to the foundation or the foundations are not sound.

Next attach your large furniture to the wall studs. An antique store in Berkeley had all of the large pieces of furniture fall over, but the glass just sitting on tables (as long as nothing fell on them) was ok. Actually most glass even survives with minor damage the case falling over, but when you upright the cabinet and try to open the door the glass all falls out and breaks. A Santa Rosa collector discovered what we call

'earthquake stuckum'. I don't know if that is still on the market. What it is, is the material that is used around car windows that seals them. Also I have been told that there is a similar product that is used in swimming pools to seal around the pipes. Plus have been told that roofers use it to seal around pipes. Sorry I don't know any commercial names for the products. Some people use floral clay, we do not recommend it at all, as it dries hard and then removes your surface finish when you go to pull it up. The properties of earthquake stuckum that make it so wonderful is that it is pliable(I have some that we used twenty years ago to stick down the glass and when we packed everything away to remodel, I saved it and now am reusing it- just like brand new). It is easily peeled off the furniture surface leaving no marks(some even after 20 yrs.!). Just put three little dabs on the bottom of the object to be secured and press down and twist is little to secure and you can feel the bond.

Also be sure that all of your pictures and mirrors are very secure on the wall. With large heavy pieces use large screws rather than nails(again in the studs or wood backing not just attached to the dry wall).

With bowls and plates, many have a collar base so the safest place for them is on the walls. Plus they make wonderful decorations- so easy to show off your collection when it is on the walls. Use plastic coated wire(comes in several colors). Wrap around the base ring and allow enough room for a small loop and a small amount excess to twist the wires together. Cut off. Then in the middle of the piece twist a small loop and place around the collar base and twist the wires together. Check it to make sure it is secure and then hang it on the wall like a picture.

Also look around your dwelling for big things such as lamps that can fall on glass or crash into cabinets. Make sure the ceiling fans and lights are secure to the ceiling, several came down in the quake. Because of the electrical wires that is really dangerous. Just take time to look around your dwelling and think about the what would move if this room were moving. What objects would hit each other to cause damage. Are all of the cabinets locked or secure- magnetic catches open easily and don't protect anything. Heavy objects should be at the bottom of bookcases not at the top. Just think and use common sense.

Again most collectors in the Bay area didn't lose too much because most are very careful. But the loss in antique shops was another story as they can't really secure items down. Again luck and location were the determining factors as to the losses.

*I thought I had
had this off to you earlier...*

*Happy Stretch Glass Hunting,
Russell & Kathy Limbros*

December 4, 1989

Hi,

Hope you are enjoying the holiday season. Thought I would take just a minute to let you know that we are thinking about the Stretch Glass Society and all of the members in this holiday season filled with love and happiness. We enjoy the holiday season and the special time that everyone takes to socialize either in the form of parties or of writing Christmas cards.

Do have a bit of bad news as Sherman Hand passed away the week before Thanksgiving. We shall really miss him. He hasn't been too well for a long time. Although his main love was carnival glass, a lot of his research fell into the stretch glass area also.

Also Joyce Middleton one of our SGS members was in a terrible traffic accident right after the earthquake in October. She probably will not be released from the hospital till after the holidays. We are all praying for her return to good health. We used a lot of Dave and Joyce's glass when we did our book.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend we put on a huge display of stretch glass for the Trail's End Antique Show and Sale in Modesto. Had a great time. Haven't done a show in Modesto before. We got so many nice people. In the Valley they really have a lot of antique clubs and groups that meet regularly. Many of the collector's didn't know about stretch glass and we enjoyed the chance to inform them. Our display was just as you walk in the front door with windows in the back. Put a good share of the display on shelves in front of the windows and it drew a lot of attention from the public on the street. It was fun, but I felt like I was in a glass house. The people out shopping would come by and look in the windows right at you and look at the glass and study it for awhile. Then you could see them talk a little and someone would shrug their shoulders and then look around for the place to pay and come in. Walk over to the booth and stand and talk about the glass and how pretty it was. Then kind of walk around (many I don't think had ever been in an antique show before) and then they would wander off to the other booths. The glass just glowed in the natural light from the windows. Most of our glass is kept in cabinets at home and so it was a rare treat for us also to see the glass in the natural light. The show promoters put out a lot of publicity on the display. The response was very rewarding. We had available on the table information on the Stretch Glass Society and about 100 forms were picked up. Hoping to get some response. Many told us that they wanted to send relatives and friends the forms that live in the East.

Hope you have a nice holiday season.

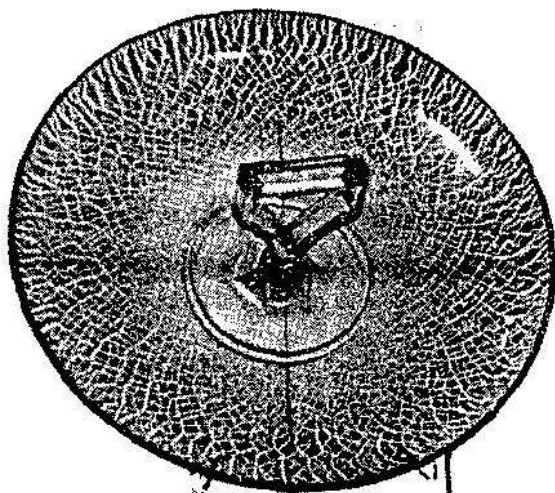
Happy Stretch Glass Collectors
M. P. Allen

Iridescent STRETCH Glass

Rare display in Modesto Nov. 25 & 26

Nov. 25, and 26, THANKSGIVING WEEKEND, Trails End Antiques in Empire will hold its 10th annual Thanksgiving "Antique & Collectible Show & Sale". Hours are Saturday 10AM - 8 PM, and Sunday 10 AM to 5 PM in the new Centre Plaza Convention Center, 10th & K St. Downtown Modesto. Exit Hwy 132 East off the freeway (3 blocks).

This show grows larger every year. Now there are 85 dealers. A new section is being added this year that will contain toys, tools, paper (baseball cards, comics, movie posters), Coins and decanter Bottles and various collectibles of the same nature.



Lenore & Ed Fultz, sponsors have arraigned for "Kitty & Russel Umbraco" authors of the "Iridescent Stretch Glass" book to have a **RARE STRETCH GLASS DISPLAY**. Since 1970 Kitty & Russ have lectured and written about a variety of subjects within the collecting field all over the U.S. Russel began digging for coins in Virginia City and also found old bottles. From collecting coins and bottles, they moved on to carnival and stretch glass and the writing of their book. You can buy your copy of the book at the show and if you smile and say please I'm sure they will be happy to autograph it for you. There will also be some pieces of glass for sale along with the display of their private collection. Kitty and Russ are well informed and will be happy to answer your questions.

This show has something for everyone. It's a good time to do some of your Christmas shopping for that "truly antique" from the Victorian era to the relatively new "collectible".

Food will be available, as well as China and glass repair while you shop. Furniture in walnut, pine, wicker, English style and American Oak. New reference books for that collector on your list would make a great Christmas present plus all that a collector dreams of, glass, china, pottery, clocks, jewelry, primitives, silverplate and sterling, postcards, oriental, bronzes, majolica and more.

There will be a grand prize drawing on Sunday at 4PM. You must be present to win. Admission is \$3.00 (good both days) 50¢ off with the ad you'll find in this issue of Antiques Today.

Come early and stay late. For more information call Trails End Antiques at [REDACTED]

Preliminary information for Convention at Indiana, PA., May 3rd, 4th and 5th. Final plans in later issue of Newsletter.

Location: Best Western - University Inn
1545 Wayne Ave.
(412) 349-9620

Single: \$41.00 Double: \$46.00

Thurs., May 3: Arrive & set-up

Fri., May 4: Show/Sale 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
(Pack up)

Banquet: 6:30 p.m.

Speaker: 7:30 p.m. Dr. James Heasell,
Author of soon-to-be released
Northwood Book.

Business meeting: 8:30 p.m.

Sat. May 5: Sight-seeing at your own
leisure and leave for home.

We will be allowed to bring in snacks, so if you want to bring cookies, etc feel free to do so.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
IN THE

STRETCH



GLASS

SOCIETY

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

Mr.
Mrs.
Miss

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(Complete mailing address)

City

State

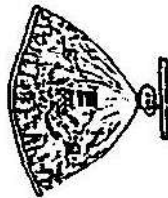
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Dues: \$6.00 Per Family Per Year
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Mail to: John Miller
[Redacted Address]

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