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July 1986 Issue
STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

President's Message
.....

OOPS - Summer almost slipped by me. By separate phone calls from John Miller and Jabe Tarter, on the same evening, I was reminded the Newsletter was past due. Thanks, gentlemen; I had our publication schedule confused with that of another glass club I belong to. I promise to do better in the future.

Since this is my first message, in my first term as your President, I had hoped to dazzle you with news of a rare find purchased for "peanuts". Unfortunately, I spent June and July immersed in completing work for two classes I was taking at Baldwin-Wallace College so glass hunting did not fit into my schedule.

However, I did steal enough time to breeze through two local mall shows where I saw a few more pieces of Stretch displayed than had been brought by dealers to these same shows in the past two years. Are some of our Carnival Glass friends releasing some of the Stretch from their collections? Perhaps we will see increased interest and availability in our beloved Stretch Glass. What has been your experience in availability? Write and tell us.

Those few members who attended the convention in Indiana, Pa. enjoyed their stay. We also got to hear Berry's "base" talk that was cancelled at the 1985 convention because of the photo session. Thanks, Berry.

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(President's Message continued)

Everyone start planning to attend the '86 convention, April 30, May 1 & 2. We want to swap collecting experiences with you.

We are tentatively planning to have the banquet Thursday evening so that the display/sales room can be open Friday evening. (Many pay days fall on the last or first of the month so sales might improve.) We found at the last convention that the public was wanting to come in as we were closing up to go to dinner.

We had planned to hold the '87 convention at Kent, Ohio, so that members could visit the Tarter-Miller glass display at Kent State University. However, in early 1986, when Jabe tried to book rooms, he was told the motels were reserved as much as five years in advance due to Sea World and Geauga Lake Park being in the same area. We are now trying to locate something that would be further away from Sea World, but close enough to get to Kent. If we are open Friday evening, it might be possible to make an excursion to Kent State Friday morning. We'll let you know.

A suggestion was made that an identification table be set up and staffed on a rotating basis by some of our super-knowledgeable members. This might help to increase public attendance. Now if we could only coax more of you members to attend.

Because the SGS scrapbook disappeared after the 1984 convention, we are trying to reconstruct another one. We have convention photos from 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1986, thanks to donations from members.

We also have the following newsletters: 4/74, 7/74, 7/78, 4/83, 1/84, 7/84, all 1985, 1/86. We also have a copy of the By-Laws as adopted 4-18-75. Were they ever revised and reprinted? If so, does anyone have a copy? If anyone has extra copies of missing issues of the Newsletter they would like to donate, please send them to me. Or, if you want to keep your copy, I will photocopy them and return the originals to you. It is unfortunate that ten years of our history has vanished, but perhaps we can pull at least a portion of it together.

Mary Louise Ryan has replaced Alma Mangenau as Secretary/Editor. Please send any news you have directly to her. A newsletter cannot be constructed out of thin air. (This plea sounds vaguely familiar.)

Alma, we all thank you for a terrific job as Secretary/Editor the past two years.

To close, I would like to make a few requests of each of you:

1. Add one new member to our membership roster.
2. Plan now to attend the 1987 Convention.
3. Submit one piece of news or information to the Editor this year (even if it's only on a postcard).
4. Continue to enjoy a safe and healthy year.

Now that you all have your homework assignments, let's get to work. And, if you have any suggestions, on anything, let me know. The mail carrier stops

(President's Message continued)

at 1221 Andrews Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio 44107 every day. It would be a welcome sight to find some news from you among all the junk mail he seems to collect for me.

Sincerely,

Joanne

Joanne Rodgers, President

Editor's Note: Copies of some of the SGS Newsletters are in the custody of the Secretary/Editor. The President has copies which are not in the files and the files contain some the President does not have in her possession. We will exchange copies and information and ask the members for missing copies in the next Newsletter.

Minutes
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The Thirteenth Annual Convention of the Stretch Glass Society was held at the Best Western University Inn in Indiana, Pennsylvania, beginning on Thursday, May 1st and ending with a Breakfast-Business Meeting on Saturday morning, May 3rd.

President Jabe Tarter called the business meeting to order just after 10:00 A.M. with all members attending the Convention present.

The President's first remarks were words of thanks to Mary Henry for arrangements made for the Convention in Indiana by Mary and Bud Henry who live in the area. Mary and Bud had made the preliminary arrangements and the follow-up arrangements were completed by Jabe over the telephone.

The President expressed the sadness of the members at the death of Bud Henry who had made great contributions to the Society over the years. He also told Mary that we were very happy that she had chosen to be present with us at the Convention. The members gave Mary a round of applause in appreciation of her efforts on our behalf. Mary Henry was presented with a glass swan as a token of appreciation. She thanked the members and said she might give the swan to her granddaughter or grandson to start a collection.

The President spoke about the necessity of the members making a written contribution for the Newsletter. Most of the members do not do this. He then thanked several of the members present for their news and information these past few years. One of our Newsletters had no messages except that of the President and the information he had written. Mary Henry, John Miller, Joanne Dolby, Paul Miller, Berry Wiggins and Alma Magenau were all thanked for their participation in writing for the Newsletter. Alma Magenau had made a very special contribution in her stint as Editor and her own written contributions, too. Jabe then suggested that even a list of prices of Stretch Glass in your area (even if you don't choose to purchase them) would be valuable information for all of us, especially in other parts of the country.

The President stated that he had made a decision to procede in an unusual way to seek members to serve as Officers of the Society. So many of the members have

(Minutes continued)

served several terms and various offices for extended periods as members of the Board of Directors and Officers of the Society. The duties of some of the offices and responsibilities of some of the positions are minimal. The President, Treasurer and Secretary/Editor are the persons who have the greatest responsibilities, with the Vice President acting for the President whenever necessary.

The President stated that he had decided to ask members to serve rather than selecting a Nominating Committee because so many had already served.

The President had accepted Alma Magenau's resignation as Secretary/Editor. He also wished to have someone else replace himself as President. Jabe thanked everyone for the two wonderful years he had served as President.

The President asked Joanne Rodgers to serve as President and Joanne agreed. He also asked Mary Louise Ryan to serve as Secretary/Editor succeeding Alma Magenau and she agreed. The President called for a vote and Joanne Rodgers was unanimously accepted to fill the Office of President. Mary Louise Ryan was accepted as Secretary/Editor.

Mary Louise Ryan was a member of the Board of Directors and therefore had to be replaced in this Office. The President called for Nominations. Alma Magenau was nominated and accepted the position on the Board of Directors.

The Vice President, Martin Stozus, and the Treasurer, Joanne Dolby have consented to continue in their respective offices for the coming term.

The President again thanked Mary Henry for Convention arrangements. He thanked Paul Miller for his nine years of service as Editor of the Newsletter. We all owe Paul a debt of gratitude for those nine years. He thanked Alma Magenau for serving as Editor. He thanked Vice President, Martin Stozus, and Treasurer, Joanne Dolby, for their past service and for agreeing to continue in office.

The President again asked the members to contribute to the Newsletter. He did suggest that many of them will attend the ACGA (American Carnival Glass Association) Convention and could report on the presence of Stretch Glass for sale or on display and the prices of same. This is also a possibility for those who will be present at the ICGA Convention.

Alma Magenau told us that Joanne Dolby had written to her about her collecting adventures and sent this to Alma asking if it could be useful for the Newsletter. Joanne then told us about a conversation with John Miller about writing an article for the 'special find' column in the Glass Review magazine. Joanne decided instead to send it along for the SGS Newsletter and it was published for all of us to enjoy. Joanne had some suggestions for topics about which other members could write an article. She thought some members might have interesting tales to tell about how or why they began to collect Stretch Glass and could entertain other members with the story. (Editor's Note: We are going to begin these tales with my story- and I dare anyone to top it.)

Berry Wiggins stated that he believes we need more publicity about the Convention. Ads should be placed in local newspapers about the Society and the Convention. Glass magazines should be given the information. Berry offered to take the written notices to Barbara Shaeffer, Editor of the Glass Review, a monthly publication for glass collectors.

(Minutes continued)

E. Dale Watson of St. Louis brought four new members into the SGS last year. According to plans made at last year's Convention, the member who brought the greatest number of new members into the Society would receive a prize - a piece of glass, of course. The award was one of the High Hats described at length in the January 1985 SGS Newsletter. Jabe told us the story of the man (unidentified since no one now knows his name) who had to leave his work at LaBelle because he developed lung disease. Because he wished to keep his hand in and practice his craft and because he had gas for a furnace on his land he built a furnace and continued his work there. He made the High Hat vases, six or seven different sizes and different shapes at his home. Bill Heacock had believed these could have been made by Blenko but Jabe declares this is absolutely not so. Jabe had first hand information from Mr. Clarence Dettling, a florist in Akron, Ohio for whom these glass pieces were made exclusively. Jabe, as usual, had an amusing story to tell. When Jabe left Dettling Brothers, Florists, for whom he had worked he hid the boxes of the glass vases behind the furnace in the coal room. Two years later Jabe went back there and asked to buy them. When he was told that there weren't any more, he said that he would bet he could find some. They were just where Jabe had left them, behind the furnace. Jabe was successful in purchasing all the remaining pieces. He was even successful in asking for a discount and getting the pieces for twenty cents each. These desirable pieces of glass have just lately come to the attention of glass collectors and occasionally are seen for sale.

The President then canvassed the members to ask how many new members they had gotten to join the SGS this past year. The numbers were not impressive. Everyone was encouraged to keep up the effort to increase membership in our group. Joanne Dolby requested that the newspaper ads for the Convention in the local papers invite the public to attend.

Berry Wiggins said that Ernie Dugan of the Dugan Glass family came by on Friday. He had pictures that were to be given to Mr. Frank Fenton for a souvenir that is to be made. A picture of Mr. Dugan and another of John Northwood are to be used on a souvenir piece or pieces, Berry said that he was interested in knowing if there would be an overrun because to quote Berry, "I want one of those". These souvenirs apparently will be Carnival Glass.

President Jabe Tarter then officially turned the meeting over to the newly elected President, Joanne Rodgers. Joanne thanked Jabe and told him he is a hard act to follow.

President Joanne Rodgers stated that we must settle what we are going to do about the Convention in 1987. We had already planned to go to Kent. However, all the motels in this area are booked up for the coming five years. Jabe had tried to make arrangements at about thirty different motels. He checked motels in the area which would be about twenty miles from Kent. Jabe tried motels in Kent, Akron, Ravenna, Medina, Cleveland, etc., with no success. The nearness of Sea World and the early Spring dates (Apr 30, May 1-3) bring lots of early bookings for vacationers in this part of Ohio. It was suggested that perhaps we could return to Holiday Rockside just south of Cleveland where we were for Convention in 1984. Jabe had not tried this Holiday Inn. Bob Ragan, who was not present at the meeting, may have made the arrangements for that Convention. Toledo was then suggested as a possibility but was quickly determined as a good place for a future Convention.

Jabe reminded us that the reason for choosing Kent was so that the SGS members would be able to visit the Tarter-Miller Gallery at Kent State University. Jabe and Paul have given their enormous collection of some 150,000 or so pieces of

(Minutes continued)

glass to the University. Only one hundred plus pieces of glass are on display in the Gallery. Four of these pieces are Stretch Glass.

Berry Wiggins brought up the subject of an identification clinic at the coming Convention. This is a very popular thing at the Fenton Conventions. Joanne Rodgers added that at the Western Reserve Glass Show or Convention there is an opportunity to have glass identified. Mary Louise Ryan added that at almost all of the many glass shows in the Washington, D.C. area there is the opportunity for the public to bring in glass to have it identified, if possible, by knowledgeable members of the sponsoring group. There it is a tremendous drawing card for increased attendance. People who are not necessarily interested in glass come to get that piece identified but become interested by seeing the glass that is displayed.

President Joanne Rodgers then asked if we should check out Holiday Rockside. It was agreed that it had been a good place for the Convention in 1984. It is about twenty-eight or thirty miles from Kent State and about a half hour drive. Alma Magenau asked if the area of Belden Village had been checked out for motels. Alma told us that there are antique shops in the area and a mall. It is close to the Expressway and therefore convenient to get to Kent and to the Degenhart Museum. The question was raised about notifying local glass clubs in the Convention area so that they could attend. Alma said that there is only the local Carnival Glass Chapter to which she belongs and a Depression Glass Club which has only a few members at the present.

Alma Magenau will check out the motels in Belden Village area for us. Joanne Rodgers will check Holiday Rockside as a possibility.

The next topic discussed was the dates of the Convention. It has been held on the first weekend in May. The suggestion was made to begin on Thursday, April 30 and continue through Saturday morning, May 2. The question was raised about an understanding with the motel or hotel that we would have the display room for specified hours and not have to pack up the glass and leave before the members expected to leave. Discussion arose over the times for public attendance at the display and sale. All day Friday and into Friday evening was suggested. We were reminded that in earlier years there was display and sale on Friday and Saturday, even all day on Saturday and ending with a social event for the members- dinner, auction and even a square dance at one Convention. Even the dates for the Convention came under discussion when one member recalled that for three years the Convention had been held in August. Then another member stated that the original dates were in April following the tradition established when the Society had been founded in Denver, Pennsylvania in April of 1974. Berry Wiggins reminded the group that these dates are kicked around almost every year and there are always reasons why someone does suggest a change in date. However, this first weekend in May has been satisfactory for the most part and by now this weekend is recognized and honored by the other glass clubs as the time for the SGS Convention. It was decided then to stay with the first weekend in May.

The subject of the auction was raised again both as a drawing card for the public to attend and for the members to dispose of some of their glass. The consensus was that there are not enough members in attendance to handle an auction. Also, in many places it would require having a license to conduct the auction. We were reminded, too, that Convention dates were sometimes arranged so that members could go to flea markets and auctions in the vicinity if they were scheduled.

Rose Schleede asked about having the banquet on Thursday evening since most would be arriving then. All day Friday could be allotted for display and sale for the

(Minutes continued)

public. The Breakfast-Business Meeting could be held on Saturday morning. This was agreeable to everyone with definite hours for dinner arrangements, display etc. to be determined in the coming weeks. The following suggestions were made; establish hours more conducive to the public for the display and sale, the need for more exposure through publicity which will stress that glass is for sale and the public are welcome to attend, notify and invite members of other glass clubs, the need for signs to designate which glass is on display and which glass is for sale. These signs should be attractive and uniform, and should be on every table. Suggestions were made for signs to have the Stretch Glass plate logo that is on the membership cards and Newsletter. Calligraphy was suggested for the signs. Posters should be placed inside the motel or inn for the other guests to be made aware of the display and sale.

The President stated again that Alma Mangenau will check out motels in Belden Village, she (Joanne) will check out Rockside and she will also endeavor to find out about having signs and posters made. The President asked if there was anything more to discuss other than the still existing need to find a place for the coming Convention.

The following was finally decided; the banquet will be at six o'clock on Thursday with set-up time arranged for in the afternoon, Friday will be for sale and display beginning at nine A.M. and continuing until nine or ten P.M. with dinner hour at six, breakfast-business meeting Saturday morning closing the Convention. Members will be asked to take turns staying in the display room and allowing others to shop or visit museums in the area. Jabe Tarter has five hundred glass slides from Corning which he could show at the dinner if a speaker is not engaged by the group.

John Miller asked to report on the membership situation. John was disappointed that he had not gotten any new members this year. He had invited people to his home to see his collection and they seemed interested but did not choose to join. The plan from last year to award a special piece of glass to the member who did succeed in getting the most new members was not too successful. John had tried to develop another incentive and asked permission to describe it and have the members vote on it. According to the past figures each Convention four or five new families or members sign up but they do not renew their membership the second year. John said these people seem to be interested at the time but must either lose interest perhaps because they do not have any Stretch Glass themselves or because they do not have continuing contact with members. John felt that if we could encourage them over the hump of the first year, into the second and possibly the third, they might stay as members. Also, John wants to encourage younger members. Stretch Glass is being collected all over the United States and we should have more members than we do. John's idea was to offer - to new members only - for the period of one year beginning now - a two year membership for \$8.00 or a three year membership for the reduced rate of \$12.00 or \$15.00, rather than the straight \$6.00 each year. The President called for discussion. The question of bookkeeping was raised. Berry Wiggins proposed that new members be allowed a two year membership for the cost of one year. Jabe Tarter asked for the current cost of the Newsletter. The President answered that the cost is between \$1.30 and \$1.40 an issue including the postage. The present six dollar membership more than covers the cost of four Newsletters. The Treasurer, Joanne Dolby suggested that these members be sent a letter reminding them that they are receiving the second year membership without further cost to them at the end of their first year. Joanne Dolby has been sending a personal letter to each new member as they join the Society explaining the Society and welcoming them. Each year this has meant about eight to ten letters. The extra

(Minutes continued)

cost for the Newsletters was discussed. John Miller asked if it could be tried for one year. The President asked for further discussion and if anyone else was concerned with the extra cost of the Newsletters for the new members under this arrangement. The President called for a vote and the motion carried.

There was some discussion about maintaining the separate identity of Stretch Glass and not allowing it to be thought of as Carnival Glass. It was suggested that we ask a local Carnival Glass group to set up with us sometime but it was determined that there would be no benefit for the Society in doing this. We should stick to Stretch Glass only and have it recognized as a separate entity. We do not need to recognize Carnival Glass. They need to recognize Stretch Glass. Alma Magenau felt that we must be patient and wait for the new book and price guide to appear and see what happens then to Stretch Glass.

Alma also reminded us that according to plans last year the Fenton Museum, the Degenhart Museum, Russell Vogel song and the North Hill Gift Shop all displayed membership applications for the Stretch Glass Society and not one was taken and returned to us.

Berry Wiggins told us about going to Marietta to see Mr. Frank Fenton and to see Dave Richardson of the Richardson Printing Company. Richardson Printing does all the Fenton books. Berry took a copy of his own book to Mr. Richardson to ask if he would do something with it. Mr. Richardson accepted Berry's book and there will be a new price guide with it. Berry also asked Mr. Richardson about the 'other' book. He wanted to know if and when it would be coming out. (The 'other' book refers to the planned book for which Stretch Glass photographs were taken by a professional photographer during the Stretch Glass Convention last year.) Mr. Richardson assured Berry that this book will be out in February or March of 1987. Jabe reminded us that this book will be on Iridescent Glass, not just our Stretch Glass. Berry added that it will be glass of the 20's, 30's and 40's. Many members agreed that a book on Stretch Glass only would not be a profitable arrangement for a publisher. However the book will have all kinds of Stretch Glass in it. The photographs taken last year were selected pieces that members had brought to the Convention for this purpose. Jabe told us that Mr. Fenton had said Mr. Richardson planned to give the Society the money from the sale of five hundred copies of the book and also five hundred copies for the Society to sell and retain the money in exchange for having used the members glass for the pictures and for the disruption caused by having to take these photographs in the display room during the Convention hours. It was requested that this information be gotten in written form from either Mr. Fenton or from Mr. Richardson himself so there will be no misunderstanding.

The President raised the question of a Convention Souvenir. We must make a decision about it. Do we want Jabe to investigate a souvenir without putting a limit on the cost? Jabe stated that if there is a \$25.00 limit he will not do it. The price would be at least \$20.00 plus and the additional charges for shipping it to him. The profit on each one could be only around \$2.00. Then we must decide whether to give Jabe carte blanche, within reason since Jabe's feeling that the \$25.00 limit would make it impossible this year. Members of other glass clubs related stories about the difficulties in other clubs. Many people are not buying the souvenirs anymore even though some of the clubs are involved in having a series of one item, changing the color for each year. Most of the clubs are antique glass clubs and people are now more interested in spending their money on some antique or unusual pieces instead of the new souvenir pieces. Also, these pieces are not particularly saleable if a collection is to be disposed of for the owner.

(Minutes continued)

Some of the souvenirs could not be sold to members even for cost. Jabe and Berry told a sad story about one club destroying some 4,000 pieces because no one wanted them.

A motion was made to discontinue the souvenirs. It was seconded. The President called for a vote. The motion carried.

Jabe apologized for not having asked for a Treasurer's report. The Treasurer then presented her report which is printed separately below.

The Treasurer, Joanne Dolby, informed us that she had written forty-two letters on behalf of the Society. Joanne replied to every letter she received. When members joined and sent her their dues, she wrote a personal letter with some information about the SGS and welcoming them into our group. The bill below submitted by the Secretary/Editor is for four Newsletters. The IRS chose to take some money from the account because the SGS does not have an exception for a nonprofit organization. The money can be refunded following application for that required status. Joanne needed copies of the By-laws to submit the application. She has also made three or four trips to the Toledo IRS and been given the incorrect forms for the application. Joanne will pursue this refund.

The President asked if anyone has copies of the By-laws. The only copies we seem to have are very old. Does any member know if there is any newer information on the By-laws? Please let the President know.

The President stated that because the old scrapbooks and pictures have disappeared she has started a new one with some photos and negatives given by members. If anyone else has some to give us they would be most welcome.

Past Treasurer John Miller stated following the Treasurer's current report that the balance was considerably less than the amount of money turned over by him at the beginning of the year at the Convention. It was suggested that we do some advertising to increase membership. It was also stated that all advertising is very expensive. The question of raising dues was brought forth. A fee of \$10.00 annually was suggested. Some members felt that this is not a good idea. Some of us are already dropping other memberships because everyone is increasing their fees for membership. In answer to a question the Treasurer reported that last year forty members paid dues and this year twenty members had paid dues so far. We were reminded that there should be income from the new book with our glass pictured in it. Jabe again asked for a letter confirming these financial arrangements. It was decided to wait and see what these financial arrangements will bring into the Society.

There was a motion to adjourn. It was seconded. Motion carried.

(Editor's Note) In a sense I apologize for the length of the written minutes. Minutes are often boring to read. If we reported only the motions made and the votes, which is the theme in all the very modern time management systems, the minutes would be very short indeed. But you would have missed all the discussion points and the flavor of the meeting which was really very enjoyable with everyone present participating. All your comments on anything given to you in the pages of the minutes is welcome by the President and the Editor. Please let us know!

*Treasurer's Report
(Submitted at the Convention)*

Indiana, Pennsylvania

*Stretch Glass Society
.....
Financial Report
.....
5/11/85 - 5/1/86*

*Statement of Operations
.....*

Revenues

John Miller's check 5/15/85	\$ 500.00
John Miller's check 7/19/85	1,510.07
Members Dues paid thru year	222.00
Interest from savings account	<u>83.66</u>

\$ 2,315.73

Disbursements

Bud Henry's florist bill	\$ 30.43
President's phone bill-re souvenirs	5.00
* Stamps for Treasurer's letters (42)	8.80
Secretary's bills re: Newsletters (4)	383.39
IRS withheld from savings account	<u>10.74</u>

\$ 438.36

Balance

\$ 1,877.37

Convention disbursements

*University Inn -exhibit hall, coffee
(exhibit hall \$42.40, coffee \$15.43 & \$20.57)*

\$ 78.40

Balance

\$ 1,798.97

* *Stationery and name-labels donated to Society*

*Joanne Dolby
Treasurer*

(The Treasurer also issued a check for the Breakfast Meeting to University Inn, after this report was prepared. The members each reimbursed the Treasurer for their own breakfast) -Editor

Carl and Rose Schleede share this intriguing
and wonderful-to-have information with us.

In our experience of collecting Stretch Glass, our personal opinions
on Rarity, Scarcity and "Difficult to Find" are as follows:

Rare
....

Shapes

Punch bowls
Punch cups
Tall pink candleholders
Toothpick holders
Iridized opalescent Drapery pattern
Cologne bottles
Perfume bottles
Butter tubs
Dolphin oval comparts (nut dish)
Cups and saucers

Colors

Opaque White
Opaque Green Slag
Opaque Salmon-Slag
True Custard

Scarce
.....

Shapes

Nut sets
Sugar and creamers
Adam Rib pattern
Dolphin candleholders

Colors

Opaque
Vaseline Diamond Optic
Tangerine
Red

"Difficult to Find"
.....

Shapes

Orange bowls
Night sets
Vases (with the exception of fan vases)
Water sets
Signed "Iron Cross" by Imperial
Car vases with original holders
Grape juice pitchers (Brooklyn)
Flower pot and underplate

Colors

Amber
Wisteria
Emerald Green

Of course, we think all pieces of Stretch are beautiful and are treasured by us
as well as the rare, scarce and "difficult to find" pieces, but it is always a
real pleasure and thrill to find something out of the ordinary.

Happy hunting to each and everyone. That choice piece is "right around the
corner". Be there.

Carl and Rose Schleede

(Editor's note-you can fit all this information on a 3 x 5 index card-try it!)

A few pages back I told you that we would begin the "how did you begin collecting Stretch Glass" stories with my own tale. It is very simple. I was born with the surname "Stretch". Now can you top that? Actually, I never remember hearing about Stretch Glass until about ten years ago when I saw Berry Wiggins book for sale at a Washington glass show. Needless to say, I was astounded! How had I lived all these many years and missed this? When I confronted a knowledgeable aunt she very casually said "Oh! yes, I've heard of it." That was all. But then maybe it was because she married into the Stretch family and wasn't a 'native-born' variety like me. Well, I bought the book, read it all the same day and was still in a state of shock because I'd missed this until then.

For a couple of years I looked for Stretch Glass and bought four pieces. I'm not sure that I can any longer identify those first four pieces. Then I couldn't seem to find any more. Several years passed. One day I began thinking about it again and decided to do something again. Where does one start? Why, with Berry Wiggins, of course. I didn't even know anyone else who had ever heard of it.

With Berry's book in one hand and the telephone in the other, I began my search. First I asked the long distance operator to find me the author and publisher, Berry Wiggins, in Orange, Va., as the inside of the book cover states. No Berry listed there. Next I tried the photographer listed on the back in his home town. I think he wasn't there anymore. Then I tried the Printer. Well, this was a real adventure. The local operator there in the printer's town informed me that the printing business no longer existed under that name but the same man was the editor or publisher of the local newspaper. She gave me his name and number. And she added "but don't call him this afternoon because this is the day the paper goes to print. Call him tomorrow." Can you believe this wonderful small town stuff? I was delighted. So on 'tomorrow' I called him. Well, he didn't know where to find Berry but he was around because Berry had been in the newspaper office a few days before. Then the gentleman remembered that his secretary knew Berry's mother - he excused himself and came back with Berry's mother's phone number. At this point even I would have judged myself to be acting strangely to say the least but - I called Berry's mother and tried to explain my whole situation to her. She very graciously said "just a minute, Berry is right here". Well, this story ends and the rest begins when Berry showed me lots of his Stretch Glass collection. I was overwhelmed by it. I had no idea there were so many beautiful pieces and so many different pieces. I began to search with much more enthusiasm.

In 1984 I was able to go to the Convention and be overwhelmed again. The members were so friendly and kind to me, this stranger in their midst. I was so happy to become part of this nice group of people.

My collection is now in boxes, cartons, under beds, on closet shelves like many of you. I am even developing some interest in this Stretch family for the glass and we are all having fun with it.

Mary Louise Stretch Ryan

Send us your story, about how you began to collect Stretch Glass, or why. Please you do. Tell us about the prices in your part of the country. (I saw a pair of bobeches, good condition, yellow and beautiful - for \$65.00.)

Share with us the story of the special piece that pleases you. Anything.

***** If any members have received an earlier printing of this Newsletter -please, please return it to me. My correct address for mailing is P.O. Box 6833, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906. Be sure to use this address for correspondence.

(Comments continued)

We have a very good 'flea market' here in the Washington-Baltimore area every Sunday morning from April until the beginning of November. Lots of my friends are discouraged and feel that there are no bargains there anymore. I seem to be able to spend money each time. A few weeks ago there was a blue Nut Set-master bowl and six individual nut cups in perfect condition for sale for a modest price. The dealer told me that she had it there the week before. It is hard to believe that I missed it and so did everyone else. Very nice to have. Usually I see the nut cups one at a time.

New copies of Sandra Stout McPhee's Depression Glass 111 have turned up in a mall bookstore here. This is the book which has the pages of color pictures with some of the Lancaster Stretch Glass which doesn't get much attention or identification from other books. Please write me if you would like one.

Among the treasures inherited from the last Editor are copies of some Antique Trader newspapers from some years ago. They have very informative articles on Stretch Glass by Russell and Kitty Umbraco. Reading and re-reading them has given me a long list of questions that need answers because they triggered some doubt about what I thought is this or that. So some answers are being sought from the experts for future Newsletters. One of these articles has a picture of the "Brooklyn" pitcher listed among the "difficult to find" items in this issue. There are lots more interesting items that we will try to discuss and report to you about them.

One of the special benefits of a Newsletter like this should be its ability to seek and convey information for and to the readers. Please try to send along some of your knowledge to share. Or if it is your preference, just ask some good questions. We will attempt to find the very best answer for you and the other members.

Since the next Newsletter will not have the minutes of the meeting there will be pages to fill. One thing I am curious about is Stretch Glass pieces with cuttings. Send us a picture, drawing or even a 'rubbing' of the cutting and it will be printed next time.

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.....

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