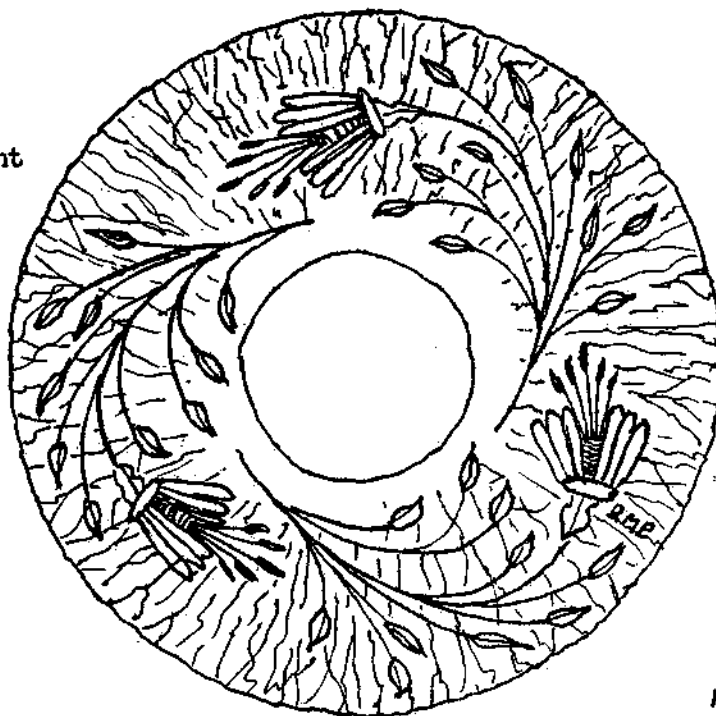


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DENVER. PENNA

STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

JULY 1975

The second annual Stretch Glass Society Convention, held April 17, 18 and 19th, at the Lafayette Motor Hotel in Marietta, Ohio, is now history. It would be very difficult to surpass this Convention, but your Board is working toward at least a duplicate performance. IT WAS GREAT!! The many displays in the different rooms were something to behold. Appreciation is extended to everyone who brought many of their treasures to share with others attending. The writer has no exact number of those attending but it is believed that between 50 to 60 would be a fair estimate.

The hospitality extended the members attending by the Staff of the Lafayette was most gracious and courteous. Our thanks to all of these beautiful people who made everyone feel so at home.

Equally gracious hospitality was extended to us by the personnel of The Fenton Art Glass Company and our especially arranged tour of the factory was just something a little extra special. Our thanks to all of them, the lovely girls who conducted the tours in groups of ten, the artists in the Decorating Department who took a moment to answer questions from the different groups, and to the glass artists who so ably demonstrated their skills in creating the lovely glass.

As for Mr. Fenton - what can we say??? He is the greatest! He arranged with his glass artists to set up a demonstration for making Stretch Glass just for us. He attended the auction Friday evening, and even gave us generously of his time to tell us something about the factory history and Stretch Glass after the Brunch on Saturday. We are profoundly grateful to him for the many hours of his precious time he so graciously gave us, for we know he is a very busy man. His remarks are published in this issue. We saw history being made on April 18, 1975, two hundred years after another historic event took place. That will be long remembered by the members who witnessed the demonstration of the first Stretch Glass being made as it was made in the early 1930's. You will learn something about the early days of toil and the struggles which brought forth a great industry - The Fenton Art Glass Company, Williamstown, West Virginia, known around the world for its beautiful hand-made art glass. Grateful thanks, Mr. Frank M. Fenton, not only to you and Mrs. Fenton, but to all the people who make up the great company that still operates today much as it did in the beginning.

The Convention really got underway with the breakfast which started at 8:00 AM on Friday the 18th. After the breakfast the business meeting took place. All officers were re-elected to serve another year, the exception being that a new office was filled that did not exist before. Mrs. Helen Cooper of Portland, Oregon, was elected to serve as our Vice President. It couldn't have happened to a nicer person. Everyone really enjoyed meeting and getting to know Dr. & Mrs. Ralph Cooper of Portland.

Peter and Jean Eckhardt had written a draft of by-laws for the organization at the request of President Farr. These were read, changes made where necessary, and voted on, approved as changed.

The business meeting was cut short because the room had to be vacated by 10:00 AM. Everyone was on his own from that time until 1:00 PM when we were to meet at The Fenton Art Glass Company, just across the beautiful Ohio River from Marietta, in Williamstown, West Virginia, for the pre-arranged conducted tour of the factory. At 2:30 PM we personally met Mr. Frank Fenton who took us into the factory where his artists were waiting to show us how Stretch Glass was made. A few pieces had been made the day before, as Mr. Fenton said, "To see if we could still make it and had not forgotten how." Only one mold was used for all of the sixty-nine pieces made for us and the artist would shape the piece into any shape that anyone requested. When the piece came out of the mold, an iron rod with a clamp was used to pick it up. Then it was carried to the Chief Chemist who had several bottles of the spray, or "dope" as glass workers call it, which he used to spray the entire piece while it was still red hot. After the spraying it was put back into the glory hole and rotated for several seconds. Then it was taken to the artist who shaped the piece into a flat plate, a scalloped bowl, a deep bowl, a few were not touched so we could compare the texture of the stretch with the ones that were shaped, and a few were swung into vases by the artist after it was taken from the glory hole. This demonstration was very interesting to all the members present and the artist was kind enough to hold the pieces close enough and walk all around for all to see before he took them to the Lehr, or cooling oven.

Several colors were made, including red (ruby), vaseline opalescent (or Topaz), blue, vaseline, and crystal. Each was a gem and a work of art. It was 4:00 PM when the demonstration was over. Mr. Fenton took us upstairs to the Conference Room where the pieces that were made the day before were on display. A short question and answer period then took place. We learned that the pieces contained the stretch effect when they came from the glory hole after being "doped." It was also noted that the stretch effect on the pieces that were not shaped was a very fine texture, while those that were shaped had considerably more of the stretch effect.

The auction took place Friday evening at 7:30 PM. Everyone was present for this, Mr. & Mrs. Fenton were there, and several from surrounding communities came just for the auction. Mr. Joe Presznick was the auctioneer and started the auction. He was relieved occasionally by Mr. Harry Heatwole, our Treasurer. Bidding was brisk throughout the whole evening with prices going well.

The new Stretch Glass we watched being made that afternoon came over to the auction that evening each piece packed in its individual box. The boxes were numbered. Mr. Fenton and his brother Bill, had determined that they could sell the new pieces for \$8.00 each. On a slip of paper a number corresponding to every number on the boxes was placed in a paper bag and after paying the \$8.00 each one was given the opportunity of drawing out a number. The box containing the new Stretch Glass that had the number written on it that you drew was your piece. This proved to be very exciting as most everyone wanted one of the red pieces and there weren't too many made. Your Secretary-Editor drew the first number and was rewarded with a beautiful scalloped red bowl. All of the pieces that remained after every member (husband and wife could each get one) were put on the auction block. It was evident that Mr. Fenton was very pleased to see his new Stretch Glass going for more than the old glass in most cases. Each piece carries the Fenton trademark on the bottom and are truly prized collector's items.

On Saturday April 19th, Mr. & Mrs. Fenton were our guests at the Brunch. Not everyone could be present for this event due to other commitments but we had a very nice attendance and a delicious meal was efficiently served by the Staff of the Lafayette. After the Brunch Mr. Fenton gave his remarks, which follow. Adjournment and farewells took place as many of the members attending had to return to their respective homes. If any of those in attendance took the boat ride on the Ohio and Muskingham Rivers, the writer has not learned of it to date. Hope many of you did just that.

The souvenir, or memento, for this Convention was a small replica of the Liberty Bell inscribed inside the bell SGS-1975. These were in red iridescent glass and were made by Mr. Joe St. Clair of Elwood, Indiana, especially for us. Since there were only fifty (50) of them made, it is with regret that we tell you there isn't any left. They sold for \$5.00 each and this added a little money to our treasury. Your Board will be trying to get a souvenir for the 1976 Convention and there will then be enough for everyone who wants them. The Board is also working on the place to hold the next Convention. More information on this in a future issue of the newsletter.

As stated in the beginning of this article, the second annual Stretch Glass Society Convention would be very difficult to surpass. Your Board is already hard at work trying to do so. Plan to attend next year and judge for yourself. You'll be happy that you made the effort - I promise. God bless you. --- Ed.

Remarks by Mr. Frank M. Fenton before the Convention of the Stretch Glass Society on Saturday, April 19, 1975. Mr. Fenton is President of The Fenton Art Glass Company, Williamstown, West Virginia. We are deeply indebted to him for these remarks and some of the history of his company.

I do appreciate very much being able to talk with you about old Fenton glass, I'd better not call it Stretch Glass alone. I appreciate being able to have lunch with you, to attend your auction last night and to watch how you bought all those new pieces. I should reassure you that one of the questions that is being asked here today is whether we are going to make Stretch Glass in the future. If we ever do we are not going to make the pieces we made yesterday so that you'll know that those are unique and if we ever make Stretch Glass again we will not put that item in the line.

I'm at a loss to know how long to talk to you. I can talk all afternoon. If you can't stand to listen later on, when we turn the lights out, any of you that would like to get a little nap after that piece of pie, why don't worry about it at all. I frequently do this at Rotary meetings. When they show a movie I find myself going to sleep.

Let me tell you that I'm not an expert. You will find that out shortly so I thought I'd let you know that I know it, too. The things that I know about old Fenton Glass come from association with people in Williamstown, from talking with friends and relatives and others that have worked for us; they come from examination of the catalogues and the salesmen's illustrations, but I don't think there is anything I can say for certain about any of it. Much of what I know about The Fenton Art Glass Company before I was born or the time when Stretch Glass was made is hear-say in most cases. It comes often from people who are thinking back 40 or 50 years to say what they remember, and you know how that can change. It is very easy to embellish or to leave out some very important part. So whatever I say to you is just what I've been able to glean, don't take it as from a real expert. Experts are over in the next room somewhere anyway.

Much of what I'm going to tell you about the Fenton Art Glass history, and I do think I need to spend some time on that, comes as a result of information that was developed by Dr. Eugene Murdock, Chairman of the History Department of Marietta College, who is a neighbor of mine.

A number of years ago I asked him if he would write a history of The Fenton Art Glass Company. So Dr. Murdock did and it was just for me. I wanted to know just what happened years ago, and he keeps saying, "When are we going to publish that history?" And I say, "We can't publish that history until we get some illustrations of Fenton glass to go with it because nobody will buy the history as a history, but they will buy it if the glass is illustrated in there." Someday maybe we'll have at least portions of a history. Much of what Dr. Murdock developed came from interviewing old glass workers who worked for us, and people in the community. He taped all of these interviews, dug into the records in the newspapers, and the County records, and a great many places like this. He has done a fine job. Most of what I can tell you I think is right, but still like anybody else you put two and two together and sometimes it doesn't come out exactly where you thought it was going to.

Any story about Stretch Glass, and Fenton, needs to start with my father, Frank L. Fenton. Somebody last night talked about Leslie Fenton the movie actor, and I said, "My father's name was Frank Leslie." Mine is Frank Muhleman. The name Muhleman is the same family of Captain Ed Muhleman that started the Imperial Glass Company, so he was my great uncle, or maybe great-great uncle. He had a number of Muhlemans working at the Imperial until the time that he no longer had anything to do with Imperial. I think they fired all the Muhlemans at the same time, as I understand it. I also have an uncle named Muhleman who worked for many years as a salesman for The Northwood Company. He worked and sold for Northwood until they went out of business. And I'm not going to say what year it was they went out of business - I understand that's debatable also.

My father was born in 1880 in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and graduated from high school there on May 1, 1897. He thought maybe he might be a school teacher but instead went to work in the local glass company as a glass decorator. The local glass company at that particular time was Northwood who was then located in Indiana, Pennsylvania. They didn't stay in Indiana very long, they became a part of the Trust, I think it was the National Trust, and then Northwood eventually moved back to Wheeling. They were succeeded by The Dugan Glass Company, and I believe my father may have worked for Dugan also. But he worked for five different glass companies in the years until he was 25 years old.

Dad had been made foreman of the decorating shop about a year after he started to work for Northwood. In fact, the story that I get, and I have heard it from my father, was that the foreman was somewhat jealous of Dad's abilities and innovativeness and one day when Dad was late for work the foreman fired him. On his way out of the factory he met the owner of the company. I assume that was Mr. Northwood. Dad didn't mention his name, he just said, "I met the owner of the company on the way out of the factory." He said, "Where are you going, Frank?" Dad said, "I've just been fired, I'm on my way out." And the fellow said, "No, you're not." So he took him back and made him foreman. This is the way it started.

There was a man named Harry Bastow, who was a factory manager just like Jacob Rosenthal was a factory manager. Dad admired him very much. Bastow was a man who evidently couldn't satisfy people for very long. So he did a lot of moving. Each time he moved to another factory he persuaded Dad to go along with him and be the foreman of his decorating operation. Harry went to Coudersport, Pennsylvania, and Dad followed him there, I think there was the Bastow Glass Company that was in Coudersport. They succeeded the Coudersport Tile & Ornamental Glass Company, I think that was the name of the company. All these little details - I could go on and on with this but let's just say that Dad also worked for The Jefferson Glass Company, in Steubenville; I believe that he worked at the Crystal in Bridgeport, but I'm not sure of that; Gene Murdock thinks he went back and worked for Northwood in Wheeling, and I'm not quite sure of that. I want Gene to prove that to me some day. At least he says he worked in five different glass companies, and then decided that he wanted to go into business for himself.

He was the youngest of seven sons. His older brother, John, had often said to him, "Frank,

when you get ready to go into business I'll help you get started." And so, at age 25, Frank went to John and said, "John, I'm ready to go into business now, I want to start a decorating business of my own." John said, "Fine, how much money have you got?" Dad said, "Well, I've got \$280.00." John said, "Good, between the two of us we've got \$284.00." This is family information handed down. It is interesting to note that a deposit was made in the Central Dollar Bank in Wheeling of \$284.86. It adds some verification to the story.

John was an excellent promoter. He was very talented; being older than my father and experienced in this type of thing, he was very helpful in getting the company started. On the other hand, John was not one who was noted for his business sagacity as some of you have noticed when he went on his own up at Millersburg. But he was very helpful in getting started. They started in Martins Ferry, Ohio, as a decorating shop, in probably late Spring of 1905. They were incorporated in July of 1905 under the laws of West Virginia, even though they were located in Ohio. That may tell us something, maybe they had an idea at that time, or it may just have been that the laws of West Virginia were better to incorporate under, just like Delaware is.

In Martins Ferry they bought glass blanks from the Imperial Glass Company, and they bought blanks from Northwood and other companies and they decorated the glass. They found after awhile that they weren't able to get the shipments when they wanted them nor the quality of glass that was wanted from Imperial and Northwood. There was some suspicion that the people at Northwood and Imperial saw this decorating operation as being a competitor of their own decorating shops, and that there was not a desire on their part to supply these fellows up in Martins Ferry. So Dad and John finally decided that they would build a factory and make glass themselves. Of course, that is easier said than done, and John again was very helpful.

There are two or three stories about how they happened to come to Williamstown. It gets rather long and involved. They considered Shadyside, Ohio, for a time. One story talks about the fact that there was a man named Terrell who was a glass worker and tried to get them to come to Shadyside. George Hipkins of the Hipkins Novelty Mould Works had suggested to the people in Shadyside that they might be able to get the Fenton's to come there. All of this type of information is hear-say and you can't be sure that that is exactly the way it was. This fellow Terrell was a witness in a law suit later on involving the company and this was part of a story he told, and that is the way we got that story.

Another story is that John was not active in the decorating operation because there wasn't enough money being made in the operation to pay John and Dad, too, at least to pay them very much. One story says that John was a street car conductor; another was that he was riding on the street car and he overheard three men talking about a man in Williamstown who owned a fair amount of land in Williamstown and had lost his shirt in a trolley car operation up in New York State and was going to have to sell everything he had, including all of his property in order to get his debts settled. And we know that that did happen. They came down to Williamstown then and went through a great procedure of acquiring a portion of that land. Then they saved a part of the land as their own for the factory and sold off the rest of it in lots to the local dealers, the local merchants and saloon keepers, etc., and said, "Now you buy these lots and when we bring the glass workers in you can sell the lots to the glass workers." And that is the way they raised the money to build the factory. We paid \$4,769.60 for the 17 acres of land. Then we just saved the land over there where you see the factory is, and all of that section of the town was just a great big barren field, it wasn't even incorporated into the town. And so they put a Glass Works Addition onto the town and split it up into lots and sold those lots to people for varying prices and John and a local man there were very active in selling the lots. I should say to you that one of the workers who worked for 40 years for us until he retired, but before he came to work for us he had worked for John in Millersburg, said John was a great promoter, he could talk your pockets inside out. He was a real promoter and a good salesman.

We broke ground for the new plant on October 7, 1906, and we hired Bastow to build the plant

and then he was going to run it. But Bastow didn't seem to get along very well, he couldn't get the thing running and he put the lehrs in the wrong place and there were a number of other things that happened so that in November, or late in October, they fired Mr. Bastow and they brought Jacob Rosenthal into the operation instead of Bastow. Indidentally, Bastow then sued us for \$15,000.00 in December, a month later, for some kind of breach of contract, or something of this nature. The suit was heard a year later and the jury made neither party happy. They awarded Mr. Bastow \$150.00, and that meant we had to pay the Court costs, which made us unhappy, and Mr. Bastow, of course, was unhappy because he didn't get what he thought he ought to have and the jury noted that Mr. Bastow had nothing and we did have something, so it was logical to at least give him something so that they get the Court costs paid. Now that's a cynical way to look at it but that's the way it was done.

I might say a few words about Jacob Rosenthal because he was very busy and very instrumental in all of this work with the Stretch Glass. I've taken too long and we are still not to Stretch Glass. We'll be there shortly. Rosenthal was born in Pittsburgh in 1854. He learned his trade in the Wheeling Area, he married Susan Swager in 1874 at the age of 20. I should say that they were such close friends of the family that we had always called them Uncle Jake and Aunt Sue. They lived just a couple or three doors down from our home. They were very close to us. He worked in many plants in the next 25 years. He worked at the Northwood plant in Indiana, Pennsylvania. His cousin Charlie Brand married Frank's (Fenton) sister, Gertrude. In 1898 he worked at the Royal Glass Company in Marietta. Then in 1901, he moved to Greentown, Indiana, and managed the Indiana Goblet & Tumbler Company until 1903, when the factory burned down. So he was in Indiana a little over two years. He gets a great deal of publicity, in fact, some people who have written about Greentown glass show some of Jacob Rosenthal's pieces that were made at Fenton and they classify them as Greentown. He was only there a little over two years. He went to Evansville next and then he went to the Crystal Glass Company in Bridgeport, and then from there in 1906 he came with Fenton and stayed with Fenton for the next 24 years. So his time at Fenton was a great deal longer than his time at Greentown.

I should say that Dad had a brother Charlie who almost always went wherever Dad worked, so that Charlie was active in the business from the very beginning when they started in Martins Ferry. I always thought that my father had been President ever since the company was founded because he was the founder of the company, and I was very solid in that belief until I began to dig into the old records and I found that the first President was a fellow named J. C. Dent, who was a druggist up in Bridgeport. Mr. Dent had put some money into the business. I think it was Dad that sold him the stock, and as a substantial stockholder they made him the President of the company. Dr. Howells was the Treasurer of the company, he was a doctor that was in Bridgeport who had put some money into the firm. That \$280.00 had to get expanded somehow, you know, to get it started. Dad was the Secretary and General Manager, and he ran the business. John, I believe, was the Vice President in that early beginning. Dad became President later on, about 1909, when John went to Millersburg. They had a re-shuffle then with the officers, and Dad became the President and was President from that time, until his death in 1948. His brother James came in late 1908 to join the company. John left in 1909 to establish the Millersburg Glass Company. We've never been able to figure out for sure, looking backwards, just why it was John left. We suspect that John and Frank both wanted to run the company and there wasn't room for both of them to run it.

I remember one story that might be interesting to you and that was that we got a BIG order, a couple of carloads of glass that they were very elated about, and this was quite early in the operation. I don't know where the order came from. The next day a truck backed up and started to dump some sand and gravel outside the plant. Charlie who was operating as superintendent of the Cold Metal Department, went to John and said, "What's going on here, what is this?" John said, "Well, we got that big order, we're going to build another furnace." Charlie immediately went to Dad and Dad said, "No we're not, we are not going to build another furnace. That's just two carloads of glassware and we don't need another furnace." But this was John's way. John would jump, move very quickly and make decisions of this kind, and then, of course, Dad would rescind them. I don't think that John left mad, I think John just left

because he couldn't run the factory and wanted to, so he went to Millersburg to run one of his own. They were good friends, in fact, John was connected with the Byesville Foundry & Machine Company in Barnesville, Ohio, for a time, around about 1908 I believe, maybe in 1907, and in the money panic of 1907 we were really hurting and the Byesville Foundry & Machine Company lent us \$5,000.00 to tide us over. We were always scraping for money in those early years. They would send out Fenton brothers in each direction trying to get enough money for the payroll for the next week. They would either sell lots or stock, or borrow it, one way or the other. So I know he was of considerable help and I think we paid back some of that money to the Byesville Foundry & Machine Company, and maybe some of that money got over into the Millersburg operation to help them, but we don't really know.

Now, that's a lot of supposition and it gets us to really the place where I could talk just a moment about the man who came to get us into the iridescent business. We had a carload of hay coming into the factory, it was in 1907, probably late 1907, in our first year of operation in Williamstown. When we opened up the car there was a man inside the car. He had bummed his way into Williamstown in this carload of hay. He said, "Take me to the boss." So they did, and he said, "I can show you how to make glass that is like that Tiffany glass." So they got Jake Rosenthal together with this man and he showed us how to make the iridescent glass. I don't know where the man came from, I mean I'm not sure who he worked for, I assume he must have been with either Tiffany or Durand or somebody of this kind. He stayed with us for a considerable period of time. We offered the first glass in late 1907 of what you now call Carnival Glass, making pressed glass with the iridizing process. The others came along later, I'm not quite sure, I think Harry Northwood had done a lot of experimenting with it at one time or another but had never put it on the market commercially. Those of you who know differently please tell me, because this is the information that I have.

The man who was instrumental in getting us started began to feel that he was very important to our operation and that he really didn't have to come to work. He would frequently just stay home or he would show up in the middle of the afternoon, or whatever, and this went on for a time and finally the morale was being affected for other workers and so he was fired. I suppose this could have been some time in 1908 and I imagine he went up the river and went to one of the other glass companies and took his information there. I think that is probably what happened to him after he left Williamstown. That's the way we got into the Carnival Glass business, and I think that with that I'd better get to the Stretch Glass. We could go on and just keep putting out information of this kind, and I'd better go on to your questions and see if I can answer them. You probably know that I've spent a half hour on this already, I mean just talking. I haven't seen anybody asleep yet, but I am going to turn the lights out after bit and then you can sleep.

END OF REMARKS

Ed. In the next issue we will publish as many of the fifteen question with Mr. Fenton's answers to them as possible. I'm certain that you will find them to be most interesting.

Some of you have found pieces of Stretch Glass, mostly the candle vases I believe, that had the letters AFGWU imprinted in the bottoms of the glass. Correspondence arrived asking what they stood for. Mrs. Elizabeth Degenhart answered my question on what they meant and was kind enough to give me the address of the President of the American Flint Glass Workers' Union of North America. A letter to him brought a quick response which is given you below. You will find it very interesting and informative I'm certain. Our thanks to Mr. George M. Ker for his prompt reply.

JULY, 1975

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AMERICAN
FLINT GLASS WORKERS' UNION
OF NORTH AMERICA

International Headquarters

1440 S. Byrne Rd., Toledo, O. 43614

April 8, 1975

Paul B. Miller, Secretary-Editor
Stretch Glass Society
119 South Maple Street
Akron, Ohio 44302

Dear Mr. Miller:

The American Flint Glass Workers' Union was organized in 1878. It is one of the oldest trade unions in the nation and was one of the six original unions that formed the American Federation of Labor.

Within our jurisdiction we have not only the men who make handmade glassware but in addition practically all of the men throughout the United States who make and repair molds from which glassware is made are members of our union. For many years we negotiated contracts on a national basis with practically all of the employers in the glass industry. The employers were affiliated with an association known as the National Association of Manufacturers of Pressed and Blown Glassware.

Our records indicate that in the conference between the Manufacturers and the Union which was held in July of 1908, the following language was included in the contract:

"All new moulds made at union shops shall bear the stamp of union, or initials of company making moulds and employers shall co-operate with employees to the full extent of their ability to have all private new moulds made at union mould shops."

Initials that are found in the Stretch Glass were cut into the molds by the journeyman mold maker to indicate that the iron mold from which the glass was formed was produced by a union mold maker. To this day we continue to place the union stamp on all union made molds. In most cases, however, the stamp is located on the mold in a position where it will not imprint on the glass.

I hope this information will be helpful to you and other members of your society. Mr. Frank Fenton is very familiar with the handmade industry and with our union. His Company produces some of the finest handmade glass in the world. We are very proud of our association with this fine Company over the years. I know that Mr. Fenton will give a very interesting address to your convention.

Very truly yours,

/s/ George M. Parker
International President

GMP/lh

From TRENDS Monthly Newsletter, 4008 Wetzel Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44109, Mr. Henry Hunsicker, Editor (\$10.00 a year) comes the following in the March, 1975 issue:

IT'S NOT CROWDED IN STRETCH GLASS.....No. 1334

Carnival glass collectors with progressive minds are getting into this advanced field of Iridescent Glass. Dr. Larry Freeman's book IRIDESCENT GLASS which was published in 1956 remains a basic source of information and is quoted in the January issue of the newsletter published by the Stretch Glass Society which is edited by Paul B. Miller, 119 S. Maple Street, Akron, OH 44302. At the last count there were 77 members to the society and they would like to have you as a member. The membership fee of \$3.00 per family should be a tip-off that this isn't a rip-off. If you would like a copy of Dr. Freeman's book it can still be had from Century House, Watkins Glen, N.Y. 14891 for \$6.50. TRENDS suggests that you also request a copy of their 1975-76 catalog of publications. They are in their 35th year of publishing non-fiction Americana. A trip to the Watkins Glen area and a visit to the Manor House of Dr. and Mrs. Freeman, open to the public June to September, would be delightful for the whole family. The Stretch Glass Society will hold its second national convention in Marietta, OH, April 17, 18 and 19th. I hope to meet you there.

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Ed. The Stretch Glass Society members extends congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Henry Hunsicker who took as his bride Mrs. Elizabeth Peterson on May 3, 1975, in Cleveland. Sorry you missed the Convention Henry, but we can all fully understand why. See you both next year? Hope so. Good luck and many thanks.

From SPINNING WHEEL, March, 1975 - OBSERVATIONS (A report to members) by Albert Christian Levi, Director.

Years ago, The National Early American Glass Club was virtually the only organization devoted entirely to this subject. Since then a great many associations have been formed for various kinds of glass - Carnival Glass, Custard Glass, and more recently The Stretch Glass Society. This latter group was founded April 21, 1974 - less than a year ago. Paul B. Miller, the Secretary-Editor of their Newsletter, wrote us and asked for our explanation of how Stretch Glass was made. While our reply was of necessity very lengthy, in essence we told Mr. Miller that there is very little difference between the manufacturing techniques of Carnival Glass and Stretch Glass. The primary difference, as we see it, is design. Both kinds of glass were made at different periods. Because of this, they both have physical differences reflecting the taste of the buying public at the time they were manufactured. Like everything else of quality, Tiffany's iridescent glass had its imitators. As soon as a similar product was made available at a cheaper price to the Jones and Smith families, the Vanderbilts and the Astors no longer wanted Tiffany's fine glass. Fortunately, for the more astute members of the Jones and Smith families, these fine things became available to them through second-hand shops, church sales, and estate auctions. Now several years later, the Vanderbilts and the Astors are trying to buy it all back - but at much higher prices.

It is regrettable that there is not enough space in this issue to publish some of your good letters. The next issue already looks fairly well filled when we bring you the questions asked by members and sent in to Mr. Fenton before the Convention and his answers. I believe that they will be so important and full of information that you won't mind if we let the letters slip for awhile. We welcome our two new members from Australia, Mrs. Muriel Triplett and Mrs. Patricia Cubeta. Both have written such nice letters it would be great to publish them in their entirety. A warm welcome likewise to all of our new members who joined at the Convention and since that time. Ed.

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