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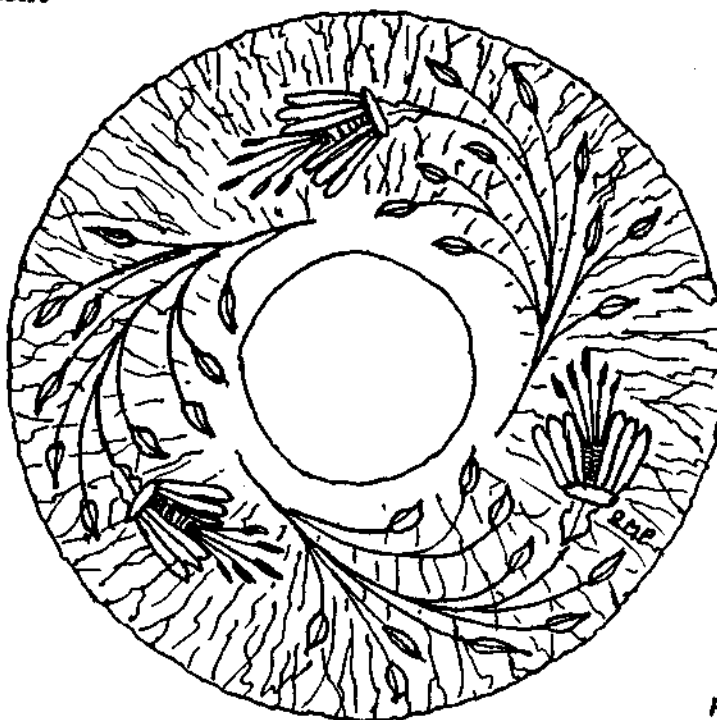
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## STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

### NEWSLETTER

October 1980

A message from your President . . . .

As I have said before, any dummy can do the job as President - I can. The toughest part of the job is writing the message for the Newsletter, particularly, writing it on time -- as Paul will tell you. As a club or organization which meets only once a year, most news must of necessity come by mail. The difficulty here is that letter-writing seems to be a dying art. Fortunately, this time there are things to be said about conventions - the last one and the next one - neither of which is that far away, as you will see.

The convention in Indiana, Pennsylvania, was again a very enjoyable one and many beautiful pieces of stretch were displayed - some of them for the first time anywhere. Some new and different shapes were seen and new information was made available. As at last year's convention, the Motel (Sheraton Inn) was very helpful and cooperative; and I'm sure a good time was had by those who were able to attend.

The Fenton Collectors Convention, of course, took some of our members from us. One party wrote to say how much they liked Stretch Glass, etc., etc.; however, they were going to the Fenton Convention. Well, at this Stretch Glass Convention, we took steps to circumvent that happening again. The membership voted to move our convention date to the beginning of the "convention year" instead of at the fag end.

The 1981 Convention is set for early May, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 1st, 2nd and 3rd, in Marietta, Ohio. Furthermore, Mr. Frank Fenton will speak to our group at a Saturday luncheon. At the present time, there are no plans for a Friday breakfast unless you, out there, indicate strongly your desire for having one. No room or food prices will be available until sometime

in January or shortly thereafter, so be sure to read your Newsletter carefully.

To get back to this year's convention, we certainly owe a vote of thanks to Mary and Virgil Henry, Bill and Dorothy Medsger and The Rainbow Diamond Depression Glass Club for hosting the convention. Mary secured the services of a glassblower and I am the proud possessor of a small globe of glass which I blew myself, with his help, of course. Paul, Alma and I found a new antique store and visited Medsger's new antique shop as well; and, as last time, had a nice trip to Thelma Lellock's antique shop at Punxsatawney. All in all - a good time.

We certainly hope you can join us in Marietta in 1981 and help get Stretch Glass well on the road to recognition as a super collectible. More and more dealers are beginning to recognize it and consequently are including it in their better shows. We surely hope that the change in dates for the convention will allow more of you to attend and fellowship with us. A word of caution -- there was much talk of even disbanding the Club! We certainly do not want that to happen, but remember, clubs seldom disband because of a lack of money, but often do because of a lack of interest.

Gasoline is really not that scarce nor expensive so do try to join us next year.

Until next time then, happy hunting!

Ken

#### Minutes of Business Meeting of The Stretch Glass Society

The business meeting was held following the breakfast on Friday, August 8, 1980, with all members attending the convention present.

Meeting was called to order by the President, Kenneth D. Magenau. A vote of thanks was given to the sponsors, Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Henry, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Medsger, and The Rainbow Diamond Depression Glass Club of Indiana who were in charge of the hospitality room.

The minutes of the business meeting in 1979 were read by the Sec'y-Editor and were approved.

Unfinished business. Mr. Fred Lynn was to have made up application blanks for SGS to be sent to the Secretary-Editor and all members and-or dealers who wanted them could have them by paying the postage and stating the amount desired. Nothing was heard from Fred all year on this project. We assume that it has not been carried out at all.

The group discussed the \$1.00 extra for associate members and this was rescinded. Our dues will remain at \$5.00 per year per family.

The Treasurer gave us his report which was very encouraging. There were 10 new memberships during the year, and the present balance in the treasury was \$1,025.74. Some of this came from selling of back issues of the Newsletter and for advertising, plus the fact that there were no expenses for the convention in 1979 in North Canton, Ohio. These expenses were all paid completely by The Bicksler-Presznick Carnival Glass & Antiques Club which meets monthly at Loyal Oak, Ohio.

New business. Berry Wiggins volunteered to handle the 1981 convention and it will be at the Lafayette Motor Hotel in Marietta, Ohio, on the first weekend in May. This will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 1st, 2nd and 3rd. (Ed. A letter from Berry dated August 26, 1980, states: Checked with the Lafayette and all is ready. We get the Stern Wheel Room free for display, glass for sale and probably our BIG luncheon is there, too. It is a nice large room and can be locked. At the first of 1981 they will give us meal prices and room rates. There is a good chance Bill Heacock will be with us during the convention.)

A schedule of events will be sent out in a future Newsletter - hopefully in January, 1981. The Fenton Glass Collectors Club convention will be the first weekend in August, permanently. It is hoped that Mr. Frank M. Fenton will be able to speak to our group.

Motion made, seconded and carried that an advance of \$100.00 be given to Paul for the Newsletters as that when he gets his bill, he can send it to Roger for reimbursement immediately to keep the fund at \$100.00.

Election of Officers. The following officers were elected, or re-elected, for a two-year term: President: Kenneth D. Magenau; Vice President: Mrs. Helen Stozus; Secretary-Editor: Paul B. Miller; Directors: Carlton Schleele, Berry A. Wiggins, Mrs. Mildred Bicksler, and Mrs. Alma Magenau.

No further business. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul B. Miller, Secretary-Editor

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Q&A Column by Kitty and Russell Umbraco

Question #1 - from David Franklin of Montreal, Canada. He collects lemonade pitchers and would like to correspond with other pitcher collectors. How many lemonade pitchers are there in Stretch Glass: He has a beautiful lidded sapphire blue Fenton one.

Answer: We counted around 20 different ones. Fenton lidded in sapphire blue and one yellow; Fenton tall unlidded in sapphire blue, yellow, pink and purple; the tall vase-like one with the matching handle in sapphire blue and one yellow; The chunky one like the previous one in yellow, and sapphire blue; sapphire blue in pastel panels; Pretty Panels in sapphire blue and mint green; Concave Diamond in sapphire blue and lemon yellow; the Imperial panel in white and red; there are also a lidded and an unlidded Northwood pitcher shown in an old catalog, but so far we have never seen them (has anyone else ever seen them?), and we forgot the yellow opalescent, tall Fenton pitcher. Have we forgotten any others? If so write to Paul. Wouldn't the lemonade pitchers make a nice collection, if you could find them? (Ed. The "yellow" in the first part of this paragraph refers to lemon yellow, or as many collectors call "vaseline." Vaseline is a registered trademark of the Chesebrough Ponds Inc., Greenwich, CT. However, I doubt it will ever be possible for collectors of glass to avoid using the name. Kitty and Russell always use the words "lemon yellow" to refer to what most of us call vaseline glass.)

Question #2 - from John Britt of Manhattan, Kansas; who made Concave Diamond patterns?

Answer: We have a copy of the March 1, 1924, Northwood Glass catalog. The Concave Diamond No. 559 bedroom jug and tumbler is listed as coming in blue (today we call it sapphire blue), topaz (lemon yellow), russet (olive yellow), and jade green (we think they are talking about the blue opaque). They also mention a new color of Chinese Ceral, but we've only seen it on non-iridized glass. The Concave Diamond vase is also listed but the lemonade set is not. We feel secure in saying that the lemonade set and bedroom set are from the same company and the same mold was used for both.

The bedroom sets are found in blue, topaz, russet, and opaque blue. The lemonade sets are found in blue and topaz only, so far as we know. We have a fairly complete article on the Concave Diamond pattern in the August, 1979 issue of the National Glass, Pottery & Collectables Journal.

Kitty and Russell Umbraco

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-4-

Ed. When I received my copy of the new book by William Heacock, FENTON GLASS, The Second Twenty-Five Years, I was surprised to find on page 86 two reprints from a 1932 catalog which show several pieces of pattern glass in Stretch. Some of the pieces show highly patterned bowls and vases. Back in 1975 at our first convention in Marietta, Ohio, the question of whether or not these highly patterned pieces with definite stretch surfaces could be classified as stretch glass, it was his opinion that these should be put in the Carnival Glass category. I wrote Mr. Fenton to call his attention to this page and asked him how we were going to get back where we started eliminating any highly patterned, but definitely stretch surfaces, to the point of incorporating them into our collections of Stretch Glass. His letter of explanation follows:

The Fenton Art Glass Company  
Williamstown, West Virginia 26187

August 13, 1980

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter of July 31 and the comments that you've made about our Velva Rose. We like it, too.

I heard a good many Fenton collectors comment this past week that they're sorry the Stretch Glass Convention was being held at the same time as the Fenton Convention. I also noted your fourth paragraph about the patterned pieces in Stretch.

It seems to me that the thing that distinguishes Stretch from Carnival is that the Carnival pieces are made mainly on blanks that have either the inside or outside or both sides with a highly patterned surface. If you could get over the name "Stretch" and substitute the new name that is more nearly descriptive of the type of glass that you are collecting, it might help.

We called the glass of that type Florentine. Northwood called it Rainbow. I don't know what Diamond called it but they were quite active in that field. Imperial called it several things, Iris Ice Iridescent glass and they also used the term Rainbow to describe some of their pieces. What about changing the name of the Society to the Florentine Rainbow Satin Iridescent Glass Society? Either that or change your description of Stretch to include the glass that has some pattern but which is mainly plain surface. Our melon shaped pieces, for example, have a pattern but which is mainly plain surface. Our melon shaped pieces do let the Stretch finish show very nicely.

The next time Berry Wiggins gets back in this area I'll try to remember to discuss this problem with him. Maybe we can put a name together that might adequately describe the kind of glass that we think we're all collecting. It's really Satin Iridescent. Sorry to miss your convention. Hope things continue to go well with you.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Fenton  
Chairman of the Board

I thank Mr. Fenton for his nice letter AND his comments. We would appreciate comments from any or all of you on this subject. I'd also written Berry Wiggins and here is his reply: In the late 1960's almost everyone called this glass "Imperial Jewels" but there were some then that used the word Stretch. Stretch was by far the best name we could come up with to cover this type of glass made by quite a few different glass houses. Each company had their name or names. Silver Sun" was for Fenton, then changed to Florentine. One of the names U. S. Glass used was "Aurora." Imperial used the color, then the word Ice, and so on. Fenton's two books use the

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the word Stretch, Doug Archer Imperial book, in front, lists some as Stretch. We are definitely on the move with one word - Stretch - and lucky that both the Umbraco's and myself used the word Stretch to describe a glass with none, or a small amount, of pattern.

When I found out from Mr. Fenton that Grecian Gold was a clear glass with a Marigold iridescence, it made me realize that almost all of your Stretch molds were made from 1916 on. To me, the tops for all Stretch was from 1921 through 1925. From that time on, Fenton and Diamond made most of the Stretch.

If you would stick to the name "Satin Iridescent," people will say it is acid dipped, or they say that's Carnival. We already have the best name by far, why think about a change?

Sincerely,

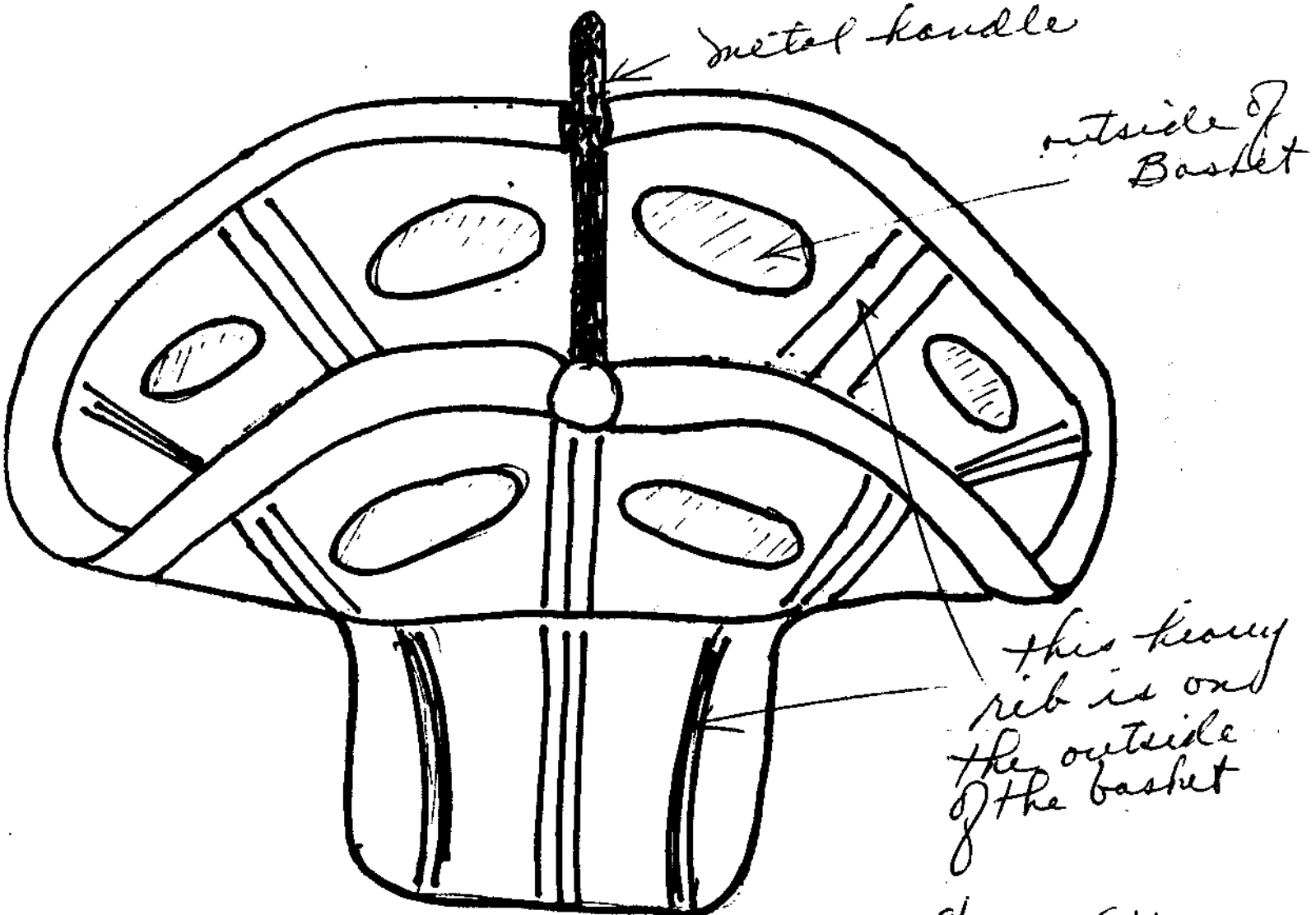
Berry

Your comments will be appreciated, and published!

September 21, 1980

Dear Paul: Just thought I would write and let you know that in our traveling around we stopped at a flea market and found a beautiful, large white Stretch basket which we're very proud to have. I'm enclosing a picture and a sketch of this basket and maybe we can find the maker of this gem.

The length of the basket is 10-1/2" - height is 5-1/2" and it is 7-1/2" wide. Also it has a ground bottom. The sketch was drawn by our granddaughter. Helen & Martin Stozus - Conn.



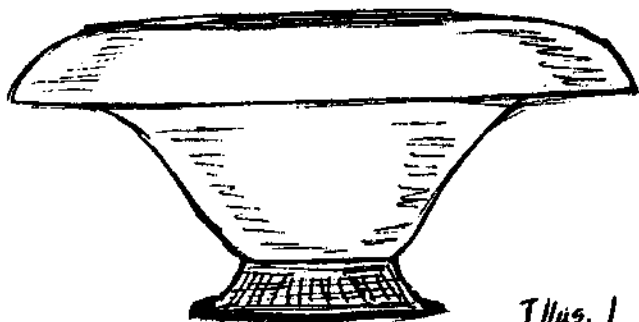
Having travelled hundreds of thousands of miles, frequenting flea markets, shows, shops, auctions and other places that might produce a hidden "treasure" in the field of collectible glass, I've necessarily become aware of many varieties of glass which appear to have been made in the same mould. Often times the clue to "who made it" comes from another form of glass other than the special field one is studying. For instance, William Heacock's first book on Fenton glass (The First Twenty-Five Years) depicted many items in Jade or colored transparent glass that are known to us in Stretch Glass. In one or two instances, he also pointed out the difference in similar items made by Fenton and by Northwood. (Example: the "Florentine" style candlesticks - # 383 and # 384 ).

I have a wide ranging interest in glass - from Akro Agate to Stretch, including Carnival Glass, opaque colored glass, and many other forms. The solid opaques have taken a "special" place. As I find examples of Jade, Mandarin Red, Periwinkle Blue, (Fenton colors) - or Blue opaque, Chinese Coral and Jades ( Northwood colors), I also find corresponding items in Stretch Glass. A recent find was a Jade console bowl, rolled rim - circle in the center - with attached alabaster foot. ( Illus. 1 ) It turns out to be the twin of the recently reported Blue Opaque Stretch bowl with the iridescent Black foot. Northwood is reported to have made a Red-Orange (Chinese Coral) bowl with the attached black glass foot. Thus we have a "clue".

On occasion, I have owned pieces of Stretch Glass that do not appear in either the Umbraco book or the Wiggin book. I have been able to identify many of the items by finding them in the Jade glass in Sandra Stout's book III on Depression Glass. Another book, on which I rely heavily, is Hazel Marie Weatherman's "Colored Glass of the Depression Era". It seems that no matter how many individual books I have, (and I have three bookcases FULL) - when I can't find a clue anywhere else, Hazel Marie comes through with flying colors.

There are many pieces of Stretch Glass that seem to overlap into the Carnival Glass field by the fact that they carry a pattern. I would refer you to the new Fenton book - "The Second Twenty-Five Years" by Wm. Heacock. On page 86 you will find some catalog reprints of their No. 16 "Venetian Assortment" in Persian Pearl ( White Stretch). Included in the assortment are pieces of Grape and Cable, Leaf Tiers, and the Dance of the Veils vase. (Boy! Would I like to find any ONE of them!) These items are collected as White Carnival Glass - while the other items shown are accepted as White Stretch Glass.... but they were all made as part of the same line. Other examples that I can recall are the Coin Spot ruffled compote in Mint Green or in Peach Opalescent; the Pony bowl in Marigold, Amethyst OR in PINK STRETCH (see page 144 in Heacock's bk 2). Some items that I have seen in regular Stretch Glass colors and treatment, also appear in Sherman Hand's "Encyclopedia of Carnival Glass". Look at page 143 - the Bud Vase Whimsey; and at page 145 - the Flower Pot and the Wide Panel Salt Dip. Collectors ask me, " Is it Carnival Glass or is it Stretch?" The only answer I can think of is one my Dad used to use when his diner patrons would ask "Is that Squash pie or Pumpkin Pie?" He'd reply, " If you want Squash - it's squash! If you want Pumpkin - it's pumpkin!"

The NEW stretch glass line that Fenton is making for their 75th Anniversary (Velva Rose assortment) includes two patterned items - Persian Medallion compote and Persian Medallion fairy lamp. One can only wonder if, in the not too distant future, someone will find one of these items and ask, " Is it Stretch or is it Carnival?"



*Illus. 1*

CD

October, 1980

# BASKET, BASKET - WHO'S GOT THE BASKET?

I've tried, in my own inimitable way, to sketch a basket that was made in Azure Blue Stretch and appears in the photograph on page 86 of Heacock's book, "Fenton Glass, The Second Twenty-Five Years". I've seen photographs (snap-shots from other collectors) of the basket made by Northwood in the Concave Diamond pattern. That is a rarity by any measurement. So WHERE is this beautiful ribbed basket that Fenton made? Has anybody seen one? Has anybody GOT one?

CD

## COMMENTARY :

I first "discovered" Carnival Glass through the re-issues that Imperial made in 1965. I saw the new items in a large metropolitan department store and stopped to read the tag which explained that the "original" was a collectors' item and quite valuable. It caused me to take out of storage two items that had been passed on to me by my grandmother. I knew their age, so I had no doubt about them being "original". I took them to a local antique dealer for an appraisal. When he told me that old Carnival Glass was getting "hard to find", I HAD to go hunting! That did it! I was infected with Antique Pox, that dreaded disease for which there is no known cure. (It's the best loved disease in the world)

I've heard other collectors say that they were infected the very same way. The source of their exposure was something "new" in the gift shop - a re-issue of something old.

Will the NEW Stretch Glass by Fenton have a similar affect on potential collectors of the OLD? If the public accepts this new product with enthusiasm, I think we can look for a renewed interest in the Stretch Glass of the early 1900's. It will be interesting to watch.

CD

Bryan, Texas  
Sept. 22, 1980

Dear Paul:

It is a source of regret to Ken and me that we have been unable to attend more of the Stretch Glass conventions. Taking several things into consideration, it has been impractical for us. We are still hoping to work it into our travel priorities, somehow.

I have a little item for our Stretch Glass Society Newsletter:

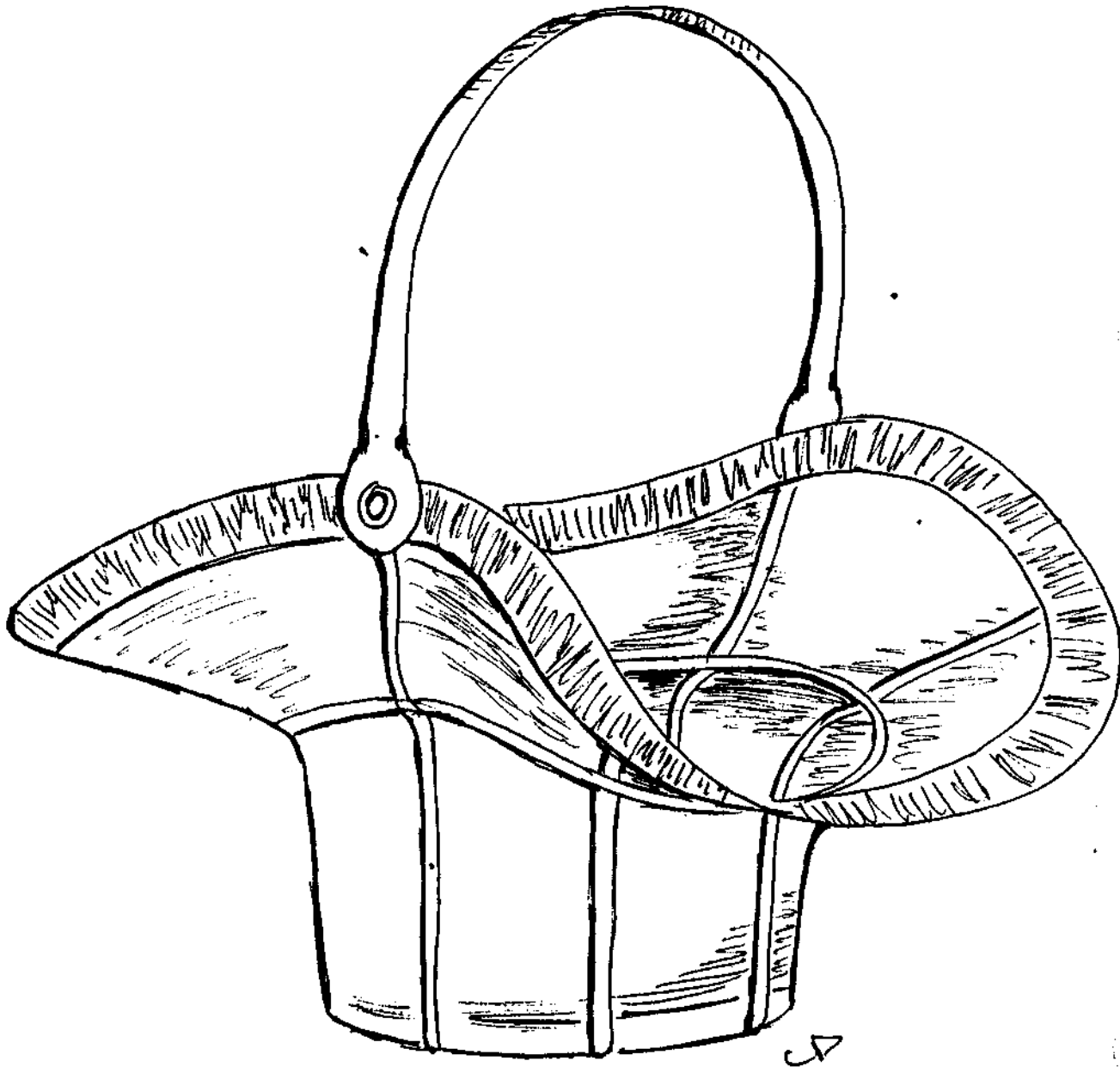
The Bryan television station, KBTX-TV, presents a daily noon program on subjects of interest to residents of Brazos County. Early this month I was invited to show and talk about our Stretch Glass, which I was happy to do. Ken packed two dozen colorful pieces, we set them up at the studio, and on the live program I answered questions asked by the interviewer. As you can imagine, the glass just sat there and looked beautiful! Several interested viewers telephoned afterwards. The station also would have liked another program, later, devoted to Carnival Glass buttons. In testing they were found too difficult to photograph so that the interesting patterns would show. However, the interviewer showed a card of buttons during the program on Stretch and we talked about them for a moment or two.

In Kitty and Russell Umbraco's Q&A column in July, they mentioned wanting to know of unlisted pieces in the Pastel Panels pattern. We, at one time, bought a set of nine footed, handled tumblers (or mugs) in mint green with the usual lovely delicate iridescence. Three are now in the hands of other collectors and we are looking for the pitcher to match our remaining set of 6.

Ruth and Ken Clark

Ed. Thanks for sharing this. Great news!

Connie's sketch of the basket in her article on page 7.



Picture on the opposite page was published in the Indiana Evening Gazette, Family Leisure, Saturday, August 16, 1980. From left to right: Roger Van Patten, Treasurer; Mrs. Mildred Bicksler, Director; Kenneth D. Magenau, President; Virgil Henry of Indiana, Pa., one of the hosts; and Mrs. Helen Stozus, Vice President.

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Deepest sympathy is extended to Mr. Frank M. Fenton, his immediate family and to all the Fenton family on the death of Mrs. Frank M. (Elizabeth) Fenton who passed away on October 6, 1980, after a long illness. All of the members of The Stretch Glass Society who haven't yet learned of her death will be so sorry about it I know. May God bless and comfort each one of you. Ed.





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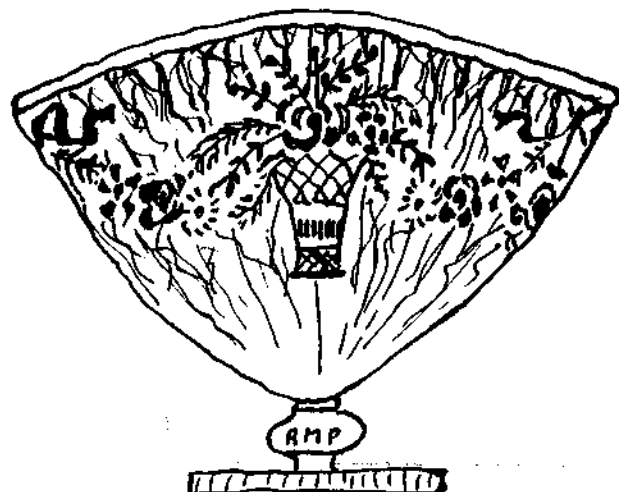
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