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# STRETCH GLASS SOCIETY

JANUARY 1992

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## President's Message

Dear Members,

Last month I opened my new 1992 calendar, prepared to enter birthdays, anniversaries, and upcoming appointments. Leafing through its clean, new pages, I checked for holidays which would provide an extra day off from work, and thought about what special events might occur each month. Along the way, the thought occurred that a calendar is several things - a planner, a wish book, and a trip down memory lane.

As special dates were noted, I thought about monthly flea markets and wished I could attend each one. March was a reminder that garage sales begin to blossom with Spring and reach full bloom about July. And May, of course, is highlighted by OUR CONVENTION. The months of June and September prompted a recall of the Burton Antiques where numerous pieces of Stretch Glass have been found in the past. Can such good fortune be hoped for this year? In August I contemplated a repeat of the VERY successful sale held in my garage last year.

And so my mental meanderings went, January through December -- planning, wishing and remembering. I hope your new calendar

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(President's Message cont.)

afforded you as much enjoyment as you wrote in your important dates.

Many of our members have fond recollections of past SGS conventions; some from its 1974 inception. My own extend only back to 1984, but each was a happy experience of meeting fellow Stretch Glass collectors and friends. I am already anticipating our meeting in Denver, PA. Information on this is contained in this newsletter.

It is with much sadness that I report the deaths of three of our long-time members and friends, Helen Stozus, Jabe Tarter, and Ralph Cooper. Our sympathies are extended to Martin Stozus and his family, Helen Cooper and her family, and Paul Miller, Jabe's closest friend. If you also have come to know them over the past years, please send a note.

Sincerely,

Joanne

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DUES: Eight Dollars (\$8.00) annually for each family - payable to Treasurer, Augusta M. Keith, April 1st.

The following was received from the Hackemans of [REDACTED] VA.:

Dear Mildred:

I enjoyed the Oct. newsletter so much I thought it only fair to share some of our adventures with our fellow collectors. Through ads placed in the newsletter, we contacted two fellow collectors, both of whom were selling much of their collections. Now some of what was theirs is in our collection and we are enjoying it to the fullest. Among the pieces we acquired this way is a cobalt blue low dish, with the corners turned up and in - it is hard to describe but wonderful to look at. We have been working with Berry to identify the maker. We also got a Celeste Blue compote that mounts in a silverplate pedestal, similar to the one shown in Umbraco's book, except ours is a tall compote. Other nice pieces were a pink vase (Fenton's #602), a large octagonal shaped green serving plate and a blue cupped footed orange bowl, some ribbed cake or salad plates, which I believe are Northwood and a vaseline concentric rib bowl.

At a flea market we were fortunate to find a pair of Fenton's 10" #649 candlesticks which are Celeste Blue on top and Black on the bottom. These are gorgeous. The dealer told me she had them on her table less than 5 minutes before I came along and picked them up. The same weekend I found a tangerine covered candy jar Fenton's #835 also for sale for just a short while. I suspect the good Stretch glass goes early, even though there may only be a few of us out there looking. I've never found anything worth talking about in the afternoons! I also found a signed huge Imperial Wisteria plate that is stunning. On another trip I found a 3-piece console set in Northwood's custard stretch. These pieces I had to buy really without knowing what I was purchasing - just on a gut feeling that they looked good. When I got home I called Berry and he helped me appreciate what I had purchased.

Along with all these treasures our good friend and fellow collector, John Madeley, was kind enough to find me a mate to my lonely vaseline twist candlestick. This is an example of why I joined the Society--along with gaining additional knowledge and getting to know fellow collectors--so, to all of you who have been volunteering to make the Society a reality all these years, thanks for a job well done. Since coming to the convention last year our stretch glass collection has increased by at least 100 pieces, maybe more. We are hooked and loving every minute of it! We are hoping to both be able to come to the convention in Denver in 1992 so Amy can meet all of you wonderful people and see the rarities you bring for show and tell.

No letter to the editor would be complete without a couple of wishes--anyone have a pair of tall pink candlesticks for sale? I have all of the low ones, and tall ones in lots of colors, but not pink. I'd also like a pair of low white candles and some mates to my singles which include Fenton's #649 Wisteria (10"), Blue (10" and 8 1/4") and Chatham-like ones in Blue and Chinese-Yellow-like color, (these are 9" tall and flare out to a scalloped-square design on the bottom). I am still on the lookout for some punch cups and yes, I know they are rare, really rare, but they must be out there somewhere, so if you see some please think of me.

(Hackeman's letter cont.)

My wish list is longer than most kid's toy list for Santa. If you are ready to part with your extras in your collection, please get in touch.

I'm enclosing my dues so I won't be late. I've really enjoyed my first year and look forward to many more, including a convention in Virginia some day and sharing our collection with all of you. Happy Hunting.

Sincerely,

Cal and Amy Hackeman

(My comments to the Hackemans--"Way to Go"--you seem to have hit the jackpot and thanks for sharing via the newsletter.)

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Berry Wiggins sent information regarding the "candle bowl" he calls it, found by the Stozus's in Conn. and which was pictured in the Oct. newsletter. He states it was made by Imperial and is hard to find. He says he has seen about 5 in the last 20 years. This should prove interesting to all of us.

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Now I have sad news to report as we have lost three very good friends and members:

Helen Stozus passed away Oct. 26 in a Conn. hospital. (This was just 2 days after our Oct. newsletter was mailed). Helen and Martin celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1990. In addition to her husband she leaves a daughter and son-in-law, a sister, a brother and two grandchildren.

Jabe Tarter passed away Nov. 1st after a lengthy illness. Jabe was the youngest of 14 children. He leaves 2 sisters in Texas and good friend and companion of 46 years, Paul Miller of Akron, OH. Jabe was well known in the glass collecting fields and wrote many articles.

Dr. Ralph Cooper of Portland, OR passed away Nov. 12 at his home after a lengthy illness. He and his wife, Helen, had been married 60 years. In addition to Helen, he is survived by 3 sons, 1 daughter, 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

These three members will be sorely missed by the Stretch Glass Society for their friendship, attendance at conventions and sharing their knowledge of Stretch Glass with all of us. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to their survivors.

Received from the Umbracos of [REDACTED], CA: Dec. 19, 1991

Merry Christmas, Mildred, hope you are enjoying good health and the holiday season.

We are still doing research on whether or not our "Laurel Leaf" plate with the acid etched Steuben mark is real or a fake. Maybe you have some ideas. As far as we can find out the Steuben plate is a different size than Fenton made. Fenton made a  $7\frac{1}{4}$ " salad plate and an  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " salad plate in the octagonal shape (that information is thanks to Berry Wiggins) and ours is  $7\frac{3}{4}$ " (from side to side-not point to point). All of the Fenton plates that I have measured (@20) all have the Laurel Leaf embossing  $\frac{3}{8}$ " from the edge (center of embossing to edge of plate) on all of the pieces from the chop plate to the mayonnaise bowl. The Steuben plate is  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The Steuben plate is Persian Pearl or White Stretch. The colors listed on the Fenton catalog page that Berry sent are as follows: Celeste Blue, Florentine Green, Jade Green, Grecian Gold, Topaz, iridescent Wisteria and Black (which we think refers to the bases shown on the page). But just because the Persian Pearl isn't listed doesn't mean that they didn't make it in that color. But on the other hand, so far no Persian Pearl "Laurel Leaf" plates have turned up that we know of.

We know lots of Steuben Art Glass Collectors, but can't find any Steuben pressed glass collectors. Carrie Domtitz has the best story--she visited a top Steuben Collector with a wonderful collection. Meek little Carrie asked him why he had a Fenton piece in his collection? The insulted Steuben collector wanted to know what she was talking about. She pointed out a Fenton Jade Green square perfume with the black glass flower stopper. He gruffly said that was a signed piece of Steuben! Well Mr. Frederick Carter in his later years would sign any piece of glass that looked like it might have been Steuben with an engraving pen. Carrie also pointed out that the piece was a pressed piece and not a blown piece. The moral of the story is two-fold: 1. Fenton pressed glass is just as pretty as Steuben Art Glass and 2. even "experts" can always learn some thing.

In reality, Steuben could have made the piece. Steuben was making pressed glass in the 1910's through today. They did make in the art glass line Verre de Soie, which the finish on the plate looks like. Steuben was in competition with Fenton and every other pressed glass company. Selling glass is what makes the glass companies stay in business. Really need a Steuben pressed glass expert.

The acid etched mark was used in the 20's and 30's. It does need special equipment; unlike the engraver's pen that you can pick up even at Kmart. So unless you were going to forge lots of pieces of glass at once, it would not be profitable to do just one or two pieces. Do you know of any other pieces like this? Have heard of a celeste blue bowl that was found with the Steuben mark but do know that reproductions and false marks on glass etc. were really rampant in the 1970's and early 1980's. Haven't heard about any

(Umbraco's letter cont.)

false Steuben marks, but on the other hand until now haven't been that interested in Steuben.

Am also sharing our dilemma with Ferill Jeane Rice with the Fenton Art Glass Collectors to see if she can help.

We just got our Christmas present which we are most pleased with. It is a Red Karnak 15" Hanging Vine Vase. It is a beauty. Who says that there isn't a Santa? Sometimes he just doesn't wear his red suit. It is art glass with a stretch finish.

Am enclosing a copy of John Madeley's letter to us. He gave his permission for us to send it to you and use in the newsletter if you want to. Berry Wiggins has helped with a lot of information on the Laurel Leaf research. He likes the name of "Laurel Wreath" as it does better describe the pattern that goes around the piece.

Happy stretch collecting.

Russell and Kitty

(Editors note) The Umbracos enclosed an item from The Daze, Inc. which they thought interesting. It was about a Show & Sale held in July 1991 in Marietta, GA. attended by a record number of 3593. The theme was "Carousel of Color" with prizes being awarded for the "prettiest table" and second place was to Jody Newsome for Blue Stretch Glass.

Following is the letter to the Umbracos from John Madeley of [REDACTED]:

Dear Russell and Kitty,

I am writing concerning your article in the Stretch Glass Society newsletter of Oct. 1991. I looked at an octagonal white Stretch salad plate with the Laurel Leaf and Steuben mark at a mall in Louisville, KY. I did not buy this piece because two weeks earlier I found a console set (a blue low bowl & candle sticks with white enamel edging (KU1) with a Steuben mark inside the bottom of the bowl. This set was in Southern Indiana. I called Berry Wiggins on this Set and he said to buy it only if I wanted a fake in my collection. Now, other pieces I have with the Laurel Leaf Pattern:

1. Green round 8 1/8" Dia. salad plate found in Minnesota.
2. Wisteria mayonnaise (KU11) found in Washington.
3. Tangerine Octagonal platter 13 3/4" Dia. found in Texas.
4. White Octagonal salad plate 8 1/2" Dia. found in Indiana.

As more pieces are found I will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

John Madeley



# County's Heritage Committee adds glassworks museum to fund proposal

By MARY ANN SLATER  
Gazette Contributing Writer

Upon recommendation of the Indiana County Heritage Committee, a plan for a glassworks museum will be added to the committee's earlier

proposal for funding of the Clark House/National Guard Armory project.

Glass collector Claudia Minick presented the plan at Thursday's committee meeting. She detailed the importance of the glassworks industry in Southwest Pennsylvania, particularly in the Indiana County area. The surrounding nine-county area had "significant impact on the (glass) industry, especially before the Civil War."

Ms. Minick, whose relatives worked in Indiana's "old glass-house," known in its later years as Diamond Glassware Factory, described the national recognition and prestige of the local firm and its wares in the early 1900s. "The facility here is not given enough credit for the depth and scope of its product." One carnival glass bowl produced at the local glass house sold for \$18,000, said Ms. Minick.

By studying company ledgers for the year 1929, for example, Ms. Minick discovered that the company, which operated from 1892-1931, held more than 500 accounts with stores from across the country.

Ms. Minick stated that a museum for glass would not only provide documentation for the county's industrial history, but could also serve as a marketing tool to attract glass enthusiasts to the area. She cited

past glass shows in Indiana, which, although small, attracted fairly large crowds as proof of the interest level.

Echoing Ms. Minick's interests, Heritage Committee member Jeffrey Smith stated, "The glass industry was so important to Indiana County that we cannot ignore it."

As proposed by Ms. Minick, the glass museum will be an integral component of the Clark House project, and will be considered a part of the request for funding already before the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission. According to her vision, it will be "a museum within a museum." No new funding will be sought for it at this time. Committee chairman Clarence Stephenson saw the plan as a "supplement, an addenda to the Clark House project."

Ms. Minick has had preliminary talks with the Historical & Genealogical Society of Indiana County, the administrator for the Clark House project. Her plan is up for approval at the society's board meeting in December.

This was in the Indiana, PA Evening Gazette of Nov. 22, 1991 and sent to us by Mary Henry of Indiana and as she stated--for what it is worth. If it should come about it should be of interest and benefit for collectors.

### 1992 CONVENTION INFORMATION

The SGS 1992 Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn, Denver, PA on Thursday, April 30 and Friday, May 1st.

Reservations for rooms should be sent to Holiday Inn, P.O.Box 129, Denver, PA. 17517-0129. Phone: 215-267-7541  
" 800-437-5711

Two double beds in each room at \$54.00 plus 6% sales tax.

If members of the group wish to stay over through Saturday night please let the Inn know because this is a very busy time of the year for them.

To go to the Holiday Inn get off the PA Turnpike at Exit 21 and drive about a mile to the first stop sign, turn left Rt. 272 and you will see the Holiday Inn on your right immediately. Make no turns until you see the Stop sign.

#### THURSDAY APRIL 30

Check in, set up display/sale tables, and catch up on the year's news. CLOSE: 9:00 P.M.

#### FRIDAY MAY 1

9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Show and Sale  
5:00 P.M. PACK UP  
7:00 P.M. Banquet--Indicate choice when making reservations.  
8:00 P.M. Speaker - Berry Wiggins  
9:00 P.M. Business Meeting

#### SATURDAY MAY 2

Check out - or if you have chosen to stay you will have made your reservations for Sat. night in advance. There are many Flea Markets in the area and lots of antique shops and malls for everyone.

Choice for Banquet: 10 oz. Prime Rib \$12.95 OR  
Stuffed Chicken Breast \$11.95

All dinners include: Peas and Mushrooms  
Baked Potato  
Tossed Salad w/house dressings  
Freshly baked rolls, Butter  
Coffee, tea, home made cakes & pies

Add 6% Sales Tax and 20% Service Charge.



SOME IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

Don't forget that Berry Wiggins would appreciate receiving questions you might have, in order for him to do his best to assist you by answering them and, also, it will serve to help him know what you would like to hear in conjunction with his talk at the time of the convention. His address is:  
[REDACTED]

DUES: Treasurer, Augusta M. Keith, calls attention to the fact that a few of you have not paid dues for this year, which were due in April 1991 and it will once again be time for dues this April. We continued to send the Newsletter but must now advise if you have not paid, this will be the last Newsletter due to printing and postage costs.

Please remember our fiscal year is APRIL TO APRIL so DUES will again be due this April for 1993. We realize it is easily overlooked when an organization's fiscal year runs this way and we do not want to lose any of you.

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Mildred Bicksler - Editor  
Stretch Glass Society



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