

## FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

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The meeting of the Fenton Finders Greater Kansas City will be **Saturday March 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2009** at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59<sup>th</sup>, Raytown, Missouri. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M.

Unfortunately this newsletter must start out with mixed news. Bonnie Bradshaw is home and well on the way to recovery and she promises that she and Joe will be at the Gala this year. Way to go Bonnie. However the last update that was received on Gary Levi is not so good. Almost before the last newsletter was mailed out we heard that Gary has taken a turn for the worse. Please keep him and Dodie in your prayers. They are very special people.

Our meeting in February was lots of fun. It was great seeing so many familiar and friendly faces after going without seeing them for a few months. Bernie Johnston brought in some of our new Dancing Lady vases and many of our members went home with an extra piece of glass.

To celebrate Valentine's Day our members brought in many pieces of Fenton's romantic theme glass. These included 6 heart shape relish dishes, two ruby snow crest heart relish, large and small as well as a ruby crest large and small and a Rosaline with hand painted flowers and a hand painted hyacinth

crest heart relish, a very nice sample of a larger collection of heart relish dishes. There was a very nice Violet Iridized heart shape trinket box. A Ruby Opalescent Heart Optic bottle, ca 2007 as well as a Cranberry Heart Optic Fairy Light and #6568 Perfumer. A powder box, ca 1992. The Heart Optic designed was first introduced in the late 1940's in French Opalescent. In the 1990's Nancy Fenton rediscovered the optic and dedicated it to Valentine's Day and the Sentiments Collection which meant most of these pieces were made in limited numbers. There was also a milk glass sitting bear with Ruby hanging hearts, a special piece made for an event at Ann Fenton's store by Dave Fetty and hand painted hearts on a sitting bear. There was a #192A Ruby Overlay small squat cologne, ca. 1942, and the 6 1/4" Ruby Berry Temple Jar, limited to 350 pieces, designed and made by Kelsey Murphy and Robert Bomkamp ca. 2008/ and a #CV100AZ French Opalescent Rib Optic Perfume with Spruce Green Crest and Stopper, QVC ca. 1995 and, last but not least, the # 8858 K8 Braveheart Vase designed by Dave Fetty, ca 2005.

There was a nice display of show and tell with people bringing in their finds to share with our friends. There was a Silver Crest student lamp with 2 Silver Crest globes that had been repaired by one of our members, Melvin Lampton - more on Melvin later. The lamp base was milk glass as well and while he believes it was made by Fenton for L. G. Wright, and there is some research that backs that up, he needs to do a little more to prove it.

One of our members took delivery on the new Burmese #6885 GO Wisteria Lane Vase limited to 350 pieces and the # 5641 ED Giverny Ginger Jar Vase limited to 295 pieces both designed and made by Kelsey Murphy and Robert Bomkamp. There was a #3870 Cranberry Opalescent candlestick, ca 1953 - 77 (the owner is looking for a match) as well as a # 1021 footed Ivy Ball ca. 1953-66. A mini basket, milk glass with teal green handle and hand painting ca. 2000's, a #8838 V8 Fenton's new Dancing Lady Vase in the new color Blue Lagoon. Two # 53 Colognes in Celeste Blue and Rose ca. 1920's, and a #1502 Cologne in Rose ca. 1920's. This one I had a little trouble finding information on before our meeting using the Whitmyer's book, Fenton Art Glass 1907 - 1939 it was easy to find an example of this cologne but not in this color. However, when checking out William Heacock's book, The First Twenty-Five Years the information was easy to find. This is why it pays to have more than one book on Fenton. Of course, it doesn't help if you only have time to check out one

book before the meeting.

There was also a #705 Silvertone Etch Crystal Ivy Ball and a #950 Silvertone Etch Oval Bowl in Rose color. It was also difficult to find information on this etch being produced in this color. The Whitmyer's book indicates it was made most often in crystal but also in blue and gold but no information about it being made in rose. Heacock's book only documents it in crystal. Does anyone have any more information on it out there? If so please let me know so that we can share the information with everyone else. It would be nice to know how many pieces Fenton made in this color, or as one member said - have you got the matching cornucopia candlesticks? Did they make the matching candlesticks?

Its time to introduce to everyone out there Melvin and Norma Lampton. They are long time members of FFOGKC as well as the national clubs. I remember being in awe of their collection as well as their even more impressive knowledge of Fenton Glass when I first joined FFOGKC. In the years that I've been privileged to know them nothing has happened to change that. They helped organize and start the first Gala and Melvin has continued to help with glass ID as well as helping with doing the small display table review at the Gala. Norma always heads the group with her small table display. It's always wonderful. Here they are in their own words:

How we started Collecting by Melvin and Norma Lampton.

We live in Bates City, Mo which is about 30 miles east of Kansas City, Mo down 1-70. We worked and retired from Hallmark Cards in Kansas City. We have a boy and a girl, 2 grandsons and 1 great-grandson and 1 great-granddaughter.

Back in 1986 we went to an outdoor Flea Market in a local town. We purchased a press cut crystal pitcher. We had several pieces of glass already but we didn't know what they were. A few weeks later we noticed there was going to be an Antique Show and Sale at one of the local Shopping Malls. They advertised Glass Identification for \$1.00 per item. We took an old piece of opalescent glass that Norma's mother had given her. The man told us it as a piece of Fenton. I guess that name sort of stuck with us (we found out later that piece of opalescent glass was not Fenton. It was Northwood. Goes to show you these I.D. people are still learning also.)

Then we starting going to a large indoor Flea Market. There we met a lady by the name of DOROTHY TAYLOR. She was selling glass and she introduced us to Fenton glass and also to the President of the local Fenton Club, Beverly McKeehan. We joined the Fenton Club then and from there on our collection increased. Now we belong to several clubs and collect Fenton, Imperial, Westmoreland, Waterford and lately Pilgrim Cameo Glass which we really like. Our collections have almost run us out of our house. Norma has a large collection of Fenton's bridesmaid dolls and has managed to buy several one of a kinds off of E-Bay and has done a table display of them at the Gala and hopes to do it again.

We have met so many nice people during our collecting. We still go to some auctions and try to go to as many antique malls as we can.

Melvin and Norma can also take credit for starting many people on the path of collecting Fenton Art Glass as well as adding to our knowledge of Fenton. Two couples that they started on this path was Richard and Sara Speaight and Larry and Judy Helmich. Richard, Sara, Larry, and Judy also worked with Melvin and Norma at Hallmark and the rest, as they say, is history. This is just a few people who have been introduced to Fenton by this great couple. Their wiliness to share their knowledge and love of glass is known by all and inspires all of us to try to learn and share our love of Fenton as much as they have. Melvin has also included this article to help us all learn of some possibilities for that broken piece of glass - besides the trash can or a piece of jewelry. In his own words:



## FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

At last years Gala I returned an item that belonged to Jackie Oglesby. That item was a #55 Celeste Blue Stretch Cologne bottle. Only this bottle had been converted to an atomizer. It had been the victim of an unfortunate accident. It had been broken at one of our local Fenton meetings earlier that year. I was able to cut off the broken areas and attach a collar at the top and attach a coupling to the base to the body. And so from a broken piece of Fenton - was created a beautiful atomizer that has proven to be not only unique but quite beautiful.

I have been doing several projects similar to this, but most of the work I do is fabricating lamps using pieces of Fenton vases, cruets, bowls, etc. The very first lamp that I made was from a Wrisley Cologne bottle. I cut the top off by using a diamond saw (which is a little pricey) and also using hole saws to drill larger holes in some pieces. I also operate a lamp repair service from our local Antique Mall. This involves simple cord and switch replacement to converting old oil lamps to electric. Hope this information is useful to all of you out there.

Melvin Lampton

The year is passing quickly as it always seem to do for those of us getting older and it will soon be time to plan on attending the national conventions as well as taking the time to come to Kansas City to help us celebrate our 10 year anniversary. It doesn't seem possible that we have been having the Gala that many years. I can remember the first Gala. Connie Duncan called me and asked if I could help at the registration desk - as most of you know I wasn't very good at that so the next year they placed me in the hospitality room along with Jim - my husband who loved running the hospitality room and telling me what to do. It was so exciting to have the seminars, glass ID's as well as buying glass from so many rooms. The display of water sets was just wonderful. Talking to Frank Fenton about the glass and listening to him talk about Fenton is something those of us who were lucky enough to be there will remember for a long time. And yet it was just yesterday. Now it is time to plan for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Gala. We are planning lots of surprises for everyone who comes and we think that everyone who does come will have a wonderful time. For updates on the Gala as

well as for information on how to attend check out our website, [www.fentonfinderskc.net](http://www.fentonfinderskc.net) Bernie Johnston keeps it updated with pictures of our meetings as well so you can keep tabs on us. The time is coming that everyone will need to make reservations at the Embassy, sooner is better than later as we did run out of rooms last year and our president had to move into one of the hospitality rooms. That is not very comfortable. We plan on not doing that this year. We are planning on having a lot of fun and hopefully you will join us. George and Nancy Fenton will be joining us again to make it a very special year indeed.

Lots of things have been going on at the meetings. We are trying to decide whether or not to change the time of our meetings. Many people do not want to travel so late at night so we are debating if it would not be better to move the time of our meeting to the afternoon so everyone will be driving home in the daylight after the meeting. If you have an opinion on that you need to join us in March to express your opinion or if you can contact one of our members and give your two cents worth so that they can speak for you at the meeting it will be helpful.

Steve and Connie says that they will need the auction list soon but if you can't get pictures of the glass that you want to sell don't worry about it - that will not be needed until July or Aug. It is also time to start planning on which glass that you would like Richard to consider including in the big display. That will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> twenty five years. If you have had a chance to check out the book on the 2<sup>nd</sup> twenty five years you know that it includes a large variety of glass and the choices will be hard so that he can include a sample of all the wonderful glass that Fenton made in that time span. Richard will be back from Arizona in May so we still have time but not much.

The program for March will be a celebration of St. Patrick's Day (what would we do without these holidays?) So bring in your green glass to celebrate St. Patrick. We will be doing a lot of celebrating. Don't forget your glass for show and tell that can be a lot more fun than the program sometimes. Remember the more glass that we have the more interesting the meeting. Take care and join us for our March meeting.

Jackie Oglesby, Secretary

[www.fentonfinderskc.net](http://www.fentonfinderskc.net)