

## FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be Saturday May 13, 2006 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th Raytown, Missouri. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M.

I am glad to report that Norma Lampton is at home recovering from surgery. I've been told that she is doing well, please let her know how glad that we are that everything is going well. However, I am sorry to report that it has been reported that Dodi Levi is fighting cancer now and needs all our prayers and support. Please let her and Gary know that our thoughts and prayers are with them in this fight.

Joy Livengood gave a fantastic program on Fenton Baskets at our last meeting. This is a really difficult subject as there are so very many different shapes, treatments, and sizes of Fenton Baskets. She managed to bring in over 35 baskets including a brides basket - very rare with Fenton - 5 different Cranberry Baskets, a Wild Rose, 3 Peach Crests, a Topaz 5 different Coin Spot, 5 Hobnail (including 3 different sizes of Milk Glass), a Violet in the Snow, a Fib Optic French Opal., a Ruby Overlay, a Rosaline, a Basketweave with a Christmas design, 9 different Overlay treatments, and 6 different crests - wow. We are all looking forward to Joy's and Eric (her wonderful husband who did help her pack and bring in her baskets) to give another program.

Sadly there was not very much for show and tell this month. There was a Poinsettia Cake Plate produced around 1937, a Dorothy Taylor Carnival glass basket from the 1980's, a Cobalt Blue Basket with a Milk Glass Crest and White Roses and a basket that was found at the Gala Whimsey Auction. We also had the Frank Fenton Memorial Burmese Nautilus Vase as well as the new Crayons Vase that is one of Fenton's new Dave Fetty designs.

And speaking of the bus trip I need to give everyone the low down on our trip. It started out early Wednesday morning (4:45AM) when Judy Helmich and I drove into Belton and into the driveway of our bus driver - a very kind and funny man named Paul England and his wife Leone. From there we went to St. Lukes South to pick up some more Fenton Fanatics and then made 3 more stops with the last one in St. Louis before making our way to West Virginia. We spent the night in a very nice motel and then woke up bright and early so we could arrive at the Huntington Museum in time for their opening and had a wonderful time exploring their

wonderful collection of glass, guns, and more. We left in time to get lunch and then head out to Marietta Ohio. Before arriving at Marietta we made a stop a Gibson Glass Gift Shop, sadly we learned that Gibson will soon be closing due to Charlie Gibson's health problems but we were still able to do some shopping after which we drove a mile or so and stopped at Blenko and were able to watch them make some of their famous glass as well as do some shopping in their gift shop and spend some time visiting their rest areas - much needed. We arrived in Marietta in time to check into the Hampton Inn and then leave for a great dinner at Ryan's. After dinner we went shopping in the Williamstown Antique Mall. The Mall was kind enough to open for us and stayed open until we were shopped out and left for a night of well earned rest.

We got moving early in the morning so that we got to Fenton's so that we could go on a special tour conducted by Pam Dicks and Howard Seufer. We got to see the new Favrene Vase that is being made for the Connoisseur Collection 2006 as well as the Cobalt Blue Alley Cat that is being made for the Gala. As you can see from the picture on the previous page Connie Duncan checked the work being done by a Fenton artist and Betty Merrell made plans to own the one in the middle, you know the one that is leaning a little to the left?



We attended a Chemistry seminar, as well as a seminar on Fenton's internet website with Connie Mayle and product designing by new Fenton designer Suzy Whitaker. We took a one hour lunch break at Da Vinci's then returned to Fenton for a product review with Nancy Fenton where we got the chance to see the complete new Connoisseur Collection for 2006 as well as the new Christmas offering. Then, oh joy, we got a peek at Frank's closet and tried very hard to have Fenton let us adopt some of the lonely pieces of glass that we viewed there. There was a chance to view the new products that may or may not appear in the future. After which there was a special order seminar and then at last some shopping and a family member signing event with Chris Fenton. After a short rest we returned to Fenton for dinner and Fenton Jeopardy. Fun was had by all and many people used their plastic cards many times that day.

Saturday morning we left Marietta at 8:00 to go to Cambridge and spent some time at the Cambridge Glass Museum and viewed some of their wonderful glass. If you get a chance you must make time to go to this museum. It only cost \$3.00 to tour and you will get a chance to greatly increase your knowledge of this wonderful glass. We then headed out to the Heart of Ohio Antique Mall and even managed to make a second stop at another nearby mall. After that

we traveled a little more until we reached our hotel for the night to prepare for the last part of our journey home. The only thing that marred our trip was the illness of a few of our members, nothing serious but very uncomfortable for them. Everyone was very happy to see their stops come up and get home.

As Judy and I were the first ones on the bus we were the last ones off and we can not say enough good things about the plans made by the people on the bus trip committee. That includes Bernie Johnston, Bev Spencer, Connie Duncan and Sandy Wheeler. Everything was well planned and timed perfectly. The bus they picked for transport was not only very clean and comfortable the bus driver was a joy to travel with. He was always gracious and always ready with a joke to share. So we recommend his company England Bus Company any time. And we recommend as well that everyone thank the people who planned our trip. Thank you.

Every effort will be made by me to get a scrapbook ready of our trip by or before the Gala. If anyone has pictures that they would like to share with the club I would love to get them so that they can be included in our book. Just email me that you have pictures. Even better come to our meeting Sat. May 13th and hand them over. Thanks.

Steve Duncan has informed me that the auction is closed. He wants to thank everyone who gave him their lists early so that it is easier to get the auction planned. Hopefully everyone got their glass in that wanted to. Just remember that you can always sell glass from your room at the hotel if you didn't get them listed in time for the auction. So get your room reserved at the Embassy for the Gala the dates are Sept. 21, 22, & 23 and the number is 816-891-7788.

Our program in May will be all Show and Tell. Everyone who got to go on the bus trip to West Virginia is asked to bring in the treasures that they found and everyone who stayed home is asked to bring in the treasures they found at home. I saw a few of the things that were found on the bus trip and you guys that did not get to go will have a rough time coming up with as much stuff as was found on the trip.

Remember to bring your glass for the show and tell program. It's not a competition but it is a chance to brag a little on what you found either in West Virginia or in Kansas City and a chance to share what you found and learned with fellow members. And take care of yourself; we need you in the club. May the rains of May bring you many Fenton flowers.

Jackie Oglesby  
Secretary