



The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be Saturday Feb. 11, 2006 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th Raytown, Missouri. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M.

The Christmas meeting at the Home Town Buffet was a lot of fun with lots of members attending and even some out of town members managed to come. We had some very good food and lots of fun with dirty bingo. Two lucky members went home with 2 nice pieces of Fenton and one member (Richard and Sara Speaight) took home a broken piece. Of course they did donate the broken piece to the club for dirty bingo and have promised to let us have it back for the next game of dirty bingo. Some people just never stop giving.

I hope that you will all forgive me for taking some time to remember last year. For Fenton collectors it was an exciting year with all the plans for celebrating Fenton's centennial and all the wonderful glass Fenton produced for us to enjoy and collect. More than one collector complained that they had trouble figuring out how to get every single one and remain out of debt. And all of us grieved with the Fenton family for the lost of family patriarch, Frank M. Fenton. We all grieved for the losses that so many people in this country and around the world suffered in the last year. So much lost it is hard to comprehend. As a club we have suffered many losses as well, the unexpected deaths of Jim Stocker and Larry Helmich was a brutal blow not only to their families but also to the club. While the lost of member Sandy Wheeler's husband, Ron, who had suffer greatly for a long time with illness, was not unexpected it was a added blow to all. We have had many members contend with long term illness, Jon and Bev Spencer, Bonnie Bradshaw, Jack and Bev McKeehan to name a few. This year we all are hoping for a better year.

There are many new members who are adding to the knowledge as well as the strength of our club. We welcome these new members and hope

that they will gain as much from being members as we will gain from having them join us in our search for knowledge and fellowship. We also had a wonderful time at Gala 2005, so many people came just to look us over and some stayed to celebrate Fenton's centennial with us. We added new members and of course said a sad farewell to a few. Our activities as a club has allowed us to give to local charities as well as give additional funds for hurricane relief. Now we are planning a trip to West Virginia for our club members so that we will have a chance to expand our knowledge of Fenton. We are planning Gala 2006 and hope to make it as much fun as all the other Gala's so that we can continue these projects and hope that we will find others to excite us for the coming year.

This will be all of your time that I will take up on this trip to memory lane, except to say thank you all for the support that you have all given me during this last year- it was very hard for me to continue after the death of my husband - so many of you have stepped forward to offer me a helping hand that it would be remiss of me not to say thank you. I know that the families of Larry Helmich and Ron Wheeler will join me in this.

Our trip to West Virginia is almost all planned. The bus committee has sent me this information to pass on to you. Here are a few items that all riders need to be aware of, also if you know a non member going with us, please make sure that they have all the necessary information.

1. The bus fee charged to non-members is \$100. This was determined by dividing the total bus cost by the number of seats.

2. If you have not made your hotel reservations, this needs to be done soon. We negotiated significant reductions for our club and they may go away.

3. If you might need to cancel, try to make your decision as soon as possible so that others have a chance to go and will have the time to do everything that they need to do. I know that we can't always know everything that comes up but try to commit by February 15th.

4. There will be two pick up sites, one will be at St. Lukes South Hospital at 12300 Metcalf Ave. Overland Park and at the WalMart Store parking lot off 1-70. We will have a few more details to share at the meeting on the 11th. Hope to see you there.

The program for the Feb. meeting will be Dave Fetty. This may be a surprise for all of you who have read the Dec. newsletter. Sandy Wheeler was going to do the program on Mary Gregory but because she had to undergo surgery on her right shoulder she will wait to give us that program in March. The Feb. program will be a club program and we need all of you to bring your favorite samples of Dave Fetty pieces to the meeting. That will include pieces that he made for the Barber's collection as well as the ones that he made for Fenton's Special Room or Connoisseur Collections. As you can see from this month's picture there are a lot of different

examples of Dave Fetty's glass out there. Dave Fetty began working for Fenton in 1965 and retired in 1999. He began his career in glassmaking at Blenko Glass Co. as a carrying-in boy at the age of 19. In the mid 1970's Dave along with Delmar Stowasser and Bill Sage worked with glass artisan Robert Barber to help design and create the Barber collection. These were among the first of Fenton's limited collections. Since his retirement Dave has been asked to return to Fenton and help out on special projects. You can see the results in many of the Connoisseur collections and any time you visit Fenton's Special Room that features his creations of offhand glass. So select your favorite Dave Fetty creation and bring it to the meeting so that we can learn more about this specialized form of glass making. Come and enjoy - it's taken over 40 years of training to create this beautiful glass. And now here is some information from James Measell concerning reversed numbers/letters on Fenton glass. This information appeared on the fentonglass@yahoogroups website.

Virtually all Fenton moulds (and those we have acquired from other companies) have letters and/or numbers stamped into them on surface areas which are not intended to come into contact with the glass. The numbers (such as 192) serve to identify the mould so that the right mould can be picked out from a group of moulds in storage and made ready to be worked when it is called for in our production schedule.

Lettering might identify the shape of the piece (I've seen "VASE" and "JUG" but my all-time favorite is "CRUIY") or the lettering might be "AFGWU," which stands for American Flint Glass Workers Union. Moulds made by the union mouldmakers have the AFGWU letters stamped into them, sometimes in several places on the mould but typically on the top surface. These reversed letters or numbers get into the glass during the manufacturing process, and this occurs only in the blown glassware. Here how it happens: In making blown ware, the blower gets the gob of glass quite hot on the end of the blowpipe just before he brings it to the mould. When the gob is just a bit too hot, he'll allow the bottom of the gob to rest on the top of the mould for a moment to cool it before he puts the gob in the mould and blows the piece to shape.

This momentary rest is where the transfer takes place, and, because this is a chance occurrence, not all the letters or numbers necessarily get picked up. I've seen 1, 2, or all 3 numbers from the 192 mould. And, I've seen AF or WU and the other letters aren't visible. Recently on eBay, there was an item that had all of AFGWU visible, so the seller quickly concluded that this was a union souvenir of some kind!

The letters or numbers are somewhere on the outside bottom of the piece and they're reversed or backwards (mirror image) because they read normally on the mould. If you look down inside the piece from the top, the letters or numbers read normally.
James Measell, Historian Fenton Art Glass Co.

Thank you Connie Duncan for forwarding this information to me so that I can share it with the rest of our group.

Again, it is time to renew your membership with our club - membership can be purchase for a bargain price of \$7.50 for family membership and \$5.00 for a individual membership. Your may send your check to Janet Wilke at PO Box 67071, Topeka, Ks 66667. For people who joined at the Gala or after your membership is prorated to Feb. 2007, so you are good. If you are not sure check the address label on the newsletter if the date next to your name is 2/06 you need to pay your dues - if it is 2/07 you are good til 2007. For anyone who has already sent your dues to me don't worry it has been sent to Janet and your membership has been renewed. The new rooster will be out in April. Thank you.

Its time to end this newsletter now so I will leave you with a reminder to bring your Dave Fetty pieces to the Feb. meeting for the program. And bring the wonderful pieces of Fenton that you got with your Christmas gift money, or if your were lucky, that you got as a Christmas gift for show and tell. And don't forget that it is time to remember that special person for Valentine's day - what better gift than a gift of Fenton. See you then.

Jackie Oglesby Secretary