

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be Saturday April 8, 2006 at the Raytown City Hall, 10000 E. 59th Raytown, Missouri. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M.

We send our sympathy to Charlie Illk on the loss of his wife Joan. Many of our members know Charlie and Joan from the national conventions in West Virginia. Charlie and Joan have held offices in F AGCA and Joan always worked very hard to make the national convention a big success. She will be missed by many people. Our thoughts and prayers are with Charlie and his family.

Since Sandy Wheeler is my sister maybe I shouldn't say it but I will; what a wonderful program on Mary Gregory. There were some wonderful examples of Fenton's Mary Gregory on Cranberry glass and Plum Opalescent as well as some really nice examples of older Mary Gregory glass. Sandy explained that the origin of the name of Mary Gregory glass was based on a woman by that name who worked for the Boston and Sandwich Glass Company. The story goes that she started painting children on the glass because she loved children so much. However, it is just a story. There is no evidence that she every painted a "Mary Gregory" type of decoration. Mary Gregory glass ware originated in Bohemia as a type of poor man's cameo glass. The heavy white enamel paint was used to imitate the far more expensive cameo glass that was popular at that time. For more information Sandy recommended the book: Mary Gregory Glassware by R. & D. Truitt, and for more information about Fenton Mary Gregory Glassware check the book Fenton Glass, the 1990s Decade, edited by James Measell.

There were some nice examples of Fenton Glass in our show and tell as well. There were 3 console sets from the 1930's with matching Pineapple candlesticks. A Jade set, a Mandarin Red set and a Black set. There were some fine examples of Mary Gregory glass as well as glass that was made by the Westmoreland company, a mini lamp, a pair of plaques and a ruby plate. There was also a Dave Fetty fish as well as a 10" French Opal hobnail lamp base, a Honey Amber Jacqueline Vase, a 9" Topaz stretch glass plate. A Ruby hobnail handle, a Topaz hobnail 7" flared Rose Bowl and a 4" Topaz hobnail vase. Something from the 20's, 30's, 40's, 70's, well something from many different decades - how nice.

There is no news from the Gala front. I hope to have a picture of the Cobalt Blue Alley Cat soon. It should be really neat. Everything is going well. We will be getting with the hotel soon to plan the meals. Hopefully they will turn out as well as last year. I did so love the desserts. Okay I'm a sugar freak. Don't rub it in. While plans are being made for our 7th Gala we are also looking forward to the national conventions. There are so many exciting things being planned by both National Clubs that it is hard not to attend them both so as not to miss anything. FAGCA will be a sadder convention this year with Joan Illk gone. We wish them well and know that they will carry on in her fine tradition.

Steve Duncan has informed me that people have already given him lists of glass for the auction. If you have some glass that you want to sell please get a list to him as soon as you can. There is a limit to how many pieces of glass that we can sell so the sooner you get your list to him the better chance you will have to have your glass included in the auction.

Is the excitement building up in everyone for the bus trip? I can hardly wait. Bernie has everything planned and I know that it is going to be an exciting and informative trip for everyone. It is unfortunate that so many people have had to drop out from either personal or business reasons. Because of this we have decided to open this trip up to non members for no charge - that's right if you know of anyone who would like to come with us to West Virginia please have them contact Sandy Wheeler at 913- or Bernie Johnston at 913- and let them know that they want to go. The bus ride will be free however they will have to pay for their hotel rooms and food as the rest of us will. The first 10 non members who contact Sandy or Bernie will be included. If they need information on which hotels to make reservation at Sandy and Bernie will have that for them. And if you find that you can make the trip after all please let Sandy or Bernie know so that they can include you on the list. If this trip is anything like the first one it will be lots of fun for everyone.

Bernie also wanted me to be sure to give the time and place of pick up for the trip so be there or be square:

4/19/2006 St. Lukes South Overland Park Bus will leave at 6:00AM Sharp - so
Please be there no later than 5:30AM so that the bus will be loaded and ready to go at 6:00AM

4/19/2006 6:20AM CST Board at Wal-Mart-291 & 1-70
4/19/2006 7:00AM P/u Thomson 1-70 MP 49 Highway

If you have any questions please contact Sandy or Bernie and they will be glad to help you.

Our program for April will be Fenton Baskets by Joy Livengood. This will be a great program as well as a big challenge for Joy. Fenton first started making baskets in 1911 with the hat shape basket in their basketweave novelties. It did not have a handle but Fenton was on the path of making a great collectible. Since that first basket Fenton has made so many different variations of shape, size, molds, and types glass that it would be difficult to count the number of baskets that they have produced for our enjoyment. A member recently asked the best way to pack away - safely - 200 baskets. That would be another challenge, a big one. My first Fenton purchase was a basket and at one time that was the main part of my collection. So I am looking forward to learning more about this great collectible. A basket made by Fenton, rather a mini basket or a large 13 inch basket that just takes your breath away is a treasure. You can't open up a Fenton catalog without seeing a new basket so I am really looking forward to learning more about this great collectible.

As we prepare for our bus trip we don't want to forget about the upcoming grand opening at Ann Fenton's new store, A Fenton Art Glass Superstore where Mike Fenton will join her for a family signing event on April 22, 2006 at 11AM to 2Pm to sign glass and help her open up the new

store. So you people who are unable to come to West Virginia please join Ann to help her have a really great opening. And the weekend following that will be the Carnival Glass Convention at the Embassy Suites. Starting on Apr. 27 it will feature a great display of carnival glass as well as glass for sale from the rooms and a auction that features very rare and collectable carnival glass. April will be a busy month for everyone so be sure to come to our meeting and get caught up with everything that is going on.

As all good things must come to a end your membership and newsletters will also come to an end in Apr. if you have not renewed you membership. Please contact Janet Wilke at P. O. Box 67071, Topeka, Ks 66667 with your membership dues of \$5.00 for a single and \$7.50 for a family membership. Thank you so very much. Don't forget to change your clocks and come to the meeting with your glass for show and tell. Our program for this month is going to be great so don't miss it.

Jackie Oglesby
Secretary