

## STEPPING BACK IN TIME: CARNIVAL GLASS IS MADE

Those people that read this article, and this Newsletter are carnival glass collectors. We all love this glass for one reason or another. Sometimes we even say "If this glass could talk" and then in our imaginations we conjure up the stories of our talking glass.

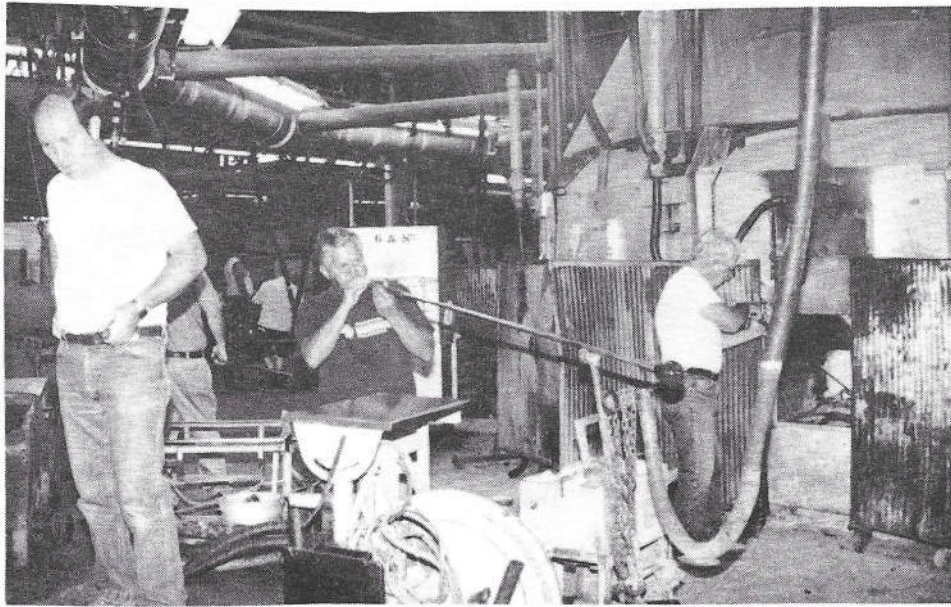
On June 27, 1988 I had the very fortunate experience of watching the miniature amethyst Morning Glory pitcher begin made. Now before you dismiss this article by thinking you are not interested in new glass -- read on, you will learn something about how our treasured old glass was made.

The day began about 7:30 a.m. at the Fenton Art Glass Company in Williamstown, West Virginia. When I arrived at the factory they were already starting the assembly process of our souvenir. Altogether there were fourteen workers doing their individual jobs. Things went quickly, taking only a minute or two to make each one. By 9:10 they had 165 made.

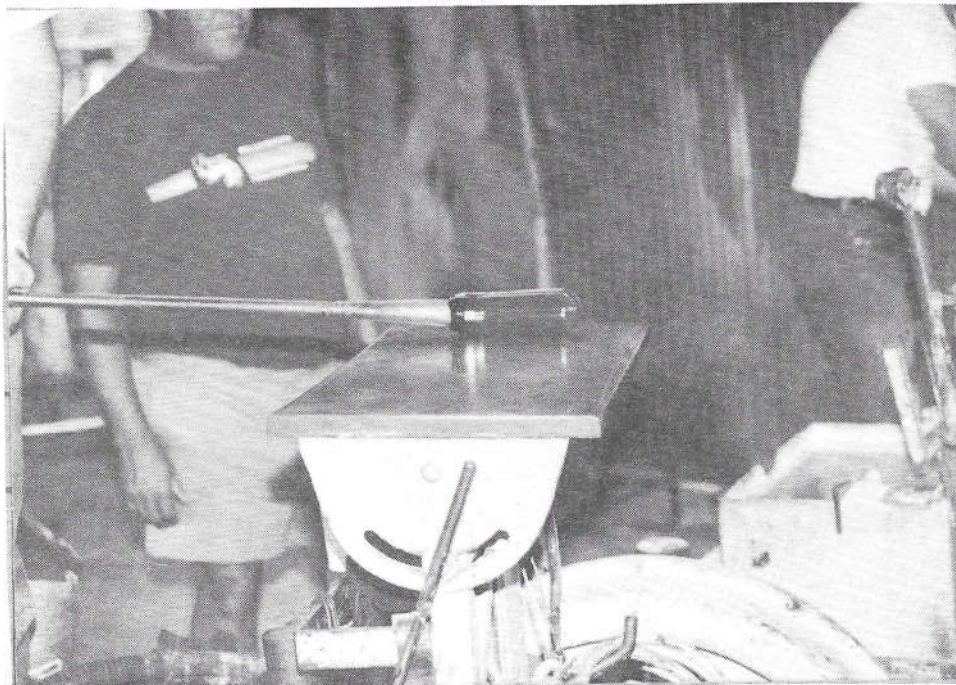
Below are six pictures of just a few of the steps involved in this process.



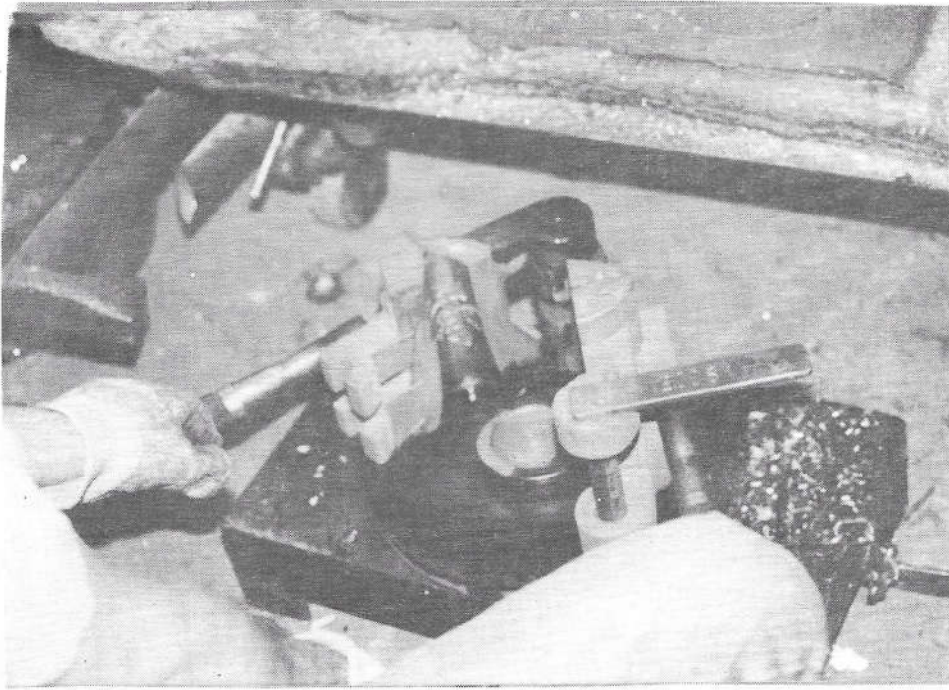
The gatherer begins by taking a hollow metal pipe, called a blow pipe, and putting the pipe into the furnace where the molten glass is located.



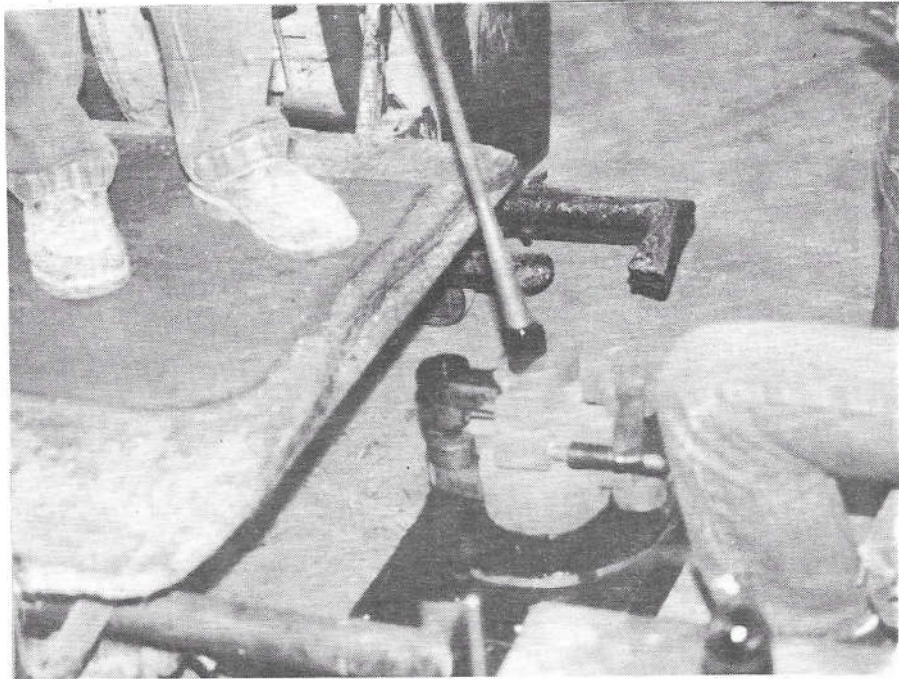
The first bit of air is blown into the glass



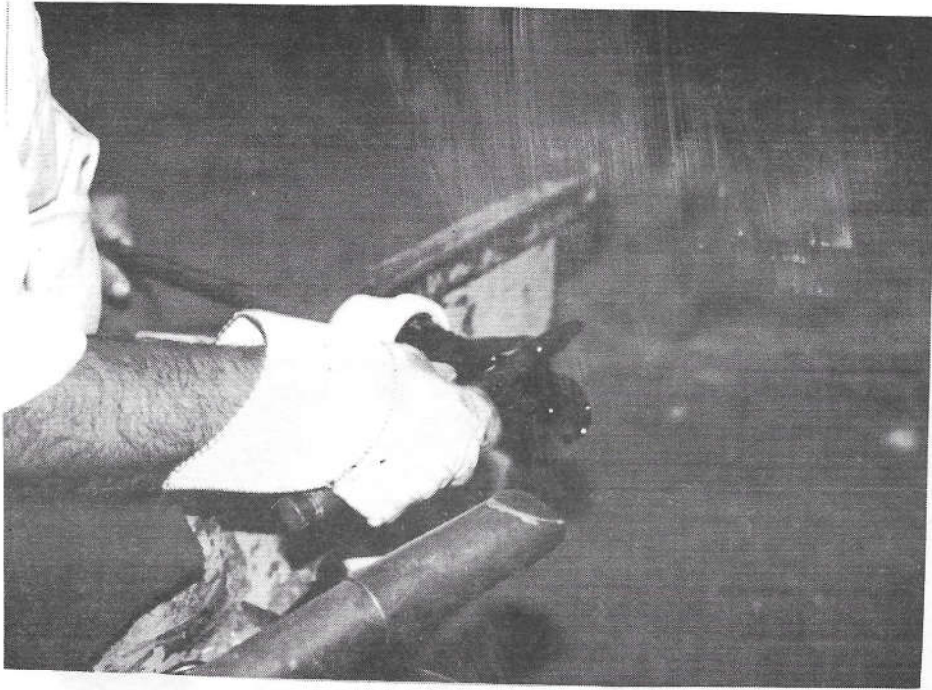
The hot "taffy like" glass is smoothed on a steel table called a marver plate.



A view of the mold just before the glass is dropped in.



The closed mold. At the top you can see an overbubble of glass. The glassblower uses this overbubble to disconnect the blowpipe from the vessel, without damaging it.



The glass handle is being applied.

The final step is to spray the iridescent finish on. Then it will go through the lehr, which is a slow moving conveyor belt that goes through a gradual cooling process. This takes almost 3 hours and is necessary so the glass doesn't cool too quickly. If it did it would break.

A special thanks to Lori and Ed Radcliff. Ed is our super souvenir chairman, and Lori has been our treasurer for 2 years. They also live 3 blocks from the factory and allowed me to stay with them. Lori and Ed work hard for our club.

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