

ENCORE CONVENTION 1984

By Betty Newbound

Have you ever been to a glass collectors convention? If you haven't, you really should try to go - you'd have the best time!

April 23, 24 and 25 found us in Platte City, MO, 800 miles from home, attending Dorothy Taylor's "Encore" Convention. This was a gathering of collectors of new glass - predominantly Carnival. About 45 motel rooms were filled with glass and with enthusiastic collectors, and the most difficult part was staying in your own room long enough to sell something instead of just dashing around to everyone else's room and gabbing constantly about glass in all its many facets.

Besides buying and selling, there were interesting seminars such as the one presented by George Rydings on Indiana Glass. George had some slides of the many types of Carnival glass produced by Indiana. Some of the pieces produced as late as 1976 are now becoming collectible, so watch for them in your travels. Representatives from several of the glass houses gave us some good information on present lines and on what we can expect from them in the near future.

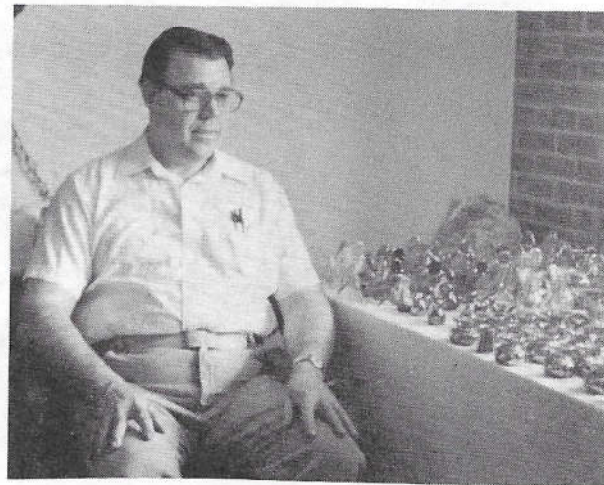
Roger West from Westmoreland told us that the current, limited Ruby Mother-of-Pearl series is the first Carnival that Westmoreland has made since the 1920's. Their present line includes gorgeous Lilac Opalescent, Pink Opalescent and Ruby Red. The mini punch set and children's pieces for 1984 are in crystal, as were the originals way back in the 1890's. You will recall that Lancaster Colony recently purchased the Fostoria Glass Company. They are also the owners of Indiana Glass and the Tiara Party Plan. Their representative gave us information on upcoming items. There should be, he said, nine or ten pieces of Fostoria in their Tiara Line by the end of July. These will be clear lead crystal, marked only with a gold sticker. He could not say what the pieces would be, but mentioned also Chantilly green and a goblet-bell from the Heritage Line. Also a few pieces of American in red are currently in production. With Indiana's past record of refusing to mark their glass, this Fostoria take-over will bear close watching by collectors.



Pauline Paul

Pauline Paul was the representative for Mosser Glass and L.G. Wright, and she had many interesting items on display in her room. Mosser is certainly thriving and has some really fantastic children's pieces on the market in Cherry Thumbprint and the Jennifer collection, which is the old depression glass Cameo pattern in miniature.

One of the newer glassmakers at the convention was Charlie Gibson from Milton, WV. Mr. Gibson has worked in the glass business on and off since the 1960's. After six years as a full-time minister he started making glass again about ten months ago. His work is all hand blown and iridized. I must say he gets some lovely colors and beautiful rainbow sheen finishes. In fact, he was the maker of the 1984 Encore souvenie which is a lovely miniature cruet.



Charlie Gibson

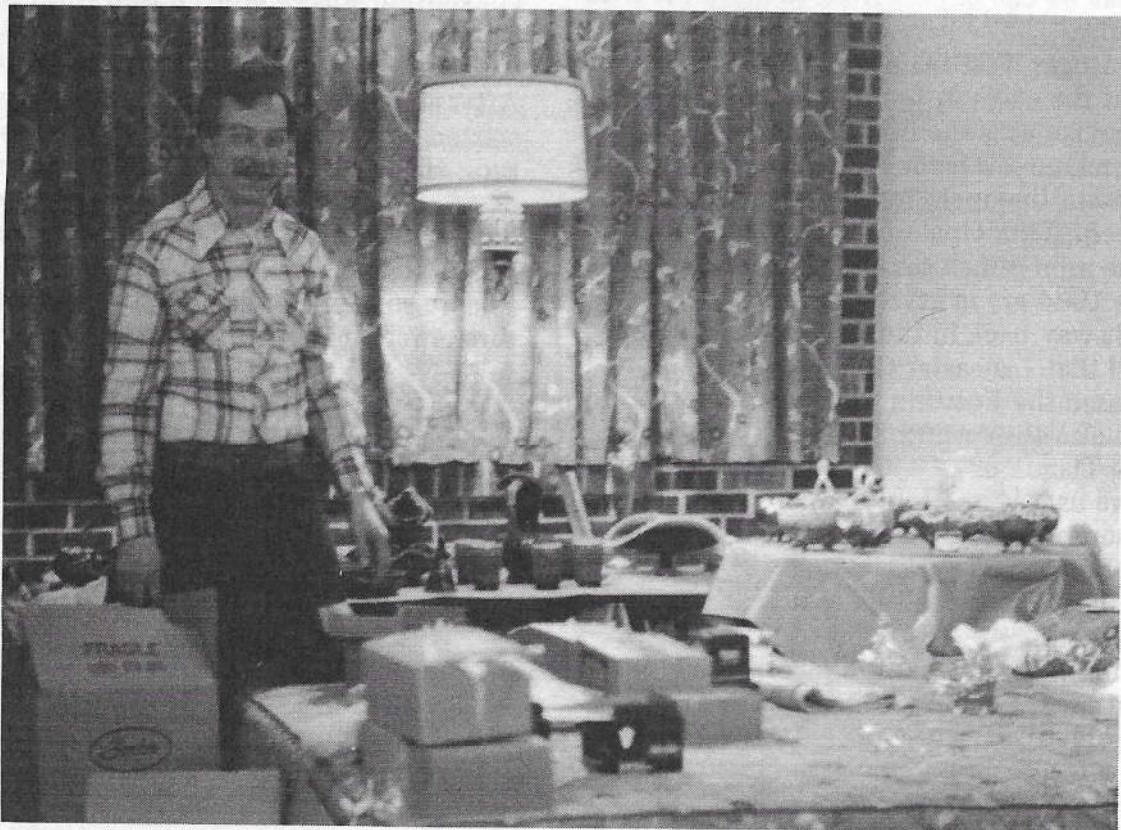


Donna and Terry Crider

Mr. Frank Fenton informed us that a new Connoisseur Collection is in the process of being put together. After the gorgeous pieces featured in the first one, we can hardly wait to see what the new items will be! He told us Fenton first produced Carnival in 1907 and called it "Iridil".

Present also were Terry and Donna Crider whose gorgeous Studio Art Glass vases, toothpicks and paperweights sold so fast we hardly had time to look at them! Terry had with him a preview showing of his newest item - mold-blown salt and pepper shakers in several patterned molds and a wide spectrum of lovely slags and solid colors, all iridized. From Wapakonetta, OH, Terry is one of the country's true glass artists and I'm sure his pieces will be treasured and valuable additions to American glass heritage.

Mike Ladd from Levay Distributing Co. had on display the beautiful new Plum Opalescent Hobnail and Drape pieces being made for them by Fenton, plus their own new Cranberry Victorian Art Glass items and the Vaseline Opal fish and



Mike Ladd from Levay Glass Company

spatter miniwater sets made for them by Charlie Gibson.

Tuesday night found us at the Convention banquet and after a lovely dinner, I spoke to everyone on the "Windfalls and Pitfalls" of new glass collecting. In investment collecting, the primary thing to remember is QUALITY - always quality for long-term investment. Things to look for in glass collecting and ways to enjoy your glass were also looked into.

Wednesday was exciting for everyone with the evening's Fenton Glass Auction uppermost in all minds. The auction tables were loaded with over 200 pieces of Fenton — old and new. An audience of about 125 people helped the glass to find new homes. A purple carnival Hobnail

cruet sold for \$17.50, a one-piece Burmese Fairy lite - \$45. Rosaline Strawberry fairy lite - \$40, pair of scarce Apple Blossom Crest candlesticks - \$30, set of Mary Walrath's Love Boquet Burmese - \$300, a very special white opal carnival Garden of Eden plate, brought by Mr. Frank Fenton, from the Fenton Museum stock brought \$170, a gorgeous Aqua Opal Gone-with-the-Wind lamp, one of only 15 made - \$220, and an old Orange Tree footed hatpin holder in blue carnival brought \$135.

Thursday morning found everyone up early to say goodbye to Dorothy and all the new friends we'd made. The best part of any gathering like this is the people — we certainly proved again that glass people are the best people in the world!



Some of the Fenton glass offered during the auction.