

Wetzel Glass

By: John Valentine

Wetzel Glass a small glass company, but a true artist behind the company. Robert Wetzel the owner and operator of his glass company put his all into everything he done, and it showed with great detail in his work.

Robert Wetzel began as a mould maker, making his own moulds in the early 1970s. Robert would take his molds to Harold Bennett at Guernsey Glass so that he was able to start pressing glass. One of the first items Robert had made was the Strawberry Covered Butter in blue carnival. He also used Mosser Glass Company to press glass later on.

In 1979 he was able to start his own Glass Company, "Wetzel Glass".

Wetzel was inspired by some very well known glass makers and glass collectors. A lot of his inspiration came from his very close friend Joe St. Clair which was a mold maker himself.

He was challenged from time to time by Sherman Hand a well known collector, to make some very different items in carnival glass, one such item that Robert made for Sherman was the Grape & Cable electric Lamp, this item is a prize in any ones collection.

He was later challenged by Sherman to make a child's water set in the Hobnail pattern, and he was the first to do so. Wetzel had also made souvenirs for many of the carnival glass clubs. All were made from moulds he had made.

Robert was the first in many items, he was the first to make the smallest Hen on the Nest the size of a quarter, he was the first to have his business card in glass which he gave away to his customers, he was the first to make Christmas Cards in carnival glass as well as Easter Cards. I guess he was most known for his "Cup Plates". He had said that the cup plates was his best selling glass he made. He also made a lot of miniatures in glass. (Pictures on following page)

Robert made a lot of very interesting glass over the years while he was in business. I have included some pictures on the following page of his glass. The Wetzel Glass Company went out of business in the later part of the 1980s. Robert told the reason he had gone out of business was that a lot of his glass was being copied by overseas glass companies.

Remember most of his glass was limited, never a lot produced. Making his glass very collectable, and hard to find for the future collector.

Continued >>

Carnival Article



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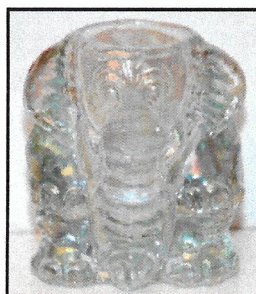
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1. Easter Card in amethyst carnival, depicts a little girl putting a baby bird back into its nest. Trade marked on the back lower left corner which says "WETZEL 83", card size is 4 1/2 inches by 4 1/2 inches and a little less than 1/4 inch thick.
2. Miniature Girl in amethyst carnival 2 1/2 inches tall & 1 1/2 inches across base. Trade marked on back with "RW"
3. Whale 4"X4" cobalt carnival Tile, this tile is a reverse cup plate, depicted in the center is a whale, and the outer edge is also depicts swimming whales.
4. Wetzel Glass Business Card in amethyst carnival. 1 1/2" X 3"
5. Smallest Hen on the Nest "Size of a Quarter" green not carnival.
6. Hobnail miniature water set in amber carnival, trade marked with the word "Wetzel" on bottom of pitcher and tumblers.
7. Holly Band salt dip blue carnival, trade marked with "Wetzel" in script in center bottom.
8. Miniature Owls on Branch in amethyst carnival, trade marked with "RW" on back. Lots of great detail.
9. Elephant toothpick ice blue carnival, trade marked with "R Wetzel" in script and dated 1976. Very few made.
10. Christmas card amethyst carnival, depicts a rabbit talking to a bird in the tree, on the bottom in the frame it says "MERRY CHRISTMAS". The card is trade marked on the back top right hand corner with a small "W" and the size is 4 inches by 4 inches and a little less than 1/4 inches thick.
11. Top of page pictured are four colors of the electric Grape & Cable Lamps made for Mr. Hand. All are trade marked "Wetzel" underneath on bottom. Very hard to find.