

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



Due to Covid we will not meet in February but hope to be able to meet again in March.

Even though we cannot meet again this month we want to take a moment to celebrate Valentine's Day with everyone with Fenton's Ruby Glass. The above picture features some nice pieces of Fenton's Ruby Glass including the #1934 Ruby decanter with flower stopper and Platinum trim and matching #1934 wines sitting on a Ruby tray all produced in the late 1930's after the repeal of prohibition. There is also the #1935 Franklin decanter and matching #1935 whiskey glasses also produced in the late 1930's. Sadly, we only have a crystal tray for this set and are still looking for a Ruby tray to go with it. Do not forget the #1909RN Founders Water Set produced in 2004 in Ruby Carnival in the center, this set was based on a pencil sketch of a cream pitcher by Frank L. Fenton. New and old, Fenton has created many wonderful pieces of transparent, carnival, stretch, overlay or Ruby Opalescent over the years. Fenton started production of Ruby glassware in 1921 and it has maintained its popularity over the years with many collectors. The old Ruby Stretch glass is some of the hardest to find and the most beautiful.

Sadly, we must let everyone know that we lost long time member Ed Anderson to Covid-19 in December. Please send your thoughts and prayers to his family. Ed and Pat have been members for many years. He will be missed.

And now a word from our president, Dan Madura

Happy New Year!



A big thank you to all our members. I am so honored and excited to be elected as president of Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City! Congratulations and a big thank you to Connie Duncan, vice president, Janet Wilke, treasurer, and Jackie Oglesby, secretary, for continuing in their positions. I would also like to thank Jason Herman for his years of service to the club as president.

A group of people met in June of 1981 at the Denney's Restaurant at I-435 and 87th Street in Raytown for an informal meeting to discuss starting a Fenton Club in the Kansas City area. Here we are 40 years later. Can you believe it? Last September, we were to celebrate our 20th annual Gala. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we had to cancel. We were heartbroken to do so, but we wanted everyone to be well and not put anyone in harm's way. We look forward to seeing everyone again for the 21st Gala coming up this September. We are monitoring all local mandates on large gatherings and will be working closely with Embassy Suites in the coming months on planning the Gala. We will celebrate the 20th anniversary at the 21st. We want to make this years' Gala one to remember.

We have not seen everyone for so long. Talking on the phone, Facebook and Zoom meetings just are not the same. It will be great to get out of the house and get back to some sense of normalcy. I pray that everyone has weathered this "new normal" well and hope that you and your family is well. It was a great shock to hear one of our own, Dave Fetty, came down with COVID-19. Thankfully, he is on the road to recovery. Thanks to all who sent cards to Dave expressing their concern, prayers, well wishes and a speedy recovery.

We have all been touched in some way of acquaintances that passed on because of this pandemic. It was sad to hear of the passage of Ed Anderson who died of complications due to COVID-19 in December. Ed and Pat have been long time members and our prayers and condolences go out to Pat and her family.

It may seem that my message to you this month was filled with many words of thanks. But we are blessed with many talented and committed people that have made this club and our Galas a success through the years. There can never be enough praises and thanks. I promise you that I will work to continue in all my predecessor's shoes to make this club and our annual Gala have continued success.

Get vaccinated!

That is one sure way to get help us back to the "old normal."

Respectfully,

Dan Madura

President

Thank you, Dan. We would just like to add that our thoughts and prayers go out to Pat Anderson and her family on their loss. We will always remember with joy the twinkle in Ed's eye as he showed us a piece of Fenton in their room or his kindnesses to all. He was always ready to share something funny to make us smile. At this time, we would like to send out our prayers and well wishes to not only all our members who have faced losses at this time but everyone who has suffered from this pandemic.



Finds from the Road

By Anne Blackmore

Max and I are very lucky to travel as much as we do, even during 2020 and now into 2021. But believe it or not, sometimes we actually hang out in our own little town and shop there too!

A couple of weeks ago, we were out running errands without the dogs, and when we saw our two our local antique shops were open, we decided to park between them and simply walk to both from the central point.

The first shop we stopped at is the newer of the two and is not open regular hours. But it is a cool place! Cluttered, things to step over, and more interesting things to look at in a small space than one can hardly take in. This shop takes more than just a quick browse. It takes patience and time to fully appreciate.

We were greeted by the owner, a tall man with a long white beard, who is friendly and talkative. He encouraged us to help ourselves into cabinets and anywhere else we saw something we were interested in looking at further. Starting out in the very front of the shop and we browsed a wonderful mix of glass, from the very old to items made in the 1980s here in Indiana. Moving further into the long, narrow shop, the glass started looking more like what we were seeking.

Then I turned and saw a cabinet filled with nothing but Fenton. Pieces were mostly new (i.e., 1970 and later) and included several hand decorated critters, and items from designer lines such as *The Farm*. Then my eye caught the light just right in this rather dark cabinet and she shone like the star she is - an amethyst carnival banded drape hand painted pitcher. I've seen photographs of this pitcher and thought to myself, "Yup, that's a pitcher," but when I saw it in person, it was completely different!

The overall shape is slender and sleek, very feminine. When one looks down into the throat of the vessel, it is suddenly easy to understand why the word "drape" is used in the description. There is a fabulous drape optic in the interior one does not see until peering inside. I can't help but wonder how lovely this mould shape would be without a carnival finish, so the optic would show better.

I nodded as a means of pointing it out to Max and he reached into the cabinet to remove it. It was *gorgeous*! We decided to see what else we might want before putting the pitcher on the counter. We decided on two other pieces, and when the owner saw us choosing Fenton items, he brought out another hand painted vase for us to look at, and we bought that too. By the time we were done, we chose four pieces, including the carnival pitcher, and talked with the owner for just over an hour! That is one of the best things about shopping in person, not only can collectors find great items, but you have the opportunity to connect with people. This shop owner is a very interesting man, with superb items in his store, and if we had not stopped in that day, we would have missed out on a lot.

Happy hunting, dear friends, and Happy Valentine's Day to you all.

Thank you, Anne.

Please keep your eye on future newsletters , our website , and Facebook page for updates on when we will be able to meet again and more information on Gala 2021. We are excited and planning on having a great time, until then get vaccinated when you the chance and stay safe and happy. If you are getting a paper copy of the newsletter the new roster is attached, please keep your copy handy, if you receive the electronic version please post your copy to your computer for and handy reference and thank you for renewing your membership!

Jackie Oglesby

Secretary