

FENTON FINDERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY



The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be DECEMBER 11TH, 2021 at the Sterling Full Gospel Church located at 3007 S. Sterling Ave., Independence, MO. The meeting will start at 1:00PM and end at 4:00PM.

We wish to convey to Jason Herman and family how sorry we were to hear of his father's passing recently from Covid. Please keep Jason and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

We do have some mixed news to share as well, Norma Lampton has been in the hospital for the last two weeks with several issues, but it looks like she will be returning home soon. She has promised to try to make it to the Christmas party and we are looking forward to seeing her and Melvin then.

We are sure that no one is surprised by the reelection of Connie Duncan to the position of Vice-President or Jackie Oglesby (myself) to the position of secretary. We want to thank everyone for their votes and will try to do our best for our members.

The above picture shows Ross Smith and Connie Duncan looking over some scrapbooks brought in that shows past Gala's and pictures from our two bus trips to West Virginia. A blast from the past.

As many of you know our November meeting is really the last meeting of the year. In December we meet early in the afternoon of our regular meeting day to celebrate the holidays and party. This year a caterer, Sugar and Spice, will take

care of us, Dan will have more information on that later in the newsletter. Just remember to contact him at dmadura26@gmail.com or call him at 816-560-3738 to let him know that you will be attending the dinner. We want to be sure that everyone leaves with a full stomach and a great door prize. The door prizes this year were donated by Judy Helmich, thank you very much Judy. All members are welcome, please remember that the club is picking up the tab so members will not do anything but enjoy the meal. Guests are welcome but if they are not members they will have to pay for their meal and again, Dan will need to know how many people plan on attending so that we will have enough food for everyone.

The Gala Committee got together at the start of November to began making plans for Gala 2022. Connie Duncan has been hard at work getting the 2022 auction together and reported at our meeting that it is full. She is just waiting to get some pictures. Thank you, everyone who got their list together so quickly so this can be finished so early this year and we can hand Connie another job to do.



Finds From the Road

By Anne Blackmore

Just before Thanksgiving, Max and I decided to do a little shopping in venues sort of close to home. On one of these days, we started at a very large antique mall in central Indiana. We took our time, prying and spying into all the dark corners. We did find some nice things, but nothing worth your time!

After a quick break for lunch, we headed to the next town over and started in on the indoor flea markets. If I've not explained these wonderful stores before, they are set up on the same concept as antique malls, where each stall or booth has a different vendor's merchandise, with customers paying out at one central location. But vendors at indoor flea markets are allowed to sell anything from used tires to paintings of Elvis on black velvet to exquisite glass and other antiques - the sky's the limit! Since we love to shop, these indoor markets are great for us - we've bought everything from countertop kitchen appliances to high end very rare glass.

It had been just over six months since we'd shopped this indoor flea market, so we really took our time. Not a single nook or cranny escaped our scouring gaze and it paid off. We found some great Christmas decorations including a Fenton Birds of Winter bell featuring the Cardinal in the Churchyard design. We got kind of excited when in the center aisle, near the front, we found a booth with two old

fashioned rounded glass cases, filled with glass. Looking down, I saw a bunch of purple and white slag glass, including Imperial, Fenton, and Victorian era. This was pretty exciting as I love slag glass and have a collection of it from different makers.

Max was down with a flashlight in the second cabinet and almost at the same time, we said together, "We need to get the key!" He shared what he found, and I shared what I found. Both of us were wide-eyed over the other's find. (Stayed tuned to an upcoming installment of Finds From the Road for Max's find, it's a good one!)

When the lady arrived with the skeleton keys for the two cases, we got my piece out first. Down on the very bottom shelf, in this dark natural wood case, barely visible, was a Fenton #847 small fan vase... in purple and white slag glass! The logo on the bottom indicated it was made in the 1980s. Neither of us remembered this piece from the Fenton line. Interesting!

When we started our research, I found appropriately dark purple glass being used by Fenton shown in their January 1982 and 1983-1984 General catalogues, but no purple slag glass in their line. In *Fenton Art Glass Made for Other Companies 1980-2000* by Carrie and Gerald Domitz, it indicates purple slag was made for Levay in the early 1980s. But the literature from Levay does not show this piece. Now the questions start racing.

If it was not made for Levay, was it sampled for Levay, and the shape rejected? Overall, the shapes chosen by Gary Levi for his company were heavily patterned, and perhaps he found the #847 to be too plain. Because Mr. Levi rejected it, the vase was sent to the gift shop to be sold. The original Fenton Art Glass Gift Shop price tag remains on the piece with the code "111" on the top. This is an older code for a first quality item. The original price tag also shows it was sold for \$15.00. It sure would have been nice to get this gorgeous piece for *that* price!

Max looked through *Fenton Glass The 1980s Decade* edited by James Measell, and found in the color photo section, there is a picture of a *Petite Fleur* bowl, which was made in 1984 from the same #847 mould as the fan vase. And, Fenton was producing the color Amethyst, which was a very dark purple in 1984 as well. It is very reasonable to think they could have had the #847 mould out and available and had the Amethyst glass available in the pot as well as milk glass, which was always available during that time frame. It is easy now to determine this fan vase was very likely made in 1984.

Since Fenton rarely made just one of anything, it is likely there are 10 to 12 of these purple slag fan vases out there. It's difficult to show how a slag vase would look with only one example. Does anyone else have one or know of one?

It was not an inexpensive piece, but for such an unusual, beautiful vase, surrounded by a little mystery, Max and I were both pleased to pay a little more than we might normally. This will be headed straight into a cabinet in our home!

We hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving, and we wish you a very joyous December! Happy Hunting, dear friends!

Thank you, Anne, we also wish that you and your family have a Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful December. See you in September.



Beautiful examples of Waterford Crystal Celebrating Christmas.



Colorful Turkeys from various glassmakers, Smith, Mosser, and others celebrating our main holiday dish.



Fenton's Carnival Nativity set, three of these figures glow under a black light! Dan needs to do more shopping so that he has all five glowing.



Wow!



Some wonderful examples of Dave Fetty's Mosaic craftsmanship



Carol Rigsby and Dan Madura setting up glass.

Hello everyone!

How time flies!

Here we are at Thanksgiving and Christmas already. I have a few events to share with you:

Our annual FFOGKC Christmas get together and dinner.

This will be held on December 11th at 1 pm at Sterling Full Gospel Church, 3007 S Sterling Ave, Independence, MO 64052. We always have a wonderful time. The highlight is dirty bingo where you can win some really nice Fenton pieces... and also, the infamous booby prize. There are also many door prizes given out during the event. No one goes home empty handed! It's a lot of fun and we would like to see a great turn out this year. One additional highlight we are adding this year is a new caterer, Sugar and Spice Catering out of Parkville, MO. They really put out some great food. Here is the menu:

- Roasted turkey and ham
- Mashed potatoes, stuffing and gravy
- Southern style green beans (the good stuff with bacon!)
- Salad with your choice of Italian or homemade ranch dressing
- Cranberry sauce, rolls, and butter
- Iced tea and water, coffee

Everyone attending is encouraged to bring your favorite holiday dessert to share. I will be bringing homemade Christmas cookies as usual. This is all served buffet style attended by Sugar and Spice staff. We don't have to do a thing except eat and have fun!

Because we are using a caterer this year, they need to know the head count so they can prepare the feast. I will need an RSVP for all that plan to attend. There is no charge for FFOGKC members. If anyone would like to bring a guest, they are very welcomed. One hitch, there will be a \$25 charge for non-members.

RSVP's must be sent to me either by email or phone by DECEMBER 1st!

Email: dmadura26@gmail.com Phone: 816-560-3738

I need to know how many members and how many non-members. For non-members, you can pay by check or with credit card at the event, but we still need an RSVP.

HOACGA (Heart of America Carnival Glass Association) Convention

Our gala (convention) was only cancelled for one year due to COVID-19. The HOACGA convention was cancelled for two years. Imagine the disappointment. They have their convention in April every year. They have been having it at the Embassy Suites KC Airport since the hotel was built. The idea for our gala was actually born out of conversations that happened at the HOACGA convention. Carnival glass was made by many manufacturers, but Fenton was one of the first. We share some equipment that is used by both clubs at the hotel for the big display. Their convention is April 20th – 23rd at Embassy Suites KC Airport. I encourage you to



take a look at their convention. Here is their web site: <https://www.hoacga.com/> HOACGA had a great call out about our gala (convention) in their newsletter recently.

2023 Gala contracts are being written!

Can you believe we are already thinking about 2023? 2022 hasn't even happened yet! Yes, the gala committee and I are already getting that contract with the hotel together for 2023. The contracts for 2022 is being reviewed and improved. Exciting things are going to happen for the 2022 and 2023 galas. Stay tuned! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new gala committee members. Carol Rigsby and Craig Ricklefs have agreed to join the gala committee. I am very excited to have these newer members of the club step up and help with the planning of the gala. Both Carol and Craig have great collections of Fenton. Carol has a very deep connection through family that has collected Fenton and Craig has a hobnail collection that is over the top. We welcome both of them to the gala committee!

Well, that's quite a bit from me this month. Exciting things are happening, and I look forward to a healthy year for your family and all the glass clubs out there.

Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!

Dan Madura

President

Thank you, Dan, we hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season this year and hope that you can come to the Christmas Party at the Sterling Full Gospel Church on December 11th. It will be a lot of fun. You might not want to wear any tight clothes because there will be plenty of food to eat and good company to enjoy. Please contact Dan by December 1st to RSVP for the Christmas dinner and don't forget to renew your membership, send a check to Janet Wilke at FFOGKC, PO BOX 67071, Topeka KS 66667-0071. Thank you. Just a reminder, this will be the last newsletter for 2021. The first newsletter for 2023 will not come out until February of 2023. See you at the Christmas Party!

Jackie Oglesby

Secretary

