

Historical Glass Museum

April 2020 Volume 4 Issue 2



Museum Location:

1157 N. Orange Street
Redlands, California
909-798-0868

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 9195
Redlands, CA 92375
HistoricalGlassMuseum.com



The Museum has a new page on Facebook, for those who like to indulge in social media. Search for REDLANDS HISTORICAL GLASS MUSEUM. (There is an older page without the word Redlands, but we currently are not able to update it.)

We encourage you to “LIKE” the page, as that will alert you to any new posts that are made to the page. We can then show things like new donations and maintenance progress to a large audience all at once.

We also encourage you to post your impressions of the Museum on that page, so that others may be inspired to pay us a visit. That is one way that YOU can help spread the word that there is a beautiful museum in California dedicated to American-made glass.

WE NEED YOU !

Our museum is run by an all volunteer board of directors and volunteer docents.

We welcome any member who would be willing to serve on the Board of Directors. The Board meets for about two hours (or less) on the first Tuesday of each month from 10:00am until about noon. Some Board members attend via conference call – you don't have to travel to Redlands.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Unfortunately, the lead story for this issue is **the temporary closing of the Museum**, due to the uncertainty regarding the new corona virus. We are closed at least until April 12. The Board meets in early April and will reassess the situation at that time. Check our web site for up to date information on the closing. The official notice is on page 5.

Both the Fry and Fenton seminars that we had planned have been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date.

Our all-volunteer docents were kept quite busy hosting visitors to the Museum during January (93) and February (186). We also hosted a mid-week tour for 19 people.

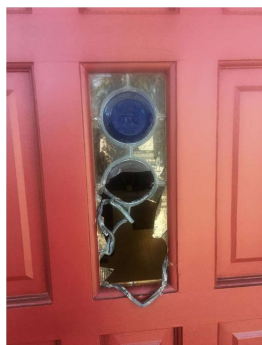
Sales in the Gift shop were brisk during the 30% off sale, bringing in over \$1,000 to support the day to day operations of the Museum. It might not seem like there are expenses when we're only open on weekends, but there are still bills for trash, electricity, water, insurance, landscape maintenance, taxes, and more. While we concentrate at times on the Restoration Fund, the Museum is always in need of, and appreciative of general funding.

MINOR BREAK-IN AT THE MUSEUM

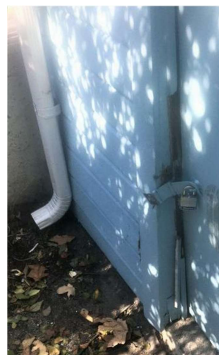
The Museum was broken into in early February, but nothing was taken. We believe that it was likely a homeless person looking for a place to sleep on a cold night. One small glass panel on the front door was broken, but the person was not able to get in. Then the clasp on the door to the cellar was broken, and apparently the person spent the night in the basement.

Steve Barnett and James Ojeda have since installed motion-detector lights. The board is also considering upgrading our service with ADT for possible installation of surveillance cameras.

Members Marti and Brick Noyes plan to repair the broken windowpane in the front door. They expect to complete the work by the end of March.



Front door break-in



Cellar door break-in

AUTOMOBILE BUD VASES

Let's take a look at a scenario from the 1920s or even 1930s. Imagine yourself driving down the road on a hot summer day with temperatures in the upper 80s. Of course, there is no air-conditioning in the car, and immediately a pungent odor of battery acid hits you and mingles with the smell of the other passengers' sweat. This experience is not common today thanks to temperature controls that are standard in most cars, but it would have been the case whenever you rode in a car until air conditioners were first installed in automobiles in 1939.

There were no pine-scented cardboard trees to dangle from the rearview mirror during this time, and many car owners desperately wanted a reprieve from a variety of odors. The auto vase, a term coined by automobile magnate Henry Ford, was the solution to the problem. As early as 1895, small vases which held one or two flowers that emitted a sweet fragrance became the first automobile air-fresheners.

The auto vase is comprised of a small bud vase with a bracket that allows it to be mounted inside the car either on the dashboard or by a passenger side window. Vases came in many designs and colors, in a variety of price ranges. They not only improved the smell but also added a touch of elegance to the car interior. Pressed glass, cut crystal, metal, porcelain, ceramic, and even wood were used for the vases, which were often paired with brackets that were even fancier than the vases themselves.



Auto vases were sold in jewelry stores, auto parts stores, and catalogs from companies such as Sears. Henry Ford was so pleased with these simple solutions that he offered them in his parts department, and added them to his system of mass production. The service these vases provided made them a desirable feature to add to any car. Eventually, due to improvements in car batteries and after air-conditioning became standard in vehicles, the auto vase was no longer necessary. In recent years, however, there has been a resurgence in these novelties. Cars such as the Volkswagen Beetle revived these little vases (although in plastic) for a fresh twist on their interiors, and other carmakers have caught on to the trend.

You will find more photos of the Museum's collection of automobile bud vases on page 5.



THANKS TO OUR DONORS ...

We would like to acknowledge the donations of glass or other items, to be used either for display at the Museum or to be sold in the Gift Shop to support the Museum's operations. The following people donated glass and/or other items since the last newsletter. Thanks to all for your support of the Museum.

NON-MONETARY DONATIONS:

Jacque Rocha
Cheryl Bryan
Doreen Ward
David & Linda Adams
Barbara Jenks
Melanie Hildreth

CASH DONATIONS:

Paul & Joanne Snowden \$20.00
Mary Schaefer \$50.00
Cheryl Bryan \$150.00
Elegant Glass Group \$122

In their March meeting, the Elegant Glass Group raffled off a beautiful vase that was donated by Melanie Hildreth and 75% of the proceeds were then donated by the group to the Museum's Restoration fund.

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of these donors for their generosity.

ANOTHER TYPE OF DONATION

Every month, on the third Thursday, we hold a cleaning session at the Museum, beginning at 10am. Volunteers help to clean the shelves in the cases, and perform other tasks to help keep the Museum looking good. We welcome any help we can get. The donation of your *TIME* is as welcome as a cash donation. Come join us.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

The Museum gained 29 members in 2019! We would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since the last newsletter:

Nancy and Dave Sakurai
Cindy Soukup

FENTON SEMINAR - TBD

Our next Fenton Seminar on the topic of "*Apple Blossom Crest*" will be presented by member Doreen Ward. We had scheduled it for April, but due to the current conditions regarding the corona virus, it has been postponed. We will announce the date when it is rescheduled. Check our web site.

For those not familiar with the pattern, Apple Blossom Crest was introduced in 1960 and is not to be confused with the Apple Blossom pattern. It is Opal (Milk) Glass fluted with edges ranging from light pink to deeper reds of hand spun Opaline glass. Apple Blossom Crest was only in production for one year and all 12 pieces made in this line are scarce.

Here are some examples:



Group Tours of the Museum



Weekday group tours for groups of 8 or more visitors are available by appointment. The charge is \$5.00 per person, with a minimum charge of \$40.00. For information and bookings, call Bill Summers at **951-850-0915**.

Tour bus parking and a handicap ramp are available. The museum entrance and wheelchair ramp are located at the rear parking lot. There is also parking along the street curb on Western at Orange.

In February we hosted a tour for the Four Seasons Ladies Club for 19 people. In March, we had a visit from the Banning Museum, about 30 people.

Good Times Tours had scheduled tours on Thursday March 26th and Tuesday April 7th, both for 30 to 55 people. Both had to be cancelled due to the virus situation.

A tour for 50 children from the Lancaster School District is in process; they must get approval. We are encouraged by this potential tour, as we believe that the museum is a worthwhile educational experience, as well as being a fun outing for the children.



Martha McGill leading the Heisey Seminar

RESTORATION FUND

The Board of Directors established a Restoration Fund designated to set aside funds for restoration and maintenance of our century-old building. It has already been instrumental in restoring the exterior of the Museum. Thanks to all who donated towards the restoration.

The next phase of restoration will be a new roof, but it seems like the current roof is still reasonably sound, so we have time to raise additional funds towards its eventual replacement.

The Board welcomes cash donations designated for the Restoration Fund. You may designate "in Memory of " or "in Honor of " with your donation.

Checks should be made out to the Museum, with a note designating the Restoration Fund. Send to:

Historical Glass Museum
P. O. Box 9195
Redlands, CA 92375-2395

RESTORATION CONTINUED

Museum members Chuck & Linda McCracken have been repainting the outdoor sign, using colors that match the new building color. It came out looking great.



MUSEUM TEMPORARILY CLOSED

The corona virus has already cast its a shadow on the Historical Glass Museum. The Board cancelled the Fry seminar originally scheduled for March 14, then cancelled another seminar and a 30% off sale in April.

And then came the inevitable: the Board decided to close the Museum for the remainder of March, and at least until April 12. We will reassess the situation during our Board meeting in early April, to see if a lengthier closing is warranted.

A number of our volunteer docents are in the age range considered most vulnerable to COVID-19, and many of the attendees at our seminars also fall into that category. We believe it is in the best interest of all concerned that we take this action. Thank you for your understanding.

For up-to-date information on the closing, visit our web site at:

www.HistoricalGlassMuseum.com



MEMBERSHIP NOTE

Membership in the Museum entitles you to the newsletter, free admission to the Museum and 10% discount in the gift shop. But here's another plus – when we are holding a 30% off sale in the gift shop, your membership still gives you that additional 10%, so you actually receive 40% off !

The Museum's Gift Shop is a great place to find gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, or other special occasions. We are constantly receiving new donations; duplicate or surplus items are made available in the Gift Shop.

MORE ON BUD VASES

The Museum has a sizeable collection of automobile bud vases donated by Dr. Stan Korfmacher. Visit us and check out the display, some photos of which are shown below.



Case containing Dr. Korfmacher's collection



Steuben car vase



Closeup of vases

All displayed upside down, of course.