

# Historical Glass Museum

February 2020 Volume 4 Issue 1



## Museum Location:

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

## Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 9195  
Redlands, CA 92375-2395



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 have posted a video of the local TV show "Voice of the Inland Empire," which did an interview (in 2018) with our president, Steve Barnett, and presented a tour of the inside of the Museum. Since then, our displays have changed, so you will need to come in and see what's new.

## Keeping in Touch

November kept us hopping as the restoration work on the building's exterior came to an end. We had a wonderful Seminar on Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, given by Sam Kisse, on the topic "Flint Glass." Overall, we had 104 visitors for the month of November.

December was definitely a busy time at the Museum. We sponsored another successful seminar on Fenton glass baskets on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, held an Open House for the holidays on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and orchestrated a 30% off sale in our gift shop.

We had 44 visitors during the open house, and an overall total of 148 for the month of December. During the open house and 30% off sale, we raised **\$1,575.52** for the Museum.

The next 30% off sale is scheduled for February 8-9, 2020, Saturday 11am-4pm, Sunday Noon-4pm. These sales are an important source of funding for both the Restoration Fund and for the ongoing expenses of running a Museum. We sell duplicate items from the collection and donated glass that has been specifically designated for sale to support the Museum. Come and get some great bargains.

## MARCH SEMINAR

We will be holding a Seminar on March 14, on the topic: "H. C. Fry Glass Company." The Seminar will be presented by Barbara Jenks and Wendy Steelhammer. The Fry company produced many different types of glass in the early part of the 20th Century, and sadly went out of business by 1933. Come see some examples and learn about this fascinating company. The Seminar starts at 11:00 AM and lasts about an hour. There is a "show and tell" session so bring your glass and questions. A door prize will also be awarded and light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there.



We wish to thank Provident Bank for their generous donation of \$311.65.

Participants who bank at Provident Bank (available throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties) may choose to "link" their accounts to the HGM. Based on the confidential linkages of depositors' accounts, Provident makes a yearly donation to the HGM. This is their way of paying back to the community. The donation is solely funded by Provident and does not come from the depositors' accounts.

## 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.

## H.C. Fry Glass

The H.C. Fry Glass Company was established in Pennsylvania as the Rochester Glass Company in 1901. In 1902 its name was changed to that of the founder Henry Clay Fry. Henry Fry had many years of experience, having worked in the glass industry since 1856. He utilized his extensive glass knowledge to set up a modern and technically advanced glass factory in the USA. The Company produced an incredibly diverse range of merchandise during its existence.

In the early years the company produced exceptional pieces of brilliant cut glass and blanks. One of those pieces was the Rochester punch bowl. Made in 1905, it was nearly five feet tall, weighed 250 pounds and was the largest piece of cut glass of its time.

Only some pieces have the “Fry” or “Fry Quality” acid etched stamp which is sometimes surrounded by a shield and can be found in various locations on the pieces. Fry continued making cut glass until 1920, when the market diminished.

The H.C. Fry Company also made intricate **etched glass** pieces from about 1908 to 1931. These were not marked with their company name.

The company introduced a new line of **oven and kitchenware glass** under the license of the Corning Glass Company from 1916. The most well known pieces of ovenware were lime and opalescent. The line included pie and cake plates, casseroles, custard cups, and more. Pearl ware pieces included relish, coffee and tea pots, and snack trays. This glass is marked with the name FRY and other descriptive words including the mold number.



Fry Foval teapot and cup/saucer (Museum collection)

The Fry company additionally produced a line of **tableware** and stemware in a wide range of colors and decorations, and was an important part of the company’s production in the 1920’s.

**Fry Art Glass** was another line of opalescent glass produced in 1922. The color was described as “translucent pearl” and named “Foval”. Foval was hand blown and fire polished, and made in a large range of items such as teapots, coffee pots, candlesticks, compotes, vases, etc. Items were sometimes decorated with blue or green trims and/or silver and gold overlay. This Art Glass was usually only marked with a foil label, “Fry Glass Company.”

Henry Clay Fry died in 1931, and the H.C. Fry Company closed in 1933 due to economic pressures of the Depression. Their quality and diversity of their glass products were a significant contribution to glass history.



Fry Brilliant Cut



Fry Snack Set



Fry Art Glass Vase

## 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:

Garry Hart  
Samuel Kisse  
Joann Tortarolo  
Yvonne Merrill  
Bettye Miller  
Helen Hughes  
Shirley & Steve Barnett  
Sharon Weisz  
Doreen Ward  
Michael Krumme  
Wendy Steelhammer  
David Adams  
Barbara Jenks  
Joe & Rosemary Krumme

### CASH DONATIONS:

Thomas Rabins - \$10  
Wendy Steelhammer - \$200  
Susan & Mark Taggart in honor of Joann Tortarolo - \$200  
Gretchen Urban - \$20  
Provident Bank - \$311.65

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

## JANUARY 11TH FENTON SEMINAR

Bill Summers presented a Fenton Seminar entitled "Heart Shaped Relish dishes and Fairy Lights." On January 11<sup>th</sup>. Eighteen people attended. Two door prizes were awarded.



## FRY SEMINAR – MARCH 14

The Museum will host a Seminar on Fry glass on March 14, beginning at 11am. The presenters will be Barbara Jenks and Wendy Steelhammer. Light refreshments will be served. Bring glass for a "show and tell" after the Seminar.

### MORE on H. C. Fry

The story of the H. C. Fry company continues in a rather unusual way – in addition to the glass factory, Mr. Fry owned another business, the Guarantee Visible Measure Company, which began around 1915 and manufactured pumps to deliver gasoline (see photo on page 4). Around 1925, the trade name "Guarantee Visible" was dropped in favor of an emphasis on the family name: "Fry Visible Pumps."

The glass cylinder at the top of the pump was made by the Fry Glass Company. Additionally, the Fry Glass Company made a variety of **industrial glass** including the following: motion picture camera lenses, reflectors for spotlights and locomotive headlights, laboratory glass, and insulators. Despite the amazing diversity of Fry's production, the company did not survive past 1933.



1923 Fry Advertisement

## 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.

We had no tours in December, but had 148 visitors, thanks to our Open House and the 30% off sale in the gift shop.

We had one tour scheduled for late January, 40 people.

## RESTORATION FUND

The Board of Directors established a Restoration Fund designated to set aside funds for restoration and maintenance of our century-old building.

The major restoration to the exterior of the building has been completed, and the building looks fabulous. The next phase of restoration will be a new roof, but it seems like the current roof is still 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



### MEMBERSHIP CORNER

The Museum gained 29 members in 2019!

In 2020, we would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since the year began:

**Linda Hanson**  
**Marie Gebert**

## IN THE GIFT SHOP

**30%  
OFF**

### FEBRUARY 8 & 9

30% off all items  
Saturday Feb 8 – 11 to 4  
Sunday Feb 9 – Noon to 4  
(Museum members  
get an additional 10%)

Items in our Gift Shop have been donated to the Museum, and are either duplicates from the collection or items designated for sale to support the Museum operations.

On this page, we show just some of the items which may be found in the Gift Shop, and which will be available during the sale. There's plenty more, so "come on down."



**Fenton Violets in the Snow**



**Assorted Fenton items**

### 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.

## IN THE GIFT SHOP



**Fostoria Coin pattern**



**Fenton Lamps**