

Historical Glass Museum

September 2020 Volume 4 Issue 4



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 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 are unable to update it.)

We encourage you to post your impressions of the Museum on that page, so that others will 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.

KEEPING IN TOUCH



The governor has ordered museums to remain closed to the general public, but we can accommodate visitors on an appointment-only basis. We restrict the number of visitors to no more than 4 or 5 at a time, and masks must be worn (we can supply them). During this time of restrictions, we will be offering **30% off in our Gift Shop**. So do consider a visit, just call Bill Summers in advance to schedule it: **951-850-0915**

It might not seem like there would be expenses when we've been closed for the last few months, but we still have to pay for trash pickup, electricity, water, insurance, landscape maintenance, taxes, and more. We appreciate any donations, never more than at the present.

NEW TAX LAW

We'd like to repeat this announcement: Congress may have helped out the Museum recently. Here's how:

In response to the coronavirus crisis, the CARES Act added a new above-the-line deduction to encourage more charitable giving. Even if you take the standard deduction on your 2020 tax return, **you can still deduct up to an additional \$300 for cash donations to charity you made during the year.** (The CARES Act also lets itemizers deduct more of their charitable gifts.)

While the Museum has been closed for several months, there was virtually no income from gift shop sales or donations from admissions. Perhaps you are in a position to take advantage of the CARES Act and help the Museum with a donation.

You can even donate online via PayPal. Just visit our web site for a link:

www.historicalglassmuseum.com



WE NEED YOU!

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

New ideas are always welcome. We encourage 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.

SENECA GLASS COMPANY

For almost a century Seneca Glass in Morgantown, West Virginia was a premier producer of fine lead glass in colors, crystal, and with elegant cuttings and numerous decorative treatments.

Opening in Seneca County, Ohio in 1891, the company was composed primarily of immigrant glassworkers who had been neighbors in the Black Forest region of Germany. They relocated to Fostoria, Ohio where they opened shop in 1891 in the then-vacated plant of the Fostoria Glass Company. In 1896, Seneca relocated to Morgantown, West Virginia to take advantage of newly discovered natural gas, of available river and railroad transportation, and local offers of land. Early growth was impressive: by 1897, 250 glass workers were engaged at Seneca.

Early production included hand-blown fine lead crystal in a variety of forms: tumblers, bar bottles, covered candy jars, decanters, finger bowls, sugar and cream sets, nappies, water sets, vases, and endless stemware.



Designs can be found on Seneca glass using nearly every technique known to the glass artist. Pieces that were sand blasted, acid etched, plate etched, needle etched, hand cut, and others, came from the decorating rooms of Seneca. Rich cut glass from Seneca can be so complex as to have required twelve hours to cut a single object. The factory inventories in the 1920's list extensive crackle ware production. A 1931 list shows opal (milk) glass available, and 1971 included thousands of dollars of Krinkle pattern for Carbone, a special order customer. Diversity was indeed a key to survival for Seneca. Colored glass appeared in the 1920's and would remain (although with irregularity due to consumer demands), until the factory's closing.



While Morgantown has been home to several dozen glass houses since Seneca opened as the first, none has had the national and international reputation of Seneca. From providing endless elegant sets for American Embassies the world over, to special commissions for then-Vice President Lyndon Johnson (the

Johnsons chose the Epicure pattern for their private use) or for the President of Liberia, Seneca has been held in the highest regard. The marketplace for Seneca was usually high-end due to the time and workmanship involved in finishing some of its wares.

During the early 20th Century, photos taken in Morgantown glass works were used in the campaign against child labor. After the outlawing of child labor, women gained employment in the decorating and packing departments. In 1924, when colored and elegant glass was stylish and vogue, Seneca employed 159 men and 57 women. Women at that time were largely engaged in the decoration departments.

Depression-era production included colorless glass, but also cobalt, and the "up-to-date transparent colors" as a 1932 advertisement termed their light green, topaz, and other colors.

Specialty cutting and decorating was an important part of the Seneca business. An order of Seneca glass sold through the famous store of John Wanamaker in Philadelphia for the Liberian executive mansion consisted of 218 dozen in a special design with crests cut in each stem. Other well known Seneca customers included the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Boston; Pinnacle Club, New York; Tudor Room of the Sheraton Palace Hotel, San Francisco; Marshall Field and Company, Chicago; B. Altman Company, New York; Tiffany's, New York; Richs, Atlanta and Neiman-Marcus, Dallas. Seneca glass was well represented in many elegant settings.

(continued on next page)

DONATIONS

Cash Donations:

JUNE

J.Giles Waines	\$70.00
David & Linda Adams	\$300.00
Metty Thomason	\$100.00
Gerald & Robin Grube	\$100.00
Barbara Jenks	\$50.00
Lori Johnson	\$20.00
Wendy Steelhammer	\$250.00
Melanie Hildreth	\$150.00

JULY

Steve/Shirley Barnett	\$300.00
Bill Summers	\$200.00
Linda McCracken	\$100.00
David Adams	\$50.00
Sandra Cude	\$50.00
Connie Wheeler	\$20.00
Jacque Rocha	\$170.00

AUGUST

Joann Taylor	\$200.00
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Non-Monetary Donations

JUNE

Bill Summers

JULY

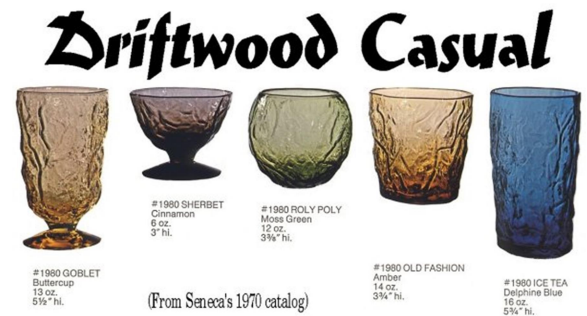
Bill Summers
Doreen Ward
Bill Kleese
Debra Rapstein (donated space rental
Equivalent of \$2209.28 – Red Barn)

The board wishes to thank all of the individuals who contributed to the Museum. This is **your** Museum, and your contributions enable it to continue operating.



The Museum has recently set up a page where you can make a donation online via PayPal. You can choose from several amounts, or specify your own dollar amount. There is a box which you can check to indicate that you want the donation to be a monthly charge to your PayPal account. Visit our web page and follow the link that is provided, and THANK YOU for thinking of us.

Many colors were produced over the years, and in the 1970's would include Accent Red (ruby and crystal combinations), Amber, Buttercup (yellow), Cinnamon (brown), Delphine Blue (a light blue), Ritz Blue (cobalt), Sahara (a light amber), Gray (a smoky color), Moss Green (a dark earthy green), Lime Green, Peacock Blue, Black and Plum (amethyst). In these later years, most of these colors were used in accent pieces such as covered candy bowls, vases, stacking Christmas tree containers, and pattern molded stemware (not including the cut glass lines.)



As early as 1953, Seneca foresaw the fading interest in elegant table settings and began producing their Driftwood pattern. This mouthblown, hand crafted line, remained in production almost 30 years, making it Seneca's most recognizable production item. Driftwood was originally introduced for "informal dining" in four shapes: iced tea, highball, water tumbler, and juice, and in four colors: Honey, Bottle Green, Amethyst Smoke and Clearwater Crystal. Driftwood would grow over the years to include offerings in plates, pitchers, covered candy dishes, vases and nearly a dozen beverage glasses in a multitude of colors.

In 1982, Seneca Glass Company was sold. The new owners reorganized the company under the name "Seneca Crystal Incorporated." By August of 1983 the firm had filed for bankruptcy, and the inventory and equipment was sold at public auction.

The building has since been adapted for use as a retail complex, and today it houses a variety of facilities including an antique store, a fine restaurant, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Riverfront Museums, Inc

(more photos on page 5)

Adapted from: Page, B.; Frederiksen, D.; *Seneca Glass Company 1891-1983 A Stemware Identification Guide*; Greensboro, NC: Page/Frederiksen Publishing Company; 1995

Group Tours of the Museum



Although the Museum is open for visitors on a “by appointment only” basis, we cannot accommodate large groups. We must limit the size of groups until the governor gives us the green light to resume our normal tour protocol.

Until further notice, tours can consist of **no more than five persons**; masks must be worn (we can supply them) and social distancing must be observed. This is for the protection of both our visitors and our volunteer docents.

During this restricted period, the Gift Shop is offering a **30% off sale** for those who schedule a visit to the Museum. Call 951-850-0915 for an appointment.

GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

During normal operations, 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.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Since the Museum has been closed for several months, we have had no new members join. We did have several renewals – thanks, folks. When we open up again, we hope to be able to report that we gained some new members.

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 fund's current balance was \$5131 at the end of July.

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

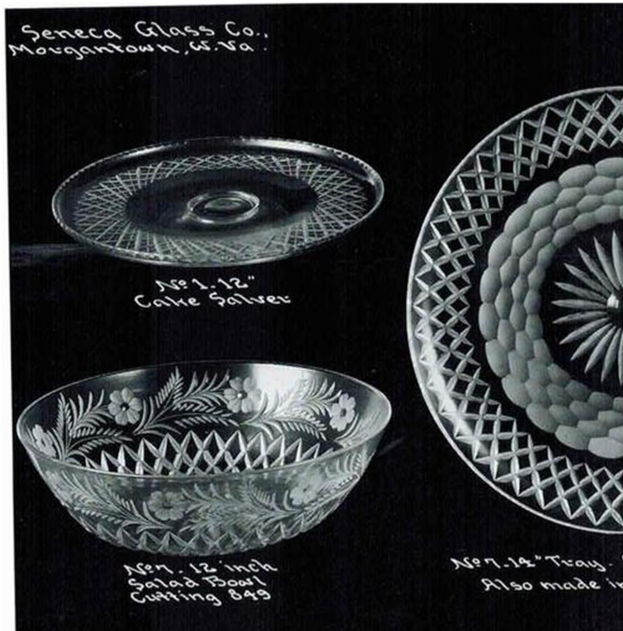


Don't forget to use Amazon Smile when you buy from Amazon, and designate the Historical Glass Museum as your charity. The Museum receives a donation from Amazon, and it doesn't cost you anything. Just go to:

SMILE.AMAZON.COM

make sure you choose Historical Glass Museum as your charity, and then just shop like you normally would.

SENECA GLASS COMPANY



Fine cut glass – catalog page



Fine cut glass



Driftwood Casual pitcher

SENECA GLASS COMPANY



Driftwood Casual – color spectrum



Seneca "nude" champagne



Cut stemware example



Seneca short goblet with square foot.