

Historical Glass Museum

**Museum Location:**

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

Mailing Address:

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

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William F. Kleese

An Exciting Announcement from the Historical Glass Museum Foundation

Members may recall reading a tribute to late Museum docent and Board Member William F. Kleese (above) in our September 2023 newsletter. The Board of Directors of the Museum are grateful to announce that the Museum has received a substantial gift from the William F. Kleese Living Trust. The Museum recently received a check from Robert A. Merrill, the successor Trustee of Will's trust, in the amount of *One Hundred Thousand Dollars* (\$100,000), in satisfaction of a gift to us made under the terms of the trust. Needless to say, we are grateful and humbled at Will's generosity.

Board member Jacque Rocha commented, "Will loved the Museum as much as we all do. He also loved the historic home in Riverside where he resided. Because of his familiarity with the cost of maintaining his own old home, he decided to leave this generous contribution to the Museum."

This gift is the largest one received by the Museum in decades. The Board of Directors plans to be good stewards of the funds received from Will's trust, as the costs of maintaining our nearly 120 year old building are ongoing, and some projects, such as the new roof installed in 2022, are quite costly. The Board is exploring using this gift to establish an endowment fund, which will invest the money conservatively, with an eye to growing the Museum's endowment to help ensure its survival in the future.

We are eternally grateful for Will's generosity, and that he thought enough of the Museum to give not just his "time and talent" for years as a Board Member and Docent, but also his "treasure."

If you, too, would like to make a gift to the Historical Glass Museum Foundation, either during your lifetime or after your passing, we would be happy to hear from you. There are many ways to give to HGMF: Join as a life member; make gifts in your will or living trust; donate distributions from IRA accounts to satisfy minimum required distributions that would otherwise be subject to high income taxes; or make present-day gifts in cash or in kind. Donations of any amount are appreciated, and all go to good use. We have no paid staff, only volunteers. Our board members, docents, and volunteers receive no compensation of any kind. All funds donated, or generated by membership fees, tour charges, and Gift Shop sales are devoted to keeping the Museum safe, secure and open to public visitors.

We thank the current Trustee of the William F. Kleese Living Trust, Robert A. Merrill, for his service in carrying out Will's wishes as expressed in the terms of the trust. Both the Historical Glass Museum Foundation and other charitable organizations are the beneficiaries of Will's thoughtfulness and generosity. His gifts will help us, and other local organizations, to carry out their missions. Thank you, Will. We will remember your generosity forever.

CENTRAL GLASS COMPANY On The Transition to Natural Gas

To give you an idea of what the American glass industry was like in the late 1800s is this story about Central Glass Company switching to natural gas in 1886. Even back then, coal was being replaced with natural gas. Following is an interview excerpted from an article in the *Wheeling Daily Intelligencer*:

The business of the Central Glass Company was started in the spring of 1863. After three years the company bought the grounds and buildings of the East Wheeling Distillery and Pork Packing House, for the purpose of converting them into a glass manufacturing establishment. Until the introduction of natural gas, the company had been operating their own coal fields, comprising fifty acres in the vicinity of the works. Central's products are among the most popular in the United States, and are extensively shipped to Canada, West Indies, South America and the German markets.

The production of Central is confined to tableware, bar and lamp goods, the variety, quality, and beauty of which find ready sale. Up to the year 1872, they operated only two furnaces, but during that year added a third. In addition to the main factory on the east side of the street were the following departments: the mould and machine shops, cutting shop, pot making rooms, blacksmith shop, coke ovens, two buildings with eight lehrs or annealing ovens, and the largest and best arranged engraving shop in the country.

Following are excerpts (from the same article) from the interview with N. B. Scott, the company President, regarding the company's transition to the use of natural gas. Scott's answers in italics.

"Being asked what he had to say about natural gas in the manufacture of glass, President N. B. Scott said that with gas in other places and none here, it was either a question of moving to the gas, bringing the gas here, or shutting up shop."



"With the introduction of natural gas there is no question about the prosperity of the glass industry. Success cannot but attend the manufacturer of glass as well as other industries in the city."

"Well, Mr. Scott, what are the advantages of gas over coal in your line?"

"In the first place, gas will rid us of an annoying dependence upon Benzene and coal. The saving in fuel alone will be about 33 percent."

"How will it affect your labor?"

"I am really sorry to say that the introduction of natural gas will necessitate the displacement of a great many men, but there is not alternative. The men have been with us a great many years and performed their work very satisfactorily, and nothing but the best of feeling has existed between us."

"Do you refer particularly to your miners?"

"No. In addition to the miners the gas will reach firemen and teasers, laborers about our coke ovens, men who haul ashes, glasswashers and others."

"How do you avoid two times handling of the glass?"

"When the ware is pressed and placed in the lehrs, which are heated with coke, it comes out very dirty, keeping a number of hands busy placing the glass in carrying boxes, then to the wash room, where it is washed one piece at a time, then repacked in the boxes and sent to the packing room. In the double handing of ware a great amount is broken, however, with the switch to natural gas, the ware will be taken directly from the lehrs to the packing room."

"With the displacement of this labor and the saving in fuel, do the advantages of natural gas stop?"

"No, indeed. There are many saving features which are attributable to gas over coal. For instance: During the summer months the Flint Glass Workers' Union declare a vacation. During that vacation our fires go out. In order that we may overhaul our furnaces and rebuild them we draw our fires. The chilling of our pots causes general breakage, necessitating a complete new set of pots in our twelve pot furnace. The saving in this particular area alone is quite an item. Gas will not destroy the furnaces as coal does, there being no clinkers or sulphur, our furnaces will stand for an indefinite period."

(continued on next page)

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.

CASH DONATIONS:

February

\$50.00 Paul & Joanne Snowden Trust

\$50.00 Margo Doxakis-Stein

March

\$100,000 Will Kleese Living Trust

NON-MONETARY DONATIONS

(not available before press time)

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

When the men cease work in the summer we can keep an even temperature in our furnaces without much cost, thereby saving our pots."

"Have you no fear about the gas?"

"None at all. Our factory is perhaps the best equipped for natural gas. The pipes were fitted by Hibbard & Son, of this city, and a mercurial test (pressure test) of sixty-five pounds to the square inch was put on, and I stood fully an hour without any perceptible change in the mercury. With a test of sixty-five pounds -- and our consumption will only be a few ounces—there can be no possible danger. With all its disadvantages natural gas has its dark side, in that it necessitates the severing of our connection with so many men who have been with us many years. Our relations have always been pleasant: No strikes; but a disposition on their part to ever work advantageously to their interest and that of the company."

The Central Glass Company was closed in 1939 due to increased foreign competition and they sold their moulds to Imperial Glass Company.

[Portions excerpted from *THE WHEELING DAILY INTELLIGENCER* "Special Natural Gas Edition", September 14, 1886.]

Editor’s Note: *In this day and age, with the reality of transition to “clean energy” and electric cars, I thought it fitting to remember that change is nothing new, and our ancestors went through the same transition pains as we’re having in present days, when new technologies replace the old.*

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER:

February

Charlotte Weeks

Ken & Diana Thomsen

Renee & Chris Barrett

March

Kate Noble

Max Feinman

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE HISTORICAL GLASS MUSEUM?

There are many ways to support the Museum. We are a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, and donations are deductible on your income tax returns, to the fullest extent of current tax laws. Please speak to your accountant or tax professional for details about your particular situation.



The Museum has a page on Facebook, for those who like to indulge in social media. Search for **REDLANDS HISTORICAL GLASS MUSEUM**

We encourage you to “FOLLOW” our page, as that will alert you to any new posts that are made to the page. *If you would like to share photos of your collection, others will surely enjoy looking at them.* Just reply to any post.

SEMINAR ON PADEN CITY GLASS AT THE HISTORICAL GLASS MUSEUM

On **Saturday April 13th at 11 AM**, Historical Glass Museum Foundation board members Barbara Jenks and Michael Krumme will present a seminar on Paden City Glass.

The Paden City Glass Mfg. Co. was founded in Paden City, West Virginia in 1916, and was in operation until 1951. Their wares were hand-pressed or hand-blown into molds, unlike Depression-era glass that was mass-produced by companies like Hocking, MacBeth-Evans, Jeannette, Hazel Atlas, and Federal.

Today the company is best known for its colorful glassware, made not just for the home, but also for restaurants and soda fountains, as well as for the fanciful acid-etched patterns the company applied to many pieces. Paden City's colors included a vivid green made with uranium, Cheriglo pink, a bright yellow, opaque black, and white milk glass, as well as deep colors such as ruby red, cobalt blue, forest green, and mulberry amethyst, and many others.

Barbara and Michael will show examples of the major pressed patterns, as well as a sampling of the company's acid-etched decorations, from both the Museum collection, as well as their personal collections. They'll also discuss which colors and patterns are easily found today, versus those that are scarce or seldom seen on today's collector market.

The Paden City Glass Mfg. Co. is the subject of approximately 4 books devoted solely to the company's wares. These books are essential for collectors who are interested in the company's glass. Unlike other "elegant glass companies" such as Fostoria, Cambridge, Heisey, and Duncan & Miller, Paden City never advertised their wares at the retail level in household magazines. Instead, all of the company's advertisements were in trade journals aimed at retailers, such as department stores and gift shops, as well as the wholesalers who sold to them. The company also did a business in custom mold work, making glass parts that were then assembled by metal mounters and then sold by other companies.

Join us on Saturday, April 13th at 11:00 AM to learn more about this fascinating company and their beautiful wares. If possible, bring a folding chair with you, to ensure you get a seat!

PADEN CITY GLASS – EXAMPLES

Here are a few examples of Paden City glass. Come to the seminar to see many more examples.



"Crow's Foot" pattern – center handled tray



Oval Vase – Rockwell Silver decoration



"Maya" pattern Console bowl

[More photos on page 6]

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We are publishing this edition earlier than in past months, so some information for the month of March is incomplete.

We had 91 visitors in February, and one tour, the Frozen Green tour from Forest Falls for 15 people on President's Day. March visitor count was 52. There were no tours scheduled for March.

Sales in the Gift Shop in February were brisk, with over \$1,300 in sales, all going toward day-to-day expenses of the Museum. March totals not available at press time.

Michael Krumme and Barbara Jenks will do a seminar on Paden City glass on Saturday, April 13 (see article on page 4). Bill Summers' next Fenton seminar will probably be in July. Thomas Rigali-Roy has indicated that he is willing to give another talk on Verlys, likely to be scheduled in the Fall.

The Museum will be closed on Easter weekend. Enjoy your weekend and come see us soon!

JANUARY 2024 FROM THE BOARD:

With the retirement of our immediate past President, Steve Barnett, the office of President is currently vacant. We are looking for a candidate to fill the position, and hope to solve that problem in the near future.

In the meantime, the board will continue to operate the Museum, with our all-volunteer crew of board members, docents and general helpers.

We are very excited about the generous donation from the estate of Will Kleese, described on page 1. This is a major piece toward ensuring the future of our Museum.

We will be closed over Easter weekend, to allow our volunteers time to be with family. In the past, we have had very few visitors on Easter weekends.

The board is looking forward to the presentation on Paden City glass, as many of us are not very familiar with this company, which produced colorful and practical glass up until 1951. Please join us on Saturday, April 13.

Spring is here. Time for a spring outing – and a trip to the Museum is a perfect suggestion. See ya!

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 current balance in the fund is: **\$9,637.17**. This reflects the recent payment for the new roof. The building does require periodic maintenance and the Restoration Fund is still an active need. The Board welcomes cash donations designated for the Restoration Fund. You may also 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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We will be introducing our Board of Directors and volunteer docents in the next few issues. Here is the complete list.

Board Members

President: (vacant)

Vice President: Bill Summers

Secretary: Michael Krumme

Treasurer: Greg Sloan

Board Member: Stephen Barnett

Board Member: Shirley Barnett

Board Member: Jan Korfmacher

Board Member: David Adams

Board Member: Jacque Rocha

Board Member: Doreen Ward

Board Member: Barbara Jenks

Docents

Bill Summers

Monica Barragan

Bob Crha

Greg Sloan

Jacque Rocha

Barbara Jenks

Koral Ahmet

Shirley Barnett

Stephen Barnett

INVENTORY PROJECT

Kathi Jablonsky has been working for the last year or so on a continuing project to catalog the Museum's inventory and make it available in an on-line catalog. She finished the paperweight and Steuben collections, and is on to the next case.

Here are some of the National Park paperweights from the Museum collection.



Historical Glass Museum

Ahwanee Hotel, Yosemite National Park - California



Historical Glass Museum

Yellowstone National Park – Montana/Wyoming



Historical Glass Museum

Crater Lake National Park - Oregon

PADEN CITY GLASS – EXAMPLES

More examples of Paden City Glass products.



"Peacock and Wild Rose" pattern serving tray



Standing Colt Figure



Covered Candy with Gold Lotus "Bridal Boquet" decoration