

Historical Glass Museum



Keeping in Touch

The summer months are customarily slow at the Museum, and this year was no exception. Still, a few things have kept the Board occupied.

We are excited that one of our members, Monica Barragan, has accepted the position of Treasurer. Now we can once again pay our bills! Thanks, Monica. Former president Bill Brakemeyer has rejoined the Board, lending his experience to our leadership. Welcome.

Workshop OCT 19

Good news! Thomas Rigali-Roy will present another workshop on American Verlys on October 19 at 11:00 am at the Museum. Come hear more about this beautiful glass from a long-time collector.

Parking Lot Sale – November 9th

We will hold a Parking Lot Sale on November 9th, to help reduce our Gift Shop inventory (and not have to pay for storage). Mark your calendar.

Help Wanted

We could still use a volunteer from the area close to the Museum to assist in some simple tasks like retrieving mail and putting out/taking in garbage & recycling.

Contact us at:

info@HistoricalGlassMuseum.com

Museum Location:

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

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 9195
Redlands, CA 92375-2395
info@HistoricalGlassMuseum.com

September 2024 Volume 8 Issue 4



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 not able to update it.)

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.

KORFMACHER DONATION

Visitors to the Museum have long been treated to a display of automobile bud vases that were part of Dr. Stanley Korfmacher’s collection, which he had loaned to the Museum. Recently, the collection was donated to the Museum by his widow, Jan Korfmacher, to become part of the permanent collection. Thank you to Jan from all of us.



The following is a list of our all-volunteer staff.

Board Members

President: (open)
Vice President: (open)
Secretary: Michael Krumme
Treasurer: Monica Barragan
Board Member: Kathi Jablonsky
Board Member: Jan Korfmacher
Board Member: David Adams
Board Member: Doreen Ward
Board Member: Barbara Jenks
Board Member: Bill Brakemeyer

Docents

Bill Summers
Monica Barragan
Bob Crha
Koral Ahmet
Jacque Rocha
Barbara Jenks
Shirley Barnett
Stephen Barnett
Connie Wheeler

JEANNETTE GLASS COMPANY

This is not an in-depth article about the products of the Jeannette Glass Company. It is a story about Jeannette that you've probably never heard. Sometimes, it's just fun to eavesdrop.

Jeannette Bottle Works Company was founded in Jeannette, Pennsylvania, in 1887. The O'Neill semi-automatic bottle blowing machine, invented in 1898, was soon installed at Jeannette Bottle Works, where the company was mass-producing wide mouth jars, pressed glass items such as headlamp lenses, and bottles. Also in 1898, the company was renamed the Jeannette Glass Company.

In 1924, hand-pressed tableware was introduced into the product lineup. Depression-era glass defined the company in the 1930s, making the Adam, Anniversary and Cherry Blossom pattern lines, among many others, in pastel colors such as pink and green.



Jeannette's ADAM pattern

Production at Jeannette Glass waned during World War II, with the company down to three continuous lines by 1941 and just two lines by 1944. It increased to five lines by 1945 due to an increase in post-war consumer spending, and by the end of the 1940s, Jeannette Glass employed over 1,500 workers.

In 1961, the company purchased the McKee Glass Division plant, also in Jeannette, and added a new technical glassware department. The company then installed the world's largest electric glass furnace to melt heat-resisting glass in 1963.

Businessman John P. Brogan executed a leveraged buyout, financed by Security Pacific Business Credit in 1981, but due to his lack of knowledge of the glass industry, Jeannette was forced into Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 1982. It ceased operations in 1983.

Now the fun begins ...

The plant was soon purchased by New York businessman Abe Zion for \$4 million in a bankruptcy sale. Mr. Zion had hoped to reopen the factory as General Glass Industries at the cost of \$21 million. The city received a \$1.4 million economic package from the Economic Development Partnership Loan Program, which was to be used as a business loan to General Glass. Under the program, the city was to administer the loan and repay it back as money was available from the profits of General Glass. Additionally, the city loaned \$600,000 to Mr. Zion in 1986 to jump start the project, but ... the General Glass project never proceeded.

It was discovered that Zion had bribed city officials with gifts, and had employed the city solicitor to conduct legal work for him. The city council hired Robert Durrant to conduct an internal investigation, and Durrant reported to the council about the loan and the entangled relationships between Zion and the mayor and city solicitor. The mayor resigned and the city solicitor was fired by the city council. Another investigation by the state inspector general concluded that the mayor had violated the state's Election Code and failed to report donations on state financial disclosure forms.

On October 20, the city hired a Pittsburgh law firm in an attempt to recover the \$600,000 loan, and a few days later, on November 4, Zion wrote the city a check for the amount of the loan to resolve the issue.

Done yet? Not quite...

Claiming that the plant would be restarted, Zion repeatedly refused or ignored officials regarding proposals for redevelopment, but a 22-hour fire in the mid-1980s caused significant damage. In 1988, the state cited Zion for multiple environmental violations and ordered him in 1989 to clean up industrial waste and ship it to an industrial landfill for disposal. The cleanup was completed in 1992.



Jeannette's "Cherry Blossom" pattern

VERLYS WORKSHOP – OCTOBER 19

The Historical Glass Museum will be holding a workshop on **Verlys of America glass on October 19**. This is a follow-up workshop to one presented last year. The presenter is **Thomas Rigali-Roy**, a longtime collector of Verlys, and he and his partner presented the Museum with a wonderful donation of Verlys glass.

Thomas will be emphasizing both the colors and treatments done by Verlys. So, let's look at some of these topics. But be sure to come to the Museum and hear his discussion in person, as he is quite an entertaining speaker.

Although Verlys of America was started in 1945, its French counterpart began earlier and was a part of the Art Deco movement. Emerging in the 1920s and 1930s, Art Deco is characterized by its geometric forms, bold colors, and luxurious materials. Verlys of America embraced these elements with their own distinctive flair, incorporating vibrant hues and innovative techniques into their glassware.

Some of the colors included:

- Vibrant blues and greens with/without iridescence.
- Rich Amber and Gold
- Deep Reds and Purples
- Pastel shades of pink and blue

And treatments like:

- Frosted finish, either the whole piece, or more often, just selective parts.
- Multi-layered glass of different colors.

Here are some examples of Verlys pieces:



Verlys amber items on display at the Museum

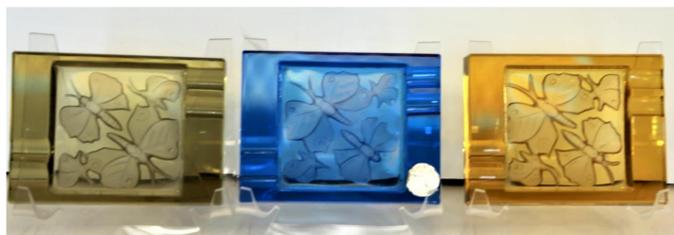


Verlys
"Jems" vase

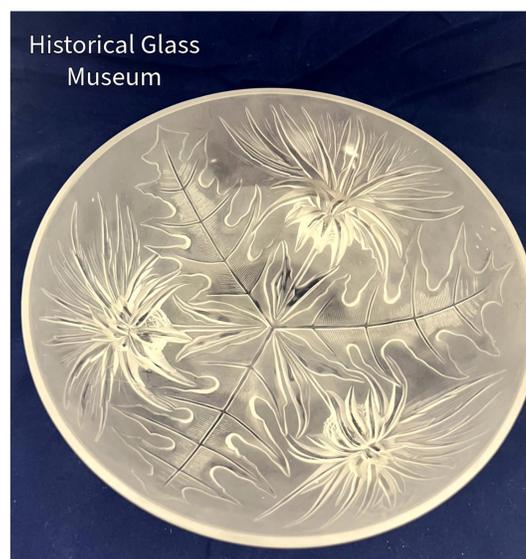
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Verlys "Love Birds" vases clear and frosted



Verlys "Butterflies" Ash Trays



Verlys "Thistle" platter

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR PARKING LOT SALE – NOVEMBER 9th

Last year, the Museum held a parking lot sale to reduce our inventory of glass that had been designated for sale in the Gift Shop. We still have quite a bit of glass remaining, and would prefer to sell it, rather than spend money on a storage facility.

And so, the Board has scheduled another Parking Lot Sale for this year, to be held on **November 9th**. In case of rain, the sale will be held the following weekend. The weather in Redlands in November is beautiful, so make plans to attend – the prices will be fabulous, and all proceeds go towards day-to-day Museum expenses.



Here are a couple of photos from last year's sale.



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.

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 are temporarily unable to schedule group tours. Check the web site or future newsletters to determine when we will resume.

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 next item on the agenda appears to be some repairs to the upper floor, which has begun to sag over the years, due to the weight of items stored for long periods of time. We are currently obtaining estimates for the work required.

The current balance in the fund is: **\$5,778.38**. 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

SEPTEMBER 2024 FROM THE BOARD:

We managed to get through another HOT summer season and look forward to the cooler months. We don't schedule seminars or workshops during the hottest part of the year, so we now look forward to several upcoming events at the Museum.

First on the list (October 19) is a workshop on American Verlys, presented by Thomas Rigali-Roy. He led a workshop last year which was enthusiastically received and we look forward to learn more about this company and the beautiful glass it produced.

Next, we are planning another parking lot sale for November 9th. Like last year, we are trying to reduce the inventory of the Gift Shop (and, of course, to raise money for Museum expenses). It is better to sell the glass than to pay for storage to hold it. Mark the date on your calendar and come stock up for holiday gifts!

The Board would like to especially thank member Andy Hoder. Andy has watched over the Museum and has taken action on several things that needed attention at his own expense. He took care of repairing the fencing around the property and is working on adding a secure entry door to the building's basement (in the past, we had some problems with intruders). He also fixed the chandelier in the cut glass room. Thanks, Andy.

It's cooling off, so come visit us some weekend, soon!



We are looking for both a President and Vice President, hopefully living in the general area of the Museum. The job doesn't require experience in running a Museum, as the Board handles that responsibility. We need a person to look after things like meeting with contractors, answering the (forwarded) phone, scheduling tours, coordinating docent coverage, etc. Being the visible leader of the organization to the public. How about you?

MID-CENTURY MODERN GLASS WITH A WHIMSICAL TOUCH

Fran Taylor founded Gay Fad Studios in Detroit in 1939 with a personal investment of \$30. This, at a time when women simply were not known to start their own businesses. Taylor's business involved sourcing "blanks," or undecorated pieces of glassware, from various manufacturers, including Lancaster, Federal and Anchor Hocking. She then hand-painted her own brand of design motifs on the glassware and sold the pieces for a handsome profit.

As her business expanded, Taylor relocated from Michigan to Lancaster, Ohio, in 1945 to be closer to her suppliers. Older pieces were primarily "cold painted" with very clear brush strokes. She worked with an engineer to develop a new ceramic-based pigment and firing process to make her designs stick better to the glass. The company acquired a lehr, which allowed them to use the firing process. The fired paint is what you think of now when you see professionally painted glassware. It adheres well to the glass and is much more durable than cold paint.



These business decisions caused production to soar, and by the late 1950s, Gay Fad Studios was grossing \$500,000 per year. But this success was also made possible by Taylor's decision to "lift the voices" of other women artists in the community. Not only did she employ women to paint the glasses at Gay Fad Studios, but she also hired women to create the designs.



Gay Fad's bread and butter product was hand-painted glassware. The designs ranged from flowers and fruits to funky faces and milk glass dishes with oranges, pears, grapes, and more.



One very popular product were the tipsy martini glasses (photo below). They feature whimsical faces on glasses with bent stems, giving them a "had a long crazy night" kind of look.



The company continued producing this colorful mid-century modern glass until it finally closed in 1962.

Then, in 2022, sixty years after the original business closed, partners Jason Annecy and David Annecy revived the brand in a retail store in Lancaster, Ohio, using the same name, bringing the company back to life in this central Ohio city near the Hocking River.

