

PORTLAND'S *Rain* OF GLASS, INC.

A non-profit organization formed to stimulate interest in collectible glass and to provide educational resources and events for the members and the community at large.



FEBRUARY

WHERE: Friendship Masonic Center
5626 NE Alameda Street
Portland, Oregon 97213
N.E. 57th & Sandy



WHEN: Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2010,
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
(Library open at 6:00 p.m.)



GREETERS: Jeff and Mary Ann Specht
(Come early to set up—6:00 p.m.)

SPEAKER: DIANA JONES
on "Jeannette Glass Patterns"

Diana will talk about the many and varied patterns of glass made by Jeannette Glass Company of Jeannette, Pennsylvania. Patterns include Adam, Cherry Blossom, Cubist, Doric, Doric and Pansy, Floral, Homespun, Sierra, Sunflower, Anniversary, Iris and Herringbone, Windsor, Floragold, Harp, Holiday and more. Bring your favorite piece of Jeannette glass to share. Pictured at top is a Floragold pitcher. Pictured above are a Doric and Pansy cup and saucer and an Iris and Herringbone plate.

PATTERN OF THE MONTH: "MING"
BY FENTON GLASS COMPANY,
Presented by Carole White



Pictured at left is a 12-inch pink Fenton Ming vase, circa 1930.

HOSPITALITY: February
Committee listed on page 2

BOARD MEETING:
Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010,
at the Friendship
Masonic Center, 7:00 p.m.
ALL MEMBERS WELCOME

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 5-7 – Copper Penny Show, Eugene
- 5-15 – Lincoln City Antique Week
- 6 – Oleson Road Treasure Show,
8470 SW Oleson Rd., Portland
- 7 – Polk Flea Market, Rickreall
- 7 – Picc-A-Dilly Flea Market,
Eugene
- 14 – Medford Giant Flea market
- 14 – Salem Collectors Market
- 20-21 – Picc-A-Dilly Flea Market,
Eugene
- 27 – Green River Glass Show,
Kent, WA

MARCH

- 6-7 – Palmer/Wirfs Portland EXPO,
Portland Expo Center
- 13-14 -- So. Ore Antiques &
Collectibles, Medford Armory
- 14 – Salem Collectors Market

**Visit the Portland's Rain of
Glass Website for more
interesting Club news:**

www.rainofglass.com

Mailing Address:
Portland's Rain of Glass
C/O Friendship Masonic
Center, 5626 N.E. Alameda
Street, Portland, OR, 97213



Photo by Neal Skibinski

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- ◆ Travel Log -
Sandwich Glass Museum
- ◆ Soda Pop and Ice Cream Glassware
- The Sprau Family Years
- ◆ "Wincanton Blue" by Wood & Sons



Photo by Neal Skibinski

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

The volunteers who signed up to help make coffee and beverages, set up the food and clean-up for the February 16th General Meeting are Venita Owen-McClain, Joi Shervey, Suzanne Pastori, Doreen Smith and Mariam Morehead.

Thank you very much for signing up to help with refreshments this month!

-Jewell Gowan, 503-510-9137



Victorian Banquet Lamp

Photo by Jack Bookwalter

**MARCH 7, 2010
CAMBRIDGE, OH**

**NATIONAL CAMBRIDGE COLLECTORS
ANNUAL ALL CAMBRIDGE GLASS
BENEFIT AUCTION**

**PRITCHARD LAUGHLIN CIVIC CENTER
7033 GLENN HIGHWAY (US 40)
CAMBRIDGE, OH**

SATURDAY-- 10:00AM - 4:30PM

**[HTTP://WWW.CAMBRIDGEGLASS.ORG/
NCCAUCION.PHP](http://www.cambridgeglass.org/NCCAUCION.PHP)**

*In case of severe weather, please call Carole White's cell
number, 503-901-0505 for updated information.*

Portland's Rain of Glass, Inc.

publishes 12 newsletters a year.

If you would like to contribute an article, contact:

Barbara Coleman at 503-281-1823,

colelee@easystreet.net

AND Jewell Gowan at 503-510-9137,

jewellsbks@aol.com

AND Cindy Thomas at 503-481-5401,

cst@wbcable.net

Dateline Cape Cod, Massachusetts:

THE SANDWICH GLASS MUSEUM

In October of last year I traveled to Massachusetts for a two week vacation. In the last Newsletter, I wrote about the Glass Flowers I saw at the Harvard Museum of Natural History. In this issue I am reviewing the Sandwich Glass Museum in the Cape Cod town of Sandwich.

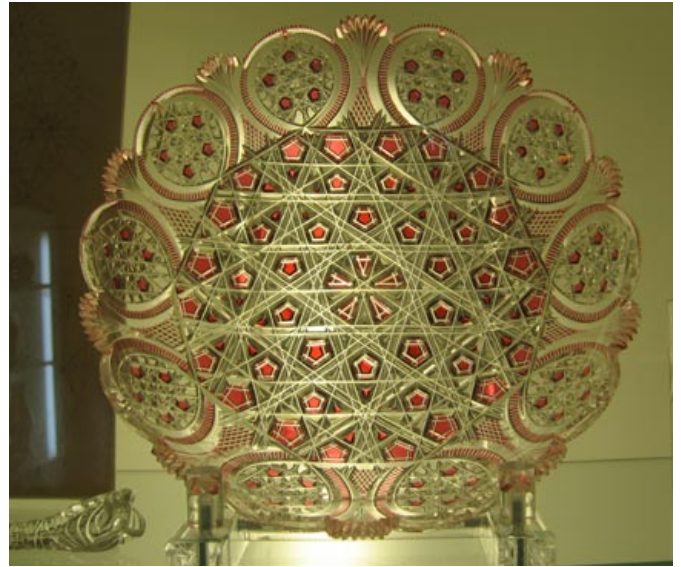
The Sandwich Glass Museum exhibits almost 5,000 pieces of glass produced by the Boston and Sandwich glass company between 1825 and 1888. The museum showcases all periods and styles that were popular throughout the company's 63-years of operation. Additional glass is displayed from companies that operated in the former Boston and Sandwich factory building from 1888 until 1920.

In addition to the many lovely displays of glass, the museum contains a glass furnace with a resident glass-blower and a number of high-tech state-of-the-art interactive displays.



Resident Glass Blower

This is a museum where you could take children (even teenagers!) and your non-glass oriented friends. Everyone would find something to enjoy.



One of the most engaging walk-in exhibits is a re-creation of the dining room of the Burgess family of 1880 showing their extensive table setting of Boston and Sandwich glassware. As if by magic, Rebecca Burgess enters the room as a hologram and begins explaining the function of the various pieces of glass. Each piece glows from beneath as she begins describing it. The Sandwich Glass Museum takes the museum experience to a new level of realism and excitement. I was so stunned by



"Silvered" Glass

Rebecca's presence that I forgot to try and photograph her. Perhaps holograms, like vampires, cannot be photographed?? That question will only be answered when one of you dear PROG members visits the Sandwich Glass Museum and reports back. Be sure to tell Rebecca that Jack says hello.



Early 19th Century Cup Plates

The Boston and Sandwich glass company was founded in 1825 by Boston businessman Deming Jervis. He chose the town of Sandwich because of the nearby shallow harbor and the seemingly endless supply of Cape Cod timber for use in glass furnaces. The nearby salt marsh hay and grasses also proved useful as packing material for the finished glass. It is sometimes thought that the site was chosen for its easy access to silica from the surrounding sandy beaches. But local sand produced a yellow cast to the glass and more pure sand had to be shipped in from New Jersey.

Throughout the early-to-mid Nineteenth Century, Boston and Sandwich glass produced a staggering amount of mold-blown and pressed glass. At one time it was the largest producing glass factory in the world! Conditions changed in the late-Nineteenth Century however as new Midwestern glass companies, with their easy access to coal and natural gas, began offering quality products at prices that Boston and Sandwich could not meet. The company went out of business in 1888. Several other companies occupied the factory until 1920, none achieving the prominence of the former Boston and Sandwich Glass Company.

Photos and Article by Jack Bookwalter



“Trevaize Glass” - early 20th Century company using Boston and Sandwich factory



Dolphin Candlesticks



SPRAU'S FAMOUS ICE CREAM AND SODA BOTTLING COMPANY

with David and Linda Sprau

Photos by Neal Skibinski

Glass was the serving medium for soda pop and ice cream many years before replacement by paper and plastic. Small town manufacturers with delivery wagons and small trucks were the purveyors of these products, rather than large distributors in big cities. Consequently, many towns and cities of only modest size had these manufacturing plants.

PROG Members David and Linda Sprau presented a program highlighting the use of glass in David's family's soda pop and ice cream factory in Monroe, WA circa 1910-1960. The factory had a curious connection to

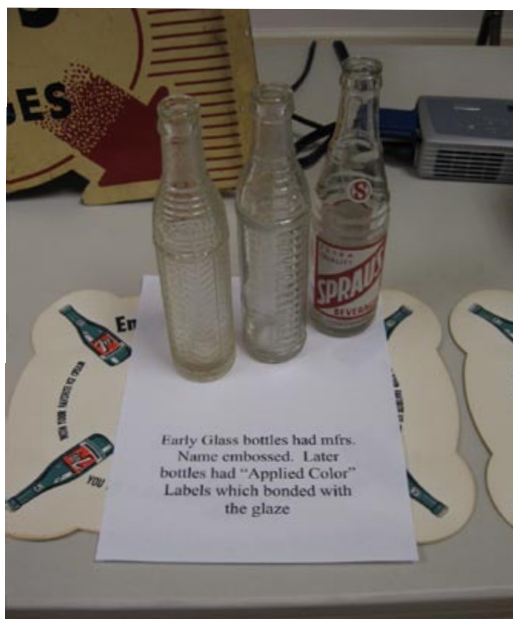
Portland and the State of Oregon because all of the equipment for the Monroe plant came from Columbia Bottler's Supply Company on Front Street in Portland, as well as the fact that soda products bottled in Portland were also bottled at Sprau's, including "Kist" soda, bottled in Portland at the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Dr. Swett's and 7-Up. Some Portland manufacturers of the late 1800's included Dekum & Bickel, Oregon Soda, Levy Brothers and Cottle, Post & Co.



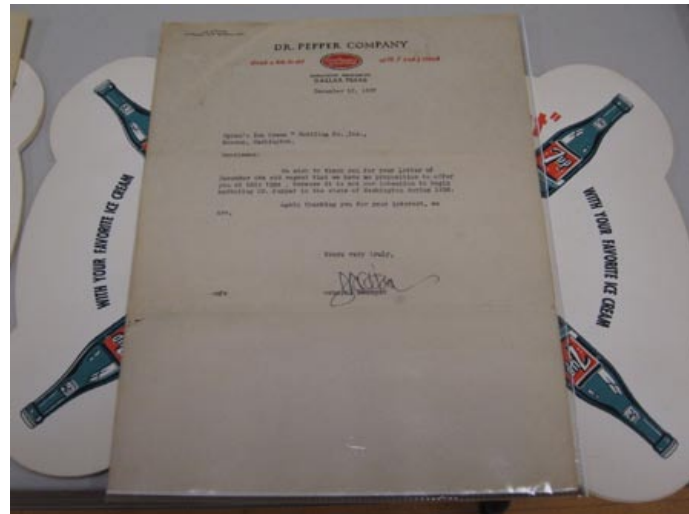
The first record of ice cream is from 7th century China. David's Great-Grandfather as well as Grandpa Sprau had a confectionery and sporting goods store in Monroe in 1908. The common denominator of soda and ice cream is the mixture known as a "float." A local druggist gave Grandpa a formula for ice cream and another for soda pop, and the sale of both was eminently successful. In 1914 Grandpa bought out his father, sold the retail store, and expanded the manufacturing company.

Ammonia compressors were used to freeze the ice cream. The ice cream and soda pop business expanded east nearly to Wenatchee, and south to Issaquah and North Bend.

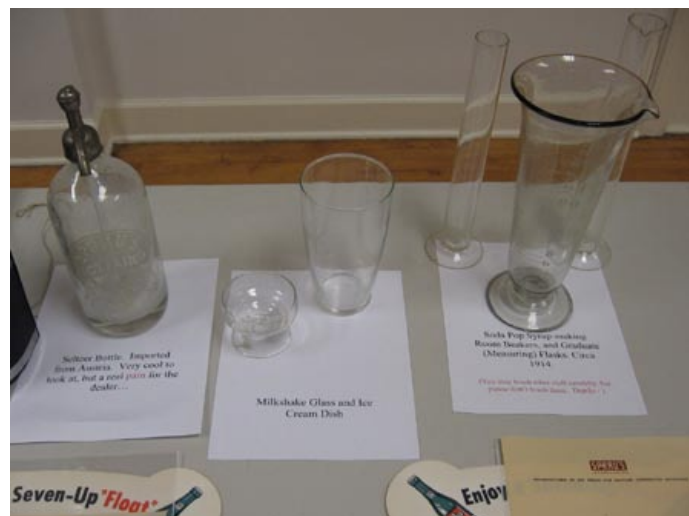
Soda pop originally included natural soda water charged with carbon dioxide gas. Gas was sometimes made using chalk or marble dust combined with acid. 7-Up had Lithium in it from its introduction in 1929 until 1950 and was rumored to be a hangover cure. Early pop bottles had the dealer's name embossed on to them. 7-Up did not allow its



bottlers to put their names on bottles, but later relaxed the rule, so a few 7-Up bottles lettered “Sprau’s Bottling, Monroe WA” do exist. Some soda bottles had brands and makers’ names embossed in the glass; others had paper labels glued on to a smooth surface, but they wore off. Bottlers tried painted-on labels, but harsh alkali soaps removed them after several washings. About 1930 they went to “applied color labels,” which were silk screened on and then re-heated to become part of the bottle.



In 1903 Michael J. Owens of the Libbey Glass Company invented the Owens Automatic Bottle Machine that enabled use of the familiar metal caps, and Owens went on to become a partner in the Owen-Illinois Glass Company, now known as Owens-Corning. Most of Sprau’s bottles and other 20th-century soda bottles as well, were made by Owens-Illinois.



David’s father took over the plant in 1931. David also worked at the Sprau factory as a young boy, washing bottles and performing other tasks. Sprau’s sold and serviced seltzer

bottles, and David showed a photo of a complicated machine used to open, fill and seal the bottles. Every so often a bottle would explode because of the immense pressure needed. Soda pop bottles made seltzer bottles obsolete.

He also shared his memory of Sprau’s recalling all their neon signs from windows of mom and pop groceries. A manager rounded them up and brought them to the factory; David asked his dad if he could have one, but Dad said they had mercury and were too dangerous. So they stomped the signs into smithereens and threw the pieces away. If they had mercury, why was it safer to stomp them rather than save them???



By 1961, small independent manufacturers were being edged out by bigger companies, and Sprau’s closed. Their ice cream operation was sold to Arden Farms, and larger bottlers took over the soda pop. The factory building still stands, and it is currently an auto body shop. *Written by Carole Bess White*

This photo of “Sprau’s Famous Ice Cream” sign provided by Dave Sprau



WINCANTON BLUE with MARIAM MOREHEAD



I've always liked blue and white china dinnerware, but my interest in it had a somewhat nostalgic beginning. I used to read a story to my daughters about two young ladies about age 5 and 6 who set up their tea parties using their "old red plastic dinnerware." But the dream of one of the little girls was to own a whole new china set, with pictures all in blue. My daughters loved the story as the little girl finally gets her wish!

In 1999 I met a gentleman from Sun Valley ID whose mother had been a vaudeville actress. She was the original owner of my set of Wincanton Blue. Her family lived on a large ranch, where they entertained celebrity guests such as Clarke Gable and Carole Lombard, Lucille Ball and Vivian Vance, and many others. It's kind of fun to think they may have been served on some of my dishes!

My friend was moving to Boise with the set in his car, and he was involved in an accident. Later he gave the surviving pieces of what must have been a much larger set to my family, and I have them now. I have a good portion of a service for four, but not all of the available pieces—and there are many.

Wincanton Blue is transferware, a type of china that was made by etching a design on to a metal plate, then inking the plate and transferring the design to a tissue. The tissue was placed on a piece of fired china, then re-fired. The tissue burned away in the firing, and the pattern was left on the piece. Flow Blue is another type of transferware. Something that was a surprise to me was that the dishes are not perfect. They have manufacturing flaws, which Neal Skibinski explained are typical of this type of ware.

Wincanton Blue was made by the firm of Wood and Sons. Enoch, Moses and Aaron Wood, the sons of Ralph Wood of Burslem, Staffordshire, England, were well known potters in the late 1700's through the mid 1800's. The firm of Wood and Sons was established in 1818 and was very successful, having arrived on the heels of Wedgwood's popularity. In fact, Enoch Wood had worked for Josiah Wedgwood. By the late 1830's, Wood and Sons were considered to be the largest exporters of earthenware of every variety from Staffordshire to the U.S. By that time, they had also added porcelain to their product line.

In 1840, the senior Mr. Enoch Wood died, leaving considerable sums of money to his children with the stipulation that they could not claim it until at least five years after his death to help maintain the financial health of the company. In December of 1845 the heirs claimed all of their money, which drained the firm of capital and closed the factory, throwing nearly 1,000 people out of work.

In 1865, Absalom Wood, a descendent of Moses Wood, re-established the firm of Wood and Sons. In 1910 his son, Thomas Wood, once again established the firm of Wood and Sons. It went into receivership in 1981 and was acquired by the Yorke family. This latest Wood and Sons firm produced many designs, but Wincanton Blue was not shown in their gallery in the reference I found. The pieces I have are numbered and correspond to having been made sometime between 1910 and 1920, showing the original Enoch Wood and Sons "Woods Ware" mark on the back. So it appears that the pattern was produced at least until 1920.

I have much to learn yet, and there are quite a number of pieces out there for sale, and some at fairly modest prices. I do enjoy my set displayed in my maple hutch! **Edited by Carole Bess White**

Photos by Neal Skibinski

