



20-30-40 GLASS SOCIETY OF ILLINOIS

THE SOCIETY PAGE



Volume 41 Issue 1

January-February, 2020

NEXT MEETING

When: February 15, 2019

*Where: American Legion Hall
900 S. LaGrange Rd. La Grange, IL*

AGENDA:

10:30 a.m. Social Hour

11:30 Lunch

1:00 Program

3:00 Adjournment

Cost: \$10.00 pp.

This will be our usual "Eat in Style" Luncheon, please bring a dish to pass to serve at least 8. Chicken will be provided by the Society.



President's Comments ...

I still can't believe Christmas is around the corner, but I guess I have to believe it since we just had our holiday party on Dec. 7. Time certainly does fly!

Although this was a party, we did hold a short business meeting since some things needed to be considered ASAP. One of these was a very good discussion about the holding of the Spring Collectors' Market. This was tabled to be brought up at the January 4 Board meeting. This will allow us time to get additional information regarding some of the suggestions made. Please see **Bev Kennett's** minutes for more details.

Another item, after receiving the Audit Committee's report, Treasurer **Bette Bruce** brought up the situation of our continuing loss of money, especially at our regular meetings due to reduced attendance and increased costs. It was suggested that if anyone knows about another location in our general vicinity, or if you have other ideas about our meetings, please let the Board know. Perhaps we can discuss ideas presented to us at the February meeting.

A third item, was that our webmaster, **David Adams**, has indicated that he no longer wants to handle our website. Also, **Gail Crossen** said that she no longer wants to handle the website information and our Facebook page. Right now, our member **Jeff Morrow** is working with **Silvano** on the website, etc., regarding our show. But, we need someone to take over on a regular basis. If you are computer and website savvy, please

continued on page 2 ...

Inside this issue:

President's Comments	1-2
Vice-President's Corner	1-2
Club Calendar	2
Meeting Minutes	3-4
Meeting Photos	5-6
Light and Frogs	9
Bootleggers & Bathtub Gin	10

Vice-President's Corner ...

Greetings and a happy New Year to all! A new year like this one happens only once every one hundred and one years. Hope it will be a good one.

Now on to business, first I would like to thank all of our members who have given their time and effort to our group over the past year. Thank you! Next up is the February general meeting. We will meet on Saturday, February 15th at the American Legion Hall at 900 South LaGrange Road in Lagrange. This will be a "Dine in Style" event so bring your favorite place setting and a dish for the buffet table. There will be two



continued on page 2 ...

... *Presidents Comments continued*

let the Board know if you are interested. It is possible to have two different people handle these two areas.

Back to the party!!! It was a great party with 37 attendees. I'm sure everyone enjoyed themselves at this most festive event. The meal provided by Angelo's Ristorante in Elmhurst was wonderful. The meal was served family style and there was food aplenty for everyone. Although the meal included Italian ices for dessert, I think that the main "dessert" became the numerous cookies that our members provided for our enjoyment. The restaurant graciously allowed us to bring our own cookies to enjoy.

Once again, **Ken Pakula**, our "prize guy," provided 12 great prizes for our Dirty Bingo game from which winners could select a prize, as well as a number of wrapped raffle prizes. All of the raffle winners were happy with their prizes. For a full list of all the winners, see Bev's minutes.

Although there will be another reminder elsewhere in this issue, please remember that **Nancy and David** need all outstanding library books to be returned at the February meeting so that our library will be complete for our show in March.

Happy glass hunting. See you at our next meeting on February 15. **Bruce Levine** has a great program on tap for that meeting. See his column for the details.

Jackie Alton, President

... *Vice President's comments continued*

programs featured at this meeting. Program one will be "All That Glitters" ... a presentation of glass items decorated with precious metals. It goes well with Valentine's day. I will need your help with this one, so please bring any examples you may have for the display. *I also need a co-host to help with the program, so let me know if you are interested.* Program two will feature Pottery. **David Taylor** will provide examples and information on **Roseville Bushberry** ... listed in 60 plus shapes with three background colors from the 1940's. There will also be a good "Prize Guy" raffle and the "What is it Table ". Hope to see you then.

Bruce Levine, Vice President

2020 SOCIETY CALENDAR

February 15.....Meeting at American Legion, LaGrange

April 18.....Meeting at American Legion

June 13..... SUBJECT TO CHANGE

August 15..... Meeting at American Legion, LaGrange

October 17.....Meeting at American Legion, LaGrange

November 1.....Collector's Market at American Legion

December 5..... SUBJECT TO CHANGE

BOARD MEETING CALENDAR

January 4, 2020

April 4, 2020

July 18, 2020

September 12, 2020

November 7, 2020

WHERE:

**PaPa Passero's Restaurant
6326 S. Cass Ave., Westmont**

WHEN: 10:00 am



December 7th MEETING RECAP

Submitted by Beverly Kennett, Secretary

Business Meeting: Jackie called the meeting to order at 11:28 a.m.

The following announcements were made . . .

Bev and Dick Popp have colds and could not attend our holiday party.

Mary Feiden passed away earlier this week.

Bette Bruce thanked everyone for the cards and concerns she has received for her son's health.

David Taylor asked that all articles be submitted as soon as possible, due to the fact that he will be leaving soon to visit family for the holidays.

Committee Reports:

President's Report: Jackie Alton discussed how every one of the club's events seem to be running at a deficit.

Vice President's Report: No report

Treasurer's Report: Bette Bruce reported that, after receipts and disbursements were itemized, the balance of the General Fund, as of 11/30/19, is \$7,367.97. The balance in the Money Market account is currently \$19,377.60.

Audit report: The 2018 audit was completed and all is in order. Jackie thanked the audit committee and the report will be filed.

Collector's Market Report: Alice had contacted the American Legion Hall for a May 3rd Collector's Market and the room was not available, therefore there was discussion of different options including holding the Market on a Saturday. Unfortunately, the Legion Hall charges double the rent for Saturdays and spring holidays interfere with other dates. Several people suggested eliminating the spring market for next year with the possibility of it returning in 2021. It was also suggested that we hold the April Market on the day of our scheduled general meeting instead. Bruce Levine notified us that according to the by-laws, we only need to hold three general meetings per year, so we would still be in compliance.

Alice Ewert moved that we table the discussion until the January Board meeting. Mary Losew seconded the motion. The motion passed. Then, a discussion followed and a hand count was taken to judge the feelings of the members. The quick hand vote was in favor of cancelling the April general meeting and holding a flea market instead, knowing that the board will have to make the final decision, while considering any increased cost and other details.

Membership Report: No report.

Show Report: No report.

Librarian's Report: Remember that the library will not be available at the February meeting. The librarians will collect all books to make them available for the March Show.

Web-page: Silvano Brugioni reported that David, our web-page manager, would like to retire from managing the website. Silvano asked Jeff Morrow to make some updates to the web-page and he agreed. Please volunteer if you are interested in monitoring the site on a more regular basis. We need the site to be monitored to make sure all information and dates stay current.

Mary Losew motioned to close the meeting and Halla Kotlarz seconded. The meeting was closed at 11:51 a.m.

There were 37 people in attendance at our holiday party, held at Angelo's Restaurant in Elmhurst. We reserved for 40 people and the club will be required to cover the difference.

Best Find of the Year Contests:

There were multiple entries in each category this year, which means club members have been shopping and keeping their eyes peeled for bargains.

The “*A to Z*” contest brought in a crystal powder box, a green Tiffin “Flower Garden” center-handled server with gold trim, a 3-piece McKee Laurel centerpiece set in jadeite, and the winning piece was Angela McEntee’s Jeannette “Iris and Herringbone” coaster.

The “*Under \$10*” category had the most entries: an amethyst Dugan “Grape Delight” bowl/planter (\$.50), a cameo Fenton “Spiral Optic” basket (\$4), a matching cameo Fenton “Spiral Optic” fairy lamp (\$2), 7 pieces of dawn A.H. Heisey “Lodestar,” a candlestick and 6 juice tumblers all purchased for \$3.44 and listed. The winning piece was a Duncan Miller opalescent yellow shell, purchased by Bette Wittenberg for only \$4.50.

The entries in the “*Elegant*” category included a Heisey Charter Oak 3-lite green candlestick set, a blue powder box, and a Fostoria “Palm Leaf Brocade” vase. The vase and the candlesticks ended in a tie of 13 votes each. David Taylor, the owner of the candlesticks, deferred the win to Joyce Rezmer’s Fostoria vase.

Finally, in the “*Rare*” category we saw Linda Levine’s U.S. Glass Vermont ivory toothpick with enamel décor win over a Fostoria “Royal” urn and candlestick console set, and a Heisey Democratic donkey mascot. Congratulations to the winners and all the entries, because they were all fantastic finds!

Start looking for next year’s entry!

Raffle: The prize guy came through again with six beautifully wrapped raffle prizes and the lucky winners were . . .

Jeanne Lehner – Westmoreland “Modernistic” sugar and creamer with caddy
 Judy Clouston – orange crackle glass hat vase
 Jim Larsen – Fenton green slag vase
 Jim Larsen again – Cambridge “Cane Pinwheel” water pitcher
 Christine Moran – green see-through vase
 Bette Bruce – Westmoreland #308 cased & cut bowl

Dirty Bingo: Bruce Levine and Lenny Cousineau called numbers for our games this year. David Taylor was the first winner and he chose the Fostoria “Heather” console bowl. He was excited to learn the candlesticks were included to complete the set. There were only two double Bingos and I felt extremely lucky to win twice in a row. Unfortunately, my first choice of prizes, the yellow Cambridge “Draped Lady” flower frog, was stolen from me before the evening was over. She was the first item stolen and also the most frequently stolen piece as she moved tables six times. The games were won quickly this year so we actually played a few extra before playing the cover-all game, where Alice Ewert stole the yellow “Draped Lady” her final time. Al Ewert bravely took the wrapped surprise gift that couldn’t be stolen. So, he went home with a Cambridge water pitcher. Here were the other lucky winners . . .

Co-op vase – Beverly Kennett
 Cambridge “Draped Lady” flower frog – Alice Ewert
 Duncan-Miller basket – Joyce Rezmer
 Silvano Brugioni – Fenton silver decorated Poppies vase
 Joyce Rezmer – pink Dunbar water set
 Unidentified Hour glass – Ken Pakula
 Paden City mayonnaise set – Al Ewert
 David Taylor – Fostoria “Heather” console set
 Sally Cousineau – Two Imperial “Candlewick” baskets
 Bette Bruce – Westmoreland “Princess Feather” footed bowl
 Jackie Alton – amber crimped crackle vase
 Beverly Kennett – green Hocking Glass “Cameo” vase



Congratulations to the happy winners! See you all next year!

Happy New Year from
 Joan Crawford

AS SEEN BY NEIL

At the December meeting



Our "Santa Ken" is the gifter that keeps on giving. The tables were laden with beautiful glass for our bingo and raffle prizes. Even though a few of us may have been on the naughty list.



Bette B., keeper of the bingo cards and wearer of the red



Bingo boys, Lenny and Bruce kept the games moving and the prizes flowing.



The Cambridge Draped Lady frog was the most popular gal at the party and visited a lot of tables.

Is she the glass world's answer to the Academy Award???

merry christmas



After a wonderful meal, we still found room to enjoy a great array of delicious holiday treats

The study of glass never pauses ... even during the holidays



Our "find of the year" competition brought out some very interesting pieces that our members grabbed for their collections.



The Crossens spread tickets and Christmas cheer throughout the room, and we were very happy to receive both!



The Fry Club sent a special delegation to party with us



Congratulations to Jim and Lana Larsen who celebrated their GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY in late December. 50 years of memories and collecting!





Shanghai Correspondent

By Kristine Kammerer

Happy Holidays & New Year greetings to you all! As I sit here looking out our living room windows, north across Century Park, watching the trees drop leaves & colors slowly change, I am weighing what to write about for the upcoming club newsletter.

My mind flirted with the idea to write about shopping here in Shanghai, but that would be boring because re-sale and glass shopping is non-existent in Shanghai.

One consideration was to write about our holidays here in Shanghai, with Thanksgiving flying by, Christmas right around the corner & the New Year close behind, but I decided against the holidays. The holidays would be too grand to cover. So, what then? David suggested I write about Chinese New Year, which was a great idea & perfect for this edition; however, I felt a little too much pressure to be accurate with my reporting.

Looking for incentive, I read through several of our “Newsletters from Shanghai” but inspiration was not found. Then, I realized, routinely we are asked one particular question: “*What do you miss most from home?*” Ahh, I thought to myself, now this, this answer should work out just fine.

Naturally, it goes without writing, that family & friends is hands down our first answer. My husband’s second answer, usually, revolves around a few of his favorite foods like hot cheesy baked deep-dish Chicago style pizza, fresh bratwurst steaming & piping hot off a BBQ grill, & my homemade New York style cheesecake with caramel sauce, just to name a few items he misses.

My second answer undoubtedly is my car. *I miss my car*, but not for the reason you may expect. It is possible you are sitting comfortably in your home, nodding your head, trying to understand. Maybe you even made the conclusion that I miss the *act* of driving.

Actually, I do not miss everyday driving. It would be fair to state I miss the act of weekend driving. You know what I mean? The type of driving when one jumps in the car, rolls down the windows, drops the top, finds a road and just goes until the road ends, that kind of driving I miss, but missing weekend driving is not my main reason I long for my car.

What I miss most of all, is the things my car carries for me. Fairly anti-climactic, right? Now, stick with me here. Without realizing it, I took for granted all the objects my car quietly & patiently holds for me, for that one moment in time when I just might need “something”.

Has your mind wandered to your own car now? Is your own car, holding an umbrella, your sunglasses, a cellphone charger, your favorite coffee mug? Keep going, what else is lurking around in your vehicle, just waiting to be used?

Now, return back to Shanghai with me & refocus: keep in mind we do not have a car here, so what’s the next best thing to carry these “just in case items”? Think: backpack. Yes, that is correct a backpack.

Follow Kris to the next page



... Shanghai continued here

Don & I now have a variety of backpacks in different shape and sizes. You may ask, how does a backpack correlate with a car? My backpack carries everything for me exactly like my car does at home, with the exception it's on my back vs *in* my car.

Our backpacks have the standard items such as sunglasses, Kleenex, cellphone charger, & umbrella. Then we have the standard Shanghai items: a hat, a scarf, gloves, a fan, hand-sanitizer, a map, a shopping bag or two, gum/mints, water bottle, a granola bar & then the most important items like keys, passport, cash, & credit cards. Lastly, for people like myself, a fork & knife (smile).

Now, in retrospect, all these "small items" may not exactly seem like much; however, combined, it's quite a haul. Especially when walking around for hours on end, changing trains, climbing in & out of cars, up & down stairs & then carrying the occasional purchase or two. These "small items" sure can add up.

So, the next time you get into your car & reach for those sunglasses or napkin because your coffee splashed on your slacks, or you reach in the trunk for that "just in case item" & it's there, please be sure to give thanks. It's the small things that make life so much easier. I love & appreciate my backpack, but I sure do miss my car.



Peace & joy with blessings for all,
Kristine

A Note of Thanks....

Loretta Schoppe, Ken received your lovely note in the mail. To my surprise he sent it on to me here in Shanghai.

Thank you so very much for taking the time to write and for your kind sentiment. I will treasure your card always.

Kristine K

A message from the Prize Guy



V.P. Bruce Levine has decreed that the theme of the February 2020 general meeting shall be "all that glitters". Please read his column for the specifics.

This is a collecting genre which I've stayed away from. Looking through my collections, I do have objects which feature glass and metal, but not in the context of "all that glitters". I only wish that Kris, my daughter, could attend this show and tell session. She and her husband have a small but elegant collection of Pairpoint black amethyst glass with sterling silver overlay which would KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF.

The Prize Guy inventory is somewhat depleted after the recent Christmas event. What means I'll need to do some serious shopping between now and February 15th. Oh darn! I pledge to do my duty to do my best to meet the "all that glitters" challenge.

But wait, this meeting will be only one day after VALENTINES DAY. Maybe I'll just succumb to temptation and go with a Valentines Day theme. Or maybe half and half. Or maybe some other ratio. Wish me good luck shopping. See you in February.

Till then, happy junkin!

Ken P (the Prize Guy)



Whispers from the Library



The library needs **ALL BOOKS RETURNED AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING** to have them ready for the March show. If you will not be at the meeting, please make arrangements with another member to return them for you. Thank you.

David Taylor

Nancy Lazaris



Thank you to Neil Unger for submitting the following. Assuming that they might have a piece or two of interesting glass ... and that they might know somebody with a camera ... I asked if I might have a picture from the House of Unger, and a sentence explaining it. Happily, Neil exceeded my request and hopes and sent this very informative article. I always learn something from the Ungers. I think you will too.

Let There Be Light

Ok David Taylor you asked for it, soooo here is the story of the earliest flower frog that The Cambridge Glass Co. produced after the human form. Cambridge called this frog the "Geisha Girl" produced in 1926 in two versions ... the one-bun and the two-bun figure. It was the only frog ... but wait a minute ... you ask what is a flower frog? Well it could be a figural, animal, or just piece of glass or pottery or anything that had holes



that sat in a bowl of water. Women artistically arranged flowers in the holes ... hence the name flower frog. Back to my story. This was the only 2-piece flower frog Cambridge ever produced. It consisted of a 12" oriental figure with a bottom peg with screw threads that screwed into a metal ring that was screwed into the 6-hole glass base that held the figure upright. More times than not the workers screwed the figure too tight into the base causing a chip or mostly a fracture in the glass base. This made the bases unsaleable and eventually into shards, making their way into the glass dump. Hence, the bases are harder to find because there were less of them. But the hardest piece to find, believe it or not, is the metal ring that had inside and outside threads holding the two pieces together. So now, more times than not, you can see the girls minus the base. Cambridge, realizing what was happening, decided instead of turning the Geishas into shards, to start saving the Geishas and making them into lamps. Or they shaved off the pegs and let them decoratively stand in bowls or just sold the figures by themselves. This saved Cambridge from re-making the entire frog all over again. They came in the Cambridge colors of amber, pink, crystal, blue, and ivory ... maybe even more. At one time Eddie and I had over 120 flower frogs in our collection, but alas most are gone now into new homes. But, not the two Geisha Girl lamps and a couple of others shown in photos. Now that's a different story, as

we have had them for many, many years and I can't bear to part with them. They were bought at the old O'Hare Antique show in Rosemont too many years ago to remember when. And no, I didn't steal them. The dealer knew what they were, and I paid accordingly.

Well, that's about it. Now you know just about as much as I do about the Geisha Girls except maybe for one thing I forgot to tell you. But you have to promise me you won't repeat this. When I get up in the middle of the night to make a "pit stop", and all is quiet in the house, I walk by the den. I can hear the Geishas trading stories about the good old days in the 20s, 30s, 40s when life was a little simpler, slower and safer ... without driving on the highway and getting shot, drive bys, or standing on a street corner getting shot. People used to communicate with each other on the street with a friendly wave and not a wave for help or even at the dinner table without a single cell phone. People were not afraid to leave the door open, and children not afraid to go to school and get shot. We could just sit on our front porch and not get shot and walk in the park after dark without getting shot or mugged. Yes, I remember those good old days too. Do You? Good Night girls. Sleep tight.

Neil



For this Roaring 20s edition, I wanted to include a little snippet about bathtub Gin. While looking for material, I came across this article and loved it. I think you will find it interesting too. This is on-line content from THE MOB MUSEUM –located in Las Vegas. It looks like a great place to visit. Check them out at ... TheMobMuseum.org. My sincere thanks to them for granting me permission to share with our club. Grab a cup of coffee, or other favorite beverage (I don't judge) and enjoy the journey to a fascinating time.

Bootleggers and Bathtub Gin

This article first published by The Mob Museum for its *Prohibition: An Interactive History* digital exhibit.

In the early 1920s, the Genna brothers gang provided hundreds of needy people in the Little Italy section of Chicago with one-gallon copper “alky cookers,” or stills, to make small batches of homemade liquor in their kitchens. The Gennas furnished the corn sugar and yeast. When the Gennas’ henchmen made the rounds to these family enterprises, they paid a nice return of \$15 (about \$188 in 2016) each day to oversee production of gallons of pure alcohol. The Gennas made a tidy profit – the illegal liquor cost them only 50 to 75 cents per gallon, and they sold it to speakeasies for \$6. In New York, gangster Frankie Yale also paid Italian-Americans \$15 per day to run alky cookers in Brooklyn.



These family moonshiners were among countless small- and big-time illegal alcohol producers during Prohibition. Some of these moms and pops bottled their own liquor at home. They used a small still to ferment a “mash” from corn sugar, or fruit, beets, even potato peels to produce 200-proof alcohol, then mix it with glycerin and a key ingredient, a touch of juniper oil as a flavoring. To turn this highly potent liquid into a rank “gin,” they needed to water it down by half. But their bottles often were too tall to fit under the spigot in the kitchen sink, so they used the one in the bathtub.

But few could tolerate the bad taste of this “bathtub gin.” Bartenders in speakeasies blended ounces of it with various mixers from bitters to soda pop, juices and fruit garnishes, to hide the flavor of the poorly made alcohol. While mixed drinks certainly predated Prohibition (the origins of the rum drink “Mojito” may date back to the 16th century), they were necessary during Prohibition. The Prohibition era’s speakeasies made the cocktail fashionable.

In large cities and rural areas, from basements and attics to farms and remote hills and forests across America, moonshiners and other bootleggers made it virtually impossible for Prohibition Bureau agents to enforce the Volstead Act’s national ban on making and distributing liquor. The bureau seized almost 697,000 stills nationwide from 1921 to 1925. From mid-1928 to mid-1929 alone, the feds confiscated 11,416 stills, 15,700 distilleries and 1.1 million gallons of alcohol. The bigger stills were known to churn out five gallons of alcohol in only eight minutes. Commercial stills in New York could put out 50 to 100 gallons a day at a cost of 50 cents per gallon and sell each one for \$3 to \$12. By 1930, the U.S. government estimated that smuggling foreign-made liquor into the country was a \$3 billion industry (\$41 billion in 2016).

Grocery and hardware stores legally sold a laundry list of what home distillers and beer brewers needed – the gallon stills, bottles, malt syrup, corn sugar, corn syrup, hops, yeast and bottle cappers. Americans, based on Prohibition Bureau estimates, brewed 700 million gallons of homemade beer in 1929. Chain grocery markets such as Kroger and A&P sold the popular beer-making ingredient malt syrup in cans. By 1927, national production of malt syrup hit nearly 888 million pounds – enough to make more than six billion pints of homemade beer.

Many Americans were able to use Prohibition’s exemptions to their advantage. The person largely responsible for writing the Volstead Act in 1919 was Wayne Wheeler, head of the powerful, pro-dry Anti-Saloon League. Wheeler was instrumental in persuading Congress to vote for the law. Yet Wheeler, to get Volstead through Congress, had to permit some loopholes in the law that would loom larger than he had envisioned.

continued ...

Licensed doctors were permitted to prescribe whiskey, other distilled spirits (from government-licensed distilleries) and wine as treatments for ailments, limited to one pint every 10 days. The law also allowed the manufacture and sale of wine used in sacraments or other religious rituals by rabbis, priests, “ministers of the gospel” and their designees. Both loopholes were abused. Doctors and pharmacists made a lot of money issuing the expensive prescriptions to patients for colds and sore throats. Bonded distillers and winemakers (with government permits) who provided the liquor also made out. Wineries such as Beaulieu Vineyards, Beringer and Louis M. Martin owed their rise as big businesses to making sacramental wine for clergymen, who essentially became bootleggers for their congregations.

One of the largest exceptions to Volstead concerned winemaking at home. In October 1920, eight months after Prohibition took effect, the Treasury Department issued a statement clarifying Section 29 of Volstead concerning manufacturing fruit juices at home without a federal permit. The statement specifically addressed winemaking: “the head of a family who has properly registered may make 200 gallons [of wine] exclusively for family use without payment of tax thereon.” That meant families could generate — but not sell or transport — the equivalent of 1,000 bottles of wine a year, or 2.7 bottles per day for home consumption, without paying taxes.

The regulation — certainly not what Wheeler had intended — led to a nationwide surge in home-fermented wines and related businesses during Prohibition. From 1925 to 1929, 679 million gallons of homemade wine passed through the lips of Americans — triple the amount they drank in the five years leading up to Prohibition. The acreage farmers in California devoted to growing wine grapes expanded from 97,000 to 681,000. The price for a ton of grapes, only \$9.50 in 1919, rose to an astonishing \$375 by 1924.

Grape producers made concentrates from crushed grapes, with the stems and skins, in liquid form in multi-gallon cans or dehydrated and compressed into solids known as “grape bricks” or “raisin cakes.” The concentrates were ostensibly for making non-alcoholic grape juice, but both the businesses and consumers knew they were really for winemaking. Under Prohibition laws, these businesses could face federal penalties for knowingly providing the makings of alcoholic beverages, but they did it anyway, selling them in a variety of wine grapes, including port, sherry, Riesling and Burgundy. A San Francisco company touted its liquid concentrate product, Vine-Glo, as “legal in your home under the provisions of Section 29, National Prohibition Act,” but warned that the wine “must not be transported.” One wine brick company, with a barely disguised hint, wrote on the packages of its product: “After dissolving the brick in a gallon of water, do not place the liquid in a jug away in the cupboard for twenty days, because then it would turn to wine.”

Meanwhile, racketeers, in addition to buying whiskey and other liquors smuggled from Canada, Great Britain and Mexico, manufactured alcohol. Some racketeers bought up closed breweries and distilleries and hired former employees to make the same products illegally. Others corrupted brewers otherwise engaged in the production of legal “near beer.” Under Volstead, owners of breweries were allowed to make beer containing less than one half of one percent alcohol by volume. To do that, legal brewers had to brew the beer and then remove the three or more percent of leftover alcohol to reach the legal level. Some brewers switched to soft drinks, “cereal” drinks and other legal beverages, while others gave in to the temptation to deal with gangsters, who paid cash for the higher-percentage alcohol beer. Chicago racketeer Johnny Torrio, in the weeks after Prohibition began in 1920, partnered with two other mobsters and legitimate brewer Joseph Stenson to manufacture for sale illegal beer in nine breweries. Torrio convinced hundreds of street criminals they could become wealthy by cooperating in the secret beer distribution racket to speakeasies, organized within agreed-upon and strictly enforced territories in the city. He and his partners took in \$12 million a year in the early 1920s. Torrio later turned control of his Chicago bootlegging racket over to his successor, Al Capone.

Racketeers also stole millions of gallons of industrial grain alcohol and redistilled it for sale in speakeasies. But it could be unsafe to drink. Industrial alcohol, undrinkable and thus exempted by the Volstead Act, was used in cleaning products, paints, cosmetics, gasoline, tobacco, scientific research and other legal uses. To render it undrinkable, the liquid was “denatured” with chemical additives such as wood alcohol, ether or benzene. Industrial alcohol, unlike drinkable alcohol, was not taxed, but the government required manufacturers to blend a small amount of the additives to give the alcohol a terrible taste and smell to deter people from drinking it.

One common early additive, approved by the U.S. government, was wood alcohol, which was poisonous if swallowed and could cause nerve damage, blindness and death. Bureaucrats surmised that since wood alcohol could not be completely boiled and removed from industrial alcohol, no one would drink it. But profit-hungry gangsters who stole industrial alcohol thought they could do it with their own chemists. They heated it and removed some of the additive, but dangerous traces of wood alcohol remained. This “rotgut” liquor used in mixed drinks poisoned thousands of speakeasy customers. As many as 50,000 drinkers died from tainted alcohol during Prohibition.

continued ...

... bootleggers continued

Amid public outrage, by 1927 the government sought to deter bootleggers further, ordering industrial alcohol producers to double the added wood alcohol content and add kerosene and pyridine to make it taste far worse and nearly impossible to remove. But the damage was done, to both the population and the government's political standing with the public.

If you know of one of our members who is ill, has had a loved one pass or just needs cheering up, please contact The **Sunshine Lady, Christine Moran**



by: (order of preference)

- 1) Text to 630- 202-0129
- 2) Cell telephone @ 630-202-0129, please leave a message!
- 3) Email @ cdm1951@sbcglobal.net

NEWSLETTER CONCERNS?

For problems with your printed copy -

contact Christine Moran, USPS Liaison

For problems with email copy -

contact Bette Wittenberg, pushes the button

Address change? - contact Sally Cousineau

To offer content - contact David Taylor, editor



Sponsored by The 20-30-40 Glass Society of Illinois

Saturday, March 14th, 2020 - 10am to 5pm

Sunday, March 15th, 2020 - 11am to 4pm

Admission: \$9.00 per Person / \$8.00 with this card



*Specializing in: Depression,
Elegant, Carnival, Pattern, Art,
& Mid-Century Modern Glass,
Pottery & Utensils*



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**Location: THE CONCORD PLAZA MIDWEST CONFERENCE CENTER
401 West Lake Street, Northlake, IL 60164**

Free parking and shuttle bus to front door

For information, call 708-655-1702 or visit our website at: 20-30-40glassociety.org

VOLUNTEER!

Nancy Lazaris is looking for volunteers to help at the March show. Please see her at the February meeting to offer your support. She may also be making some phone calls. Please help if you possibly can. We all need to pitch in to help the show run smoothly and to keep our club strong!



GLASS SHOW AND TELL

A couple of years ago, my friend from L.A. visited and we listened to my new (to me) 1923 Victrola. We also enjoyed a cocktail, or two. He sent this photo to a friend. The response ...

“GIN & JAZZ”

It perfectly summed up the moment.

David



**Fostoria #877
amber**



Cheers ... Let's Raise a (vintage) Glass to 2020!

New Year's Eve is the ideal time to take your glass out of the cabinet and pop the cork on some champagne. If not champagne, any stimulating libation of your choice would be just as swell! All the elegant glass makers had very graceful stems called "champagne/tall sherbets" in their lines. Of course such a name made it acceptable for people to buy them without announcing to the world that they were tippling at home. You can't tell me that it was practical to eat ice cream or sherbet from them. So open a bottle of the bubbly, or rattle your cocktail shaker and let's celebrate 2020. If I've made any mistakes in ID, blame it on the hooch. An editor has to do extensive research. I'll have another, please!



Fry Cactus rose color
thanks J. Hayden



Fostoria Versailles
topaz color



Bryce twisted
stem, optic bowl



Heisey Creole
alexandrite color



Cambridge Caprice
Moonlight blue



Bryce Holiday



Cambridge #3121 Portia etch
gold encrusted



Maryland Glass
gold basket etch



Morgantown Louella
aqua



Heisey Duquesne
tangerine color



Fry Square Diamond
stem Aztec design



2020 Needs to Be The Bee's Knees



And so, we begin a new year and decade. I'm sure I'm not the only person to whom it has occurred that this will be the 2020 ... and that it is very tempting to consider a comparison to 1920 ... the start of the so-called "roaring 20s". There is something about the years from 1920 to 1929 that captures me more than most other historical periods.

I wouldn't have any interest in riding one of those bicycles from the 1880s, the "penny-farthing" with the giant front wheel, and I can only imagine the maintenance of a handlebar moustache. I don't even want to imagine the complications it would bring to eating. I wouldn't want to go do the twist at the soda shop. Having lived through the 60s and 70s, I'd be in no hurry to revisit.

I suppose the transition from 1999 to 2000 was very special to most people. I do remember thinking that it might be something interesting that I could tell young folks about someday. "I was alive when ..." - that sort of thing. After all, my generation can't claim to have milked the cows in the dark every morning and then walked for 5 miles through the snow to get to school. The new millennium should have been my big story to tell when meeting younger people. As it turns out, young people don't really care. Have you heard the newish phrase, "OK, Boomer"? It is usually delivered with an eyeroll and it isn't a compliment. In the end, the transition to a new century wasn't such an interesting event anyway. The biggest thing to happen was what actually **didn't** happen. The computers didn't have a melt down and the electrical grids didn't fail. Had that happened, I might have had a better story to tell. The dawning of the year 2000 didn't seem to leave much of a lasting impact on the world. Except of course, all those champagne flutes with the stem made of the numbers 2 0 0 0 in a stack. Walk into any thrift store and look.

For me though, the year 2020 seems more important. If not "important" then maybe romantic, nostalgic, or hopeful. I acknowledge that these contemporary times offer many conveniences that I'd rather not be without. I love my technology (when it behaves), being able to see my favorite movies via TV, DVD, and streaming. Microwaves are handy indeed and I'm determined to master my new air-fryer. I most definitely don't want to be without air conditioning.

But, looking back at our last go-round at the 20s, there were many great and momentous things that took place and it gives me hope for the decade we are about to begin. "What goes around, comes around" might not be a saying that is used optimistically very often, but I think (or hope) that it might apply in a positive way to the new 20s.

The roaring 20s really did come **roaring** into our country and brought tremendous change to our way of living. It was a time of economic prosperity that was much welcomed after the hardships of WWI. Post war industry took off with many new industries and products emerging. Automobiles continued to improve in quality, and the new economy meant that more people could afford them. With all that "mazuma" in your pocket, you could buy that "jalopy". This promoted the need for more gas stations, tires, repair shops, etc., and prompted the construction of new and improved roads. All this made it easier for people to travel and be exposed to new places, people, and ideas.

The new technologies of the day must have astounded people. Telephone and electrical lines sprang up across the country. Imagine the thrill! Indoor plumbing and modern sewage systems also became more common. Now you could "iron your shoelaces" without trekking to the outhouse. Electric refrigeration had appeared, in a primitive form as early as the mid-1910s, but it was very expensive and naturally only useable if you had electricity. The 1927 General Electric "Monitor-Top" was the first refrigerator that was widely used. My neighborhood is full of bungalows built in the mid-20s. They were built with ice delivery doors between the pantry and back porch. I'd love to know what the first owners of my house used. Other electrical appliances also appeared and made housekeeping much easier than before. Housewives must have thought these were terrific – real "sockdollagers"!

More people moved to cities and those cities erected "modern" buildings. Perhaps most notable are the Art Deco skyscrapers that are still loved today. Begun in 1928, New York's Chrysler Building still amazes ... just

look at that top! New York and Chicago battled for supremacy in skyscrapers and we have much 1920s architecture to brag about here. The rapidly changing big city lifestyle opened the eyes of many young men and women who had come from small towns and farms. “Hotsy-totsy”!

Architecture and changing lifestyle merged in the magnificent movie palaces that proliferated in the 20s. Big cities had several competing theater chains that drew people into worlds that they had never seen before. Grand movie houses that were opulently decorated with plasterwork, curtains, art, and chandeliers suggested the royal courts of Europe or the exotic far East. Examples of this majesty remain standing in such places as Radio City Music Hall in New York City, and the Egyptian and Chinese Theatres in L.A. Chicago has the Chicago Theatre and Oriental. Small towns had their own theaters that were on a smaller scale, but they were showing the same modern films that the city folks enjoyed. There were other opportunities for fun as well. Jazz was HOT and there were great clubs to go to. Couples could go dancing at the ballrooms and do the Lindy Hop, Breakaway, Black Bottom, and still popular Charleston. Of course, folks could (and did) sneak off to the local speakeasy to partake in refreshment.

It may have been women that were affected the most by the changes of the time. Certainly, young women who saw the starlets in popular films saw what had happened to fashions. From movies and magazine pictures they could have gained the courage to copy the new bold (and shocking) looks that women were moving to. They saw Clara Bow, Louise Brooks, Joan Crawford and other flappers with bobbed hair and dresses unlike anything in their own closet and they wanted all that too. The corset and hourglass figure were gone. The new look was looser but slimmer, and the ideal body type was a bit boyish. This new look had shorter hemlines (good heavens – gams!) The wearing of cosmetics was now popular and acceptable, at least among younger gals. Previously, painted faces were only for the “other” kind of women.

A young woman now had the freedom to go out without a chaperone. She could go on dates with men without a “fire extinguisher” watching her every move. This provided girls with more freedom but also presented a dilemma. When a “Sheba” stepped out with a “Sheik” she didn’t want to be a “bluenose” and lose his interest. But just how should she behave if she found herself in the back seat of his “struggle buggy”? The girls in the movies seemed to promise a lot but deliver very little until they got the “manacle” on their fingers.

More women enrolled in co-ed colleges at this time. It was a step, but in reality, they may have been taking a lot of home economics classes. Nobody expected them to become doctors or engineers. College was a good place to meet men from successful families and often the goal was to get a “MRS degree”. But things were looking up for women. On August 18, 1920 the 19th amendment was ratified and gave women the right to vote. Now they were a powerful voice, and while they weren’t holding public office yet, the men who did knew that they had better start listening to female opinions.

Sadly, as we all know, the decade ended in a crash ... literally a crash. After a long rise in stock prices that seemed too good to be true (it was), everything collapsed on Oct. 29, 1929. This led to a world-wide economic depression that lasted through most of the next decade. The hard times slowed or stopped much of the forward momentum of the 20s, but the technology and architecture remained. In some ways society became a little more conservative to reflect the somber times. The sequins and bangles of clothing may have gone away, but things didn’t revert all the way back to how they had been before the 1920s. Nobody was going to squeeze back into those corsets.

And now back to what started me down this crooked thought path ... my hopes for this round of the 20s. I’d like to think after 100 years we are due for some major advances that will improve lives all around the world. Penicillin was discovered in 1928. What medical breakthroughs can we hope for in the coming years? Sure, technology changes so fast now that the things we bought last week will be outdated next week. Now, how about tech that is inexpensive, easy for EVERYONE to use, AND DOESN’T BREAK DOWN. Let’s get those electric cars on the road ... or maybe in the air. The Jetsons promised us flying cars and all sorts of other wonders in 1962 ... come on folks, let’s get with it! Women took a step toward equality in the 1920s, but sadly, we know they are not completely there even today. On that topic, there are a lot of people who could benefit by a bit more equality in their lives. I want to see what kinds of wonderful inventions and ideas this decade can produce. I hope this 20s can have as much impact as the last time. Let’s skip the whole crash thing though.

David



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

The purpose of the society is to gain more knowledge of the American glassware of the 1920's, 30's, and 40's and to further the preservation and pleasure of collecting glassware

TO -

We're on the web!

20-30-40Glassociety.org

If you have not sent in your 2020 dues, we are sorry to say that this will be your last newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP FORM ENCLOSED



HAPPY NEW YEAR! Come join us for the 2020 meetings.

Look how much fun we have!

If you have not renewed, please send in the enclosed form to Sally Cousineau.