

# CRIDER ART GLASS

*When I knew that our cover photo was going to be Crider Art Glass pieces I've collected for years I thought it would be nice to ask the Criders to tell our readers about themselves. I had the cover photo taken just before I left for CA and the glass pieces were put in my car instead of the Ryder truck so they are the only pieces of glass I got to CA with! When I got here and called the Crider's I was saddened to learn of the death of their youngest son over Memorial Day. Our condolences and thanks to Donna and Terry for following through on my request for information. I'm going to use the article as Donna wrote it.*

Terry doesn't come from a glass working background as many people think. He never has worked for other glass companies.

But Terry has always been interested in glass since his parents were antique collectors and dealers since he was a child. However, prior to our getting together I had never even been to a flea market - much less visited a glass factory. Shortly after we were married Terry took me through the "river trip" to all the glass factories - **Imperial, Viking, Fenton** and he saved **Degenhart** until our way back home. You can imagine my amazement when we walked into Degenhart's after seeing all the 'big' factories!



It didn't take me long to turn into a "glass nut" too.

Over the years Terry has always collected glass. At one time he had quite an extensive collection of **Akro Agate** (the full line). When Gene Florence wrote his book on *Akro Agate* he used several of the rare peices from our collection. In fact, when we decided to make glass full time a lot of the money we used to get started came from selling the Akro.

Around 1968 Terry started experimenting with chemicals and a small kiln to make carnival glass. Prior to building our own furnaces, he iridized items such as water sets, tumblers, cruets, rose bowls, toothpick holders, etc. in which we would buy the blanks from various companies and then reheat them and iridize them.

Terry's carnival is well known in carnival circles. One year Terry was brought a few of the regular souvenirs for one of the carnival glass clubs and he made some whimsys out of them for the club to auction off at their convention.

He doesn't do much of this kind of work anymore (although he does do a few tumblers from time to time for people) because, in reheating the glass, there is always the chance of it breaking.

Terry built our first small furnace in late winter, 1976. He blew the first glass in the spring of 1976 and in February, 1977 we started full time working with glass.

From the start we built all of our own furnaces, annealing ovens, glass benches and grinding equipment. We started with one small furnace. We now have four furnaces and work with a lot of different colors (the furnaces are still small - the largest holds around 100 pounds of glass and the smaller ones only 5-6 pounds).

From the beginning I have worked with Terry in all phases of making glass and have my own glass bench and tools. Mainly, I have made small paperweights. I have not done this for awhile because with most of the pieces he makes there are several steps needed and I help him, leaving little time for my own work.

Most of our work for the first several years was paperweights, vases, toothpick holders, etc. in the "Tiffany-type" iridescence. We still make this type of glass but, more and more, we are making non-iridized glass, clear type paperweights and, just recently, started making contemporary marbles.

During the first few years we remelted glass that had already been made (called "cullet"). Sometimes when people hear the work 'cullet' they think of 'junk glass' but what we used came from the **Fenton Art Glass Company** and was very good quality glass.

Now we batch most of our own glass. It takes a lot more fuel to do this rather than re-melting glass but now we aren't limited to colors that someone else has already made. Also, if we want the glass to work a little different when we are making blown items rather than paperweights, Terry can vary the formula somewhat.

We have made limited editions for various companies and groups. We also have made the convention souvenir one year for the **Stretch Glass Society** and, for two years, the souvenir toothpick holder for the **National Toothpick Holders Collector's Society**. Each fall, for the past three years, we have done a glass blowing and paperweight making demonstration at **Summit Art Glass factory**.

*Write the Crider's at P.O. Box 117, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 or call (419) 738-8689.* ■