

THE GLASS GARAGE

"CARNIVAL BY CRIDER" -

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First, enclosed is a list of items that Terry has iridized over the years. A lot of these items are no longer in production so we cannot get blanks to iridize them now, and of course, there has been several things that he iridized maybe 2 or 3 of that either did not turn out well or we couldn't get blanks when we wanted more of them. The items that are on the price list is what we can presently do now and have a reasonable chance of picking up the blanks to iridize. You were especially interested in water sets -- the one list is of water sets, single water pitchers and tumblers only. Although the different patterns and colors make an extensive list, some of the sets he has iridized only 1 or 2 sets in a particular pattern and color. To date, he has not iridized over 7 or 8 water sets in any one pattern or color. It has only been recently that we can iridize items the size of water pitchers without excessive breakage although on pieces this size he still gets a fair amount of breakage in the re-heating process and, naturally, this cost has to be passed along.

I will try to give you a brief run-down about Terry's work and background. Terry's parents have been antique collectors and dealers ever since he can remember so he has been around glass most of his life. He is 36 years old and between us, we have 5 teen-

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agers. He had some chemistry in college and as it was his favorite subject, this has helped him to work out some of the different formulas. When he first started experimenting, it took him almost 2 years before he developed the chemicals, mixtures and temperatures that he considered a good permanent carnival finish and even today, he is always experimenting with different chemicals, temperatures, etc., and as we set some of the earlier pieces along with his latest ones, there is a world of difference and even though most collectors prefer his latest ones, some of the older pieces are my personal favorites. Naturally, all of our glass is fairly limited because at first it started out as a challenge and even now, he still holds down his full time job as Business Representative for the Painter's Union.

Right now we are in the process of building a small glass furnace to melt our own glass but this will be part-time for sometime - although someday we do hope that we can work with glass full-time. We will have our small shop open by the middle of November although we probably won't be melting our own glass yet by this time.

As I mentioned before, we have just recently been able to iridize pieces the size of water pitchers so you can see it has taken several years to get the process on the larger items. One of the finishes that he has experimented on for several years has been what we think is a good white carnival finish. It has been just this summer that he has worked out the chemicals and temperatures on the white finish that we have now. We think it is more like the old satiny white carnival...some of it like the White Aurene finish of some of the old Art Glass. Terry signs all of his carnival work with a diamond-point pen.

Since we go to a lot of flea markets and antique shows on weekends, our shop will not be open on a very regular basis but anytime we are home, we will be glad to have anyone stop by that is interested in our glass. If anyone would be making a special trip of any distance, it would probably be best to call first.

We appreciate your interest very much and feel that it will give his work a helpful boost as we have already received a few inquiries from the mention Jabe Tarter gave in ENCORE. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Terry and Donna Crider