

ST. CLAIR GLASSWORKS

Elwood, Ind.

In 1938, the old St. Clair Glassworks, located at 408 N. Fifth St., Elwood, Ind., started with a small concrete block building in their backyard. They started with only one furnace.

This plant was started by "Pop" John B. St. Clair. The elder St. Clair was an artist in glass and his sons John Jr., Joe, Ed and Bob followed in his footsteps.

I understand the St. Clair boys all worked at Macbeth-Evans Glass Co., where their father worked, and as "Pop" started to make beautiful items after hours at Macbeth, the boys also helped their father after regular working hours.

During the war, Bob, Ed and John Jr., left to serve their country. Joe and "Pop" St. Clair kept things going until the boys came back.

After the war, the St. Clairs built a room to display their beautiful and unusual glassware, then an office was added.

In the late 1950's, "Pop" St. Clair, who was now about 70 years old, decided it was time now for semi-retirement. In 1958, John B "Pop" St. Clair passed away, but his artistry and talent in glassmaking lives on in the work of his sons, Joe, Bob and Ed.

Joe took over the old St. Clair Glassworks after his father passed away, and with the help of the St. Clair brothers, started making new carnival glass, back in the 60's, with the now-famous Indian head toothpick holder, followed by many, many other very collectable items. On January 19, 1971, Joe sold the St. Clair Glassworks to Richard C. Gregg.

After being inactive and having so much creative ability in glassmaking and iridizing, Joe again opened up the new Joe St. Clair Glass Works, where he is making paperweights, new carnival glass whimseys and toothpick holders. Most of his items are marked Joe St. Clair or J. St. Clair or J. St.C.

On a trip to Indiana several years ago, Mr. Presznick and I visited Joe St. Clair Glassworks and were privileged to meet Joe St. Clair and the family. At the time he was working on a beautiful paperweight. He graciously explained how this was done from selecting colored glass chips which he arranged in a small mould, to the finished product, ready to be put in the annealing oven for several days cooling before being taken out to saw, grind and polish.

Joe St. Clair presented me with a rose slag type iridized Feather and Fan toothpick holder that his father had made before he retired. It certainly is one of our prized collectors items and was on display to the public in our Carnival Glass Museum during the five years it was open, and in our private collection since.

"Pop" St. Clair, Joe and his brothers, were known for their floral designs in paperweights and door stops. In later years, they developed pen holders, lamps, perfume bottles, ash trays, ring trees, vases, small pitchers and many other rare items.

Of course, our main interest was the carnival items turned out at the St. Clair Glass Works. It may take some time to have a complete listing, but with the help of Joe and the St. Clair family, we hope to add other lists as they become available.

JOE ST. CLAIR - PRIOR LISTING

Trademark on some of the items from the old St. Clair factory.

TOOTHPICK HOLDERS	GOBLET & WINES(*)	TUMBLERS
Ftd. Stork Cb,W	Paneled Thistle, Cb,IB,W	Holly Panel, W,R,M,Cb,IB
Holly W,M,Cb	Cube & Diamond, Cb	Fan & Feather,R,M,W,Cb,IB
Swan W,M	Strawberry,Cb	Fleur de Lis, Cb
Fan & Feather, W,M,Cb	Wildflower, Cb	
Indian Head R,M,Cb,Cu	Rose in Snow, Cb	COVERED BOXES
Cactus, C	Paneled Grape* W,M,R,Cb,IB	Louis 14th, M,Ame
Chrys. Sprig, C	Paneled Thistle* IB,Cb,W	Bird w/Seed, Cb
Wreath Cherry M,W,R	Hob Star* W,M,Cb,R	Bird w/Seed top only, W
S-Repeat M,Cb,R,W		
Argonaut, W,M,R,Cb	PAPERWEIGHTS	SUGAR & CREAMERS(*)
Swan & Cart, Cb	Pear, M,Cb,other	Paneled Grape, Cb,R,Ame
	Apple, M,Cb,other	Holly Band(*) Aqua
PLATES & SAUCES(*)	Bell, M,Cb,other	
Paneled Grape, sm,Cb		SALT & PEPPERS
Elk BPOE, numbered, M		Cactus, Cb
Paneled Sauce(*) IB, Cb		

Recent additions from Joe St. Clair new factory. Most items have trademark. Items made by Ed St. Clair are indicated for your identification.

Ed St.C Elk BPOE Wgt. Cb,I-Cu	Star & Shuttle Shot T. Cb
Ed St.C Masonic Wgt. Cb,I-Cu	Min. Texas Hat, Sp. Cb
Elwood Centennial Wgt. Cb	Elk salt dip, Cb
Ed St.C Home Sweet Home Wgt, Cb	J.F.K. salt dip, Cb
Fluffy Owl wgt. G	Bird w/Seed Lt. B Irid CU
Dog Head T.P., Cb	Whirling Star Wine, Cb
Witch Head T.P., Cb,IB	Grape & Cable T R,P
Holly T.P.,Irid. Cu.	Indian Head T.P., Smoky G
Feather & Fan T.P., Irid.Cu,Cb	
Daisy & Cane T.P., Cb	Liberty Head (1899) Plate, Cb

THE HOUSE OF GLASS - Bob and Maude St. Clair
Elwood, Indiana

In the fall of 1973, Bob and Maude St. Clair opened their glass factory. It is a building 24' x 55'. Their furnace will hold 1,000 pounds of glass.

Bob says, "The reason for building this glass factory was to keep the St. Clair family together in glass." Brother Ed works there all the time and another brother Paul works part time. Bob's step son, Jack Hutcheson, is learning the glass business, although he operates a farm in the area.

Bob and Maude's House of Glass and factory is located on Indiana 28 west at Elwood.

Maude had been a collector of St. Clair glass for years before her marriage to Bob. When Bob started making collectors weights after hours, Maude was one of his greatest fans.

"I would make a few weights after hours as the old glass workers had done for generations."

"It was Maude's interest in antiques and mine in glass that inspired us to open the House of Glass."

The House of Glass gift shop is a good place for antiquers to go for many reasons. Maude has antiques - but even more, good new items.

Bob recently made a beautiful "Sheaf of Wheat" toothpick holder in cobalt and iridized custard glass. I'm sure it will be followed by many other traditional St. Clair items and whimsys.

Ed St. Clair works at both Joe and Bob's glassworks and is now 'turning out' some small, outstanding paperweights on his own time after hours. He is making the B.P.O.E. Elk, Masonic and Home Sweet Home, Mother weights. They are about 2 1/4" x 1 1/2" round flat discs. The iridescence is a true Tiffany type.

Ruth Ann Rice, sister of Joe, Bob and Ed, is the St. Clair "girl Friday" for we find her helping at both places, wherever she is needed, and I'm sure she has a special niche in the St. Clair glass tradition in Elwood, Indiana.

Our collection of the St. Clair creations and whimsys still grows with the new Joe St. Clair items as well as those being made by Bob and Maude and brother Ed.

We could only accomplish this with the kindness and help of our good friends Velma and Wilbur Stinchcomb of Kokomo, Ind., for they live close enough to Elwood for weekly pilgrimages, looking for the unusual whimsys as well as regular items being made, and sharing them with us. Thank you, Velma and Bill.