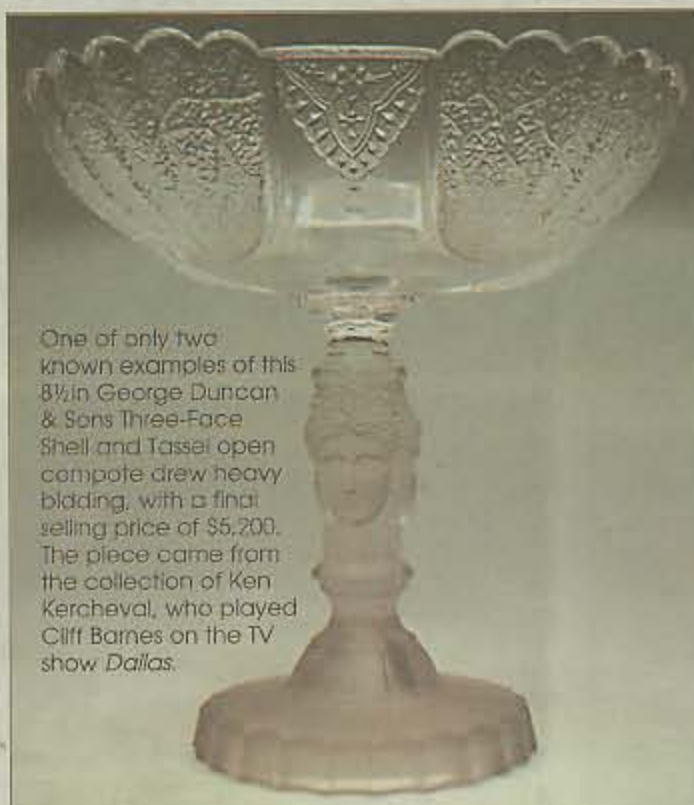


AUCTION REPORT



Above: Carnival glass performed well in the auction. This 2½in high, 8in diameter scallop-rimmed bowl with a fish imprint on its sides achieved \$1,050.



One of only two known examples of this 8½in George Duncan & Sons Three-Face Shell and Tassel open compote drew heavy bidding, with a final selling price of \$5,200. The piece came from the collection of Ken Kercheval, who played Cliff Barnes on the TV show *Dallas*.



Right: This 11¼in jar with stopper was originally used for storing straws. Its opalescent swirls and striking aqua and white finish took it to \$4,100 in the saleroom.

BY CHUCK MILLER

Shining results at Green Valley

MOUNT CRAWFORD, Va. — On Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, a throng of collectors of antique glass descended upon this, a picturesque town nestled in the emerald shadow of the Shenandoah Mountains halfway between Richmond, Va., and Washington, D.C., The attraction? Green Valley Auctions' annual sale of more than 1,200 lots of Victorian, Carnival, elegant and early American pressed glass.

The auction began Friday with more than 150 lots of early American pattern glass. Included in the offering was a varied grouping of tumblers, originally from the private collection of Ken Depew, owner of one of the largest collections of glass tumblers in America.

"Ken Depew's moving into smaller quarters," said Jeffrey Evans, the auctioneer for the event, "and he decided he was going to focus on earlier glass from the Victorian period. Twenty or 30 years ago, tumblers were hotly collected, then they cooled off some, but there was always a smaller core of collectors interested in them. Now they're starting to come back again, especially the opalescent Victorian patterns.



Above: The collector who paid \$2,500 for this 4¼in sugar shaker can smile in the knowledge that this piece was previously unrecorded in ruby stain.

Right: Among the pieces of chocolate glass that sold at Green Valley's two-day auction was this elegant 8¾in water pitcher with squirrel motif, claimed by a collector for \$700.

Far right: Originally manufactured by the Central Glass Co., this blue pickle/jam jar in the shape of a log cabin sold for \$1,050.

Those brought the most interest and the most bids. Next fall, Ken's got a lot of clear and colored pattern tumbler glass that we'll be selling, as well as some more opalescent patterns, too."

Right from the start, the rare and unusual pieces drew a flurry of bids. A blue pickle/jam jar in the shape of a log cabin was acquired by a Maryland collector whose final bid of \$1,050 surpassed the underbid lodged by a glass museum (no buyer's premium was charged at this auction). Despite the jar's slightly cracked lid, it was the first of many glass lots to realize selling prices in excess of \$1,000.

Other pieces that sold well in the early moments of the auction included a two-tone blue and frosted glass tumbler from the Fostoria Glass Co., which realized \$120; a blue three-piece table set with butter dish, sugar dish and spooner from the Indiana Tumbler and Goblet Co., selling for \$450; and a 7½in high, 10½in diameter golden Vaseline cake stand with a Daisy and Button with Thumbprint panel design, which brought \$220. "Vaseline is still very hot," said Evans. "It sold very well for us."

A scarce open compote comprised of a square Shell and Tassel bowl with a three-face molded relief on its stem received plenty of attention. With provenance from its consignor, *Dallas* TV star Ken Kercheval, who also provided the log cabin pickle/jam jar mentioned above, the compote was snared by a private party bidding against a glass museum for \$5,200. "Ken Kercheval has collected glass for years and years," said Evans, "and he



has sold off a large majority of his collection over the last 10 years but retained some choice pieces. Every once in a while he'll let a little piece go, like this one."

Over 25 different lots of chocolate glass were entered in the sale. Most of the pieces were originally created at the Indiana Tumbler and Goblet Co., located in Greentown, Ind., which manufactured chocolate glass designs from 1894 until 1903, when a fire destroyed the factory. A chemist at Indiana Tumbler, Jacob Rosenthal, created the formula for chocolate glass.

A chocolate glass water pitcher with a scalloped rim, its artwork containing the outline of a squirrel, sold for \$700, the highest amount realized in the sale for this type of specialty glass. Another pitcher, its sides displaying an indoor drinking scene, was acquired for \$425. Either of those pitchers could have poured a beverage into a tumbler associated with the National Biscuit Co., manufacturers of Uneda Biscuits, which realized \$120.

"Chocolate glass is making a strong comeback," Evans observed, adding he was pleased at how well the pieces consigned to the sale had performed. "Interest in chocolate glass has been spearheaded by Greentown glass collectors. There's a new book on Greentown glass out, and that has helped raise interest in chocolate glass."

Next up in the auction were 60 different lots of ruby and amber-stained glass pitchers and tumblers. While there were some bargains to be had for ruby-stained glass collectors, including a 4in Heisey ruby tumbler with a chrysanthemum Beaded Panel and Sunburst motif for \$350 and an amber lidded butter dish and spooner set from Hobbs, Brockunier & Co. for \$170, the star of the ruby-and-amber-stained category was a rare Chandelier sugar shaker in unrecorded ruby stain, which realized \$2,500. "Even though ruby-stained items have been setting crazy record prices, we had one water set that went under the money," said Evans. He was



referring to a pitcher and six tumblers from the New Martinsville Glass Mfg. Co. that realized only \$300. "The major collectors already had that set, thus it didn't bring what it would have normally. That was just about the only thing that I thought was sold for under the money."

Friday's afternoon session ended with 43 lots of Carnival glass. Originally known as 'iridill' or 'rainbow luster,' Carnival glass earned its nickname in the 1920s when pieces of the iridescent ware were given away as prizes at carnivals. Among the prizes won at this auction carnival were a Red Dragon and Lotus bowl from the Fenton Art Glass Co. for \$2,200; a Millersburg Glass Co. bowl with fish artwork for \$1,050; and an amethyst tumbler from the H. Northwood Co. with a Greek key motif for \$100.

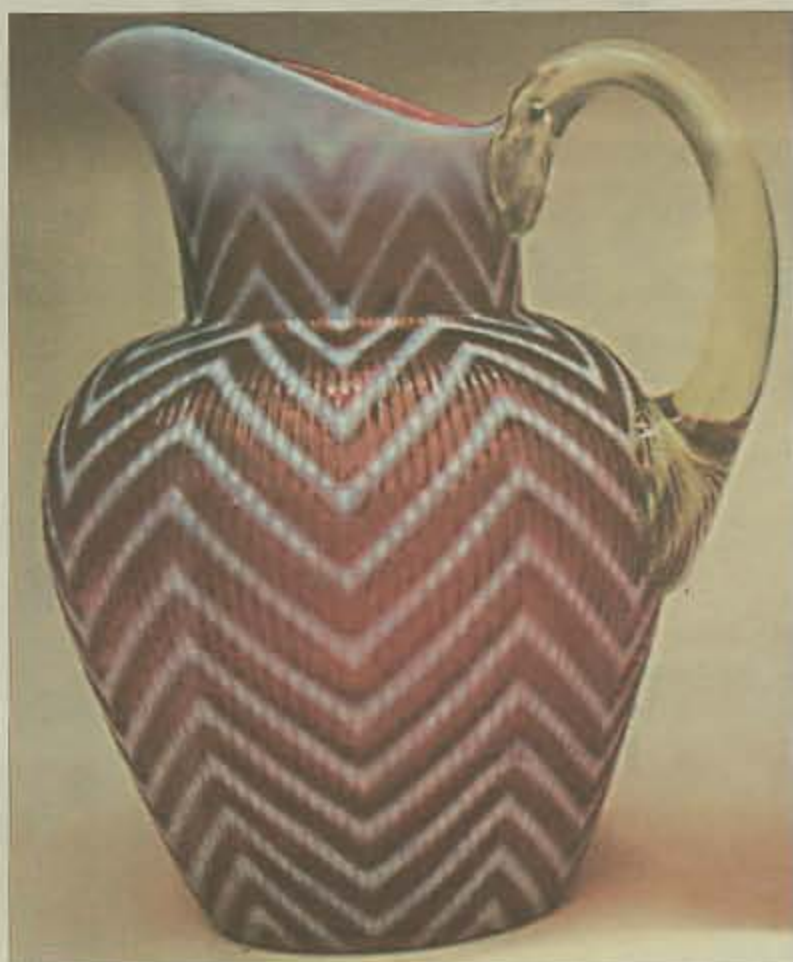
The Friday evening session consisted of a selection of 152 lots of elegant glass manufactured by Heisey, Fost



Above: Not only were these polka dot lemonade cups in near-perfect condition, they also came with the original packing box and lid, which made it easy for the winner to transport them home after paying \$3,100.

Left: Manufactured by Hobbs, Brockunier & Co./Beaumont Glass Co., this tankard with an opalescent stars and stripes patriotic motif was a winner at \$4,700.

Right: Opalescence and cranberry hue combine in this 9in herringbone pitcher, a popular entry that concluded at \$5,000.



Annual specialty glass sale sees serious competition for ruby-stained water pitchers

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Seneca and Cambridge. The highlight was the sale of two Horn of Plenty vases in cobalt blue, manufactured by Heisey, which realized \$650.

For those who wanted to know more about glass collecting and the histories of notable glass manufacturing plants, Green Valley offered for purchase in its Saturday morning session various reference books and magazines of specific interest. Bidders paid \$2,740 for the 44 book lots, helping to assure the education of future glass collectors. An autographed copy of John and Elizabeth Welker's 1985 hardcover book *Pressed Glass in America* sold for \$220, while a two-volume set of the 1989 research guide *Lotz Bohmisches Glass 1888-1940* achieved a top bid of \$230. A collection of 45 periodicals, including issues of *The Glass Review*, *Collecting Glass* and *The Glass Collector*, was acquired for a high bid of \$150.

After the books came more glass lots, including sugar and salt shakers, syrups, opalescent glass in all forms, Victorian and

art glass, pickle casters, lighting, cruets, toothpick holders, and custard glass. Pieces from Hobbs, Brockunier & Co. did extremely well in the early bidding - a Hobbs hobnail No. 323 Dew Drop syrup in rubina verde opalescent sold for \$1,100; a Hobbs Optic sugar shaker in rubina with a period top fetched \$230; and a set of blown polka dot lemonades with applied handles in six various opalescent and six various translucent colors in its original box with lid went to a phone bidder for \$3,100, with a major museum as the underbidder.

"I was pleased with the Hobbs glass overall," Evans remarked. "I really hadn't seen a huge demand for a lot of the Hobbs glass in the past years, but this time we had a nice selection to draw attention to it. There weren't just two people bidding on these items, there were numerous bidders competing for the Hobbs pieces. I was very pleased with how the items went, especially that boxed set of lemonades. It was the only piece that I ever found in the original box."

Over 200 lots of different

Right: Made by the New England Glass Co., this agate tumbler contrasted a strong, deep reddish-brown tone with mottling, and sold for \$1,500.

opalescent glass pieces were next offered for bid. With a myriad of frosted and opalescent patterns available, many pieces excelled. A 9in cranberry Arabian Nights pitcher from Beaumont Glass sold for \$3,000, while a cranberry ribbed pitcher with Christmas Snowflake pattern from Northwood/Dugan Glass reached \$2,400. A cranberry Herringbone pitcher achieved \$5,000, while a translucent Canary Latticework pitcher made \$950.

"There were five or six extremely serious bidders on the rare water pitchers," said Evans. "We had absentee bids, so a lot of the pieces opened higher than what our estimates were, and there were still several people on the phone and a couple of people (in the house) that would bid higher than that. It wasn't that you had two people that were driving prices up; there were five or six or more people that were competi-



Above: The H. Northwood Co., one of the major manufacturers of Carnival glass, produced this ice-green Wisteria tumbler that sold for \$400.

in the bidding up to the higher price ranges."

Saturday's auction ended with a collection of custard and other opaque glasses. Two 5½in high powder-blue tumblers from the Sowerby Glass Works, with the children's nursery rhyme *Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow* embossed on their sides, garnered \$325 for the set. A 4in custard tumbler with blue and gilt leaves in the pattern of an ear of corn, from W.L. Libbey and Sons, achieved a high bid of \$140.

In all, more than 1,200 lots of glass were sold without reserve during the two sessions, and total sales exceeded \$234,500. Green Valley's next auction, on May 12-13, will feature both a cup-and-plate collection from the estate of Robert W. King, and the Charles Rand Penney collection of more than 500 Staffordshire figures. It will mark the first sale in which the auctioneers will charge a buyer's premium on top of hammer prices. "We've tried not to have a buyers' premium as long as was feasibly possible," said Dustin A. Kline, an administrative assistant with Green Valley. "Unfortunately, to continue getting the merchandise that we needed, we couldn't continue that policy and still submit bids to consignors that would be competitive with other auction houses."

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Right: This Fenton Art Glass Co. bowl with dragon and lotus motif sold for \$2,200.

Far right: Another cranberry-opalescent glasswork that finished in the big numbers was this 8¼in tall Scottish moors pitcher with reeded handle, \$5,300.

