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PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #1
"My Visit with Paul Fairall"
by Evelyn Allen

Before I start telling about the things Paul and I talked about I would like to say, "You have to know Paul to love him." At first meeting I sure didn't think much of him, but, determined to know more about him, I went back to his little Antique Shop and found him quite a human being. On first meeting he told me I couldn't afford a #1401 cobalt ash-tray he had for \$15.00 (this was in 1967). I had news for him, I could afford it but he couldn't have given it to me after that remark. Now, at the price they are selling for, I wish I had bought it just to show him. Since then I have been in his shop and purchased some very nice pieces of Heisey because Paul really does know his Heisey. Now to pass on to you the information Paul gave me about a little of his "life" at the Heisey Plant.

Paul Fairall was born January 28, 1902. He graduated from the 8th grade at the age of 14. After that he had some private tutoring, went to night business college, and took a correspondence course. Soon after his graduation from the 8th grade his brother William (who friends knew as Pidge) came home from the Heisey plant one night and asked Paul if he wanted to go to work. Paul, who was just enjoying summer and the horses on the farm, reluctantly said "yes". The next day William asked Louise Adkins, the manager of the grinding and finishing department, if she could use a boy. She said to send him into the factory. He did so and she put him to work the next day. This was August, 1916. Later on Louise Adkins was plant manager.

His first title was "wash-out boy". His duty was to wash glassware in big wooden tubs of hot and cold water. He worked nine hours a day from 7 A.M. to 5 P.M., six days a week, for \$8.00 per week. He wore knee pants and long socks. At this time Heisey was making thousands of door-knobs and Paul was washing them. Also it was the era for glass baskets and he handled many of them. Many of the older patterns had been discontinued, Paul said: probably the first ten.

His next job was on the stock-wagon. A good buddy, Harold Wolfe (now deceased) worked with him, Paul said he and Harold remained good friends right to Harold's death. He didn't stay on this job long until another promotion came along. He was to work in the office of George Smeltz figuring percentage for hot metal workers, as they were paid prize money each year. These percentages were figured on perfect ware sent through the lehrs. Consequently the Shops and workers involved in the shop that had the least imperfect ware were awarded a higher bonus. This system was evolved by Mr. A. H. Heisey, the founder. Mr. Heisey was a stickler for high quality and had a passion for cleanliness and good housekeeping. He had "No Smoking" signs posted all over the plant. Every year he had all the walls in the different departments white washed, the bricks around the hot metal furnaces were given a coat of white wash and "Lord pitty the fellow who spit tobacco juice on the wall." In spite of all these restrictions the workers had deep regard for "Captain" as he was known to some of the workers. His kindness was overwhelming. He always kept a car-load of coal on the railroad spur in the plant and whenever a worker needed coal or couldn't afford it, he would have his drayman deliver a free load of coal to his home. No one in need went without, if he knew about it.

Mr. Heisey passed away in 1922 and shortly thereafter the prize money bonus was discontinued. This also was the year Mr. Frank Sprague passed away. Mr. Sprague was head of the shipping and stock department. They promptly elevated Paul to shipping and production in his place. Paul was twenty years old at this time and kept this position until the closing of the plant. This was the year two new plate etchings were brought out, #439 Pied Piper (or Dancing Girl), the other #440 Frontenac. When Paul took over shipping and production, none of these two lines had been filled. Paul had stacks of back orders to fill. His job was to schedule production of blanks which were blown and to route them through the etching department for etching. Both designs were made by Josef Balda, an Austrian. Mr. Balda not only made the designs but made the steel etching plates and was also manager of the etching department. #439 and #440 could be classed as two of Heisey's most popular etchings and were known as "double plate etching".

In the twenties Heisey brought out two colors, flamingo and moongleam. These were very popular and they had a huge stock of it. Machine houses* came out with it and hurt the sale of the two colors. The Heisey Company closed it out to the R. H. Macy Co., New York. Seven carloads were shipped to them with a reduction 20% on the dollar.

Macy's sent their man, Mr. R. H. Shapiro, to the Heisey plant and Paul was assigned to helping him make his catalog list of items they were buying. Macy Co. sold the ware almost immediately. Mr. Shapiro stayed at the Granville Inn. He was amazed at the worker cooperation and the close knit relationship between owners and workers. Paul felt Heisey glass was superb in quality and was very happy with his job at the plant.

The oldest living glass worker for the Heisey Co. is Mr. William Coen, who Paul thought must be close to 94 years old. He was a hot metal worker.

Now, Paul, thanks to you for all this kindness on your part to give our Heisey News an interesting article in the first issue and let us, "the Newark Heisey Collector's Study Group" wish you a very Happy Birthday.

*Editor's note: "Machine houses" refers to mass production of glass made by machines. Heisey glass was hand-made and this was probably the start of the Depression Glass Era.

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #2
An Evening with the **Gus Heiseys**
by Evelyn M. Allen

A. H. Heisey (known as "Gus") was born December 7, 1913, the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Wilson Heisey and grandson of the founder. He had one brother, George Duncan Heisey, who was named after his grandmother's family. Gus graduated from high school and, with no desire for college, spent two years in Prep School. He went to work at the Heisey plant at the age of 22. His first duty was that of time-keeper. He, with the help of three women employees, made out the payroll. When he first went to work there were a lot of older men employed whom he thought were very skilled men. He said the one thing he admired about them was their "happy-go-lucky" dispositions. He told me that one of the things very vivid in his mind was that one pay-day one of the men earned a \$75.00 paycheck and before he got home had paid \$60.00 for a coon dog. The man was quite happy but his wife came to the Heisey plant to complain about it.

As the older men left the plant, younger men were hired to learn the trade. Gus says this caused the Heisey plant great trouble. He blamed the change in Government for a lot of this, since this was about the time of W.P.A. and other means of welfare. He said they would hire a young man and after two or three weeks of work he would decide some sort of relief was an easier means of making money.

Gus kept the time-keeping job until Paul Fairall went into the service in 1942. He then tried very hard to fill the vacancy but said Paul did an extremely good job and he felt he was inadequate. (I talked to Paul Fairall about this and he said Gus had done an excellent job).

In January 1942 Gus lost his father and Heisey lost their President. The vacancy for the plant was filled by Clarence Heisey, Gus' Uncle. Gus' ambition had been to be a salesman and this position was given to him by Clarence. His territory was the southern states. He said that the southern people desired etched and decorated crystal. One of the Heisey plant's big customers was the Santa Fe R.R. which, almost always, had a standing order for #201 tumbler in amber, in the amount of 10,000.

One of his most remembered experiences was selling an order to Barney Alice, owner of the Mulebach Hotel in Kansas City. He placed the order at the plant and Mr. Alice was shipped the wrong ware. This was the last order he gave to the Heisey Co.

On a trip to Birmingham, he had to wait over in Tupelo, Miss. At about 1:30 p.m. he stopped in a jewelry store to see a customer-friend of his, only to find the man very busy with another salesman until 5 p.m. After the salesman left the friend asked Gus if he had a room, The answer was "no." They went to the Red Plaza Hotel only to find it filled up. The fellow then asked Gus to come and stay at his house.

At 4 a.m. Gus felt a tapping on his shoulder and was told, "we're going fishing". They left the house an hour later and drove to Corinth, Miss., where they purchased bait. They drove north a few miles and the fellow drove down a lane to the water's edge. Here he had a boat to take them the rest of the way. Reluctantly Gus got in the boat, You see Gus not only wasn't a fisherman, but due to ear trouble, he had never learned to swim. They then preceded to the mouth of the Tennessee River and began fishing. Gus said the man caught the most crappies but he was proud to have caught the biggest. These fish were cleaned by two colored fellows and fixed for supper that evening. The next morning at 10 a.m. Gus returned to the jewelry store and at this time his friend gave him an order.

At another time in Jackson, Miss., Gus stopped at a jewelry store run by an old Frenchman. It took half a day to receive an order from him. The Frenchman lived with an old maid sister who later, on a Sunday, saw Gus again in Jackson and invited him to the house for a very elaborate old fashioned Sunday dinner. You can see, as Gus explained to me, if the southerners liked you their hospitality was overwhelming.

On one particular trip to Birmingham, while traveling with Charlie Haslop, another Heisey salesman, they rented a room at the Tetwiler Hotel. Charlie somehow found out that Red Henderson, a salesman for Roseville Pottery, was in a room on the floor above them. Charlie, who liked to pull pranks, had Gus call Red and tell him he was a dealer

from a little town in west Montgomery and would only be there on Sunday and would like to see his ware. Red hurriedly set up his merchandise and then Charlie and Gus knocked on his door it was opened only to say, "Well I'll be d-----!"

One of his most thrilling experiences was a trip to New Orleans, where he was supposed to meet his wife and spend a couple days with her. He left Lake Charles and stopped in Lafayette and made a sale and proceeded on to New Orleans. About 7 p.m. he turned his car lights on, only to find out he didn't have any. He drove to the next station he saw and stopped, only to be told by the man on duty that it was closing time and he was no mechanic. No choice but to drive on and hunt another. At the next station he also found out it was closing time. Beside the station sat a fish truck with two colored men in it.

They asked him where he was going. New Orleans also was their destination. They immediately suggested he follow close behind them into the city. This he did. On entering the city, the fish truck turned left and Gus went straight into town, passing a police car. Thank goodness for a well lighted city so they didn't notice him. He went to the St. Charles Hotel (it was 11 p.m.) only to be told by the room clerk that there were no available rooms. He had a hunch! He gave the room clerk a pair of Heisey candlelabras, thinking it would get him a room, but NO! The owner at that time appeared and Gus told him he was seeking a room and that he had a friend staying at the hotel. This was a friend of Gus's father-in-law. He got a room. Can you imagine being a friend of a person being more effective than a pair of HEISEY CANDLELABRAS. Times have changed! He did meet his wife though!

On another trip in a southern city Gus was talking to Gus Ames, a salesman for the Cambridge Glass Company. He was complaining about his old '41 Mercury. Ames told him that he had a brother-in-law in Baton Rouge, a car salesman, who would treat him right. After driving through high water, (there had been 24" of rain), he arrived at the hotel about 5 p.m. When the porter took his bags from the car they were dripping water. Gus then went to see about a car, and after calling and consulting with his father-in-law, decided to purchase a green 49 Mercury convertible. A very happy person with the car, he left the next day, destination Jackson, Miss., only to be upset by a leak in his transmission which caused him to lose all his oil. He drove carefully a few miles to a Mercury garage. They fixed the transmission (which took two days) free of charge, but Gus had lost two days work.

Gus explained to me that southern people moved at their own pace and if you were in a hurry you might as well give up an order, as they weren't to be hurried.

In 1952 the Heisey Co. hired a group of consultants who felt certain cut-backs were necessary and Gus found himself an unemployed salesman. He then went to work for the Lenox Co., Trenton, N.J., Selling their art ware, for eight months. After this he worked for Syracuse China for two years.

Gus had lost his Mother June 10, 1953 and also close to this time his wife had lost her Mother. With this on his mind, he decided he was spending too much time away from home, so he returned to Newark and went to work for B. O. Horton selling real estate. This he did four years. Following that he went to work for the State Highway Right of Way as an appraiser and is still employed as such.

Gus lives at 233 Broadway, Granville, Ohio, with his wife, the former Sue Montgomery. They have two dogs and three cats to help fill a very spacious ten room house, They have one son and three daughters, six grandsons and three grand-daughters.

Gus says he has very little Heisey Glass as they only bought what they could use, but both he and his wife wish they had a few pieces of her favorite color, Tangerine. Gus says he really prefers crystal. Gus said prior to the opening of the Newark Heisey plant in 1896, glass was made for them at the Robinson Glass Co. Zanesville, Ohio, in 1895.

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #3

Joe Wharton

by Evelyn M. Allen

Joe Wharton was born in Barnesville, Ohio, August 30, 1900. He first went to work at the age of 15 years at the Lotus Cut Glass Co., Barnesville, Ohio, at a starting salary of 10¢ an hour. He learned to cut glass and ended his apprenticeship in 1920, and by this time his salary had increased to \$27.00 per week. In 1920 he went to work at the Cambridge, Ohio, Glass plant as a cutter and engraver. At this time they had 35 cutters and polishers.

During lay-offs at the Cambridge plant Joe worked at Huntington Tumbler Co. in 1930 and Viking Glass (then known as New Martinsville Glass Co.) in 1927.

In 1935 Joe was contacted by Emil Krall and offered a job with the Heisey Co. in Newark, and decided to take a cutting job at this plant. The reason Joe gave for leaving the Cambridge area and coming to Heisey was that he had heard it was a good company and he had always had the desire to work here. He says on arriving here and working he found everything to be true that he had ever heard of the working conditions, the quality of the glass and treatment of employees. The skilled mechanics were some of the best in the country. He says Mr. Krall was one of the world's best engravers and he really enjoyed working with him.

Joe has worked with 150 to 200 cutting stones of different sizes. Being a very good cutter and enjoying his work immensely, Joe purchased a lathe the very day he retired from the Heisey plant and still used it in his home as a hobby. One remark made by Joe's daughter was, "I'll bet Mother is the only woman who owns cut glass jelly jars." I have noticed the different times I have been in the home that every piece of glass Mrs. Wharton touches is cut.

Joe left the Heisey plant in 1950 and went to work for Westinghouse and held different jobs such as storekeeper, packer, and toe-motor driver.

His favorite glass, as of most cutters, of course is crystal. When I asked the Whartons if their children appreciated their small collection, Mrs. Wharton told me they always go to the china closet when they come into the house and remark how lovely it is. Once, when teasing her daughter, Mrs. Wharton said, "If I ever need the money I am going to sell some of this glass." The daughter immediately replied, "Over my dead body." I guess this says enough as to how she feels about the glass. All of Mr. Wharton's work consists of his own patterns. Part of the glass cutters' code is not to copy the work of others. He does his cutting now for his family and close friends as gifts. Some of his transformations are a sculptural fish bowl from a vinegar jar and a decorative vase from a champagne bottle. Many of the more complex patterns take from four to five hours of cutting and polishing. His own cuttings were displayed at the Newark Ohio State University Branch in December 1969 and Newark people enjoyed looking over his wares.

With the experience of working on glass from several companies, Joe says that the quality of Heisey glass was outstanding and a pleasure to cut.

Joe Wharton is married to the former Lucille Lawyer and they have two children. A son, Gary Lee, is an attorney in Columbus, Ohio, and a daughter Betty Lou Frankenberry, is a housewife of Newark. They also have a white angora cat. The Whartons belong to St. John's United Church of Christ and Joe belongs to the Masonic Lodge. His hobby is fishing and, as you already know, "cutting" glass.

Mr. Wharton made one request from the Heisey News and this is it: "If any of the old glass cutters read this, I send my best and if ever in Newark, Ohio, stop and see me."

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #4

Leon Randaxhe

by Evelyn M. Allen

Leon Randaxhe now lives at 18 Fairmont Avenue, Newark, Ohio, with his wife, the former Leota Clendenning. He was born in Seraing, Belgium, January 7, 1898. In 1906, at the age of nine years, he, his brother (4 months old) and parents came to the United States. They landed in New York City on Christmas morning. The Randaxhe family had several friends in the United States working in glass factories and feeling that working conditions were better here, decided to leave Belgium. Before coming to the United States his father had been given a medal from the Val St. Lambert Glass factory for Morality and Ability for expert workmanship. He had worked for this company for 40 years. The medal gave him the privilege to work in any glass company in Europe.

They left New York City enroute to Toledo, Ohio, but on the way Leon's father decided to stop in Rochester, Pa. where he went to work for the H. C. Fry Co. He later left there and moved to Moundsville, W. Va., and worked for the Fostoria plant. At 13 or 14 years of age Leon worked on Friday evenings to earn spending money, working 4 1/2 hours for 40¢. He worked there 11 months and then in 1913 moved to Bylesville, Ohio, and went to work at a plant there, which was owned by Mr. Bennett of the Cambridge Glass Co. His starting salary here was \$15.00 per week.

During World War I this plant closed and he and his father went to work for the Cambridge Glass Co. Leon got his union card at the age of 16.

February 12, 1918, they moved to Newark, Ohio, and both obtained jobs at the A. H. Heisey Co. His father decided, in 1920, to go back to Belgium. He wanted Leon to return also but at this time he decided to make Newark, Ohio, his home.

Leon was a blower and finisher of hand made tableware. At times he was borrowed by the press shop to put feet on goblets and candlesticks. While at Heisey he served for several years as an officer in the Union. He said that he got along extremely well with both the company and union. Leon had, and still has, great respect for the Heisey management staff and said that they treated their employees very well and the workers showed their appreciation by performing their various skills to the best of their ability.

Leon made all the tools he worked with. Like most glass workers, he prefers crystal to color. He said he just couldn't imagine drinking from a cobalt glass. His feeling on Heisey glassware is that no other company made any glass with more brilliance and lustre.

During the second World War, along with his job at Heisey, he worked for a Research Lab, repairing their equipment. At the time he was doing this it was top secret work and he didn't know what he was working on. Later on he did find out.

He left the Heisey Company in 1953 and went to work as a Building Inspector for the city of Newark. At that time "Pop Swank" was mayor. This he did until 1959. In 1960 he got a job in the chemistry department at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He, at 62 years old, had to learn the metric system.

Now, retired, He has two hobbies, playing the violin and making novelty glassware. He had earlier studied the violin for one year at Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio. In making his glass novelties he uses a blast burner and turns pyrex tubes into glass figures, cologne bottles, animals, birds and fish. He also can fashion a glass bell and stemmed glassware. (I was amazed at his work and, of course, purchased a few of his animals. I don't believe anyone could go there without buying something he has made.)

He has one daughter who now lives in South Carolina. The rest of his family is in Belgium, where he returned in 1966 for a two week visit and he hopes he can make another trip there soon.

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PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #5

James A. Hartman

by Evelyn M. Allen

James A. Hartman, born in 1898, now lives at the rear of 417 E. Indiana St. in a small trailer. He has many pleasant memories of his work at the Heisey plant. His beginning at the plant is a little different than most of the employees I have talked to. He played in a lumber yard next to the Heisey plant, where the Burke Golf Co. is now located. His father who was a presser at Heiseys, was losing work because he had no carry out boy so Jimmie Hartman would climb over the fence to help him.

One night A. H. Heisey went over to the lumber yard and asked the boys to work at night. This was the beginning of James Hartman's employment. He was 12 years old. After this A. H. Heisey paid a \$1000.00 fine for having school boys working at night.

In 1914, at the age of 14, he quit school and went to work full time as a gatherer. When the Heisey Company started making animals this was one of his jobs. He said they had a rate to meet and when they made this many perfect items they could go home. They were never allowed to linger around the plant.

He remarked how immaculate A. H. Heisey had the plant kept. He, too, like Paul Fairall, remembered wearing knee pants and long stockings. He quit work in 1958 at the Heisey plant and has never worked since due to bad health. He doesn't own any Heisey but said at the price animals are selling for he wished he had just a portion of what he had made. The following poem was written by him and well expresses his feelings about his job at the age of 19.

“ THE GATHERING BOY'S TROUBLE”

by Jimmie Hartman

September, 1917

The head presser is the money man, he gets the biggest pay.
The finisher comes in second best, but don't have much to say.
The gatherer does the hardest work by rushing to and fro.
The presser says, “bring them on, don't be so dog-gone slow.”

He rushes on and on and works like hell all day
And when he goes to count his pay,
You've guessed it, he gets the smallest pay.

Some people think the glass trade is grand
With easy money put into your hand
But believe me I have another say
I work like mad for the smallest pay.

Now when you think you have made a real good turn
And Anxious to see what you have earned
You go back of the lehrs to see how your ware came through,
But find a hundred bad pieces marked against you.

But the gathering boy he has no say,
He just works on for the smallest pay
When the gatherer stops to turn the ring
The presser calls him everything.

The mold gets cold, the presser gets mad
It means a dozen more thats bad.
But he gathers on in the same old way

For the same things happen every day.

They will argue to the point and the presser will say,
"It's the gatherers' fault again to-day."
But he has nothing to say
And just keeps working for the smallest pay.

And when the ware is sorted, and you lose so many bad
You know the presser and the finisher will be fighting mad.
You look them over, to find what the defects may be,
It may be a crooked bottom of fine glass maybe.

Or it may be they are cordy, or blisters that you see
But no difference what the trouble is, its the gatherers fault you see.

But then he keeps on going, with nothing much to say,
For when the week is over, he gets the smallest pay.

Now when you go on gathering, take a warning lad
Just take a job for anyone, except your dear old Dad.
For the whole darn week he grumbles and has it all to say,
And when the week is over he wants the whole darn pay.

Reprinted from Heisey News, June, 1972

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #6

“William H. Anderson”

by Evelyn M. Allen

William H. Anderson, 96 years old is, to my best knowledge, the oldest Heisey employee alive. He resides at 11 Columbia St., Newark, in a two story home, with his wife, the former Agnes Gruber. Mrs. Anderson lived on the south side of Pitts burgh, Pa., when they met and married.

William, known as “Dink” by his many friends, was born January 1, 1876 in Freedom, Pa., a little town along the Ohio River. He comes from a long line of glass workers. His great grandfather was a manufacturer of glass bottles and his grandfather also operated and owned glass bottle factories, one being located in Zanesville, Ohio. His father was a presser in the Point Bottle Works, Rochester, Pa.

William started to work at age 14 in a Marble shop located across the street from his parent’s home. Their product was tombstones on which he would rub the marble by hand to polish it. At age 11 he began working as a carry-in boy at the Tumbler Works in Rochester where he worked for two years.

The family then moved to Jeannette, Pa. and William worked for H. Sellars McKee Glass Factory from 1889 to 1902. Coming to Newark, Ohio in 1902 he was employed by the A. H. Heisey Co. as a gathering boy at a starting pay of \$14.00 per week. He worked at gathering for one year and then advanced to finisher. Many times as a young lad he left the factory to get a “growler”, (a bucket of beer costing 5 or 10¢) for the men at the factory.

He was an all around worker. One of his fellow worker’s called him a “Master mechanic”. During lay-offs at the Heisey plant he worked at other glass factories in Indiana, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

He fathered two sons and in 1947 his oldest son Tom, who was then 39, died. Mr. Anderson said he died from Consumption which he got from impure milk. His surviving son, W. F. Anderson who lives on Central Ave., also worked for the Heisey Co. for about one year.

When I asked William about the plant his answer was, like so many other workers, “It was a great place to work”. He said he was never treated as well at any other plant. No matter what any employee did, he doesn’t remember anyone ever getting fired. He remembers one incident where a woman was walking out of the plant and a piece of glass fell out of her dress and broke and Wilson Heisey told her to go back and get another one.

He said he had worked in every shop in the factory. He blew salts with compressed air. He worked in the Paste mold shop the last 8 years shearing and handling water jugs. Not many men could do this. He retired in 1948.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, (she is now 87 years old) have one granddaughter, one grandson, and four great grandsons. At the present time Mrs. Anderson is suffering from a broken hip.

William often walks from his house to Super Duper Grocery, which is approximately three miles. He exercises several times a day with 2# dumbbells. And last, but not least, he does the washing and a great deal of the housework. He literally runs from the first floor of their home to the second. He bakes bread and when doing so, rises at 4 A.M. Normally he retires at 10 P.M. and rises at 6 A.M. When asked to what he attributed his long life, he remarked that his wife was a very sanitary person and had always seen that he had the cleanest and most nutritious foods. He eats onions like most people would apples, about 8 to 9 pounds a week.

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PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #7

“John Henry Holman”

by Ann Holman

My father-in-law, JOHN HENRY HOLMAN III began working at the A. H. Heisey Company on April 24, 1914 at the age of 12. Three generation of Holmans worked at the plant, my father-in-law, his father and grandfather.

My father-in-law, whom I'll refer to as Pop, began his career at carrying-in and carrying-over. The following year he went into the cutting shop as washout boy where he worked until 1916. He then started polishing and worked at this until 1919 when he went out into the factory to learn the trade.

He worked as a pipe-gatherer until July 1923 at which time he quit and went to work at the Belmont Tumbler Company in Bellaire, Ohio.

In September of the same year he returned to the Heisey plant in the cutting shop for a short time then back into the factory as a pipe-gatherer, gathering glass for the Hokey-Pokey shop (blown stemware) until 1925 at which time his shop broke up because the blower quit and no one was assigned to take his place. Pop then went to Toledo to work for Libbey Glass and later returned to the Heisey Co. where he worked until October 15, 1928. That was the last time he was ever in the Heisey factory.

Recalling A. H. Heisey, Pop said they always called him Captain. He was strict but fair and good to poor people. He would buy coal by the car load and sell it to the ones that could afford to pay, and give it to the ones that could not. Back when Captain was living they paid the employees in cash, and he would come out where they were waiting for the time keeper. Some of the employees would sing and the Captain would dance a little jig and then go on. When Captain would come into the cutting shop and see a man talking to another man that was working, he would tap him on the shoulder and say “Loaf all you please but let the other fellow work”.

Pop remembers Wilson (Wils) Heisey's love for animals and that he raised bird dogs and game chickens. Captain Heisey would throw stones at the chickens while they were in the yard between the factory and the office. Mr. Heisey also would let all the dogs out and they would run all over the east end of Newark and Wils would have a hard time rounding them up.

Cap came into the cutting room one time and said, “Johnny, go find Wils for me”. Pop found Wils at the horse barn playing penny ante and Wils told him to go back and say he couldn't find him. Captain's reply was, “Hunt for him until you do”. When Pop relayed this message Wils told him to sit down and wait until he was ready to go.

I could go on and on about the tales Pop has told me. These are the ones that I have heard many times. Pop enjoys reminiscing about his days at the A.H. Heisey Co.

Ed.'s note. Wilson's son, A.H. Heisey (Gus) tells us that it was a well known fact that his grandfather didn't like animals and that his father liked to play poker.

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PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #8

“William Folmer”

by Evelyn M. Allen

William Folmer was born in Washington, Pa. December 14, 1903. He married the former Rosella Floyd in 1926. They now live at 1002 Fairbanks Ave., Newark, Ohio.

Mr. Folmer worked during school vacations and was young enough that his boss told him to hide whenever the state inspector happened to be in the plant. Heisey Co. was a great place to hire boys who were under-age, at the risk of being caught.

He started working as a fulltime employee in 1918. He, as many others did, began as carry-in boy. He worked in this position for six months and then started “gathering feet” for Leon Randaxhe (the profile on Leon was in the April issue.) He used a pipe to gather on. After one year he worked as a blower on tableware and stemware. He says. he was treated better at the Heisey plant than any other place he worked. On lay-offs he worked at the Cambridge Glass Co., Cambridge, Ohio and the Federal Glass Co., of Lancaster, Ohio.

One of the most outstanding days at the Heisey plant for Bill was on one of the foreman’s (Spotty Giblin) birthday. They pulled a joke on him, in the form of a gift. They all were fired but no one left, they just went on working. Bill said he, himself, was fired on one occasion in the morning and went back to work in the evening and no one seemed to know he was fired.

Mr. Folmer worked at the Heisey plant until 1942 when he quit and went to work at the Cooper-Bessemer Co, in Mt. Vernon, Ohio as a machinist.

Mr. and Mrs. Folmer are parents of two children. Their son is Assistant Fire Chief in Newark and their daughter lives in Midwest City, Oklahoma. They have two grandsons and. one grand-daughter.

For relaxation Mr. Folmer fishes in the summer. He spends a lot of spare hours making wooden bowls, candles and picture frames as a hobby.

*This refers to the foot or base of stemware. A later article will explain this more fully.

Reprinted from Heisey News, September, 1972

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #9

“Zella Pierce”

by Virginia Yeakley

Zella was born in 1897 Dunkirk, Indiana where her Father was employed in a window glass factory. The family moved from Indiana to Utica, Ohio when she was nine years of-age. At this time her father was employed at the window glass plant in Utica.

While living the Utica, she met Frank Pierce who worked at the local drug store. They were married in 1916 and later her husband also was employed at the Utica Glass Factory.

In 1925 the Pierces moved their residence to Newark and shortly after, in 1927, Zella was first employed at the Heisey factory. Her first position was on the table, wiping and sorting. Her husband, Frank, worked for the A & P Grocery chain during this time and his work took him to various Ohio towns, first to Coshocton, then to Willard and finally back to Newark around 1931. Zella's return to Newark also brought her back to Heisey's, for which she was pleased, for she loved her work and those with whom she worked.

Zella worked in the cutting department on the “chuck”, finishing stemware. This was a machine that held four goblets and ground and finished the edges. This was considered precision work because one had to stop at the right moment so the goblets would all be the same height. She also worked on the “big machine” (approximately five feet in diameter) grinding nappies, large bowls, dinner plates, small plates and whiskies, which were very hard to do. Her boss in the cutting room was Anna Weippert, wife of the famous Heisey cutter, Billy Weippert. While working on the machines, Dooley Corder was the “head man”.

One day while Zella was working at the factory Wilson Heisey (son of A. H.) came through her department and presented her with a beautiful pressed vase, which she still prizes in her personal collection. Other fellow employees Zella enjoyed working with were Jeanette Swartz, Lena Floyd, Mrs. Tiner and Mrs. Hayes. Silvy Richards was responsible for grinding individual salt shakers which was a tedious job. One time when work was slack, Zella and a fellow employee washed and polished all the glassware on display in the factory showroom. At times she worked on the candelabra bobeches, grinding holes in them. Each hole was drilled individually. During this period of employment at Heisey's they were making all the beautiful colored crystal which is so popular among today's Heisey collector.

In 1946 Zella and her husband Frank opened a Used Furniture Store on East Main Street in Newark. They were in business more than 25 years at this location and during this time many pieces of beautiful Heisey passed through her hands. Zella had an appreciation for Heisey glass long before it became the collectible item it is today. Fannie Snodgrass worked for the Pierces in their store for eleven years. Fannie's husband Bill was a stem puller - “an artist in his field” - said of him by the Heisey's. My husband and I had the privilege of knowing Fannie and she loved to pass this tidbit on to all the Heisey collectors who stopped in the store.

Frank Pierce passed away in 1968. With the assistance of her daughter, Mrs. William Fibley, who lives here in Newark, Zella continued to operate the business on East Main Street.

Just this year, when the building which housed the business was sold, Zella was reluctantly forced to close the store. A bit unhappy about her “forced retirement” as Zella stated it, she keeps busy and hopes to do some antique shows in the near future. Her son, Jack Pierce, resided in Lafayette, Indiana and is in hospital administration. She has five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Our visit together was truly an enjoyable one for me. I've known Mrs. Pierce all of my “collecting days” and have her to thank for some beautiful pieces of Heisey glass which we enjoy in our home.

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #10

“Carsie D. Allen”

by Evelyn M. Allen

Carsie D. Allen, born Jan. 7, 1907 in Lumberport, W. Va., just happens to be my father-in-law. I can credit him for my love for hand made glassware. After his son and I were married, he gave us a few pieces of glass he had made. Although the market price on any one item would not exceed twenty five dollars today, no amount of money could buy them from us today. He started an addiction with me that at first scared my husband, as I would purchase different pieces of glass at what he thought was a phenomenal price. Now, on to my story.

Carsie married Audra Muster in W. Va. and they had four children; three daughters and an adorable son. (I'm partial.) Carsie started to work at the age of 14 at Mound City Glass House, Lumberport, W. Va., gathering glass for punch tumblers made on a paste mould for \$2.60 a day. Like many other glassworkers, he worked at several glass companies such as the Marion Glass Co., Shinnston, W. Va.(making bird baths and seed cups), the Weston Glass Co., the Louie Glass Co., and the W. Va. Specialty all located in Weston, W. Va. In West Virginia his longest stay was at the W. Va. Specialty which was for ten years. He might have retired there except, being a strong union man, he left because the plant went non-union. He then brought his family to Ohio, and settled in Cambridge in 1941, working at the Cambridge Glass Co. until it closed. I asked him “why Cambridge and not Heisey?” He said there was no particular reason except the first three men to leave Weston went to Heisey and the second group to Cambridge. He was part of the second group. He never worked at Heisey, but heard rumors in the plants he worked in that the Heisey plant was a great place to work. I have shown him several pieces of Heisey and explained its current value. He always admired the high polish, clarity, and workmanship of Heisey glass.

I thought this article would be of interest to as Carsie did work on “Heisey by Imperial”. After Cambridge, he went to Tex Glass Co, Texas, Phoenix Glass Co., Monaca, Pa., and Tiffin Glass Co., Tiffin, Ohio. Last but not least, he went to Imperial Glass Co., Bellaire, Ohio, in 1967 and from there he retired.

In the early years, he started as a gatherer, then advanced to a blower. At Imperial he worked in the Hokey-Pokey Shop. He said the shop was really the “Pressed Stemware” shop, the reason for the nick-name being that so many things seemed to go wrong. At Imperial the shop consisted of nine men, the glass being handled as follows: First the gatherer put a pipe into the furnace and gathered a piece of glass on it. This he would roll on a marble (a flat piece of iron) and then blow it once and hand it to the blower. He would then raise the paste mould out of water and blow glass into it. (the paste mould is an iron mould covered with a paste made from graphite and bees wax). The blower could roll the glass around and there are no seams in a paste mould piece. The glass then goes to the stem presses who puts the stem on, then to the foot caster, and then the foot finisher. It is then cracked off and the carry-in boys put it onto the Lehr and then it is selected.

My mother-in-law worked on a Glazier. This is a machine that cuts tops off tumblers, then they were ground and the tops melted to make them smooth. She also crimped vases. She worked in the decorating department where glasses were placed on “spinners” and with a brush and steady hand she put on gold bands. She also put on iridescent paint and a yellow colored paint before colored glassware came into being. At Cambridge she wrapped glass off the glazier and filled orders.

My father-in-law knew many Heisey workers and often asks me about different ones. This last time Happy Swans name came up and Carsie said he worked with him at Tiffin. Hap told him of the many paperweights he made at Heisey. (These glass paperweights were on display at the 1971 Heisey Show)