

Reprinted from Heisey News, January, 1972

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 pity 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.

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.

Reprinted from Heisey News, October, 1972

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)

Reprinted from Heisey News, January, 1973

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #11  
"Our Visit With The Grays"  
by Russ and Louise Ream

On a recent Saturday we spent several pleasant hours visiting at the home of Walter and Mary Gray, 110 Wing St. in Newark not far from the old Heisey plant. Walter was a glass cutter at Heisey from early in 1936 until the doors closed forever late in 1957. He had spent all of his adult life as a glass cutter, and like most others, had traveled from one shop to another until he finally settled in Newark.

He was born and raised in Honesdale, Pa., a small town about 70 miles from New York City. Being so close to New York, he said, a lot of work was sent down to be done there because, being a small town, wages were cheaper than in the big city.

There were shoe factories, knitting mills and silk factories, but most of all, glass cutting houses. He remarked that you nearly had to be a glass cutter or "get out of there and find something else to do". One of his brothers also became a cutter.

His first job, at about age 16, was working for the Feeney Co. of Honesdale. When he was 17 he left home to go to Buffalo, N.Y. to work at the Genessee Glass Co. where his foreman was Earl Beck.

Leaving there he next went to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was employed at the Sterling Glass Co. on Mount Adam Hill. From there he went to St. Charles, Ill., just outside of Chicago, where he also did cutting.

His next job was at the Pickland-Brooks Co. (SP.?) in Valparaiso, Indiana. This company used some Heisey blanks for cutting. Here he met and married his wife, the former Mary Uroviak in 1915. She also worked at the plant as a waxer, applying the melted wax with a brush to the areas of the glass which were not to be subjected to the acid "polishing" process which restored the cut areas to their original shiny appearance. When glass is cut, the cut areas remain gray unless polished by hand or by dipping in acid.

In 1917 or 1918, Walter came to Ohio to work for Imperial Glass at Bellaire. He cut glass there for a short time and this was the first place he had worked where they made their own glass. In 1918 it was back to Indiana and a cutting job with U. S. Glass at Gas City. He worked there until 1920 and from there went to the D. C. Jenkins Co. in Kokomo, Indiana. At this point fine cutting was in a slump.

The Jenkins Co. did no glass cutting at this time and Walter talked Mr. Jenkins into starting a cutting shop with himself in charge. When they started they had but one lathe, which was made by an Eddie Adams, and one cutter, Walter. Mr. Jenkins told him to pick out some glass which would stand cutting and make some samples. His wages were \$40.00 a week at this point.

The first thing he had to do was set up his lathe to suit himself and get busy on the samples. He only cut simple patterns which were given to the salesmen to see how they would go. They soon had an order for 100 barrels of the "grape" pattern which was cheap. It was sold to Kresge, Woolworth and McCrory, all dime store chains.

Before long they had orders for 1000 barrels and added two lathes and cutters. Orders continued to pour in and they soon had fifteen lathes and cutters including Walter. He got cutters to come from places he had formerly worked, such as Gas City, Chicago and others. They also cut fish bowls which proved to be a popular item, a wholesale house in Toledo bought many of these. Much of the glass was of the pressed cut type which was pressed with a pattern and then some hand cutting added to make it prettier.

When things picked up again, Walter left Jenkins to get back into "good" cutting which he enjoyed much more. His time at Jenkins was just a stop-gap in a slow period for the more expensive cuttings. He soon was working for Pittsburg Plate Glass Co. in Chicago and it was here that he first belonged to a union. He had to join before he could go to work and the initiation fee was \$100.00. He showed us the union card which he still has. The union dues were \$3.00 per month. His work here was, as he put it, "cutting wonderful mirrors".

Work again became slack there during the depression and he went to St. Louis, Mo. where he spent about six months working for the Bergen Glass Cutting Co. No glass was made there. He said he made no money there but he was "tickled to death" to get a job just to meet expenses and it was just a place to work until he could get a better job.

From there he went to the Cambridge Glass Co. in Cambridge, Ohio his boss was Herschel Hancox, who later founded the LaFlo Cut Glass Co. in Cambridge. In 1936, Howard Black, with whom he had worked at U. S. Glass, called him to come to Newark. "Blackie" had told Emil Krall, who was in charge of the cutting and engraving at Heisey, that he could get him a cutter if he needed one. Emil told to call Walter. This was his second visit to the Heisey factory as he had stopped there once, about 1916, to visit glass cutter friends and recalls having seen. A. H. Heisey at that time. By this time of course A. H. had died and E. Wilson was the president of the company.

This turned out to be the last place he would ever work as he stayed at the Heisey plant until the end. Here he worked on most of the cut patterns which were made while he was there. He particularly recalls Maryland, Sheffield, Danish Princess, Rose Bud, Narcissus and many others. We asked if he had cut Dolly Madison Rose and he said that Ralph Sheeler, Don Maurer and Max Seidel had cut most of it.

He worked for 15 years beside Joe Wharton (Heisey News, June issue, page 3, and Nov. issue, page 4.) whom he had known formerly at Cambridge.

When Emil Krall had designed the Moonglo cutting, he cut a few pieces himself and one day he said, "Gray, you try it to see if you can do it". When he had cut a few pieces Krall said, "I like it". From then on he was given a lot of this pattern to cut. He had cut such a variety of patterns in so many shops that he could do most any of them.

Emil Krall left Heisey sometime in the late forties and started his own cutting business on Wilson St. in Newark. Lou Adkins, who was superintendent of the "back part" of the factory where all of the cutting, etching, engraving, polishing and finishing was done offered Walter the job of foreman. He refused he said because he had been foreman before and it was too hard to satisfy the men since there were "good jobs and bad jobs to be given out". He said they put a woman out there as forelady and he didn't like that too well.

He told us that he made money at Heisey than anywhere he had worked. After 1940 there was a strong union and until 1955 it was very good for cutters and engravers. In 1955, however, this job began to go down but he stayed anyway. He had a chance to go to California as a cutter but decided to stay in Newark.

Walter spoke very well of the Heisey Co., the quality of glass and the people he worked with. He said he also enjoyed his work there.

The Grays had four sons, one of whom was a salesman but is now deceased. He left a family of seven children. Paul lives in Newark and has worked at Owens-Corning for 22 ears. He formerly spent two years at Heisey as an apprentice cutter. Clifford lives at home. The youngest son, Bill, has been blind for the past 15 years, a condition caused by diabetes. He lives in Cincinnati and is married to a partially blind girl. They own their own home which Mary described as "the cutest little house--all on one floor". They do all of their own work and Paul does nearly all of the cooking. They say he can do almost anything with his hands and is employed when there is work for the blind available. He travels all over Cincinnati, presumably with his seeing eye dog which Mary says is wonderful. Once he moved his telephone from one room to another by himself and when an inspector came he said no one could have done it any better. Bill is a bowler on a blind team and travels all over to tournaments. He will be going to Canada to bowl in May. The Grays are very proud of him as they well should be.

The Grays also have twelve grandchildren to enjoy. Their home, inside and out, and their lawn is immaculate. Mary insisted on our having a bowl of her homemade vegetable soup which was delicious.

Walter still enjoys cutting and has his own lathe. He has some of his work for sale or will cut on blanks for people. He prefers to do no repair work. He still is a member of the American Flint Glass Workers of America AFL-CIO.

All in all we had a delightful visit with the Grays and he gave us much information on glass cutting which will appear in another issue of the News.



**Reprinted from Heisey News, March, 1973**

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #12

**“My Visit With Mr. Henry Stapleman”**

by Connie Ryan

On a recent visit to Florida I had the pleasure of visiting some cousins of my mother---- Mr. Henry Stapleman had worked at the Heisey plant in the 1910's and 20's. I quick got out my notebook and asked if I could interview him. Of course they thought I was joking but I was serious, so Mr. Stapleman relayed to me the process of blowing glass as it was done then, and I will now relate it to you.

First you need glass, and to get glass, potash, sand and other materials were put into a pot and sealed, which was put into the furnace. The mixture was kept there a certain amount of time, melting and mixing together. The seal was broken when the glass was ready and the pressman brought his machine over close to the glory hole in the furnace where the glass was.

The pressman's machine was on four wheels and had a place to put a mold and a place to put a die. Every mold had a die to match the mold. The die would press down into the mold, spreading the glass out evenly.

The gathering boy went with his punty, a six foot long hollow pole, to the glory hole and got some glass on it. He then blew into the punty rod while turning it to prevent the glass from sagging to the bottom. This glass was put into the mold and when formed by the pressman the glass piece was taken out and tapped off onto a paddle.

The carry-in boy took the glass to the stick-up boy who stuck a punty in the middle of the bottom of the piece. The glass is then put back into the glory hole until it became workable or soft. The finisher rolled the piece of glass on a bench with two arms on it with a paddle made of apple wood. All of the paddles were made of apple wood because it was slow to burn when cut green. After the piece had been rolled it was knocked off the punty into a box of sand at the end of the bench.

The carry-in put these pieces on a tray and carried them to the tempering oven (lehr) which had a conveyor belt 30 to 40 feet long which moved slowly letting the glass cool slowly so not to break easily. The glass then went to the inspector who took out anything with imperfections in it. It was then taken to the packaging department and, as my grandfather who worked there said, it was sent to every corner of the world.

Mr. Stapleman also told me that the mold had to be a certain temperature when the glass went in. If the mold was too cold the glass would get “cold waves” in it and was scrapped because it would not pass inspection. When he worked there he can remember no colors and said the glass was a colonial type. He said there is a certain quality in Heisey Glass that makes you proud you were associated with it, and I certainly agree.

**Reprinted from Heisey News, March, 1973**

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #13

**“William S. Rehbeck”**

by Evelyn M. Allen

William Rehbeck resides at 1205 W. Church St. in Newark, Ohio. He was born in Newark December 27, 1900. His father, Lewis Rehbeck went to work for Heisey in 1905. He was foreman of the hot metal department and worked until the early 1940's and died in 1945.

William, usually known as Pete, was married in 1929 to the former Evelyn Andrews. She died in November 1972 of a heart attack. They had three sons and seven grandchildren. The sons are William of Columbus, Timothy, Newark, and Gary who lives in California. Gary is a Heisey collector.

Pete went to work for Heisey in 1916 with his father being his boss. He did carry-in, warm-in and also gathered (glass). In 1918 along with his father's wishes, he went to work in the mold shop. John Sanford and Ray Cobel were bosses at that time. He did not like the mold shop for the first two years and wished he had not gone along with his father's choice. After two years, however, he was well pleased to be learning that trade and he learned to be a machinist as well as a mold maker.

He did bench work and with steel chisels, steel files and a hammer, chipped designs in cast iron. Plaster paris molds are formed to size, then given to bench hands to put designs and letters on.

The molds Pete is well familiar with and remembers most are the animals. He has in his possession a plaster of paris mold of the large elephant. He said they formed the animal in sand, then poured in plaster paris. After being formed of the plaster, the mold was used to make cast iron molds. The pattern was sent to the foundry to be cast in iron. It then came back to the mold shop. If it were a part mold it was first put on a shaper then to the mill machine, then the drill press, and on to the lathe where it was turned to size. If any design was to be put on the mold it was sent to the bench hands and they finished it. A shaper moved back and forth to smooth the mold. A mill machine milled the lugs to size to hold parts molds together. A drill press drilled the holes in the lugs and tapered pins were put in.

Pete worked twice at the Heisey factory, once from 1916-39 and again from 1943-54. From 1939 to 41 he worked in Baltimore, Md. for Carl Lowers, making perfume bottles for the Woodbury cosmetics plants. In 1941, he worked at Western Electric as a machinist. He was working on radar but did not know it until he finished. He came back to Newark in 1943 because of the illness of his mother and dad.

In 1954 he went to work for Holophane and retired from there in 1968. He was a mold maker there and everything had to be done perfect or done over.

At Heisey, he started in 1916 at 60¢ a day. When in the mold shop, he made \$3.50 a week. In the 1920's a beginning mold maker started at \$16.00 a week, then to \$22.50 as top wages. In Baltimore he made \$40.00 a week. This was 1939 and Heisey was paying \$35.00 a week at this time. In 1941 at Western Electric he made \$1.25 an hour.

Pete said he really liked working at the Heisey plant and would go back tomorrow if they were to start again. He knew A. H. Heisey very well and liked him immensely. He remembers T. Clarence being in the mold room a lot asking about molds. He said he was treated well by the whole Heisey family.

Being retired, Pete can not sit down so he works at the candle factory in the Techniglas building. He makes tables and counters and works in the factory two days a week at odd jobs.

Peter is very active at 72 years and is out in antique shows, flea markets and shops searching for pieces of Heisey to give as gifts to his family. He is well aware of the pieces and value of pieces on today's market.

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #14

**"Grace and Ronald Wooles"**

by Louise Ream

Grace Blanche White was born in Newark, Ohio on October 4, 1892. She attended the little "Texas school", and completed both the first and second grades in just one year. She later attended both East Main and Mill elementary schools and graduated from the old Newark High School in 1910. At least part, if not all, of these schools no longer exist.

During her sophomore or junior year she began working part time, Saturdays, holidays and summer vacations, at the Heisey factory. At first she wiped glassware after it had been washed. She also did a variety of other things including working back of the lehrs in the packing room. There were tables here for putting up orders and packing glass in the barrels which were made on the premises. She helped to sort and wrap the glass which did not have to go to the cutting shop to be finished and also helped with the inventory. Jim Blaisdell was her foreman.

Another job was in the "salt room" where she "cracked off" the tops of salt and pepper shakers. The shaker tops were then put on and they were packed in boxes, salts and peppers packed separately.

After her graduation from high school, she worked full time in the cutting room office. August Welsh was her foreman at first and later Louise Adkins became forelady. She admired Miss Adkins very much for her great capability. Here she kept records of items made for the Holophane Co. before Holophane started making its own glass. This was lamp shades, globes and other lighting and illumination objects. She said that she was sure that Heisey was still making the glass for Holophane as late as 1913. She also kept records of the cost of finishing (grinding and polishing) Heisey glass items.

While working here she met Ronald Wooles who worked for Holophane in the Heisey plant sorting the glass. A romance blossomed and they were married in 1933. Mr. Wooles had graduated from high school in 1911 and had then attended Denison University and a business school for a short time before starting to work for Holophane. He later went to the etching room at Holophane, etching the various shades and globes. At this time Holophane had only offices, a shipping room and etching room according to Mrs. Wooles. Ironically, Holophane is still there making glass across the street from the former Heisey Factory, long after Heisey closed its doors forever.

After the wedding the new Mrs. Wooles immediately quit her job. Her mother told her, "When you are married you don't work". (How times have changed!)

In 1916 Mr. Wooles left Holophane and "thought he could get rich at a tire factory in Akron" a booming business at the time. According to Mrs. Wooles he did not have the physique for a tire builder and took a job in the office. This did not pay like tire building and they soon came back to Newark.

When they returned Louise Adkins told Mr. Wooles that there was an "opportunity" for him in Heisey's etching room, which would have a chance for advancement. He later became foreman of the department. Here he worked until the day he died, July 9, 1941. When he first went to the etching room the plates were sent to Cleveland to be made. He later developed the acid to etch them at the Heisey factory for only a fraction of the cost to send them out.

He also perfected the acid resist which protected parts of the glass not to be etched. The basic ingredient in this was beeswax. He developed the acid which was used to Polish the rock crystal, the name given to glass polished by this process. Instead of hand polishing the glass after it was cut, to restore its original appearance (cut glass is always "gray" until it is polished) it was dipped in an acid bath which removed the gray look and also any rough edges of the cutting, making it very clear and bright. Killarney, Waterford, Sungate and many others are good examples of this. Mrs. Wooles said the men working with the acid had to wear wool pants as the fumes from it would eat any synthetic materials.

In the early thirties Mrs. Wooles worked again for the Heisey company, this time in her own home, where she checked orders and kept stock records for the etching department. In this way her husband would know immediately

what was on hand and, when orders were received, what had to be made. When he brought the orders to her he could get them back the same day and get started on them at once. This apparently had been a bottleneck at the factory.

The Wooles had two sons. The older, Ronald Marcellus, was born in 1915 and Leonard in 1917. Marcellus, as she called him, achieved the rank of Lt. Col. and was a command pilot in the air force. He died on Nov. 11, 1962 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He had four children and his widow now lives in Kettering, Ohio. Leonard is a building and carpeting contractor living in Newark. He has three children. Both sons were in World War II. During the war Mrs. Wooles worked at the Goodyear Aircraft in Newark.

From 1954-57 she lived with her older son in Tripoli, Libya, North Africa where he was stationed at Wheeler Field. While there she worked at the Post Exchange, at first as a bonded cashier and later advanced to head the military Dept. where they "had everything from a 5¢ brass star to a general's uniform". During her years in Africa she was able to visit the Holy Land and also several European countries. Mrs. Wooles said she enjoyed her time working for Heisey and said that the glass was, at that time, considered to be the best glass in America and at least one of the finest in the world. Her brother, John White; was a printmaker at Heisey.

She showed us her Heisey glass and some particularly beautiful Krall cuttings which she said had been obtained by her husband in "an exchange of favors between bosses." She also had two unusual plates which she said would go to the museum some day.

At 80, the petite Mrs. Wooles is remarkably active. She works in her yard and flowers and her attractive two story home is immaculate. She just got new aluminum siding and new carpeting. She is the teacher and treasurer of the Alathean senior adult Sunday School Class of the Christ Methodist Church. She is treasurer, past president and hospital chairman of the Blue Star Mothers, Newark Chapter #8, and Legislative Chairman of the Department of Ohio Blue Star Mothers. She just returned from an eight day trip with the YWCA Travel Club of which she is a member. They went to Wisconsin Dells, Sault Ste. Marie and Mackinac Island. The photo accompanying this article was her passport picture two years ago when she made another trip to the Holy Land. Besides traveling, she loves to read and belongs to a card club.

A member of the HCA, she attended several convention events including Show and Tell and the former employees tea. If you were there I am sure you remember her. She was amused that she was able to buy a creamer which she needed from a dealer from Michigan and said that last year she matched up another set from a dealer from California.

I left Mrs. Wooles' pleasant home hoping that I would have at least half her zest for life if I were fortunate enough to reach her age.

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #15

**“Mark Pickrel”**

by Frances Law

This very talented gentleman was born in Newark, Ohio on November 7, 1894. It is hard to believe he is 79 years young. He still works hard and has an interest in many things.

Mark Pickrel started working at the Heisey Company in 1908, at the tender age of 14. His first job was that of a carry-in boy. In 1912 he started cutting flutes and stems. After five years he became a journeyman glass cutter. Mr. Pickrel says there was no cutting done at Heisey between the years of 1920-1931. He believes World War I had an effect on the cessation of cutting. He left Heisey in 1931. During the years of 1931-32 he was a cutter at Tiffin Glass Co, which at the time was a part of the United States Glass Co. Tiffin employed and helped to immigrate Belgian glass cutters. Mark claims he never knew how to cut flutes until he learned from them. They were known as under-hand cutters. During the years of the depression 1932-35 Mark worked as an exterior decorator.

In 1935 Mark was at the Holophane Co. in Newark, working on their beautiful Verlys line. He worked as a finisher until 1942. The government stopped Verlys production of cut and engraved glass in 1942. This was due to World War II, because the government considered it a luxury, and also Holophane was not getting out the government orders.

From 1942-1944 Mark was back at work for Tiffin. When Emil Krall established his own Cutting shop in 1944, Mark came back to Newark to work for him. He did stone wheel engraving. Mark has nothing but the highest praise for Mr. Krall. There is no doubt that here Mr. Pickrel learned the know-how that makes people come from far and near to avail themselves of his incomparable talent. During the years of 1950-1961 Mark worked as a guard for the Newark Stove Company.

During the year of 1959 in anticipation of retiring, Mark opened his own cutting shop at the rear of his home. This shop is still in operation, despite the fact that Heisey, his first place of occupation, closed down in 1957.

Around 1951 Mark was for a short time at Paden City, possibly just before starting at Newark Stove. Mr. Pickrel at 79 is still doing the very fine work which was displayed at a Columbus Bank in 1971 and again in 1973. He still owns and operates the little cutting shop at the rear of his home at 415 Arlington Avenue, Newark, Ohio.

It is a real treat to visit with him in that shop. He will take the time to show you the stones and how to use them. Since Mark Pickrel is one of the few great glass cutters left, you should avail yourself of the opportunity of seeing him at work. If you have never seen his cutting perhaps you can find someone who has a piece of his lovely work. I, myself, am the proud owner of a beautiful cut compote.

Mr. Pickrel has three living children, Robert of Columbus, Howard and Carl Sherman of Newark, Ohio.

In addition to engraving Mark also does glass items. His repairs are so good that it would take an expert to know it.

Mr. Pickrel was employed at the Heisey Co. for 23 years. He retained an interest in the Company's activities till its doors were closed in 1958.

We salute Mark Pickrell. He is one of the very few old time glass cutters active today. We sincerely hope this great artisan will continue active for a long time to come.

Thanks to Carl Williams of Columbus for part of this information.

Reprinted from Heisey News, March, 1974

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #16

“Dad was **AMERICUS VESPUCCIUS STEWART**“

by Velma Norman, Houston, Texas

How would you like to be saddled with a name like that? But Dad was the youngest of four children when he came along in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on the 11th day of April, 1874. His father (Police Capt. William Stewart) came home after celebrating the happy event and told his wife, “Annie, you have named the other children, but now I want to name this one. What’s more, I want to give him a name that nobody else has.” With that he leafed through an atlas lying on the table, and stopped on the page telling about Amricus Vespucius, the explorer. So that is how he came to have such an unusual name. It wasn’t much of a handicap though because everyone affectionately called him “Stewarty,” except Mother, who always called him Amricus.

I believe he grew up in Pittsburgh as most boys do--getting into little escapades. His Mother sent him off to school one day (in plain view of his home), and ten o’clock in the morning he came back, telling his Mother he couldn’t find the school! He and his older brother, Elmer, were always sneaking off to the river to swim. I remember Grandmother Stewart telling me how she worried about the boys swimming, for she was sure they would be drowned. Then they started playing “hooky” from school. Their father would usually find them at the river. Then they suddenly switched interest to the local glass factory. They were both fascinated with the art of glass making. After this the boys could not be kept in school and their father simply let them start their apprenticeships in the glass business. Dad started out in what was then called a presser’s shop. My brother, Forrest Stewart of Newark, has told me an amusing story of that period. In those days they did not have the compressed air in the factory to cool their molds, so they used water. The worker would pick up a can of water that they had on their tool bench beside their press and throw some on the molds. One day the presser sent Dad to the neighborhood saloon for a can of beer. When he came back, Dad set it on the bench, and the presser had a hot mold so he grabbed the beer, thinking it was water, and threw it on the mold. The presser was so mad, he almost ran Dad out of the factory!

Americus’s father died young, as a result of his imprisonment in the infamous Andersonville Prison during the Civil War, and it was well that Dad and his brother glass trade because they become the breadwinners of the family. Dad married Mother, Lizzie Langenfeld, in 1898 and they settled in Indiana, Pennsylvania, where Dad was working. The factory burned down and a move to Steubenville, Ohio, was accomplished. This factory closed in 1907 and Dad moved us, via river boat, down the Ohio to Williamstown, West Virginia. Dad went to work with the “Fenton Boys” there. As everyone knows the Fenton Glass Factory prospered and is still in operation today.

It was during the terrible 1913 flood that we all packed and ready to move to Ohio, where Dad had a job with Heisey, when my younger brother and I came down with the German measles. Poor Mother unpacked necessities and nursed us back to health before we could move to Newark. Dad was starting what would be almost a thirty-year tenure with the A. H. Heisey Company with a brief interlude at New Martinsville, W. Va.

For a short time we lived on Dewey Avenue, near the Heisey plant. It was always a thrill for us kids to see Miss Louise Adkins (later on the Heisey plant manager) dash by in her smart rig with her hair and her horse’s mane swinging and shining in the sun.

During the time that Dad worked in West Virginia the family continued to live in Newark, but we visited Dad often. One time when we were there it was during the filming of “River Queen” where Gloria Swanson was being starred in this river boat epic. The movie people hired some of the factory employees for bit parts and they asked Dad but he wasn’t interested. He stayed right on the job. But we were glad when Dad returned to Heisey.

Looking back--for we were never affluent folks-I wonder that Dad was always able to feed us so well. But I guess his creativity extended to other arts beside glass. He had a real talent for growing things, and had two large lots down on Garfield Avenue that he gardened. The gardens were really a hobby. He grew terrific vegetables and Mother not only canned vegetables but Dad kept most of the neighbors supplied as well. Another hobby was making his home brew and his wines. He made wonderful wine and served it at the table in a small Heisey pitcher. And Dad was an excellent cook. Every Sunday he made a big pot of soup. It might be vegetable, bean, barley, split pea, turtle,

or some surprise. Since Monday was always wash day for Mother, the soup pot was a big help. Our family at this point numbered eight--Forrest, Freeman, the twins, Aline and Seline, our widowed Aunt Selena, my parents and me.

I can recall we had fresh cabbage all winter, Dad dug a large hole, wrapped his cabbages, placed them in straw, covered them with earth, and when the snow came the storage was perfect. He put carrots and parsnips down in sand in large lard cans. He made huge crocks of saurkraut. He grew three kinds of grapes, and what didn't go for wine went for jelly and jams. Mother and Dad always had a friendly face to see who got the pink grapes first. Oh, yes, and he made all our catsup--hot for himself and the boys, and a sweet-type catsup for the ladies of the house. He made this in a large copper pot over an outdoor fire.

Dad also raised prize-winning white leghorn chickens walked off with most of the prizes during County Fair time, and he had a drawer full of ribbons to prove it. All the years Dad lived he never discarded one of those ribbons. One Saturday Dad and I were bathing some of the hens in blueing water in the family bath tub, when Mother returned home unexpectedly. After that we were relegated to the wash tub in the back yard!

In addition to Dad's vegetables and fruits he had a thing going with hollyhocks. He loved them and even had them growing in our back alley to beautiful it.

In his youth Dad was a good athlete, playing semi-professional baseball, and was a member of the "Dutch Turners" in Pittsburgh. He could walk on his hands as well as his feet, and he loved to dance---not only in the ballroom but that old soft-shoe routine. Dad also had a good voice, and it was always a happy time when Al Gruber, another Heisey employee, came to our house and played the piano and Dad sang his favorite songs.

Dad was very fond of Wils Heisey, and during the last year of Dad's life Mr. Heisey would pay comforting visits. During the time when Heisey was experimenting with the tangerine glass Dad suggested they toss a bit of ruby into the pot, and Dad furnished the ruby. After that he told Wils to try some gold. Wils felt in his pockets, found a gold coin, and he tossed it into the pot. I remember Dad talking about not being able to get the same results each time, and that the blown ware and pressed plates did not match. I didn't pay much attention, now I wish I had!

With all Dad's interests and hobbies he was first, last and entirely a "glass worker". Today he would artisan, for he learned the business from the "cradle" up. In the old days if one was called a "blow-hard" it was a compliment among glassmen. Such blowers developed a face found only in the old Masters. We kids were always delighted when we could talk Dad into puffing out his cheeks, "like when you work, Daddy." For only those steeped in the Glass trade know that a glassmaker blows and "fingers" his blowpipe with the artistry of a fine musician.

Dad was a member of the American Flint Glassworkers, a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the K. of P., The Red Men, and the AIU. I can recall the big parades on Labor Day and all the glassmen carried those glass canes. Most of all Dad was a Heisey Man and a great guy!

Yes, I remember Dad and the old timers will remember Dad, who was Americus Vespucci Stewart.

**Reprinted from Heisey News, April, 1974**

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #17

**IVAN BLAIR**

by Frances Law

Ivan Blair was born in Licking County on June 26, 1900. His looks belie his age for he appears to be much younger than his 74 years. He is still a very active man who has lived most of these years in Newark.

Mr. Blair started at Heisey on September 26, 1916. He first gathered glass for a year, then was a flint glass worker. He still belongs to the American Flint Glass Workers Union. At one time there were 150 local Unions of "hand plant" houses, and now only eight remain. This organization was made up of mold makers, cutters, and miscellaneous workers to begin with, at Heisey. A F G W U was organized in 1896, with flint glass workers first to organize. The local was started in 1896 and mold makers were taken in after flint workers.

After gathering glass for a year Mr. Blair started learning other trades such as pressing, finishing and other jobs in the plant. The German group at Heisey blew into plaster and iron molds. In the blown department are gatherers and blockers. Mr. Blair worked in the iron mold blowing department.

From 1931 until 1942 this talented gentleman did finishing and cutting down. Previous to this he had worked for the Lancaster Glass Company from 1928 to 1929. Before that he had left Heisey to work at the Paden City Glass Co in 1926 from early spring until July.

Mr. Blair served in the Air Corps, Battery C 464th Regiment. He went into the service August 1942 and was discharged in March 1943, when they discovered his true age.

He then went to Holo phane where they made lights and windows for submarines. Since work was off at Holophane he went Curtiss Wright in Columbus in 1943, installing electrical systems.

The glass companies were an up and down business during the war years due mainly to lack of orders.

After the war years he worked again at Holophane from 1940 to 1965, when he retired. He worked here as a gatherer, and as a utility man where ever he was needed. He also worked on the floor to make clay headed punties. These were rods about five feet long with a wooden handle and four or five steel prongs to gather glass.

Mr. Blair learned the biggest part of his trade and had the most experience at Heisey's. He was a finisher from 1921 until 1928. This was where the shape was put on the ware to whatever it was supposed to be. The glass was heated and shaped by blowing it into a mold, then an iron punty was used to hold the glass to put it back in the glory hole. When it was hot enough to bend it was removed and made into the desired shape. If you held the item up it melted down to make scallops or was placed against crossed nails to make deep scallops. One mold could be used to make many things.

The "Hokey Pokey" system at Heisey, the blown and pressed ware put together, (as a blown bowl and pressed stem,) was jokingly called this after Frederick H. Gebhart who worked in this department. He came to Heisey in April 1896 from the Duncan Glass Company and Hokey Pokey was his nickname. Rumor has it that Mr. Heisey paid for his first week's work out of his pocket, since the firm was barely established at this time.

The glass workers were paid by the piece for thirty or forty years before set wages were established, Mr. Blair states he sometimes worked a whole morning without pay if the batch of glass was bad. They finally got unlimited "turn work" around thirty years after the plant was established. Mr. Blair worked in several factories but spent the most years at Heisey.

Memories seemed to come easily during our interview. Mr. Blair remembers heads of presser shop, John Hounker, gathering, Henry Hizer; first finisher, Will Linsky; second finisher and handler, Tim Giblin, who also cut down water bottles. Later the press shop was taken over by William Lavelle. If only we could interview all these gentlemen mentioned, what a storehouse of information we could gather.



Mr. Blair filled me in on some of his jobs. As a gatherer he went in with the punty and gathered the amount of glass needed. He then dropped it in the mold and the presser cut the amount needed. Then the gatherer cut the surplus off in a kettle and repeated the procedure. Nine or ten pounds was the limit a man could bring out of the furnace. The average was five or six pounds per man.

Mr. Blair told us that the shear marks and waves appearing in the glass were not ground out. He says there is no such thing as straw marks, just imperfections. The shear marks appear on the side of the glass or in the bottom when cutting glass off the mass into the mold.

Mr. Blair lives with his wife, Opal Ruth, at 420 Cedar Crest Drive. He retired from the Holophane Company on June 30, 1965, his 65th birthday. He shared his experiences and memories with us very generously and we tender our heart felt thanks to a great glass worker.

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #18

**“John Lewis White”**

by Grace Wooles

My brother, John Lewis White, was born November 21, 1894, in Newark, Ohio. He attended public school at both Mill Street and E. Main Street. Both of these have been torn down. In that day the law gave a working permit at the age of 14, regardless of schooling. John didn't care too much about school and my mother, with five children to support, could use the help. He went to work with the A. H. Heisey Co.

First he worked as a “carry-in” boy, who carried the glass on a shovel-like deal from the finisher to the lehr. Later he was a “carry-over boy”, who carried the glassware from presser to the finisher. There was a “warming-in boy” who took the glass by a clamp or stuck to a punty rod to be re-heated in the glory hole to make it hotter and more pliable for the final finish. I suppose he also did that.

Finally he became a “gatherer”. I think perhaps they dropped the title “boy” then. The gatherer wrapped the molten glass on the end of his punty rod and took it to the presser. He dropped it into the mould where the presser cut off the desired amount of glass with metal shears, then pulled a lever down which shaped the piece of glass. Then the carry-over boy took it to the finisher who passed it to the warming-in boy if it needed reheating.

John was not called in the draft in World War I so he went to work at Rugg Halter Factory, which was doing defense work for the government. After the war he went back to Heisey's as a gatherer and later to the etching room.

There are many types of work in the etching room. He worked his way up to become a printmaker, which he did until the factory closed. He then worked for the city until age to retire.

To begin with there is the steel etched plate, sometimes about 15 x 20 inches in size, (though many are smaller) which usually has several designs on it, according to size. With a wide bladed tool, like an overgrown putty knife, he spread the acid resisting ink or paste on the design smoothly. A thin paper was then laid on very carefully to avoid wrinkles, covered it with a thick felt pad and patted it smooth. When the felt was removed the paper was handed to a girl, (Alice Worden) who inspected it and passed the good ones to another girl (Bernice Shaw). She cut the excess paper away and fitted it to the glassware. It was “rubbed” down or smoothed with a felt pad (Mary Amspaugh). The paper was then soaked with alcohol and removed from the glass. The piece was then examined, rejected or accepted and set away for the night.

Then, except for the area where the pattern was the piece was covered inside and out with acid resisting wax. A touch-up girl touched up spots not covered and cleaned any spots which did not need covering. The like pieces were dipped into the hot wax and stuck to a board. Then the board and glassware were plunged into the acid for a specified time. It was then plunged into boiling hot water to remove the wax.

The pieces were removed from the board the thoroughly cleaned with soapy water (before the days of “Joy”), placed on wood flats to drain, then dried with linen towels. They were inspected again and wrapped ready for orders or stock.

Of course the steel plates had to be thoroughly cleaned before putting away. Most jobs were piece work and the employees made good wages for the times.

Mr. White is still living in Newark.

Reprinted from Heisey News, July, 1974

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #19

**"Elmer Howard"**

by Hilda Ryan

A business meeting took Bob to Florida in the fall of 1972. Before leaving the sunshine state he flew from Miami to Tampa, rented a car and drove to Ellenton to visit my parents. One never gets that close to Bradenton without visiting a great Heisey collector, Elizabeth Bassett. On this occasion Bob bought two items from her; a #468 Octagon with Rim celery and a pickle tray both with lovely cutting. We had always wondered if it was a Heisey cutting or one done by another company, a decorator. We had never seen it in any of the Heisey catalogues and books we had been able to see on Heisey.

It so happened one day early in 1974, when my father, Elmer Howard, was visiting us, that we used the celery tray and made the remark during dinner about the cutting. Dad said, "Of course it is a Heisey cutting. That is the way the men cut the lines down the side." I said, how do you know this, Dad?" He replied, "Well, when I worked there in the summers of 1907 and 1908 I saw them do it." I about dropped my fork. Here this family of Heisey collectors who eat and sleep this fantastic glass never knew my own father worked there at one time in his life.

All that I was able to remember was his working at the Ohio Fuel Gas Company in Newark in a building that is now gone and replaced by the city building on West Main Street. He was sales manager of the large appliances. Remember, before World War II, the Gas Company sold water heaters, stoves and refrigerators; installed and serviced by them (the good old days). After the war Dad worked in the lease dept. until his retirement in 1958. He and Mother then moved to Ellenton, Florida, to the good life.

Dad was 14 and 15 when he worked at Heisey. He worked in the shipping room. He can remember the bins being labeled with different foreign countries names and the English name of the country written under it, so they knew where to get the proper label. I had heard that Heisey was sold abroad later in its life, with people coming home with later patterns, but had no idea that when the company was a little over ten years old they were shipping overseas. So you lucky people who happen to go abroad, don't be too surprised to find a piece of your favorite old pattern as well as the later ones.

We took Dad to the former employees reception and he really did enjoy the afternoon, and also the display where he reminisced with former Heisey employees for hours. Hope next year more former employees, no matter how short a time they worked in the plant, come to the reception which will probably be in our H.C.A. home and museum the King House.

The moral of this story is, don't go out beating the bushes for information about Heisey. Ask at the next family reunion or wedding to the simple question "Has anyone here ever worked for the Heisey Glass Co. in Newark, Ohio"? You may have a surprise coming to you too.

**Reprinted from Heisey News, November, 1974**

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #20

**“Emmett E. Olson”**

by Frances Law

Emmett E. Olson was born on December 10, 1898, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin where he finished high school. He was, and is, a lover of all sports and was captain of the second eighth grade football team and also played football during his four years of high school. He then attended the Normal School in Eau Claire which later became part of the Extension School of Wisconsin University.

Mr. Olson had met a Mr. Sicard, (not the Sicard of Weller fame) and his wife, through school personnel. Mr. Sicard asked him to come to work for the Central Power Co. and he came to Newark on February 2, 1918 to work for this company. He was amazed at the increase in wages for industrial workers but the salaried people had a hard time of it. He was in charge of the stock ledgers at Central Power with a beginning salary of \$75.00 per month. He was raised to \$80.00, then to \$85.00 but it became increasingly difficult to live on this salary in Newark.

After six months Mr. Olson joined the Y.M.C.A. Here he began to teach a gym class two or three times a week. The class began with eight men but soon increased to 28. Monty Beever was an instructor in Columbus and he asked Mr. Olson to become physical instructor full time at the “Y”. William Greiser came to the “Y” as industrial secretary, his job being to start industries in participating in all phases of YMCA activities. The two men became very close in the entire “Y” program.

In the spring of 1919, he started a baseball league in Newark. He also “caught” for the Buckeye Rolling Mill. The “Y” objected to his extra activities in sports which he was doing to make extra money.

In September of 1919, he left the “Y” as physical instructor. He then dickered between the Heisey and Holophane companies to attain the best salary. Heisey won out with the lucrative offer of \$25.00 per week. They were to teach him the trade of stopper fitting. To do this the stopper is placed in a wooden chuck and spins on a belt. Emery and water is placed in the bottle and it is ground until it fits. He finished the apprenticeship in six months.

It was then that Wilson Heisey introduced him to the area of glassmaking that was to become his first love. Wilson took him to the color room where ingredients were mixed to go into the batch to control the color.

After six months of learning about color mixtures, Mr. Olson met a Dr. Shively who was in charge of the lab at the B. F. Drakenfield Co. in Washington, Pa. He invited Olson to come to his company, which he did. Continuing to visit the Drakenfield Lab for two or three weeks several times a year he learned color technology, as both the lab and technical books could be used by him. He kept in touch with the Drakenfield company until he retired. He admits to learning a great deal from Dr. Shively but says that most of his knowledge came from practical experience in the plant.

Olson said that during his early years at Heisey they were making the best lime and lead crystal in the world. They made Marigold during his years but he said it was cloudy. During most of his time there they made amber for the Fred Harvey restaurants and trains. Less amber was made in later years but they made other items besides those for the outlets mentioned above. The chemical content was changed to make amber softer and easier to handle in order to increase production.

He said that Zircon was made by adjusting the moongleam formula and control to cause the change in the color. You had to slough out the green to change the shade. As an ordinary layman it was difficult to understand the technical explanations. Mr. Olson was very patient with us but his explanations were beyond our writing scope.

He had made stiegel blue (cobalt) in small crucibles at the Drakenfield Co. and then talked Heisey into accepting the color. He first made a monkey pot to experiment and obtain good color. It was interesting to us to know that Stiegel blue was extremely difficult to clean out of the pots so that they could be used again.

The Heisey company never made any red to put on the market. It was experimented with but not practical to mass produce. Olson also said they experimented with cased glass. Wouldn't it be a real treasure to find a piece of this? We asked what became of the experimental pieces but he had no idea.

Tangerine, according to this color man, was first a golden yellow when melted in the pot. It was reheated in the glory hole to change the color to tangerine. This process was called "warming-in". The color was very difficult to control. If heated correctly the true color was halfway between ruby and yellow. That one variegated piece in tangerine and yellow in the case at the National Heisey Museum is an experimental piece. The fact that it is opaque makes it even more unusual.

When the plant closed Mr. Olson continued to work until 1960 helping to close out and he then loafed for two years before he took another job.

One interesting thing he mentioned was that he helped set prices for years. He took the cost of manufacturing from beginning to end and applied the cost to each pound of glass in the article. The price was then set and put into catalogues and price lists.

Mr. Olson married the former Alcie Schwartz in 1952. They were charming to us and generous with their time. Their attractive home certainly reflected a love of all kinds of glassware.

We salute this Heisey "man of color" and hope to see him and visit with him again soon. He didn't disclose any of his trade secrets about color and we didn't have the nerve to ask. Who knows? As active as this gentleman is he may need them again himself.

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #21

“Neil Driscoll”

by Frances Law

Neil Driscoll was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, in 1896, the year Heisey opened the factory. His family moved to Newark, Ohio when he was five years old and he attended school in Newark. His father went to work at Heisey in 1901.

Neil also went to work for Heisey when he was fourteen years old. He began his career as a “carry-in” boy. This seems to be-the-trend with young boys starting work at Heisey. As a “carry-in” boy he took the glass to the annealing oven where they warmed the glass to get it ready for the finisher. At seventeen he went to work in the hot metal department. This was to be his vocation until he retired. He gathered glass out of the furnace using a punty. A punty is a long rod with a head on one end and a larger piece welded on the other end to give a good grip on the rod.

The hot metal department had one large furnace with sixteen separate pots in one oven. Mr. Driscoll gathered the melted glass to pour into the molds. Seven pounds was the maximum gather at one time.

Neil stayed in this department until he went into the army in 1917. He was in the Light Artillery Corps and served in both France and Germany. After his discharge in 1919 he headed back to Heisey. However, at this date there were no openings, so he worked for one year at Holophane across the street. After this year he went back to Heisey, working again in the hot metal department. He obviously was very talented in this phase of glass making.

Oftentimes work slowed down at Heisey’s so he looked for a job with other companies. He found work once at Wheeling, with the Crystal Glass Co. Also he was employed by Fostoria in Moundsville, West Virginia. We asked him what caused the slow downs at Heisey’s. He said that at times there were slow orders; also if a glass company came up with a new pattern they would work full time. We think the same is true with Heisey; new patterns or new colors, business was full steam ahead. Neil said at times the furnaces had to be shut down for repairs and this, of course, slowed production.

In 1962 after the closing of the Newark plant in 1957, he went to work at Tiffin Glass Company. He soon retired as the driving back and forth was too much for a man of nearly seventy.

It is interesting to note that his father learned his trade as a finisher in Wheeling. He elected to come to Newark and work for Heisey. He was a night boss for Heisey at one time.

In order to work in the hot metal department one had to “gather” for a year, then he received a card to show apprenticeship as a gatherer. However, it took three more years at gathering before you could advance further in this area of glass making.

Mr. Driscoll does not remember making any red or black glass; and he was there long enough to know. This underscores our belief regarding these two colors.\* He did say A. H. Heisey was adventurous and tried everything. He must have been quite a guy according to our reports from employees.

The thing that is most impressive about Neil Driscoll is the pride he still feels about Heisey glass. There was a gleam in his eyes as he told us they made the best glass around, (just as we believe). He said that if you had been employed by Heisey, you could get a job with any other glass company. This is a pretty good recommendation, isn’t it?

Mr. Driscoll is married to a charming lady whose name is Margaret. He has one daughter living in Newark, who is a public health nurse. He also has three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He and his wife live at 834 Steel Avenue and I am sure he would be glad to visit with you about Heisey.

We asked him if he had any stories left over from plant work. He said there were many, but we better not get into that. I am sure if a person had more time to visit he could come up with some good ones.

We salute Neil Driscoll as a man who contributed much to our present hobby of collecting what he termed the best glass made. We couldn't agree with him more. One last thing; he was very impressed with our museum. He wants to go back and take his wife this time.

\* Experimental

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #22

“Harold Dunham”

by Frances Law

Since the salesmen were an integral part of the Heisey Company we decided it was time to find one to interview. So armed with pen and paper we found a very good prospect in Granville, Ohio and spent a very interesting afternoon with Harold Dunham.

Harold was born in Dayton where he attended Waseon school. He also went to school in Upper Sandusky and Oxford, Ohio and is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan with a major in journalism. He spent a few months with a newspaper in Toledo, then worked for the Hoover Company in North Canton, Ohio where he did work on publications for sales and employees. He spent part of the war years there. He left this position to go to work for Alcoa in Newark, Ohio during the war years of June 1943 to November 1945.

He moved onto the Heisey Company and remained there from November 1945 to January 1957. He left the Heisey plant about a year before they closed and went to Structurlite in Hebron, Ohio. He now works for the molded plastics division of Milacron in Cincinnati, and travels for them out of Granville. In an interim period he left this company for a year and a half to teach at Gahanna, Ohio. Finding this wasn't his cup of tea he went back to Milacron.

During his last years at Heisey the Company was having problems. The industry was faced with the competition of imported glassware without enough tariff on it to compete with the hand made glass. The biggest problem was trying to get protection on these foreign imports. Harold also believes the trend toward more casual living and people buying machine made glass cheaper brought about the demise of makers of fine glass.

While employed at Heisey, Harold did many things in the area of advertising, promotion, and sales. He worked on advertising for trade shows and took many photographs for folders. He also worked with salesmen from all over the country. In the years 1951-1952 he took to the field as a traveling salesman and was the Southeast sales representative covering Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee. This meant a great part of the time spent away from his family, so he was glad to be called back to the plant. Now he had gained experience on the road and in the plant.

Some of the most interesting phases of work were the trade shows and work at the sales office. A big sales show was held in hotels in Pittsburg in early January. This was the most important one, for this was the time new patterns were brought out. So, before January 1st everyone at the plant was involved in the intensive effort of making new patterns. It was a big job with many pieces of new lines. A mimeographed sheet (a sample) with the new price list and many photographs were made to show buyers. After the place was found to hold the show, the Companies reserved rooms and planned the display. To get there the Newark people left on the train at 4 a.m. There was a frantic time of unpacking the glass which had been sent ahead. It took all day to set up and display the glass as attractively as possible. This big show was just one of several during the year. When in the South, Harold helped out with the show in Atlanta.

The Heisey Company had permanent displays in Chicago, New York, Dallas, and some on the west coast. Resident salesmen took charge of these displays, changing them when needed, and also ran the area office. They had a permanent record of patterns and local salesmen could show the glassware to anyone desiring to buy for a store.

After the show in Pittsburg other Heisey offices throughout the country got the new patterns. A large gift show was held in Chicago and “open house” was held for salesmen all over the country. The Pittsburg show was not permanent as were the other areas mentioned. Usually ten to fifteen new patterns were introduced at the first show of the year. Many items were often discarded for better ones at this debut in Pittsburg. One of Mr. Dunham's jobs was to be in charge of this most important event, introducing new lines. Sometimes old and popular patterns were displayed again, and the show varied from year to year. After the show the first of the year it was easier to plan and put on other displays in other areas.



When creating a new pattern a bowl shape was usually made first. From this easy-to-form shape as many as six or seven different items could be made. These were salad bowls, sandwich and torte plates, gardenia bowls, and crimped edge bowls, etc. With the bowl shape on the end of the punty rod the finisher would roll the punty on a set of runners. While the punty was spinning the finisher could form the various articles by his adept use of tools and skillful manipulation of the hot glass.

Swung vases were made by the use of centrifugal force. In layman's terms the glass was swung from the end of the punty rod to make these varying heights of vases. (Another Heisey employee has told us that the very long swung vases, as much as five feet, were made by swinging the punty outside a window since there was not room inside).

New patterns required new molds which entailed a great deal of work and time. Molds were cast outside the plant. They were finished in the mold shop at the Heisey factory. The designer dreamed up the new patterns and then plaster of paris models were made to guide the mold makers who made pattern out of iron.

A great deal of work took place before the year's first show; ideas, models, and samples. Then the glass items had to be numbered and named. Harold said he spent a good deal of time just thinking up new or original names. Then the price list was made up. New catalogs were shown if possible. However, new catalogs were not made every year as they were very expensive to print.

The shows would draw salesmen from all over the country. They would be there to take care of their customers who, it was hoped, would place their orders at the show. In between shows salesmen were on the road calling on their customers; many orders were received directly at the plant.

There was a special set-up at the plant to take pictures of new items. Some national magazine ads were photographed and written by a professional advertising agency. These ads were submitted to the Company for approval. The trade magazines never had the time or money lavished them. The advertising agency often helped with the trade magazines, or photos were made by employees like Harold. The national magazine ads, many in color, were very beautiful and fancy as they were the ones which reached the consumer.

There was usually a space in the national magazine ads telling one to send for a free Heisey booklet (eat your heart out), showing Heisey glass uses for many occasions. One of the most popular such booklets was called Table Talk, and had a slot on the back cover with about ten different patterns illustrated. Some of these booklets have been found giving us additional information about our favorite glass. Harold helped to write copy, lay out patterns and take pictures. The advertising agency often would use some of the national magazine ads for these folders, but much of the work was done at the plant.

Among the sales activities were making up new catalogs and price lists which were needed for buyers to send in new orders. Just to reprice something was a very involved process. People with access to production would study base manufacturing costs of items and make up the new price list. The number of items per turn plus number of persons working on these items would help establish price. There were new price lists every year but not catalogs as we mentioned earlier.

The life of the salesmen was spent traveling, staying in hotels, and missing his family. The old timer would put up in a room in a hotel and arrange his samples. Then the customers were brought in to see the wares and place orders. In later years salesmen visited all kinds of stores and showed buyers catalogs and samples. In the big stores like Lazarus or Bloomfields there was one person in charge of Heisey. Heisey had good relations with many very large stores and these had Heisey sections, managed by one buyer. Many small stores in small towns also sold Heisey.

These involved extensive traveling showing samples and taking orders. Sometimes a salesman was gone on the job for three or four weeks at a time. Although it was often a lonely job it had some compensations. The salesman made many contacts and new friends at trade shows and on the road.

Harold Dunham enjoyed his years with the Heisey Company, made lots of Friends and enjoyed the good relationship between employer and employees. There was a good working atmosphere at the plant. Lots of people participated in creating this beautiful glass. Clarence Heisey was a good and creative boss, according to Harold.

During the war there was a great shortage of materials. The demand for glass was so great the sales were based on quotas to dealers.

Harold is the father of two boys and girls, all grown up and out of the nest. He is married to the former Eleanor Eschman whose father was an employee of Dennison University and well known in Granville.

We truly owe a vote of thanks to these men who travelled the roads and carried the Heisey banner to the far corners of our nation which gives everyone a chance to find himself a bit of this glass for his hobby.

Reprinted from Heisey News, July, 1975

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #23

“Lillian Miller”

by Frances Law

With all the agitation about woman's lib, we decided it was time to interview one of Heisey's many women employees. Our journey led us to the home of Lillian Miller.

Mrs. Miller was born in Newark, Ohio in 1909. She went to school in Newark, but at age fifteen she went to work for Heisey. This was the year 1924.

Lillian Miller was hired by Lou Adkins to work in the cutting shop. Here she wiped and wrapped glass. She quit work after two years, but went back in 1927. Now she worked in the tumbler room, under Mrs. Maude Lawn. Lillian wiped and wrapped tumblers. The usual number done was from 700 to 1000 per day depending on the type of tumbler. If it had ridges a brush run by a machine was used on it. She remained in this department for two years.

Lillian then moved into the stock room as an order clerk, where she assembled glass to fill orders, then the glass was put on a bench for the packer. After being packed in a barrel or keg it went to the shipping room. Mrs. Miller left the Heisey Company in July of 1948. She had worked a total of twenty four years for the company. That's filling a lot of orders.

The employees were busy all the time. Her boss in the stock room was Bud Hinger. There were three order girls and three packers. There was parcel post in the stock room operated by Jeanette Swartz and Thelma Forbes.

Mrs. Miller said the working conditions at Heisey were good. In fact she thinks it was the best place she ever worked, and she was employed by other companies later.

Her first pay check for a week was \$9. 25. She moved on to the stock room where one could get a bonus, too. Her salary was average for a woman at that time, but, alas, not equal to men's pay.

When Lillian first began work, she was considered Heisey's baby. She had to go home earlier than other workers, as she was not yet sixteen years old. When she reached her sixteenth birthday, she could work a full day.

Lou Adkins had charge of the cutting room, tumbler room, and blow shop. Mrs. Miller said she was a wonderful woman to work for.

She remarked that they were glad to see Paul Fairall every morning as he brought the orders to Bud Hinger, The orders were then parceled out to the girls.

Lillian left Heisey in 1948 to marry Clarence Miller, a deputy .sheriff. Later she went to work for Grants where she remained for nineteen years. The Millers are now retired and spend their winters in Texas.

Lillian lavished the usual praise on Heisey glassware. She said it was considered the best in the world. That is one opinion we don't dispute.

It was interesting to learn that when a Heisey employee got married they were given a barrel of glassware. There couldn't be a nicer gift, now could there?

Mrs. Miller has one daughter, one grandson and one great granddaughter. This lady is a very youthful looking and attractive to have a great grandchild. It was a delightful afternoon spent in the Millers attractive home listening to Lillian reminisce about her enjoyable years as a Heisey employee.

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #24

**“Ray Cobel”**

by Frances Law

Ray Cobel, a 42-year employee of the A. H. Heisey Company was born Sept. 17, 1883 in the tiny community of Chalfant, Ohio in Perry County. He had six brothers and sisters.

His father, George, was a carpenter by trade and built several large barns in that area. He was also skilled in cabinet work and wood carving, and undoubtedly passed along many of these skills to his son. Ray, who in his early 20's came to Newark where he began his apprenticeship in the mould department at the American Bottle Company.

As a young man Ray loved the outdoor life and devoted much of his spare time to hunting, fishing, camping, ice skating on the canal, and cycling. (He owned one of the early “Indian” motorcycles in Newark.) He was musically inclined and played trumpet in a small orchestra known as the “Buckeye Band” at local lodge dances and social gatherings. Favorite recreational areas were Idlewilde Park, Buckeye Lake, and Cedar Point.

He married Mabel Buckingham August 15, 1905. There were two children -- Virginia and Carl (both now living in the Newark area). Ray's first wife, Mabel, passed away in 1923. He was remarried in 1926 to Ruth Van Atta, who was employed at the Heisey Company as bookkeeper. They remained married until his death in 1954.

Ray began work at the A. H. Heisey Company in 1912 as a “vice hand” in the mould shop (then under the capable supervision of John Sanford). A few years later he became an understudy to Mr. Sanford and was promoted to foreman of the mould shop at the time of Mr. Sanford's retirement.

His primary duty as foreman was to design foundry patterns and moulds for pressed and blown glassware. Shop drawings were done on 3-ply Strathmore board with 6H pencils which left unalterable graphite lines (almost engraved lines) on the Strathmore surface. The tracing cloth/blue print reproduction method was not used for mould drawings by the Heisey Company at that time.

Ray usually preceded a mould drawing with a model of wood or plaster -- usually a combination of wood lathe turning and hand carving. This model, at full scale, served many functions: to evaluate proportions, weight and capacity; to determine correct parting line location and degree of draft; and as a detailed guide for vice hand work. It also served as a means of judging aesthetic values. The item was usually approved (or disapproved) at this stage by Heisey management prior to any actual mould work.

Wood patterns for moulds were made by mould shop personnel specially skilled in this work (Pete Rehbeck was outstanding as a pattern maker). Local foundries including Simpson, Wise, Athanor, and Overmeyer would then make the rough iron castings from the Heisey patterns.

When the iron casting arrived from the foundry, the apprentice moldmaker would “finish” the bottom and face of the casting (now the mould) and would mill the lugs for mould hinges. The faces of mould sections would then be “smoked” to achieve perfect bearing. The mould sections would next go to the “lathe hand” for his work, followed by the “vice hand” who would execute his meticulous carving, chipping and filing. Then the mould would receive a final cleaning and polishing with stones in the mould cleaning room and was now ready for production use. Occasionally a new mould would encounter some sort of problem when first used and would immediately be recalled to the mould shop for corrective work.

In later years Ray's responsibilities were broadened to include “trouble shooting” in all areas of the Heisey plant -- an assignment which earned him the proud title of Master Mechanic. During his foremanship Ray was granted numerous design and mechanical patents which in turn were assigned to the A. H. Heisey Company.

According to his fellow workers Ray shared his “know-how” and knowledge of company activities with his mould shop personnel. He did not believe in keeping his men “in the dark” on these matters. He was considered a

perfectionist in his work and yet a practical man. The moldmakers, self-disciplined and proud of their individual skills, worked together in an atmosphere of harmony and relaxation.

Throughout his 42 years of service with the Heisey Company, Ray enjoyed a unique working relationship with the Heisey family based on loyalty and mutual respect. Clarence Heisey, always lavish with praise for a job well done, often expressed his appreciation to Ray with a crisp new bill or a brief trip to the big city. When Clarence himself returned from a trip to Chicago or New York, he would invariably present Ray with a costly bright silk tie from Marshall Fields or Sulkas.

Ray continued his work at the Heisey Company without interruption until May 1954, when at 71, he died unexpectedly following surgery at Newark Hospital. A fitting tribute by Harry Gebhart appeared in the May 1954 issue of American Flint Magazine which is quoted in part: “. . . he will be greatly missed here at Heisey's by his many, many friends in all departments who sought his help and advice through the many years of his advisory position. Many of the fine improvements and splendid working conditions of the moulds and various patents throughout the plant will long serve as a lasting monument to his many years of faithful service to the A. H. Heisey Company . . .”

Reprinted from Heisey News, September, 1975

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #25  
"Clara McDonald" & "Fred McDonald"  
by Frances Law

The couple we are interviewing this month has devoted many years of faithful service to the Heisey Company. They live comfortably retired in an attractive home on Cedarcrest Ave. So, ladies first.

**CLARA McDONALD**

Clara was born in Lexington, Virginia in 1900. She also went to school there. Then she moved to Newark, Ohio and we forgot to ask the date.

Clara went to work for Heisey in 1919, in the etching department. She said she was extremely shy at this time and didn't look to right or left, just did her work. We would like to add that at some time she blossomed, for today she is a charming personality.

Ronald Wooles was in charge of the etching department at this time. A worker pressed prints on the glassware, and Clara's job was to apply the beeswax to glass before it was dipped in acid to make the design. The prints were made on steel plates, then they were put on pattern paper to apply to the glassware. One man in the department made the prints. Clara said she rang in in the morning and worked the full day. There was no time to view the other phases of glass making. She worked from the beginning of the year 1919 until the plant shut down in July for vacations.

She did not go back to the Heisey plant when it reopened, but went to work for Huber's bakery. She then started work after Hubers, for the W. H. Mazey's department store on the corner of East Main. She was employed there till 1922 when she married.

Clara did not work out again until 1936. On February 10th she talked to Lou Adkins about a job either part or full time. The depression was on then and not many were being hired by the plant. However, she talked to Lou on Tuesday and on Friday she was called to work, mostly on a full time basis.

She went to work in the grinding room. It was a big long room with fifteen machines in it. There was a set-up man to get the machines ready. Clara first worked at a table washing glass. They had a brush and rag to remove pumice left from the grinding. She also dried glass, applied the Heisey stamp on glass and wrapped it. Then the wagon girls picked up the glass to move it to the next stop. Clara also worked as a wagon girl.

Clara was gradually learning several phases of the work of preparing glass. She next worked in the blow shop. In fact, she was ready to answer the call to where ever they sent her. She always asked first if she was taking someone else's job for this she wouldn't do. In the blow shop she worked at the cutting off machine where she scored the item and cut it off. The glass was on a pin rotating all the time and then it went up to a little gas flame where the cracking-off of excess glass took place.

Clara also worked at the lehrs. The glass came through the lehrs which were heated to varying degrees. They were extremely hot to begin with and gradually went to cool. This is the place where the glass is tempered. She took the cooler glass off the lehr, put paper between the pieces and put them in boxes. They were sorted later. Even if the glass was cooled, it was still hot enough to necessitate the wearing of gloves. If glass was not tempered correctly it cracked when removed from the lehr. Thus there was some loss but none wasted. The broken glass was put in barrels and taken back to the mixing room. It was added to the batch and used again.

Clara worked at the plant for eleven years before she saw the process of making glass. Her hours always conflicted, as she couldn't leave her job. She had guests from Ireland who wanted to go through the plant so she took time off to show them through.

Clara was working as a wagon girl when she got hurt. She took two months off for surgery and went back to the wagons. Later, by request, she was moved to the cutting room. Here she worked as a marking up girl. She had her own table equipped with a flat board. Here she set paddles as a guide and with small brush followed lines of the

paddle with red paint. The lines were used as a guide by cutters. The cutter had a cut work pattern or could work out his own design. Clara worked in this department for about five years. Clara was the last woman working at Heisey when the plant closed. Before Christmas they started shutting down the plant, presumably for the Holidays, but it never opened up again. This was Christmas of 1957. She worked on till April of 1958 finishing up odds and ends. Some days she would work only two hours or perhaps a full day. She was prepared to do any job she was called on to do. She is retired unwillingly and would like to be at work again. She doesn't look her age (she fooled me) and is full of energy.

Clara has one son, James Cree, who lives in Houston, Texas. She has a granddaughter and two grandsons. She also has a great granddaughter who resides in California.

### **FRED McDONALD**

Fred McDonald was born in Newark, Ohio on Second Street on January 18, 1902. He attended the Newark schools. He worked first for the Werhle Stove Company, and later went to New Jersey for about one year.

Fred went to work for the Heisey Company in 1936 and during his years there he worked all the time in the shipping department. The glass was brought down to shipping from the packers. It could be one barrel or fifteen consecutively numbered. The order numbers would be on the packages so the shipper would know where to send them. If, say, there was an order for Marshall Fields it was taken out by the shippers, after the packers sent it down. It was packed in barrels or tierces which were as big as two or three barrels. The cooper shop where the barrels were made was in a separate building but on Heisey ground. Heisey made a contract with someone to make the barrels, this agreement not being a part of the plant. On the grounds there was also a barn for the hay used to pack the glass in. The hay was brought into the plant in a cart using rails. The shipping department of the plant. The shipping department then sent the hay upstairs to the packers.

An order of glass stayed in the shipping office till it was completed. The shipping department had stencil boards with the names of large cities and every State in the Union. Sometimes an order of glassware might stay in the department for a month. It was held up until a certain order of glass was made, since different items were made at various times. A large city, say New York, had names of companies from A - Z. The name of the company was put on the barrel from the stencil board. The shippers had a brush and ink and painted the name from the stencil on the barrel. The names were cut on the stencils by machine. Paul Fairall was in charge of the shipping department all the time Fred worked there. After Fred left Heisey in 1952 he went to work for the State Highway Department until he retired in 1971. He was very interesting to visit with and brought out albums of pictures to show me. We certainly enjoyed looking at these as he named various individuals, some of whom we know.

Reprinted from Heisey News, December, 1975

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #26

**“Rodney C. Irwin”**

by Louise Ream

For me it was a short walk west on Main Street from my home and around the corner on 33rd. For Ruth Irwin, it was a nostalgic journey back through her memories of her 48 years with this remarkable man. Some of her thoughts were happy and some of their hard times together, especially through the dreary years of the depression. It was for her, perhaps, an ordeal but it was an exciting insight for me into some of the workings of the company and the life of a man so important in its history.

Rodney C. Irwin was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on December 16, 1890. He died in Newark, Ohio on February 26, 1970, and was taken back to Kansas City for his burial. His family had been involved in the china and glass business for two generations. His grandfather, L. E. Irwin, was president of Irwin and Eaton Crockery and his father Joseph R. Irwin, was a china and glass buyer for leading department stores for many years. Rod had a brother and sister, both deceased.

His first job was in an advertising agency. In 1914 he went to work as a salesman with A. H. Heisey and Co. When World War I came along he went with Company A of the 117th Ammunition Train, a unit of the 42<sup>nd</sup> (Rainbow) Division which was mobilized on August 5, 1917 and landed in France in November of the same year. When the war was over he returned to Kansas City having received only minor injuries. Since he was an artist he drew the frontispiece for a book of memoirs of Company A.

Upon returning home he resumed his work with the Heisey Co. In 1922 he married Ruth Irwin of the same city. They had two children, a son Joseph and daughter Rosemary. Joe now lives in Florida, has two college age children and is a manufacturers representative. Rosemary, now Mrs. Charles Weaver, and her family live in Atlanta, Ga. They have three girls and a boy who is named for his grandfather.

Rod traveled out of Kansas City through the middle west from Minnesota to Texas. He carried his sample glassware in huge trunks which Mrs. Irwin said were nearly as big as her sofa. When he left on a trip he would be gone for six weeks at a time. He sent notices ahead to the buyers of the date he would be in each city. This got very involved because he had to have the trunks loaded on the train and when he arrived in a city would have to arrange to have them delivered to his hotel. There he unpacked, polished and arranged the glass on shelves and tables in rooms which most hotels had available for this purpose and the buyers would come to place their orders. Then it was time to pack up and move on to the next city going through the entire process again. It must have taken a lot of stamina to be a glass salesman in those days. The factory usually closed down for the hot summer weather and then Rod would have more time at home.

He was the first salesman to travel by car (or “machine” as they said in those days). He removed the rear seat and upholstery and made racks to hold his cases, now reduced in size. He had to furnish his own car and was paid mileage for using it. Many salesmen came to see how he had adapted his car for carrying his samples and they would follow his example. Gus Heisey has mentioned to us that salesmen had as many as 40 cases.

About 1930 he was transferred to Chicago to assist Walter Redfield who was in charge of the office there. After the new showroom was opened in the Merchandise Mart Rod was made manager. He brought in Lee Beardshear and broke him into the business. When Lee returned to Newark, Conrad Woefel became Rod’s assistant. Business was poor in the early thirties and Rod’s salary was cut to \$200 a month and later to only \$175. It was difficult for them to live on such a small salary and the company also cut his car mileage from 7½¢ to 5¢ a mile.

On August 7, 1933 he received a telegram from Clarence Heisey asking him to come to Newark the next day. This was in the days of quick travel by train. When he arrived he was offered the position of Sales Manager, which he accepted after the company agreed to a list of conditions under which he would take the job. Some of these included the complete authority and supervision over all salesmen and sales offices, power to appoint new salesmen and to make changes in personnel for the best interests of the company, authority to make revisions in some territories which were unbalanced or overlapped, consultation and approval of all forms of advertising, his approval and



consultation in making all new patterns, lines or articles and deciding when such new merchandise should be presented to the trade, supervision of all salesman's samples since in the past hundreds of useless samples had been sent out which were unnecessary and impossible to carry. There were several other conditions in the agreement with recommendations of improvements or changes. One of these was to place girls in large stores to work under orders of the stores but to have charge of the Heisey stock and be responsible for display and selling. The factory would train such girls and pay their salary if the store bought enough merchandise so that the salaries did not exceed 5% of the stores purchases. This was put into effect and was a great success. Mr. Irwin apparently was the first sales manager the company had.

Judging from the many letters we read, Mr. Irwin was enthusiastically received by the salesmen, advertising companies and the trade. There is more to be written about his twenty years as sales manager but that will be another story. He was allowed to remain in Chicago and pursue his duties as manager from there.

During this time the Irwins lived in Evanston, Indiana, a Chicago suburb. Here he had the good fortune to meet the designer, Royal Hickman. Their next door neighbor was an artist who knew Hickman and she introduced them. Hickman had been a designer for Kosta Glasbruk in Sweden and had done a marvelous bear for them. It was through this meeting that most of the Heisey animals came about. Rod introduced Hickman to Clarence Heisey and the result was the animal line so famous today. The horsehead bookend was already in the line but it is believed that all other items but the tiger paperweight were designed by Hickman. He also designed at least part of the figural stems including the Dancer Leg cocktail recently pictured in Heisey News.

Whenever Rod was traveling he was on the lookout for anything which could be used as a design for glassware. He went to museums and art galleries and made sketches and he often brought back pieces of glass of other companies which might suggest a new line. Then, as now, companies closely watched their competition for ideas.

The Irwins finally moved to Newark in 1944 two years after Wilson Heisey's death when Clarence had replaced him as president. They first lived at the corner of Seventh and Church Streets just three doors west of the present location of our museum. Mrs. Irwin said she recalls watching the Davidson House, our neighbor to the south which is the museum of the Licking County Historical Society, being moved and restored. They later moved to 33rd Street where she lives today with her miniature poodle, Pierre Poupee', Pete for short. Pete was a gift to Mr. Irwin thirteen years ago from his son, Joe who thought he needed company.

I realized while talking to his widow what a great person Rod had been. The papers and letters which she allowed me to read told me how well thought of he was. He was a stickler for detail and was a person whose job was his life. His record keeping was meticulous and had his records not been burned in anticipation of a move to Florida just prior to his death we would probably have a very valuable collection since he had kept all sales records for all those years.

He was responsible for many new lines, the designer of the round crest for Fred Harvey, the #1508 card box, the New Era line, and suggested, at least, the figural stems. He was responsible for the sandblasting or carving and purchased the first equipment for doing these. Carvings are designs on glass done by sandblasting and Chevy Chase, Swan Dive, Bacchus and others are examples of these. It was his idea to call in Macy's buyer from New York to buy all the old glass stored in the bins which included a lot of moongleam and flamingo. He bought it all and Macy's were able to dispose of it quickly at bargain prices and the bins were freed for new production. Horace King has often spoken about things which Rod had suggested. Other people have also told us what an important part he played during his years there as sales manager. Mrs. Irwin told me that one day Clarence Heisey wanted to give a friend an elephant and knew that a turn had just been made that day. However, when he went to get one he found that they were all gone. Employees had taken them all and it was learned that some had even been thrown out the window to friends. She said that it was well known that A. H. Heisey had said that "the first turn belongs to the men". In later years there was more security including searching of lunch boxes which did not set well with employees.

In the early fifties hard times befell the industry and efficiency experts were called in with much shifting of personnel. In the fall of 1952 Rod resigned from the company. He returned to the field traveling for Duncan Miller, U.S. Glass and for a firm in Germany and one in Sweden. He finally retired in 1967 because of his ill health and he

died three years later at the age of 80, having spent nearly his entire life with the glass industry. How wonderful it would have been if he had lived to see our national museum!

Mrs. Irwin graciously provided me with information which should be of much interest to club members and we shall be using it in future issues. She also has a very lovely cut decanter which she has offered to display in the museum.

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #27

**"Helen Pallagi"**

by Frances Law

Helen Pallagi was born in Newark, Ohio on Case Avenue in May, 1911. When she was two years old her mother decided to go back to Hungary with her family. Before her father could follow them World War I had broken out and he was unable to join them. She lived in Hungary until July 4, 1923 when the family came back to Newark as her father had decided to stay here to work. She had first attended school in the old village of Polgar, Hungary. Back in Newark she attended Hazelwood School.

Helen's first job was at Newark City Hospital where she worked for ten years in the kitchen. She then spent two years in the supply room putting together everything used in surgery, readying it to be sterilized if needed. She also put together all items to be sterilized for obstetrics. She worked alone in this important area of the hospital and at night she took a 300 hour course at a riveting school.

In 1942 she went to work for Heisey while waiting for an aircraft department to open up at Newark Stove Co. She only stayed at Heisey for four months then went to work in this aircraft plant where the pay was higher, and worked there until the war ended.

She then went to Columbus by bus every day to attend beauty school. In 1946 she was licensed after passing the state board. This was a major accomplishment as she hadn't had much prior schooling. She had also learned to speak English fluently by this time. She worked in a beauty shop for three years but was very disappointed with this job as the hours were long and the pay poor.

Helen went back to Heisey in 1949 and stayed there until the plant closed. She started in the etching department at the fifth "table". First the design had been etched or engraved on a steel plate. The printmaker spread the acid resistant ink (made of ink and beeswax) on the plate using a knife to press it into the design. He then put a piece of tissue paper over this and rubbed it very hard with a piece of felt to transfer the design to the paper. The paper was then handed to the first girl, Helen who checked it for marks and thin places and then cut out around the pattern. If there were any bad places the pattern was discarded or bad places were cut out if possible. The tissue paper used for this purpose was specially made in Sweden.

There were four girls at each table, Helen would hand the pattern to the second girl who fit the pattern on the glass. This had to be done so that the pattern centered exactly with no wrinkles in the tissue. The third girl had a piece of felt which she used to transfer the pattern onto the glass by rubbing it. This had to be done exactly for each mistake would show up when the glass was dipped in acid. The last girl at the table dipped the glass (usually stemware) in a big bowl of alcohol and the paper could then be peeled off very carefully. If it was torn she could press it back on. If the tissue pattern had not been rubbed hard enough to transfer it turned out poorly and had to be discarded. This was demanding and exacting work. The last girl had large boards to place the stemware on, stem up. These boards would slide onto shelves. After a careful inspection the shelves were rolled to other girls who put on the wax resist. All of the goblet, for example, had to be covered with wax, except the portion with the pattern, before it went into the acid for etching.

Helen showed me several tissue patterns. One she had made herself. It was #99 and was called Wreath, which was cut rather than etched. She gave her niece a complete set of Wreath cutting when she was married -- lucky girl.

While Helen worked in the etching room all were laid off except the first table. Since four girls and a print man were at each of the five tables this was quite a lay-off.

Helen was then transferred to the cutting shop where she worked with Dove McDonald. In this department they used a tool shaped like a pencil with pieces of wood sticking out at intervals to mark correct spaces according to design. A fine brush was used for this and steady hands were needed. The glass or goblet was put in front of this tool, the goblet was held by the stem and turned slowly as lines were marked. If one made a mistake the red lines were washed off and the procedure was begun again. Helen really enjoyed working in this department. After the glass was

lined it was picked up by the cutter. A cut pattern takes a long time to complete. The men who did this were real artists, cutting with nothing but their skill to guide them.

Helen said her work in both departments was most interesting. It was a pleasure to see the plain glass come out with the beautiful cuttings and etchings. It is no wonder the glass was expensive, even then, when you consider how many hands it went through.

After the pattern was cut it was very dull looking and had to be polished to make it glisten. However glass could be bought in this dull finish (gray cutting). Helen worked at a polishing machine after the cutters were through. Each piece of stemware was put into a machine with two brushes in it. When the door was closed the machine revolved rapidly. She walked up and down by two machines all day. This process had to be timed, then the glass was taken out and dipped in hot water, dried and checked. If it was not clear enough it was put back in the machine for more polishing. It took a lot of tedious work to make this beautiful glass. During a slack time in the cutting department, Helen was transferred to the blow shop to work on the glazers. In the blow room the girls used something like a blow torch. When the glass came in it was closed at the top.\* The girls used a piece of metal with a diamond point, and while turning the goblet around, scratched the place to cut off the top. Then the stemware was held against the flame to crack off the top at the place where it was marked. This left the top of the bowl very rough. A row of girls used special belts on grinding machines which went up and down and they held the top of the bowl against the belt to make it smooth. After the grinders were through they placed the glass on a conveyor. This moved the glass on the conveyor through heat to give its lustrous smooth appearance. Helen removed glass from the glazers sometimes wearing two or three pairs of gloves. Even then the glass was so hot that her thumb was usually burned. The glass cooled and was then inspected for chips or rough spots on top. Then it was laid on another conveyor and moved to a girl, usually Violet Richards, who wrapped the pieces in tissue paper and packed them in ware boxes. The girls from the stockroom put them in the proper bins.

Helen always enjoyed her work and said it was like one big family in the plant. Clarence Heisey came through the departments every day and always knew his workers no matter where he saw them. It was a very good place to work as many workers found out when the plant closed.

I really enjoyed our visit with Helen. It was a pleasure to see the joy of accomplishment shining in her eyes and to know she loves Heisey ware as we all do. Most employees seem to have the same feeling.

\* When a piece of stemware is blown in a mold there is always a bubble of glass at the top which has to be removed.

Reprinted from Heisey News, April, 1976

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #28

**"Mary Matilda Gabriel"**

by Frances Law

FLASH!! STOP THE PRESSES! This profile is about a Heisey employee who has reached the century mark plus three years. Yes, Mary Gabriel is 103 years old, and is in remarkably good health for one of her years. She was born in Delaware county Ohio on March 8, 1873. She attended a one room log cabin school for a while, but she couldn't attend for very long, as she had to help with the chores at home. She walked ten miles to get books to read after she dropped out of school. Mary continued to be a great reader until about three years ago, when her eyesight became poor. On Sunday her family ate food prepared on Saturday, and then read books or the Bible.

Mary has seen a doctor only once in twenty years; she has never been to the dentist. She is able to move about the house, usually pushing a favorite chair with her to sit in. In 1929 she lost her sight completely and the specialists said she would never see again, but in two years her vision was fully restored. She was born a blue baby but by using a little whiskey and warmth she survived. Mary won't take medicine or go to the doctor. She can see well enough to get around the house and check the clock. She hasn't been in a car for ten years, maybe because her grandson-in-law teasingly scared her.

Mary worked in a cigar factory in Newark, and she also worked at the Taft and Warden Hotels. We are not sure of the dates of this employment. We hated to ask her so many questions as she told her granddaughter, "no more questions." She is a feisty old girl whose mind seems remarkably clear.

Her grandparents were full blooded Indians, but in a very old family Bible we could find no trace of their names and birth dates; however they died at the age of 108 and 109 but we could not find when. Maybe Mary's heritage is partly responsible for her age. We learned her second cousin was Jesse James of whom she has a picture. She says the James boys were blamed for lots of things they didn't do.

She started work at Heisey in 1913 and worked there for four years. She was employed in the mold room cleaning the molds. She was about 40 years old when she began at the plant.

Mary was married twice. Her first husband was Warden Pickham who died October 6, 1916, at the age of 86. He was many years older than Mary; they had no children. She was thirty years old when she married Alonzo Eugene Gabriel, who died August 30, 1929. They had one child, Hazel, who died November 13, 1948. Hazel was the mother of Matilda Catherine Huff who so kindly gave us this information on her grandmother. Mrs. Gabriel makes her home with her granddaughter. An interesting tidbit was that Mary named her daughter Peasely (second name) after her doctor.

Mary lived first in Delaware, Ohio, moved to Columbus for a short time and her daughter was born there in 1904. Then she moved to Newark, living on Harrison Street. We didn't get the dates on these moves as it meant more questions and she was obviously tired of inquiry.

Mary had a slight stroke sometime back, but she has completely recovered so that she can take care of herself. She has lived with the Huffs for twenty years.

Believe me, I looked upon this grand old lady with awe. It boggles the mind to think of all the changes she has seen take place during the march past the century mark. We wish her still more Happy Birthdays.

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #29

**Harry "Boots" Gebhart**

by Frances Law

HARRY "BOOTS" GEBHART was born in east Newark on August 18, 1898. He attended St. Francis and Blessed Sacrament schools. He continued his education through the first year of high school. After this he worked a year at Worley's and a year at American Bottle Co. (which we now know as Owens Corning). During World War I he put in six months at Simpson Foundry.

"BOOTS" began his career at Heisey's in 1917. He did general labor on the yard gang and spent three years in general construction. In 1920 "Boots" went on the lehrs and remained at this job for 37 years. His family was really Heisey connected as two of his brothers worked in the plant. His sister sold Heisey at Mohlenpah's a store in Newark. Boots said he knew the pattern numbers, but his sister called them by etching or cutting names. This led to many interesting family discussions trying to find out who was correct. "Boots" said he had always been interested in glass per se. When he was eating he always checked out the glass used to serve in.

When glass is made and is still hot, it is run through the Lehr to anneal it. Annealing makes glass strong and tempered so it won't break. "Boots" ran the glass thru the lehrs. The temperature varies with the piece sent through; higher for large pieces. The heat can be adjusted in the lehrs. Every piece of glass had to be annealed which helped account for the fine quality of Heisey glass.

Mr. Gebhart's father came from a Pennsylvania glass company to work for Mr. Heisey. He was nicknamed "Hokie Pokie" and Boots was afraid he would inherit the name. He told us his family tagged him with the name "Boots" when he was about three years old. It was the style at that time to wear red boots and he cried around the house for a pair, hence the name. Strange to say he couldn't remember whether he got the boots or not. Once "Boots" was in a grocery store on Oak Ave., when someone brought in a piece of Heisey glass and put it on the counter. A salesman came in and saw the glass; he was taken with it and had an idea to promote the sale of his product and Heisey, too. He was sent to Clarence Heisey and he told Clarence didn't "cotton" to the idea and threatened to throw the salesman out of the plant. None of his glass was going into cereal boxes.

"Boots" started a bingo game over Mohlenpah's and he wanted to give Heisey glass as bingo prizes. He approached Wilson Heisey about this and was told emphatically that he wanted none of his glass on the shelves as prizes. All the Heisey's were very proud of their glassware and preferred to sell it in high class stores, a practice which continued until the plant closed.

According to "Boots" the Heisey closing down was brought about by poor economic conditions. They didn't turn the fires out for about three months hoping the business could be saved. Sometimes the employees worked only two days a week. The cost of producing hand made glass was fast becoming prohibitive and several plants were doomed in the late fifties, Heisey being one of them. The plant closed December 24, 1957 for Christmas vacation and never opened its doors again. The end came on May 23, 1958, when the fires were finally extinguished. No glass was made after the December date, so 1957 was the official closing. This was a sad period for makers and lovers of fine hand made glass.

Well, to get back to "Boots'" job, the lehrs were fifty feet in length and varied in width from six to eight feet. They were made out of fire bricks. The glass was brought in on a paddle or fork. The Lehr worker stepped on a pedal to open the door, the glass was put in and onto a moving screen. Each Lehr had a different temperature which was applied to the glass on the moving screen. The extremely high heat was applied for about ten feet, and then it began to cool down. By the time the glass was sorted at the other end it was cool enough to handle.

Mr. Gebhart has been married for thirty years to the former Anna Wachaya.

"Boots" remarked, as have most employees, that he really enjoyed working at Heisey's. It was like one big family and the Heisey men always knew the workers by name. The workers were allowed to go throughout the plant and mix and mingle with those in other departments.

“Boots” was Heisey news writer for the Flint Glass Magazine, the union publication. He later worked at Newark Catholic School starting in the spring after the plant was closed down. He was custodian at the school for 1958-1965, when he retired.

PROFILES of FORMER HEISEY EMPLOYEES #30

“Victor Lukasko”

by Leo J. Lukasko

Victor Lukasko was born in Krompf, Austria-Hungary on July 15, 1879, where he attended the customary six years of elementary schooling. He learned the mold-making trade in the “old country” where he became adept on both lathe and bench-work.

At about age 16, my father came to the United States and lived with his brother, Karl and his wife, in Newark, New Jersey. He attended night school while working in the immediate area. It was at Karl’s home that he met Margaret Ferenz. She was visiting her aunt, and had recently arrived from Roznou, Austria-Hungary. They were both born of German-speaking parents, had grown up in the same vicinity ‘over there’, but their paths had never crossed. It took their trips to America for them to meet.

After their marriage at Newark, N.J. in 1903, my parents set up housekeeping at New Martinsville, W.VA., where dad had work at the local glass factory as a mold-maker. In 1906 and 1907, he was employed at a small mold shop in Wellsburg, W.VA. By 1908, he had moved on to Mt. Pleasant, Pa., where he became affiliated with the Anchor Glass Company. In 1908, my parents took up residence at Westport, Maryland, a suburb of Baltimore, where my father worked in the mold-shop of a nearby glass plant. In those days, I am told by an elderly glass-worker friend that it was not uncommon for a glassworker to pack his toolbox for as little as a fifty-cents per week increase in wages and to move on to another shop, because at that time fifty-cents was a lot of money.

My father often said “the fields far away always looked greener” and so it was in 1910, that he saw an ad in the American Flint magazine advertising for mold-makers at the A. H. Heisey Co. in Newark, Ohio. At that time the Heisey mold department was regarded in trade circles as the top-shop in the whole country and paying the best wages for those who could qualify as first-class mechanics. It was soon thereafter that he made his final move and that was to the Heisey plant on Oakwood Avenue. There he made life-long friends with such personalities as the late Ted Allen and the late Harry Humphreyville, both of whom had learned the mold-making trade in England.

Dad took great pride in his work, aiming at perfection, and this was soon recognized by the Heisey family, who had him do special work for them both in the plant and at their homes. Clarence Heisey, especially, sought dad’s opinions on the practicability of making certain molds. It was in the mid-thirties that Clarence, an ardent horse-enthusiast, designed the #1 Horse Head Book Ends and selected ‘Vic’ - as he was known to his associates - to make the mold. Such a mold would take at least several months of a full work schedule to complete. Many a time I stood by dad at that bench overlooking Oakwood Avenue to watch him carve, chisel, rub, file, scrape, ‘sculpture’ - as it were - out of cast iron the mold wherein the hot glass eventually would be poured. I am told that the #1 Horse Head Book Ends were the only pieces of Heisey ware displayed at the New York World’s Fair of 1939-40.

My father in his later years was chosen to do the nature work in molds. That, I have been advised, is an art in itself. Take note of the eyes and general features in the Horse Head Book Ends. However, three of my father’s favorite pieces were the 1522 Colt, 1527 Kicking Colt and the 1529 Balking Colt. He felt that they looked so graceful. The molds for the 1522, 1527 and 1529 were made by dad.

The #1401 Empress Dolphin-footed one-light candlestick is a product from the mold made by ‘Vic’. The first run was in flamingo, and Clarence Heisey was so pleased with it that he presented Dad with a pair of these candlesticks from that first run. Another mold made by my father was for the #1252 Twist Plate, which was modified in 1952 for the Newark Sesquicentennial with the pioneer scene added thereon for a souvenir plate\* at the sesquicentennial celebration here.

Victor Lukasko respected the Heisey family greatly and also the A. H. Heisey Company. A son, Raymond, residing in Newark, learned the mold-making trade in the Heisey shop and worked there for some time after finishing his apprenticeship. I, myself - the other son - worked in the hot metal department during vacation - before and after the factory closed down for the hot summer weather - in the late twenties and early thirties of my high school and



college days. There are two daughters - Mrs. Mary Margaret (Harvey B.) Smith of Fresno, California, and Mrs. Helen (John) Dorsey of Newark, Ohio, both Heisey glassware enthusiasts.

Dad remained with the Heisey Co. until his death in 1941. The move to Newark was regarded by dad and mother as the best that they had ever made. My father was a person whose job and family were his life, and had spent his entire life with the glass industry. How great it would have been if he had lived to see the National Heisey Glass Museum! Mother passed away in 1971. Both are buried in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Heath, Ohio.

The above picture of my father is a blown-up portion taken from a group picture of employees from the mold-shop and related skills which hangs in the National Heisey Glass Museum, and which was taken in 1925 on the plant grounds at the northwest corner of the A.H. Heisey building by Worthland Studio, 240 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio.

\*Ed. note: Leo has one of these plates still in the original wrapper which was purchased at Edmiston's in Newark in 1952. The plate has both the original Heisey sticker and the price sticker, \$1.50.