

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.

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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.

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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 Vespuccius Stewart.

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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 Holophane 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.

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.

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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.