

2008 Convention Highlights



Convention Whitley Dinner honoring Eleanor and Jack Hamilton

The annual Whitley-sponsored dinner was presided over by Emmett Morgan as master of ceremonies.

The Whitley's provided a lovely, enjoyable meal and numerous members honored Jack and Eleanor Hamilton with reminiscences of past years. Floyd Whitley recalled the Waco meetings when members would sit, visit, and Jack would smoke. Though nearly all charter members it was a recollection that Jack came to the second meeting of the TCGC, and was the sixth president. Sometimes Jack would stand outside at an auction just to smoke leaving Eleanor inside with the auction number and her "list."

Dorothy Morgan stated that Jack gave her a hard time sometimes as she was the County Judge and one time "jumped on my case." Both Hamilton's were friendly and known as welcomers. For the most part Dorothy related that Jack was more interested in carnival friendships rather than the glass and Eleanor's small plates and miniatures were wonderful. One piece cherished by Dorothy is a Dugan Cherries small ruffled plate that she purchased from Eleanor. Jack drove Eleanor to Brenham to deliver it and requested a "get out of jail free" card from Dorothy.

Jerry Curtis, like Jack, was interested in bottles, though all were not carnival glass, some were the whiskey bottles and a Buddha bottle. Several bottles were shared between Jerry and Jack, some rare, and some were carnival glass. Memories included a small chicken and small plates. Jerry said, "mostly we sat outside to smoke." Jack was remembered as an outstanding former telephone company employee.

Diann Walleck remembered the Hamilton's as frequently urging her and Sylvester in the early years to do a Convention Display - which must have been a great idea and incentive as in the last few years the Walleck's have taken home several Display awards. Diann also recalled a special bottle which Jack had cut off, polished and made into a glass tumbler with an etched initial on the blanket.

Bob Grissom praised Jack for his workmanship crafting lovely pieces of jewelry and his famous Texas bolos from broken shards of carnival glass. Bob, recalling Eleanor stated, "If Eleanor's card went up at an auction, you might as well give up."



Desiree Wills commented on her first HOACGA convention with a five-couple panel and a Question and Answer session with the question, "What is the most special carnival glass that you ever got?" Eleanor's response concerned a piece which she had admired for a long time but had no money. Checking on it often she then found it was gone, but was most pleasantly surprised when she received it as a holiday gift from Jack.

Emmett gave special thanks to the Hamilton's daughter, Jere Wallace, whose commitment to auction the Hamilton Collection at the TCGC convention made the TCGC members most happy and honored to share some special pieces - especially those persons who had bid against Eleanor when she bought the items initially.