



A Texas Excursion

By Dolores Sage



Having collected carnival glass since the 1960s and having a rather extensive library of carnival research materials, I thought I was quite knowledgeable about the subject. Alas, a recent Texas antique hunt with the family soon burst my bubble. As we wandered through the aisles, we spied a large marigold pedestal-footed carnival bowl with a sign tossed in the bowl that said, Dugan.

As the predominant pattern around the bowl part of the piece looked like Imperial's Soda Gold, I smugly thought, "Another dealer with little carnival knowledge." But to further add to our confusion, the inside pattern on the bottom of the bowl looked like Northwood's Nippon pattern.

The marigold bowl, a flat-bottomed round piece with straight sides about 2 ³/₄ inches deep, was about 8 inches across. It had a clear single pedestal foot of three twig stems each with a leaf. The round sides of the bowl had the Imperial Soda Gold-looking base with a smooth, marigold large scalloped top. Inside, on the bottom of the bowl, was that Northwood Nippon-looking pattern.

It so happened that the dealer and her husband were in the booth adding some pieces to their stall. She came over and started talking and bringing the piece out of the cabinet to give us a closer look.

Luckily before I could show my ignorance, she said the pattern of the bowl was Dugan's Maple Leaf. Having a Doty's book with us, we sneaked a look. Sure enough, there was that leaf pattern — contributed to Dugan.

Of course I had to buy the bowl. As soon as we reached Austin, I grabbed Carl O. Burns book about Dugan and Diamond and read a very interesting article about my new bowl, the Maple Leaf large berry bowl. It seems that this pattern was also confusing collectors in the 1970s as to the maker. (Great! I had company.) Shards found soon determined that Northwood made the pattern in the late 1800s in custard glass, and then in 1910 Dugan produced carnival glass with the same mould.

This pattern was produced in marigold, amethyst, oxblood and a rare cobalt blue. A single small stemmed berry bowl had been seen in green. A water set, berry set, and a table set are the shapes made. Dugan's interior Peacock Tail pattern, similar to Northwood's, appears only on this Maple Leaf berry set. No mention was made of the similar exterior appearance to Imperial's Soda Gold.

As a further note, the leaf pattern on the pedestal foot looks more like a Northern oak leaf rather than a maple leaf. One wonders why. My new-found Dugan bowl, the Maple Leaf, now has prominent place in one of my cabinets and I'm a bit wiser.

