



Jane Dinkins: A Carnival Glass Person to Know

By Carol Cinclair

On February 28th at the yearly business meeting of the Texas Carnival Glass Club, Jane Dinkins signed formal papers donating all (except for a few tumblers) of her one thousand plus pieces of Carnival Glass to the Texas Club. She told the club officers to do with it as they thought best. Her only request was that it be displayed in libraries, museums and schools before being sold so that others could learn about the glass. She said she did it, "...for the good of the glass."



But who is this amazing, generous woman? Well here is the "**rest of the story**" as Paul Harvey used to say.

Ninety-one years ago Jane was born in Houston, Texas. She was the only child of a single, working mother. Her mother was one of only two women who worked the Houston real estate market in the 1930's. Jane grew up respecting her mom's work ethic and graduated from the University of Texas in 1938 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology. One summer night in Austin she went on a double date with another couple and met L.L. Dinkins. L.L. was working on a B.A. in English and history. He was also the only child of a single, working mother. She felt that they had an immediate bond because of their only-child, single-working-mother status. Later in life, when she wanted to get a job outside the home, L.L. was never threatened by the image of a "working wife." She was always grateful for his attitude. Jane graduated first from U.T. and they married in 1940.

The 2nd World War came along and the young couple moved to San Diego where L.L. performed his patriotic duty by serving in the Navy. Although the war seemed long to Jane, peace did eventually come, and L.L. Jr. was born in 1945. Jane says that her son was born in the period between the peace treaty signing in the European theater and the peace treaty of the Pacific front.

After the war, Jane and L.L. came back to Texas. L.L. got a law degree from South Texas School of Law and they both went to work at American Republic, which eventually became Sinclair Oil. Jane was a geophysical draftsman and L.L. did legal work. He was more of a "land man," Jane said.

Tragedy struck when their son died in his early twenties, leaving behind a young child of his own. Jane and L.L. adopted this boy, naming him L.L. III. In 1996 L.L. died and in 2005 her grandson passed away from throat cancer. Recently, she also lost her cat, a long time friend and companion.

Jane says that L.L. was a "trader." He liked to buy and sell things. He bought and sold farms, land, tools, glass, etc. And that is how they got into Carnival Glass collecting. L.L. was the collector and Jane was the cataloger. In 1979, the Dinkins and seven other couples got together to form the Texas Carnival Glass Club.

Jane served as research editor for our newsletter for almost twenty-five years. Floyd Whitley was elected as the first president. Over the years, she has opened her home many times to show her glass and help others learn about it.

The Dinkins collected their glass at flea markets and antique stores. They bought whatever they liked. Jane doesn't have a favorite pattern. She likes it all. However, tumblers have always been her favorite shape. Jane has never been a Carnival Glass snob. Although she has some very expensive pieces, she also loves the inexpensive pieces just as well.

Now, she has given it all to the club. She said that if she were to sell it herself or wait until after her death, the glass would have to be catalogued, evaluated, capital gains payments made, estate taxes assessed, etc. She doesn't like the idea of the government getting a portion of her glass. By giving it to the club now, she can see what the club does with the glass while she is still alive. Sharing the glass with others is her joy.

So that is the *rest of the story* and now it is up to the club to share the glass with as many people as possible.

Thank you, Jane, from all of us.