

Club/Show History

By Martie Grubenhoff

The RMDGS began in 1973 with ads placed in the local Denver newspapers for those interested in establishing a depression glass collecting group. Members came from as far away as Greeley, Boulder, and Calhan, Colorado. A few of you will remember some of the founding members and dealers Charles and Zeta Todd. Since depression glass was scarce in the area, local collectors subscribed to and ordered mail order glass from dealers advertising in *The Daze*, long before the advent of the Internet and eBay. Soon members suggested having a depression glass show, and the first show was launched at North Valley Mall in 1975. Special guest was Hazel Marie Weatherman. During the next 40 years shows were held at Lakeside Mall, North Glenn Mall, the Regency Hotel, the National Western complex, Holiday Inn at I-70 and Chambers Road and finally here in Castle Rock.

Over the years special guests have included Hazel Marie Weatherman, Gene Florence, Nora Koch, her daughter, the Huxfords of Fiesta fame, Bill Heacock, Myrna and Bob Garrison, the Mauzy's, Randy and Debbie Coe, Bob and Helen Jones, Hugh Grant of the Kirkland Museum in Denver to name a few.

Among the original dealers were Brad Allen's mom, Helen, and club members, Ken and Martie Grubenhoff who only had enough glass for half a booth and are the only dealers to have done all 41 shows!

There have been numerous dealers including Eric Fralick, Art and Shirley Moore, Carol McEwan, Judy Schmidgall, Jodi and Mark Uthe, Sandy Walker, Linda and David Adams, Sandy and Dennis Boone, Linda Huckriede and Dale Riendeau, Brad and JoAnn Mann, Sandra Nance, Brad Allen & Gene Cooper, Dennis Canavan, Glenn & Carolyn Robinson, Nancie Kobza and club members Harvey Richards and Will Garcia, Dick Glaser and Julie Wentz that have been the backbone of the show and we appreciate their support of the club over the many years.

Shows don't happen on their own; we know there are people responsible for their planning and execution. Some will remember Paul Shaw and Lynn Waits, who chaired the show for many years. Jo Ellen Winther picked up that role when they retired, and Mike Horine then facilitated the move to Douglas County and served many years as show chair. Tom Cotter and Tina Broderson took over as show chairs after Martie Grubenhoff "retired". Jo Ellen has also graciously stored the club's show "props" and hauled them to and fro. Others have contributed their time and talent including Roberta Hankins who has coordinated displays for many years, as well as serving as president. We have also appreciated the involvement of the Denver Pattern Glass club with their support and informative displays.

It is important to get the word out, and from our advertising surveys we know that many patrons attend because they received a card in the mail or picked up a card at a show or shop. Tom and Tina, along with Keith Yahn and Ken Grubehoff have been tireless in getting the cards to shops and shows.

It does take a team to make a show successful. You dealers are a part of that team. We appreciate your support this year and all the previous shows of which you were a part. There have been many other dealers who have participated in our show over the years and we have not forgotten their loyalty to our show. It is bittersweet for us in the RMDGS club that this is our last show. We hope to see you around at other shows and wish you a successful show and safe travels.

We hope that we will see some of you at Jodi's show at the Budweiser Event Center in September.
