

(Heisey News Article February 2012)

Cochran Challenge Update

By Mary Cameron, Endowment Fund challenge Chair

“Heisey Friendships”

Are you ever asked, “Why do you collect Heisey glass?” I get that question all the time from friends when making trips to Ohio for HCA Board meetings, auctions or convention. My quick answer would probably be similar to yours; “I inherited my mother’s Heisey glass, or I like all of the different colors, or cuttings or my favorite pattern is....” After thinking about it for a little bit longer though, I believe there is another reason why we all love to collect Heisey glass - collecting Heisey glass is about friendships.

The biggest benefit of being a Great Plains Heisey Club member has been the new friendships made. We look forward to our club meetings that provide us opportunities to be with friends and share our Heisey stories. Collecting Heisey glass has always been fun, but sharing it with other people that have the same passion is fabulous. Collecting Heisey glass has opened up a new world for socializing with others who share this same “craziness”.

These friendships mean it was possible to meet Heisey friends for dinner after attending an antique show in Portland, Oregon. It means traveling to Kansas City to celebrate a Club member’s 80th birthday and being stranded in Mason City, Iowa during a blizzard with Heisey friends. Antiquing across Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, we have met up with Heisey friends in various antique shops along the way. It also means having Heisey friends from other states traveling through Des Moines calling us for a quick lunch or dinner. We have attended auctions and antique shows in other states with members from the Great Plains Heisey Club. We would not have any of these connections if it were not for our common love of Heisey glass

The first year we went to HCA Convention, we met a couple at the Heart of Ohio Antique Center. We must have had that Heisey glazed look on our faces because they approached us and said, “Are you on your way to the Heisey Convention?” What has become a tradition each year is meeting these Heisey friends at Heart of Ohio, going to dinner and then heading on to Newark the next day. Invitations to visit Alabama, California, Indiana, and Virginia to see friends’ Heisey collections have been offered. Nobody, but another Heisey collector can understand our obsession with buying and collecting glass. Collecting Heisey glass has helped to develop and nurture many wonderful friendships through the years.

What does this have to do with the Cochran Challenge? In December, the Great Plains Heisey Club raised money for the Cochran Challenge through a mini-challenge matching gift from Rex and Pat Lucke. When discussing the success of our fund raising efforts with club member Trudy Mock, she asked, “Do you know what makes our club so active?” “It is the friendships developed by members in this club”, she said. “We are more than just a club about collecting glass; we are a club about great friendships.” Trudy is correct about the importance of relationships in the success of our club and they are just as important in the success of the Heisey Collectors of America.

When we go to the HCA convention, in addition to looking for that special piece of glass, we are also looking to see the many Heisey friends we have made through Heisey Collectors of America. Supporting the Cochran Challenge to continue the future of this great organization and the National Heisey Glass Museum is about our love of Heisey glass and just as importantly about nurturing our relationships with our Heisey friends.

The enjoyment and comfort friendships can provide, makes the investment worthwhile.