

HUNTERS, GATHERERS Fascinating colored glass

By ANDRE

The bright swirl of colour imprisoned in glass has a lasting fascination for me, perhaps because of happy childhood memories of Sunday spent at the houses of my two great aunts, both owners of china cabinets filled with glass objects, some useful, some not, but all pretty, so that every Sunday became a kind of Christmas.

Graciously the contents were set out for me to study carefully while the grownups talked with one eye on the "child," ready to pounce if I showed the least sign of clumsiness.

The paperweights were my favourites. I never tired of the spirals and thousand eyes of those deliciously smooth glass magnamas. Heaven knows where they are now. I wish I knew. They must be worth a ransom.

The snowman was the piece de resistance of the collection. When you held him upside down he became invisible but if you shook the glass ball gently, snow showered him in glistening white. It remained a weekly treat as miraculous as the sailing ship in a green bottle on my grandfather's sideboard.

This Sunday, being bright, I went to the Snelgrove Market. As usual I hunted around for a paperweight. They are not common anymore but I have been lucky on occasion. I asked a friendly stallholder if any ever came his way.

"I have two at home," he said, "but I want over \$200 each for them."

They were apparently unmarked, unsigned, so I assume they were either old British or American since it has always been the policy of the French and Italians to sign their weights. In fact the French seem to have cornered the market, price wise at least.

According to my copy of 1976 Sotheby Parke Bernet's Guide to Pricing Antiques, a three colored swirl, 18th century Clichy paperweight, three and a half inches in diameter, sold last May for \$1,800. In Belgravia several 19th century ones went for around \$800. On the other hand some British 20th century sulphide magnamas containing busts of famous figures only fetched a \$150 although a Stourbridge milleflore magnam was sold for three hundred and sixty.

The reason for the high eighteenth century prices is clear, as this was a period of artistry in glass such as we will never see again but the high value set on these objects d'art from our own century is a little mystifying since Baccarat still produces colourful paperweights quite cheaply, though not nearly so beautifully. England also regularly issues sulphide magnamas containing famous faces.

I saw a present day Baccarat weight sold locally for

\$40 yet I came across a much prettier one by St. Clair which I gladly purchased for an insignificant sum. All in the luck of the game.

Small objects are a boon to collectors with very little shelf room. Animal, cook and house wares, toy soldiers and every kind of miniature has been produced by manufacturers throughout the centuries. Even today some attractive metalware wheelbarrows, telephone, gramophones, etc. are still being made for collections. The Glen Williams Country Concession has a good stock of these, and who knows a little later on you may be able to augment the collection with a few antiques thus lifting it out of the ordinary into something special.

The bad old days of Japan's copycat reproductions have gone. Now they export some beautiful china artwork especially in miniature pots and animals which can lend colour and interest to some dark corner.

Small things can be every bit as interesting as the larger pieces and they don't break so easily. One or two really fine old pieces are all that is required to give the collection merit and distinction.

Trinkets for instance don't take up much room and are dainty enough to be admired without any great expense involved. The old metal ones are valued for their historical import and the florals in china are decorative. The silver and gold not only enhance the collection but are in themselves valuable for their metal content.

I am surprised, when at auctions, to see ivory and silver buttonhooks and other small feminine tools go so cheaply. Pin cushions too frequently turn up even in garage sales, some velvet, some straw, and some tucked into napkin rings.

Miniature railways and exact copies of engines such as those produced by Hornby in the thirties have virtually disappeared but bits and pieces do turn up. A very small part of a Hornby set circa 1940 was sold recently in London for \$180 dollars while a wooden scale model of a British destroyer fetched \$45.

Clockwork toys and tin soldiers should be wrapped and put away safely for a rainy day.

Perhaps the present enthusiasm for gathering unconsidered trifles seems a little bizarre to those who think in terms of Chippendale and Spode, but consider the dollar bill, it becomes more trifling by the hour so maybe, just maybe it is a good time to think about starting a collection.

Forgotten things that lie and rust
Or some small object gathering dust
Might add to someone else's pleasure
Trash for one, another's treasure.

Film rental fee hike proposed by library board

The fee for renting film projectors from Halton Hills libraries may be increased.

At the meeting of the Halton Hills library board Oct. 12, there was a discussion as to whether or not the fee for renting projectors should be increased from the present \$3 for a 16 mm projector and \$2 for an 8 mm projector.

There is also a handling charge or service charge of 25 cents being charged per film.

The board is concerned with that accounting shows the charges don't cover the cost of the repairs necessary on the projectors because of misuses or abuse. Chief librarian Betsy Cornwell said the charge doesn't begin to cover the capital cost of purchasing the equipment.

One of the solutions the board considers is to do away with the film charge and increase the charge for renting a projector. One of the problems with charging for the films is the reduction in cost which the library receives in purchasing films for educational, non-profit use. It would be impossible to justify this reduction if people are charged for the films, Mrs. Cornwell said.

The Mississauga library has a voluntary insurance fee for their films, where 25 cents will cover up to the first 50 feet of damaged film. The fee is not compulsory, but those who don't pay are liable, should anything happen to the film. People taking out films from the Halton Hills library are borrowing them on a kind of contract basis and not on the card. Mrs. Cornwell informed the board. The person borrowing the film accepts responsibility for it.

Some of the board members expressed concern that increasing the charge for renting projectors would make it less accessible to some people. Mr. Cornwell said that was not likely and pointed out that even at present rental rate one projector is out every night in the busy season between September and April

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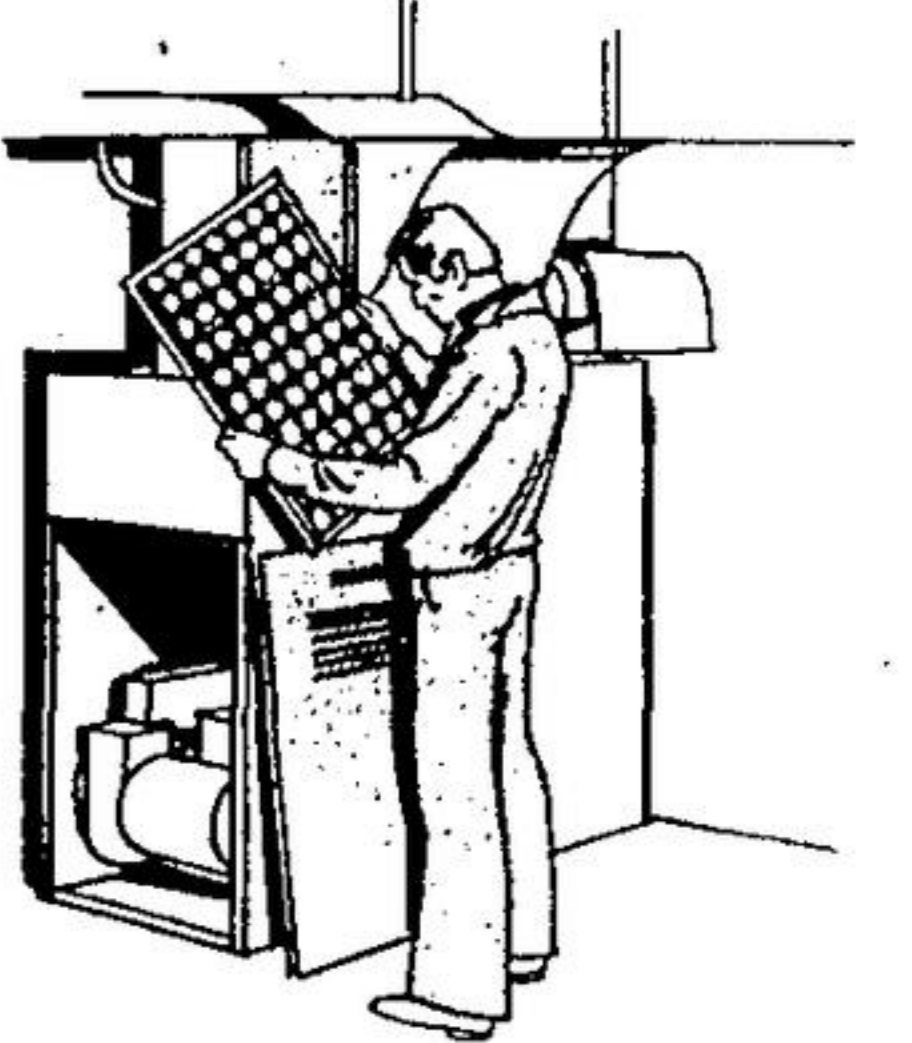
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Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations and the Ontario Ministry of Energy.

The two ministries are cooperating to inform Ontario residents about how proper home insulation can help offset increasing energy costs, and to point out other ways of conserving energy.

Facts about insulation are included in the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations' interesting bulletin "Insulation: Heat in Your House, Money in Your Pocket." It covers such matters as:

- the meaning of R-value and vapor barrier
 - proper ventilation
 - types of insulation material
 - how to check your home for existing insulation
 - finding a reliable contractor
 - information to help you understand the customer-installer contract
 - how to check the completed job
- For a free copy of the bulletin, write to:
Consumer and Commercial Relations/Home Insulation,
Queen's Park,
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2H6



Other ideas on how to save energy and money are included in the Ministry of Energy's booklet "Energy Conservation. The Choice is Yours." Among the money-saving suggestions:

- lowering daytime and night-time temperatures
 - installing storm doors and windows
 - replacing air filters on warm air heating systems once a month
 - closing window drapes on winter nights
- For your free copy, write to:
Ontario Energy Conservation Program
Ministry of Energy
56 Wellesley Street - 12th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2B7



**JOYCE
BEATON**

Need to be needed

People come and go in our lives. Some touch us for just a moment, others stay the allotted time and move on.

Many times this coming-together seems predestined. That was the case when the three young Knox boys came to live with us. What began as a need for them to be mothered and cared for, ended my need to be needed.

It was October, a cold raw day when they came to our door without proper clothing. Their father, a good guy who was at his wits' end, was almost in tears. He had been travelling back and forth to the East Coast all summer trying to convince his wife to come home to her four children. There was a baby girl as well. Mother had come to the end of her rope. The family had been living in a small trailer and she couldn't take it any longer. She would return when her husband could provide suitable accommodation.

It was no trouble finding a home for the baby girl but who would take three upset rambunctious young boys? They couldn't live in the car any longer (this is what they'd been doing for three months) and the older boys should be in school.

In they came. I didn't see how I could handle the situation. It was just a month since I'd received the word my baby daughter had a short time to live. She was in the hospital and these three young boys were all I needed!

Actually, it was just what I needed. Maybe not three of them, but a diversion from my own problems. I had my 2 1/2-year-old son recuperating from a serious operation but he wasn't enough to keep me from fretting.

The Knox boys were! They had lived so long in a cramped trailer they weren't accustomed to eating from a table. They cried at night for their mother and the middle one didn't miss a night wetting the bed. The youngest was a terror. He wouldn't eat anything but porridge and ran like a wild animal.

My church, friends and neighbors quickly gathered some clothing together and by the time the boys left two months later, they were far better dressed than my own! The older two began school which lightened the load a bit through the day.

So desperate were these young boys to identify and belong, they would call me mommy and insist to their school friends that we were their parents. My heart would ache for them and of course I played their game.

It was December 10 when Mr. Knox came back for the boys. He had found a house to rent and his wife was returning. As tired and frustrated as I was with them at times, I felt very sad at their leaving. But the timing was preordained. Three days later our daughter died.

The story of the Knox family has a happy ending. However, it gets worse before it gets better.

I looked them up at Christmas to take some gifts for the boys. I found them living in a terrible old house, the boys sleeping each end of an old couch with the springs showing through. The house was cold and Mr. Knox was off work with pneumonia.

Within two weeks, the local service clubs saw to it they had furniture, bedding, linoleum on the floor and a washing machine, stove and refrigerator. It was probably the best Christmas they ever had.

The last time I saw them, Mr. Knox was back on his feet and things were "normal", happier than this young family had ever dreamed of being.

That was 21 years ago. I was 24 years old. How I'd love to see them now, all grown up!

Nurses, region OK 1976 wages

Agreement has been reached in a contract dispute between Halton Region and its 50 public health nurses, members of Local 1 of the Ontario Nurses Association.

Ratified by the nurses Oct. 12 and by regional council Oct. 19, the contract is retroactive to Jan. 1, 1976, and gives the nurses a 6.9 per cent wage increase in the first and 5.3 per cent in the second of a two year contract. The nurses were with out a contract for 22 months and the present one runs out Dec. 31 this year.

George Gray, chairman of the board of Health, told The Herald in an interview that already the two parties have agreed to meet early in January to begin negotiations for the next contract.

Dennis Carrm, Halton's director of personnel said under the old agreement nurses earned between \$12,072 to \$13,572. Average backpay for the nurses will amount to about \$1,900 less deductions.

One reason for the lengthy negotiations is because of industry wide bargaining, Mr. Carrm said.

The nurses originally asked for a three-man compulsory arbitration board the partly with hospital nurses. The partly demand was dropped but only a one-man arbitration board offered which the nurses rejected.

In May, 1976, the nurses struck for a week and were locked out for a week.

\$4,000 raised

The October meeting of the Georgetown Ladies Auxiliary for the Mentally Retarded met on Monday, Oct. 17 at the home of Mrs. L. Fudge.

During the business meeting the treasurer reported that over \$4,000 was to be turned over to the North Halton Association received from the Flowers of Hope Campaign.

The members are placing pamphlets printed by the North Halton Association on Mentally Retarded in various offices about town.

The ladies will make donations to help with the Christmas parties at the Developmental Centre and Tinker Bell Nursery.

Tickets are available from members and about town for the Cash-For-Life draw. The first prize will be \$1000. a month for life.

Christmas cards for the Mentally Retarded are being sold and orders may be given by phoning 877-7048.

There will be an open house at Sunshine school October 28 and at A.R.C. on Nov. 24.

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CAS budget proposal

The Children's Aid Society (CAS) will be presenting its budget proposals for 1978 to the regional community and social services committee Oct. 31.

Once the proposals have received approval at the regional level, the society will make its presentation to the ministry of community and social services. According to a society spokesman, they will be ready to talk to the ministry by Nov. 8.

The ministry has not distributed its spending guidelines, so the budget will be what the spokesman termed "a ballpark idea of the needs for 1978"

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