

Millersburg Glass Association Newsletter

Fall 2022 Edition — Volume 2, Number 4

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## Millersburg Glass Association

PO Box 406

Millersburg, Ohio 44654-0406

Editor: csieverdes@gmail.com



***The Fall issue will provide information regarding the three remaining Amethyst People's Vases. In the Spring and Summer issues we covered the ownership list and stories of the Blue, Green, Marigold and two of the Amethyst Vases to complete our list of eight known vases.***

*The editor appreciates the role provided by a long list of collectors and resource people to explain the transactions and human interest stories related to the ownership path of these eight People's Vases. In doing this research the people are as fascinating as the glass they owned. If you see incomplete or inaccurate information please contact me.*

*I thank the many resource people, Pete Bingham, Aaron Hurst, Galen & Kathi Johnson, Randy Jones, Christina Katsikas, Gary Likver, Steve Lindquist, Steve Maag, Tom Mordini, Billy Rogers, John Rogers, Gary Sullivan, Stacy Wills, and Jim Wroda for their valuable knowledge.*

## **Number 6. Amethyst People's Vase Ruffled Design**

This is the chain of ownership of the Amethyst People's Vase owned by John Rogers of Kittrell, North Carolina for 22 years from 1996 to 2018.

The story of the Ruffled Amethyst People's Vase with a vertical crack on one side was reported by Christina Katsikas on her website and John Rogers and Chris Sieverdes in person.

The story goes like this. "Two People's Vases came from Jon Lambert at Mebane Auction in North Carolina in June of 1996. Both vases had been found at a yard sale in Raleigh, NC. We were aware that John Rogers and Don Hamlet were at the auction house and had seen them" (Source: <http://www.carnivalglassshowcase.com/product/millersburg-peoples-vase-amethyst-vase.html>.)

The Ruffled Amethyst Vase with the mild, vertical crack in the side was purchased by John A. Rogers and first wife, Jeanette, (Patricia 2<sup>nd</sup> wife) at the Mebane Antique Auction Gallery in Mebane, North Carolina on US 70 between Greensboro and Hillsborough. In 1996, he purchased the Amethyst Ruffled People's Vase for \$13,500 in the company of his good buddy, Don Hamlet. He held this Amethyst Vase for 22 years along with a house full of carnival glass. John Rogers had a massive collection that filled every room including the bathroom. He had constructed shelves near the ceiling along all four walls in every room. No matter where you sat down in the home, you could see glassware everywhere. He certainly displayed his collection with pride. The amethyst vase sat amongst his wonderful collection. Even with a crack on one side, it is still an excellent showpiece. One has to just position it the right way and the crack disappears from view..

John Rogers lives in the eastern North Carolina. John is the ultimate, charming, Southern Gentleman with the proper accent to go with it. He is a most gracious gentleman who was loved by everyone in the community. If he had run for office, he would have won every time. So gracious! The family patriarch with many

### **Owners** **Amethyst Ruffled-shape** **People's Vase Owners**

Earlier Owners are unknown  
Found in a yard sale in Raleigh, NC  
Jon Lambert  
John and Patricia Rogers  
Dr. Chris Sieverdes (MG Museum)

members.

On November 28, 2018, in a private transaction at his home, John Rogers sold his Amethyst Ruffled People's Vase to Chris Sieverdes for placement in the Millersburg Glass Museum. This attractive Ruffled Amethyst People's Vase was displayed in the Millersburg Glass Museum beginning December 1, 2018.

The following is an excerpt from **Christina Katsikas' website**. The title of the article is "Millersburg People's Vase Amethyst Ruffled Vase."

*The famous Millersburg People's Vase, also known as the "Holland Vase", has been reported in blue, green, marigold and amethyst. I don't know of any that have recently surfaced within the last ten years. They are the most coveted, the most expensive and the most historically recorded (for their provenance's sake) than any other vases in Carnival Glass.*

*John Rogers has owned this amethyst one for over fifteen years now and has enjoyed it very much. He claims it may be the prettiest of the very few amethyst versions known.*

*I asked John, over the telephone, if he would convey the dimensions of this vase to me. I told him that so far, in all the articles I could find, no one has mentioned the height and width of one of these beauties. We both giggled and agreed it would have helped me to own one, so as to be able to get the measurements, but since there were less than a dozen known it would be difficult to obtain one in the "name of research". I can only dream but having good friends like John & Patricia is the next best thing! Needless to say, he was happy to oblige me and said, in his wonderful, deep, southern drawl, "Why, it's 11" tall and 7" wide."*

*He also assumes it is likely that the height of the "straight-up" versions of the Peoples Vase would be slightly taller because they had not been ruffled down and out. Good point John. Thank you for your insights and for letting us enjoy your vase here on Showcase. ~ Christina*

*Many thanks to Ray & Shirley Henry, for taking the pictures of this vase (and that of John & Patricia Rogers's biography page) during their visit to the Rogers's home in May of 2015. Now that's what I call teamwork!*

*There are not many of these known to exist today. They're highly praised and prized possessions to the lucky few who own them. To read all about their fantastic history, go to this link for the best article ever researched, written by [Glen & Stephen Thistlewood](#). It's a fascinating read. Thank you to the Thistlewoods for preserving a great piece of iconic Carnival Glass history - The John & Patricia Rogers Collection. (Source: <http://www.carnivalglassshowcase.com/product/millersburg-peoples-vase-amethyst-vase.html>.)*

## **Number 7. Amethyst People's Vase with Ruffled Top**

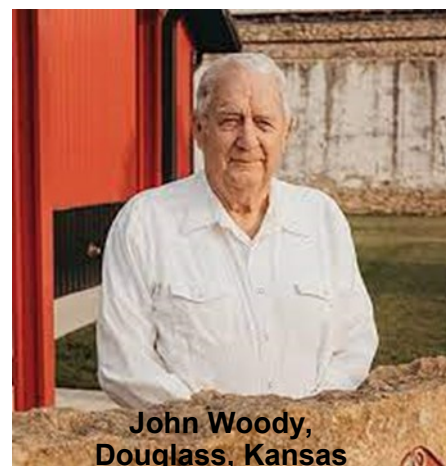
In the 1960s Florence Martin paid someone in the Millersburg OH area \$700 for this vase. At a later date Florence sold it to Robert "Pinky" Fortune, a shoe cobbler in Coshocton, OH in the next county for \$5,000. She bought it back before he died and apparently then sold it to John Woody. It has been reported that an Amethyst People's Vase with the Ruffled Design was found 'in the boondocks' by John Woody. John Woody co-founded Woody Auction in Douglass, Kansas, near Wichita. He was born in 1942 and died of a heart attack on September 28, 2020. He had a reputation as an skillful but honest businessman and mentor to other glass collectors.

Unfortunately, in May 1969 a fire occurred at the Wishard Museum that was home to the \$100,000 Wishard carnival glass collection. The fire that wiped out half of one of the largest carnival glass collections in the world.

According to a seminar video given by Floyd Whitley in 1995 on the HOACGA website ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIPnA7\\_jJKM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIPnA7_jJKM)) the Wishard's had a museum full of carnival glass.

The fire was reported in the Chambersburg newspaper in the May 30, 1969 issue. See the newspaper report below.

*Chambersburg, PA – Friday, May 30, 1969. "Carnival Glass Lost in Flames Second Best Collection in U.S." – It took 19 years to get something that was gone in three hours. Mr. & Mrs. Raymond G. Wishard are*



**John Woody,  
Douglass, Kansas**

still in a state of shock from the fire last Friday that destroyed half the \$100,000 collection of carnival ware in addition to extensively damaging their home. The collection has been judged as second best in the country, according to O. Joe Olson of Kansas City, Missouri, editor of the "Carnival Glass News." Wishard said that in terms of sentiment, the collection was worth a million bucks. Several pieces lost cannot be replaced. Wishard, a contract hauler, and his wife have entertained many collectors in the last four or five years, who came to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania to view the collection. The fire started in the kitchen. It was said that the People's Vase was used to hold up a window so the smoke would clear.



**Floyd M. Whitley,  
Houston, Texas**

O. Joe Olson took a photo of John Woody, Charles Thrawley and Taylor in 1972. Thrawley is seen holding a ruffled Amethyst Peoples vase. Photo credit goes to "News & Views - Carnival Glass" Vol. 15 No. 1. Jan 10 1977. (Source: Glen and Stephen Thistlewood, <https://>

[www.carnivalglassworldwide.com/peoples-vase.html](http://www.carnivalglassworldwide.com/peoples-vase.html)). See also another source of this photo above: <http://www.internationalcarnivalglass.com/carnival-glass-articles/carnival-glass-top-ten/>

Tom Mordini stated in a story, titled "Carnival Glass Top Ten" on the International Carnival Glass website that the "stove pipe" design was common to the Blue, Mari-gold, Green and one Amethyst People's Vase. It proves that they all came from one mold. The "flanged" or "ruffled top edge" familiar to the four other amethyst vases was created when the glass vase was still warm and malleable. The workers who added this design feature were paid a wage of approximately \$1.50 a day or 50 cents more than the other workers for their special skill as craftsmen and shapers.

In March 10-12, 1977, the Wishard estate including significant carnival glass was sold at the Woody Auction in Louisville, KY. According to the Lincoln-Land Carnival Glass Club News, Jack & Liz Wilson stated it was the largest collection ever auctioned. Included in the auction was an Amethyst Ruffled People's Vase where it was sold to Floyd and Cecil Whitley of Houston, TX. Woody sold the Amethyst Vase to Raymond and Anna Wishard, of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The Wishard family sold it to the Whitley's. At some point, the Whitley's owned three People's Vases.

Floyd and Cecil Whitley sold the Ruffled Amethyst People's Vase in 1998 to Randy and Jackie Poucher Minnesota. Jackie Poucher was owner of this Amethyst People's Vase for approximately 23 years.

At some point after Randy Poucher's death, Jim Chapman, a family friend of the Poucher's contacted Jackie to buy it as a surprise for his wife, Bette Chapman. The Chapmans were very active collectors in the 1990s. Originally Jim Chapman was a ship builder in Milwaukee. Jackie Poucher sold it to Jim Chapman in a private sale in North Carolina. It sold for an undisclosed amount sometime around 2001.

Bette Chapman sold it to an anonymous collector.

**Owners  
Amethyst People's Vase  
with Ruffled Top**

Florence Martin  
Robert "Pinky" Fortune  
Florence Martin  
John Woody  
Raymond and Anna Wishard  
Floyd and Cecil Whitley  
Randy and Jackie Poucher  
Jim and Bette Chapman  
Anonymous Collector



KINGS OF THE GOLDEN MOUNTAIN -- Taylor, Woody and Thrawley in 1972

By O. Joe Olson



## **Number 8. Amethyst People's Vase with Straight-up Design**

It is believed that this Amethyst People's Vase came from the Millersburg Glass Factory in damaged condition. It has two spot welds and some significant cracks. However, it is a very attractive Amethyst People's Vase in terms of its color and iridescence.



*According to legend, during a private viewing by Floyd Whitley and others, a piece of the vase fell off the bottom of the vase. By good fortune, the shard landed on the boot of Floyd Whitley and bounced onto a carpet intact. The chagrined owner, whoever it was, glued the fragment back in place on the fragile vase. Keep in mind that this is part of the legend of the vase.*

In about 2002 Stacy Wills bought the vase on Ebay from a man in Buffalo, New York. He paid \$5,000 for the vase.

In 2006, Stacy Wills owned three vases People's Vases. He owned the Blue, the Marigold and the Amethyst People's Vase with the Straight-Up Design. His was the only Amethyst People's Vase with a Straight-Up Design, thus it is one of a kind and matches the straight-up design with the three other one-of-a-kind shape vases. Some older collectors call this a stove pipe design. The four other Amethyst vases have ruffled top edges.

In 2009 the Amethyst People's Vase, sold by Stacy Wills, was purchased by Holmes County's Jim Schaffer on October 10 in Millersburg, Ohio at the Jim Wroda Auction. The selling price was \$30,000. The auction was held under a big tent on the Court House lawn during the annual two-day Antique Festival in Millersburg. The auction drew a large crowd over-flowing the tent on the Court House grounds.

Jim Schaffer sold the Straight-up shape People's Vase at a Keystone Carnival Glass Club Wroda Auction on May 13, 2017 in western Pennsylvania where it brought \$26,000. Currently it resides in a private collection of an anonymous owner.

### Owners Amethyst People's Vase with Straight-up Shape (w/Crack)

Earlier Owners Are Unknown  
Man from Buffalo, NY on Ebay  
Stacy and Desiree Wills  
Jim Schaffer  
Anonymous Collector

## **- A Special Human Interest Story -**

### ***A Blind Glass Collector in Eastern Kentucky Identified Carnival Glass by Her Sense of Touch***

*Jimmy and Mathelia Hall lived in Virgie, Kentucky located in coal rich Pike County. Pike County is the eastern most county in the state bordering Virginia and West Virginia. Jimmy Hall made money in coal mining. The family was well to do and made a good living based on the ownership of a coal company*

*Mathelia was blind but she appreciated the texture and design of the People's Vase. She could identify carnival glass by feeling the contours with her sensitive hands. She enjoyed the glass as much as anyone. The Hall family kept a large, quality carnival glass collection (Source: Billy Richards, Auctioneer, 2022).*

## **~ ~ Reminders and Announcements ~ ~**

**The Millersburg Glass Association Gathering is set for Friday, October, 7 at 4:00 pm at the Comfort Inn in Berlin, OH.** We will have two presentations: Randy and Bo Jones will show their glass and Matt Young will talk about glass. Lola Johnson always has some fun activities for us to enjoy.

Time to pay your 2023 Dues. **\$20.00.** See attached form. If you pay now or at the **Wroda Auction on October 8**, you can enjoy the 2023 membership benefits including MGA Newsletters from the day you pay through all of 2023. See the [www.MillersburgGlass.com](http://www.MillersburgGlass.com) website for details. See also the Membership Form, Convention, and Wroda Announcement in the enclosed flyer.