

Depression glass is displayed at library

One of the few side benefits of the Great Depression of the late 30s is the glassware produced during that time.

Called "Depression Glass," it has become much sought after by collectors in recent years. From now through Oct. 20, there is a display of the glassware at the Farmington Public Library, 3277, Twelve Mile.

The display is being shown through the auspices of the Michigan Depression Glass Society which meets the first Monday evening of each month in the Livonia Senior Citizens Hall.

Joanne Kuhfeldt of Farmington Hills, a recent convert to Depression Glass collecting, active club member and one of those who helped with the library display, said there are about 300 area collectors in the club and everyone is welcome to attend the 7 p.m. meetings.

DEPRESSION GLASS was mass produced in a variety of patterns and colors. Often it was given away piece by piece as premiums at grocery stores, in cereal boxes, at gas stations or as prizes at the movie theaters.

Ms. Kuhfeldt said, "Wednesday night was the big night for giving prizes at the show."

This glassware, often in whole sets—

plates, cups, serving dishes, pitchers and fancy pieces such as lidded candy dishes, was never intended to be anything other than what it was— inexpensive, colorful glass.

Even to those less diligent, fine crystal was beyond the reach of the majority of the working public. The mass-produced ware, easy to acquire in its pretty colors ranging from purple and red to soft shades of amber, blue, green, pink and yellow, brightened the drabness of the era.

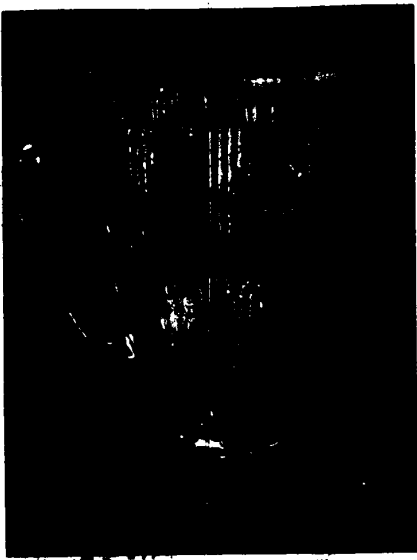
Some of the handiwork items were pitchers, obviously intended for ice water or lemonade. Almost every one of the standard patterns had a matching pitcher.

Ms. Kuhfeldt says the club members originally intended to display only creamers and sugars and pitchers in the library case in the front lobby. Gradually they added more until it is a large, interesting and well-documented display.

IT IS A PREVIEW for the fourth annual All Depression Era Glass Show and Sale to be held at the National Guard Armory in Ypsilanti Oct. 16 and 17.

Special guests at the show will be Gene Florence, author of books on Depression Glass, authors Everett and Addie Miller and Nora Koch, editor of The Daze.

The display at the library is open to the public during regular library hours.



This Depression crystal pitcher was made by Jeanette Glass Co. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

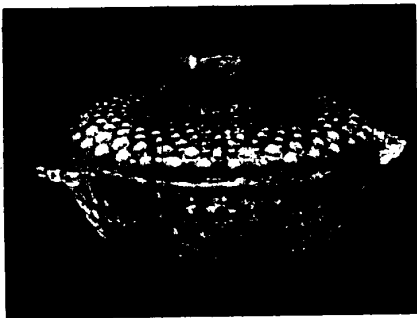
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A moonstone candy dish was probably inspired by milkglass with a hobnail pattern. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

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