

TREASURE SEARCH

Punchbowl serves up Americana

BY NANCY AND FRANK BOOS
SPECIAL WRITERS

Dear Nancy and Frank:
Enclosed is a photo of an ice blue carnival glass punchbowl and stand. If possible, I would like a ball park figure. Thank you.

Marion,
Redford.

Dear Marion:
Carnival glass is pressed glass coated with sodium solutions and fired. This gives the glass a lustrous, iridescent riotous variety of colors in hues of green, white, lavender, smoke, ice blue, ice green and opalescent shades of peach and aqua. It was mass produced at low cost and was the poor man's Tiffany glass.

It was made in huge quantities around 1907 to 1925 and given as prizes at carnivals and fairs at the beginning of this century. The brilliant, showy colors are reminiscent of a carnival atmosphere of lights, shooting galleries, exuberance and fun.

Carnival glass has been considered collectible since the '50s and '60s and is even being reproduced now. There are many clubs, organizations and reference books now devoted to this very affordable area of collecting carnival

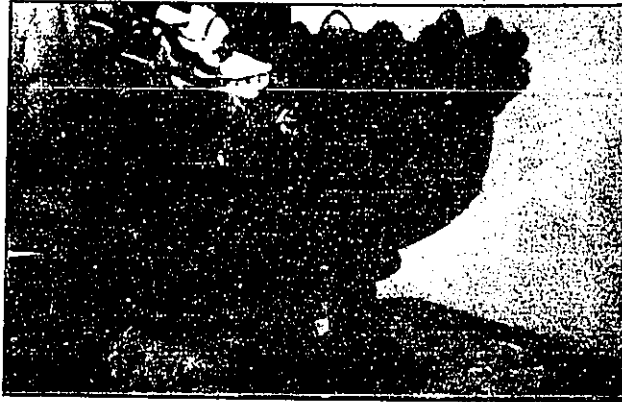
memorabilia.

We feel that the early pieces are representative of a part of the American pop culture and therefore deserve a place in Americana collecting. In our opinion, the mostly now passe carnivals of the early 20th century were a way for people to indulge in a fun, carefree tension reliever equivalent to our current "chilling out" or "laying back" activities.

There are more than 1,000 patterns of carnival glass. Your piece is "Peacock at the Fountain" pattern made by Northwood Glass Co. Carnival glass prices range from \$10 to \$8,000 or \$9,000 for the extremely rare pieces that are few and far between. They were breakable and not considered important so weren't cared for or saved. Who knew? Who knows about tomorrow?

If in good condition, it is our opinion that your piece might be found in a retail shop at a price range of \$1,500 to \$2,500.

Nancy and Frank Boos are with the Frank H. Boos Gallery, an appraisal firm and auction house at 420 Enterprise Court in Bloomfield Hills that has been in the auction business for more than 30 years. Do you have an item you



Bowled over: This ice blue punchbowl is an example of carnival glass, representative of a part of Americana.

would like to know about? Send in a good photo of it, along with its description and any known history to Treasure Search, The Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Include your name, community and phone number.

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