



**THE TOWNE CRIER**

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**1901 PAN AMERICAN EXPOSITION  
FRYING PAN**

**Pan American Exposition  
1901  
Greg A. Jennings  
Editor**

The Pan American Exposition was a World's Fair held in Buffalo, New York, from May 1 through November 2, 1901. It was organized by the Pan-American Exposition Company, formed in 1897. Cayuga Island was initially chosen as the place to hold the Exposition because of the island's proximity to Niagara Falls, which was a huge tourist attraction. But when the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898, all plans were put on hold.

After the war, there was a heated rivalry between Buffalo and Niagara Falls over the location. Buffalo won out for two main reasons. First, Buffalo had a much larger population — with roughly 350,000 people, it was the eighth-largest city in the United States. Second, Buffalo had better rail connections — the city was within a day's journey by railroad for over 40 million people. In July 1898, Congress pledged \$500,000 for the Exposition to be held at Buffalo.

Another helpful factor was that Nikola Tesla had recently invented a three-phase system of alternating current power transmission for distant transfer of electricity. It allowed designers to light the Exposition in Buffalo using power generated 25 miles away at Niagara Falls.

The exposition is most remembered be-

cause U.S. President William McKinley was shot by an anarchist, Leon Czolgosz, on September 6, 1901. McKinley gave an address at the exposition the previous day; his speech included the following words:

*Expositions are the timekeepers of progress. They record the world's advancements. They stimulate the energy, enterprise, and intellect of the people, and quicken human genius. They go into the home. They broaden and brighten the daily life of the people. They open mighty storehouses of information to the student....*

The newly-developed X-ray machine was displayed at the fair, but no one thought to use it on McKinley to search for the bullet, which might have saved his life. Also, ironically, the operating room at the exposition's emergency hospital did not have any electric lighting, even though the exteriors of many of the buildings were covered with thousands of



**Frying Pan  
Close-Up View Bottom**



**Frying Pan  
Close-Up View Top**

light bulbs. Doctors used a pan to reflect sunlight onto the operating table as they treated McKinley's wounds.

When the fair ended, the buildings were demolished and the grounds were cleared and subdivided for residential streets. A boulder marking the site of McKinley's assassination was placed in a grassy median on Fordham Drive in Buffalo. The sole surviving structure, the New York State building, was designed to permanently outlast the Exposition and be used by the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society as their headquarters. It continues to do so today and can be visited on Middlesex Road in Buffalo.

Arthur Goodrich, wrote a series of short stories in August 1901, entitled *Short Stories of Interesting Exhibits*, reporting the various marvels that he witnessed. Goodrich included in part:

*After all the raison d'etre of the Exposition is that it is, as one official has remarked, "a new edition of a world encyclopedia," widely illustrated. The general lessons of the mechanical exhibits are these -- that machinery is making rapidly what hands used to make slowly; that electricity instead of steam is operat-*

*ing machinery, and that faster trains and boats together with new electrical inventions are constantly increasing channels of communication. Moreover, as a people, we know how to spend and save money with equal good sense and thus we invest wisely in new mechanism.*

*As far as mere area of ground covered, size of buildings and extent of exhibits, are concerned, the Pan-American Exposition can in no way be compared with the World's Fair at Chicago in '93. One department which has to be satisfied with less than fifteen thousand square feet of space covered five hundred and fifty thousand feet at Chicago. But all has been so well chosen, classified, grouped, condensed and arranged, that its value is not lessened by its limited area. The large things are made to stand out forcibly and the smaller things are either made secondary or left out entirely. Condensation has been learned. In the exhibit, for example, of the New York Tenement House Commission three small models and two groups of pictures suffice to impress upon the mind the difference between a healthy tenement and one that is not healthy; and the fact that a thoroughly satisfactory tenement can be built, furnished comfortably, and rented at a small sum, and made to bring good profit is shown as well as if the exhibit were elaborate. More could not have been done in a space fifty times as great.*

*There is scarcely an exhibit which does not show a change in process or increased excellence of product over those of the same sort at Chicago eight years ago. In many cases the change is marked, and everywhere there is the indication of steady advance towards perfection of detail. Every opportunity has been seized to throw into strong relief the important changes which the last few years have wrought. For instance, the Spanish War brought into new prominence the whole subject of ordnance, and as a result there is an entirely separate ordnance department at Buffalo. One*



whole building is devoted to the graphic arts, and another for a workshop because of the strides that have been made in printing, engraving and the kindred arts within the last few years. And forestry has a separate picturesque log building of its own. All the structures are light and some are adequately decorated.

Small factories in New England and along the eastern coast were the beginning of the striking advance which has given the United States its industrial supremacy. These mills, growing to immense size, still had the difficulty to meet of being distant from the sources of raw material. So the industry spread to the central west, the Pacific coast and at last to the south. The exhibits in the Manufactures Building represent an entire country of factories, although the eastern states by their early start and by their use of improved automatic machinery have the greater number of displays.

The last few years have brought improvement of detail rather than striking change in manufactured products. For instance, the old-time bookkeeper's place is taken in a measure by a cash register which accounts for individual transactions, adds up the total of the day's sales and keeps a record by means of separate drawers of the sales of each of a dozen clerks with mechanical accuracy. The modern typewriter is fitted with many new devices. The writing surface unrolls in sight of the operator. Paragraph beginnings are located automatically. Mimeographing is regulated by an inobtrusive switch. Everything possible is done automatically. There are machines for fast commer-

### Three Cat Plate Commemorative Plate



cial use and others for slower private operators.

Wherever it is possible ball-bearings are being introduced. The old squeaking, grating hinge has been replaced by one turning smoothly. Locks also are fitted with ball-bearings, and New England ingenuity has invented a lock in which the key enters the door knob, thereby preventing the marring of the door-fittings. Interesting also, at this time, are the heavy steel mail boxes for the new rural mail delivery. These are finished, in the main, in black enamel with colored signals, which are raised automatically for the owner when the carrier deposits mail, and for the carrier by the owner when there is mail to be collected. No two locks are alike and the carrier alone has a master key; but there is a self-adjusting automatic lid and shelf so made that a key is never necessary for deposit.

The girl who used to address envelopes badly and with great loss of time can be replaced with an automatic addressing machine. In shoe making all the processes from the first cutting of the leather to the shaping of the soles, is done by constantly simplified machinery. There are hammocks which are easy chairs, or out-door seats, or swinging couches at the will of the sitter; and scales weighing 300,000 pounds are being made.

The gas stove, which in tidiness is a great improvement over the cumbrous coal range has been supplemented by a portable water heater which will heat a gallon of water over one hundred degrees in a minute; the temperature to be regulated by increasing or decreasing the amount of water. It is all simple and cleanly and convenient.

The last years have been an era of bath room decoration. This room once unsightly, was in some hidden corner of the house. But now its floors are tiled, its fittings are of handsomely glazed, soft china-white porcelain, while all about are cups which tilt the soap into the hand, towel racks of many varieties, holders for tumblers, brushes and sponges, besides stained glass windows and beveled mirrors. The model bath room now is a thing of beauty.

Like many glass companies at the time, Westmoreland celebrated the Pan American Exposition by producing the frying pan and the three cat plate. Both were produced in opal in 1901 and were hand decorated. There easily could be other items that Westmoreland produced for the event but none are in my possession to show. These souvenir items would have been sold at the exposition to collectors. There are a number of collectables surrounding the Pan American exposition, including coins, stamps, lamps, cards, etc., that people collect, thereby making these Westmoreland Specialty items a cross collectable.

### Recent Sightings and New Discoveries

I continue to search for new discoveries of Westmoreland Glass and bring them to you as the reader to apprise you of what is out there. Most of the items I find are located on eBay but I still locate new items the old fashion way of hitting the pavement going to antique malls and flea markets.

Recently sold on eBay were three different paneled grape baskets, two of which have never been seen before.

On November 9, 2006, a 9" crimped, flared, paneled grape basket sold for \$1,280.78 to a long



time Westmoreland collector. This basket is the first one seen to my knowledge. The second basket sold by the same seller is the same 9" bowl that was made into the first basket. However, this second basket was not crimped but only flared outward with a handle attached. This basket was sold in a group along with other baskets to the same purchaser for



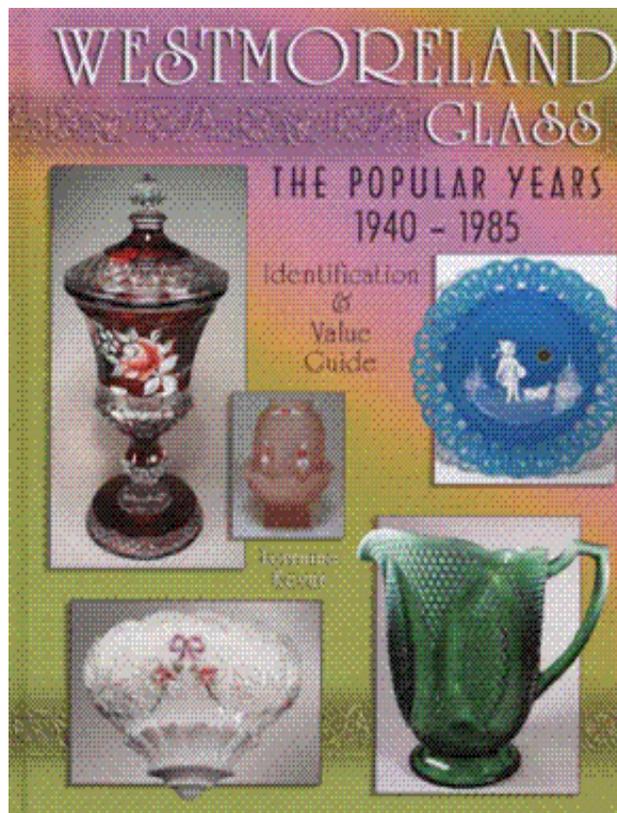
\$1,880.87. Again, both these particular baskets are the first ones seen to my knowledge. I do not believe they were regular production items but most likely whimsy or samples where Westmoreland tried out the possibility of making these bowls into baskets and decided against producing them. I asked the seller of the baskets who was selling them and the history but the seller, being a private company in the business of eBay resale, balked at letting me have any information related to the seller, other than to tell me that the daughter of a deceased Westmoreland collector had consigned them for sale.



The next item that went up for sale was a paneled grape fireside basket. The fireside basket had a limited production life due to the difficulty in handle cracking during production. It has been considered by many to be the rarest of the panel grape items produced. The same collector purchased this fireside basket, along with several other pieces that were group by the seller, for the final sale price of \$4,155.21, the highest price, to my knowledge, to have been paid for any item produced by Westmoreland.



**Westmoreland  
Fireside Basket**



***Westmoreland Glass 1940-1985 The Popular Years*** is still available.

This excellent reference book shows the various patterns and decorations that were used by the Westmoreland Glass Company from the period of 1940 through 1985. The price is \$29.95 per book plus \$3.95 for shipping. Please contact Lorraine Kovar at P.O. Box 30490, Cleveland, Ohio 44130-0490 or by telephone before 7 pm est at 330/225-1762.

**Westmoreland Glass For Sale**

Red or clear punch bowl hooks --- just like the originals!!!  
12 hooks for \$6.00 plus \$3.00 shipping (this will ship up to 5 sets -- additional quantities please contact us for shipping charges)

Clyde Robinson  
4820 Cherry Drive  
Murrysville, PA 15668-1503  
724/327-0753  
vrflowers@aol.com (it might be a few days before I get back to you) or

Bruce Holderbaum  
121 Darr Road  
Belle Vernon, PA 15012  
724/929-9293

**NWGCC COMMEMORATIVES**

The National Westmoreland Glass Collectors Club has produced for its conventions a commemorative that is sold as a souvenir. The commemoratives are highly prized by collectors and some have sold out including this years commemorative which was a Heart Box decorated with a lovely hand painted rose and signed by Ernie Brown, former Head Decorator for Westmoreland. A list of the commemoratives that are still available are listed below. Please write Ron Jablonski, 10603 Doyle Road, Deerfield, New York 13503-6809. Please make all checks payable to NWGCC. Pennsylvania residents add 6% to your total purchase.

**13TH ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE**

This commemorative is a milk glass slipper with a tiger lily painted on it by the late Westmoreland decorator, Louise Plues. The item is numbered and dated. The cost is \$15.00 plus \$3.85 for shipping and handling [Total \$18.85].

**12TH ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE**

This commemorative is an egg trinket box in milk glass. The two piece egg is hand painted in a beautiful pansy decoration by Ernie Brown. Ernie designed the pansy decoration while working at Westmoreland. Each item is numbered, painted, and signed by Ernie. The cost is \$15.00 plus \$3.85 shipping and handling [Total \$18.85].

**11TH ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE**

This commemorative is a Victorian trinket box in milk glass. This two piece box is decorated in the Mary Gregory style with a boy handing a bouquet of flowers to a girl. Each item is numbered, painted and signed by Louise Plues. The cost is \$15.00 plus \$3.85 shipping and handling [Total \$18.85].



***NWGCC CLUB COMMEMORATIVES  
ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS ARE  
AVAILABLE BY EMAIL***

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLUB DUES HAVE CHANGED. THE DUES ARE \$16.00 PER PERSON OR \$20.00 FOR A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP.**

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER ENVELOPE TO SEE IF YOU ARE CURRENT IN YOUR DUES.**

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

Alan Wells	President	724/523-9566
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**NATIONAL WESTMORELAND GLASS COLLECTOR CLUB****P.O. BOX 100****GRAPEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 15634**

**MONTHLY MEETINGS:** The regular meetings of the NWGCC are held on the second Tuesday of the month at Ptizer's, 101 South Fifth Street, Jeanette, Pennsylvania, at 7:00 p.m. Dinner is held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERSHIP FEE:** The annual membership fee for the NWGCC is \$16.00 per person and \$20.00 for a family membership.

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:** Greg A. Jennings, Clyde Robinson, and Alan Wells.

Articles and ads are to be submitted to Greg A. Jennings, Editor, NWGCC, P.O. Box 36691, Louisville, Kentucky 40233, or via email at westmorelandglass@gmail.com. Email is the preferred method of sending ads for the newsletter because it makes it easy for me to copy and paste your ad into the newsletter without having to type it.

The next deadline for submitting ads for the December-January newsletter will be December 15, 2006.

The Editor takes no responsibility for unsolicited materials. Published articles express only the author's opinion, not necessarily the Editors', though, most articles written in the newsletter will probably be written by the Editor so that means I take no responsibility for myself. You have to figure that one out.

**WESTMORELAND GLASS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

The Westmoreland Glass Society, Inc., is our sister club that most members in the organization also belong. If you are interested in joining the Westmoreland Glass Society, then you may do so by writing to the Society at P.O. Box 2883, Iowa

City, Iowa 52240-2883. The cost of the membership is \$25.00 for a family membership and \$15.00 for a single membership. The Society hosts two conventions per year generally in April and August. There is a newsletter that is published every other month.

**1929 Westmoreland Glass Catalogue**

The National Westmoreland Glass Collectors Club produces for sale a copy of the 1929 sales catalogue. This reprint catalogue contains over 200 pages of early Westmoreland Glass and is a must have for any serious Westmoreland collector for identification. The reprint is done in black and white print and placed in a spiral binder. A special thank you goes to fellow long-time collector, Joan Wolfe, who most graciously provided an original catalogue for copying and sale by the club. If you want to order a copy of the 1929 catalogue, then you may do so by sending a check in the amount of \$25.00 plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling [total \$27.50]. All Pennsylvania residents must add 6% sales tax. Please make checks payable to N.W.G.C.C. and send the check to Ron Jablonski, 10603 Doyle Road, Deerfield, New York 13502 .

**N.W.G.C.C. CLUB SHIRTS**

Nothing more says "cool" to your friends and co-workers than owning an authentic N.W.G.C.C. club shirt. The Club has produced T-shirts with the bulldog logo and Westmoreland marks. The shirt is made of 50% polyester and 50% cotton. It is gray in color with a two-button front with a full cut. The cost is \$15.00 plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling [total \$17.50]. The sizes that are available are medium, large, extra large, and for you extra big collectors, extra extra large. Please allow three to four weeks for shipping. Please send your checks made payable to N.W.G.C.C. and send it to N.W.G.C.C., P.O. Box 100, Grapeville, Pennsylvania 15634.