

# Back Story

Footprints from the Past

June 2016



Hello dear readers,

Now that June is halfway over, I'm finally getting the newsletter out. *Fat and Sassy*, along with two contest deadlines, have consumed my work time the past few weeks.

Yesterday I didn't finish this up as planned. I drove to the west side Fort Worth and spent several hours at a park, celebrating a friend's granddaughter's first birthday. Lots of memories came into play that day. My friend, Bev, and I used to get together when our children were young. Both of her girls are just slightly older than both of my boys. We'd talk and talk. The children played and played.

And now, here we are, gathering as our children are having the birthday parties for *their* children. How can this be? It's only been four or five years since we were the young mothers coordinating our children's birthday parties.

In thinking of memories from the past, I'm blaming both of my grandmothers for my fascination with Depression glass, the June topic of the month. Many years ago, as in way before I was even married, my Grandma Cline gave me a clear, paneled grape creamer. My Grandma Jones passed along a milk glass candy dish. When I was taking interior design classes in the late 1980's, I started researching the designs and history of both pieces, which got me hooked on Depression glass patterns.

About this time I also started rummaging around in whatever antique stores I could find. I couldn't usually afford to buy what I really wanted to. But, I could afford vintage postcards and individual pieces of Depression glass.

Fast forward to today...and I'm still toting home glass pieces, although at a slower pace than before.

Come back next month as we talk about amazing women from the past.

Stay cool this summer!

Trisha Faye

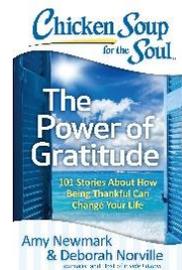
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## Publication News

**Guardian Angel Kids** May ezine accepted a short children's story for their Dragon issue – [My Dragon Named Bella](http://www.guardian-angel-kids.com/05-016-3Dflip/index.html#p=14). (<http://www.guardian-angel-kids.com/05-016-3Dflip/index.html#p=14>)

I got a sneak preview copy of the July issue of **Purpose** magazine with my article, *Sharing Chili & Cornbread*. It's a short story version of my sister and her husband, Sue and Mike Holman, and their journey as trail angels for hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail.



**Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Power of Gratitude** anthology has one of my stories in it, *Every Day's a Good Day*. It will be available August 23<sup>rd</sup>, either from me or your local bookstore.

**Good Old Days** magazine accepted an article about the Athelstan quilt squares. It will be published in October.

**Funds for Writers**, a weekly online publication, accepted a paid guest blog for one of their November issues – *Paid Guest Blogs*.

## Fat and Sassy



**Fat and Sassy**  
Coming July 15th

Speaking of the stories we hear growing up – many of the bits and pieces I've heard through the years are making their way into a book, *Fat and Sassy*. For this book, I've taken the tidbits I've heard about life in the Jones family (my Grandpa and Grandma Jones and the six Jones' children) and embellished those stories with a whole lot of fiction (made up parts).

The book is in the final publication process right now and will be available July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Preorders are available at a special prepublication price. For all orders received by June 30<sup>th</sup>, you can get your copy of *Fat and Sassy* for \$10, plus \$2.75 shipping. (Regular retail price will be \$13.99.) You can send checks to the author: Trisha Faye, 348 Sheri Ln, Roanoke TX 76262, or pay via paypal here: [http://www.trishafaye.com/fat\\_and\\_sassy](http://www.trishafaye.com/fat_and_sassy)

A snippet from *Fat and Sassy* follows at the end.

## Depression Glass

Depression glass is clear or colored translucent glassware that was distributed free, or at low cost, in the United States and Canada around the time of the Great Depression. The Quaker Oats Company, and other food manufacturers and distributors, put a piece of glassware in boxes of food, as an incentive to purchase. Movie theaters and businesses would hand out a piece simply for coming in the door.

Most of this glassware was made in the Ohio River Valley of the United States, where access to raw materials and power made manufacturing inexpensive in the first half of the twentieth century. More than twenty manufacturers made more than 100 patterns, and entire dinner sets were made in some patterns.

Common colors are clear (crystal), pink, pale blue, green, and amber. Less common colors include yellow (canary), ultramarine, jadeite (opaque pale green), delphite (opaque pale blue), cobalt blue, red (ruby & royal ruby), black, amethyst, monax, and white (milk glass).



Although of marginal quality, Depression glass has been a popular collectible since the 1960s. Although prices are higher now, as are the prices of everything else, most Depression glass, except for the rarer pieces, are still fairly affordable to collect. Some individual pieces may only be a few dollars, while most is in the \$5-\$20 range. Rare pieces may sell for several hundred dollars.

Some manufacturers continued to make popular patterns after World War II, or introduced similar patterns, which are also collectible. Popular and expensive patterns and pieces have been reproduced, and reproductions are still being made.

## Caring for Your Depression Glass

I found an excellent guide for Depression glass at an unusual place. On ebay, of all places. There's some good information here about what to look for in Depression glass and a lot of information about flaws in your glass.

They also had good information about how to care for your Depression glass.

To see the rest of their recommendations, go see their page, Things to Know about Collecting Depression Glass.

## CARING FOR YOUR DEPRESSION GLASS

Personally I recommend hand washing your depression glass with a mild detergent and soft wash cloth. I know many people who use dishwashers, but I just personally would not put it in the dishwasher. If you do, use the gentle cycle if you have one. And as common sense will tell you, don't submerge cold glass into hot water or vice versa. I never use my depression glass in a microwave, mostly because I have not read any reports on the effects on the glass. I would assume it to be safe, but why put any valuable collectible in the microwave? Empty shakers after each use. Dry cruets and decanters with an air hose from an aquarium pump and pump air inside the cruet or decanter until dry.

Store your glassware wisely. I place a Styrofoam plate between each of my plates. Saucers I generally have to use paper or plastic plates because I cannot find the Styrofoam in that size. I place paper towels between my cups in the cupboards if they are to be stacked. They are glass. Treat them with respect and they will last another 100 years. Abuse them and they will go to pieces.

## Genevieve's Antique Treasures on Depression Glass

[Genevieve's Antique Treasures](#) has a great site with a lot of basic Depression glass information. After all the years I've been collecting Depression glass, although I've concentrated on just a few patterns, I didn't know about straw marks. I think I'll be learning something new every day for the rest of my life.

*Depression Glass what is it and how do you know it is real?*

Depression glass was made in the U.S.A. from the 1920's into the 1950's when it started to lose its popularity. Depression glass is not and never was fine china. It was made cheap with the intention of selling it cheap. It was mainly used as a premium or give-away for other companies to promote their products. It was common practice for customers to get complete sets free from cereal, soap, movie theaters, gas stations, and other places. Today it is a very popular collectible and because of its popularity it is being Faked in places like china and Mexico. How do you know it is real? Practice and study. There are a lot of patterns and colors; pick one that you like and concentrate on it. The local library is a good source for books on Depression glass and it is free. The Internet has literally thousands of pages on the subject as well. The color should be light or thin almost clear. If it is a real deep/dark color, hard to see through, it is most likely faked.

Expect to see bubbles inside the glass. A few air bubbles are OK, in my opinion, and are expected. Quality Control was used but slight imperfections were accepted to keep costs down on this inexpensive glassware. Too many air bubbles can detract from the pattern or indicate a cheaply made fake.

Look for the Straw Mark. This is a thin line usually near the center of the piece. It is not a crack and should not go all the way through the glass. If it can be felt it should be smooth almost rounded. A crack on the other hand will go through the glass and a fingernail may snag on it. I have read two reasons for this mark. Both seem possible to me and it doesn't really matter because this straw mark is almost a dead give-away for true Depression glass.

Blowout is another flaw to expect. The molding process causes this. As these molds were used and reused over and over they would start to wear out and a small amount of glass would seep out from between the two halves. Lightly run your hand along the edge to feel this and know the difference between blowout and chips. Blowout always goes out away from the piece and a chip always goes in toward the piece.

The flaws mentioned here are indications of authenticity and to do not take away from the value of the glass. Chips and cracks always take away from the value.

## Thrift Store Finds

One afternoon I stopped into my favorite thrift store to browse through their books. With books for fifty cents, I can read most of the year for what I'd spend on one or two books at the bookstore.

I don't usually shop around much. Goodness knows, I need to downsize my collections of 'stuff', not buy more. But this one day they had a display of green glass set up in the window right next to the books. Most of the glass was your average inexpensive (cheap) glassware – lots of mass produced, green vases. But one small dish stood out. I thought, that's Depression glass. So I picked this little goodie up instead of buying books that day.

This darker avocado green compote is from Imperial Glass. It's in the Larian pattern, with basket and swags, but is not as old as the original Depression glass in that pattern. It was most likely produced in the 1950's or 1960's, which still makes it over fifty to sixty years old, and is a nice vintage find. (Wait a minute...that's how old I am. Somehow for glassware that sounds old, but for me that seems awfully young still.)



Larain Basket pattern, made by Indiana from 1929 - 1932

I found several other identical pieces on Etsy and Ebay. Prices were currently going in the range of \$8 to \$15. That makes me pretty happy with my \$2.99 thrift store treasure.

## Five Collecting Tips from Catlady Kate's

[Catlady Kate's](#) page shares this advice, **Five Tips to Collect Depression Glass**. If you're interested in Depression glass, go check out her page. Hours later, you may surface for air. She has a lot of good information there.

So where to start? If you're just starting I recommend getting a good book on depression glass and see what you like. Or if you can, go to a glass show. These can be almost overwhelming but are a great way to see what glass appeals to you. (I walk around shows in a daze wishing I had immense room and infinite cash.)

1. Get what you like. Some of our readers collect a pattern or two while others look for anything that catches their eyes or in a favorite color. Some enjoy creamers and sugars. It's up to you.
2. Don't worry about resale value. Buy what you find beautiful and will enjoy.
3. Get glass that is in good condition. If you intend to use your pieces then it's OK to get pieces with light wear or inner rim roughness – even pristine pieces may scratch with use – but otherwise avoid chips, cracks, hazy glass or lots of wear marks.
4. Choose a pattern that hasn't been reproduced. Veronica N chose Old Colony and Rosemary because she liked the designs and neither has any reproductions to worry about. That's wise. A good book like **Gene Florence's collectors' guide** will help you avoid reproductions if you do want a pattern that has reproductions.
5. Enjoy the hunt. Unless you want to go nuts looking for pieces, choose a pattern that has a few pieces that are easy to find but others that are available, but need to hunt for. That way you can go to antique malls or flea markets and know you'll see something (even if you don't need the piece it's still fun to see your pattern) and you can have the fun of looking for those elusive tumblers or bowls.

Finally, enjoy your glass and use it!

## Sizzling Summer Specials



Here's a Sizzling Summer Special on three print books. 40% off in June, 30% off in July and 20% off in August.

**A SECOND CHANCE** – Regular \$8.99 is \$5.39 during June.

Join Jenny in *A Second Chance*, as she wrestles with her life changing Sudden Cardiac Arrest and discovers whether or not she has the courage to delve deeper into the inner journey to her soul. Will she learn to celebrate each new day she's been given? Will she choose to follow her dreams?

**SCOOTER'S TALE** – Regular \$11.99 is \$7.19 during June.

Scooter wants to tell his story – the story of how being a rescue kitten changed his life, how calicivirus threatened the household, and how people can help other abandoned kittens.

**TRAIL ANGELA MAMA** – Regular \$9.99 is \$5.99 during June.

Step inside and see the Pacific Crest Trail from the other side of hiking, as Trail Angel Mama tells her story of this new and exciting venture. The Holman's discovered a new world in this journey as the hiker's appreciation touched their hearts in an unexpected way. They set out to share their blessings with other hikers. Instead, they discovered that they were the ones being blessed.

(Plus \$2.75 shipping for each book.) You can order direct from me, at Trisha Faye, 348 Sheri Ln, Roanoke, TX 76262, or pay via paypal at [http://www.trishafaye.com/summer\\_sale](http://www.trishafaye.com/summer_sale).

## Excerpt from *Fat and Sassy*

1948

It was a typical Saturday afternoon in a houseful of children. Bea was busy ironing the last of a load of laundry as she complained to Casey. "Everyone wants to pick up their clothes on Fridays or Saturdays. I feel like all I do from Wednesday to Saturday is stand here and iron."

She picked up a voluminous buttercup colored skirt from the basket. "I declare, these skirts Mrs. Watson brings me. They take forever to iron. Look at this." She held it up, spreading the folds to show its expanse. Casey glanced in her direction, then turned back to the news on the television set. "Do you know how many yards of fabric went into this skirt?"

"No, Mother. I don't have a clue."

"Why, I could make three dresses for the girls from all the material that went into this skirt. Maybe even have enough left over to make a dress for one of Mae's dolls."

"You are good with making do and getting things to stretch further than a person would think."

Bea opened the skirt and positioned it around the ironing board to press. "Shore am glad that I have one of these new-fangled electric irons now. I can't imagine trying to do this with the old sad irons that I used to iron with. Settin' it on the wood stove to heat up and then trying to iron with it. I've ruined many a piece of clothing in my day, getting it too hot and ending up with an iron mark on it."

Casey chuckled at the memory. "Ayup, why, I recollect having one or two of those shirts myself. I reckon I'm glad for your new iron too."

"Yore glad for the new iron? I figured you was happy for the television we have now. Effie and I were jawing the other day. She made a comment about all the kids in the house. I laughed and told her that we finally figured out what made all the kids and so we got ourselves a television set."

Casey tipped his head back and snickered. "Guess there won't be any more new chillin's a-comin' into the house now."

The rattle of a car engine sounded out front, distracting Bea. She stood at her vantage point behind the ironing board, set up in the corner opposite the open front door where she could see all the comings and goings without having to go to the window and pull back a curtain to peek. She looked out the screen door and reported to Casey. "It's Brother Pfoutz. Wonder what he wants."

Thundering feet announced children coming through. "No running in the house," Bea hollered.

The footsteps slowed to a quiet walk and they all gathered in the front room "We heard a car pull up," they all chattered at the same time.

"Doesn't make no excuse for all this commotion."

Charlie Pfoutz stepped out of the car and adjusted his gray felt hat. By the time he reached the front door, he saw the welcoming committee of tiny faces awaiting him, peering out through the screen door. "Well, hello there, young ones," he said to the collage of curious faces. "Is your Daddy at home?"

Casey stepped up behind the children and reached over their heads to open the door. "Howdy there, Brother Pfoutz. Come in and set a spell."

After shaking hands, the visitor removed his hat. "Hello there, Sister Bea. How are you today?"

"Fat and sassy, just as always," she replied, sitting the iron down. "Would you like a cup of coffee?"

"That's mighty kind of you. I do believe I would enjoy a cup, thank you."

Ida jumped up and down with excitement. "Why did you come visit?"

Their guest seemed a little taken back, but he answered politely. "I have some business to discuss with your Daddy."

Bea frowned. "Ida Pearl, where are your manners? You don't interrupt when adults are speaking."

Her chin dropped to her chest. "Yes, Mama."

"Ona Mae, go fetch Brother Pfoutz a cup of coffee. Rest of you...scram...outside to play." Bea turned back to her chore, wanting to finish the piece she was working on before joining the men. When she finished the last of the skirt, she clipped it carefully on a hanger and hung it on the rack that held the freshly pressed garments.

As she settled down on a chair, the two men were already in deep conversation.

"Casey, I came to ask you a question. The church board met last night. As you know, there's a vacancy among the deacons."

"Seems I'd heard that mentioned at church."

"The church board would like to extend an offer to you, to see if you'd accept the position as deacon." He stopped to accept the hot mug Mae handed him.

"It's a pleasure to be considered. I appreciate the offer from the Board." He sat up a little straighter on the divan, his pleasure in being asked adding height to his stature. "I rightly do thank you all. I'm mighty honored and I accept the offer."

Bea sat listening and a pleased smile filled her face. She knew she had a good husband, one to be proud of. She was glad that the church saw that also.

The men continued their chat, with Charlie explaining what they'd expect of Casey in his role of deacon. "Matter of fact, isn't one of your children due to be baptized next Sunday?"

"Why yes. Our oldest daughter, Mae, is. She's been aflutter all week about it."

"Then Casey, I think it's only fitting that your first duty as deacon will be to fill the baptistry next Sunday, in honor of Mae's baptism."