

Morgantown Angel

By Bert Kennedy

Last year about this time, we were blessed with a visit from a Morgantown Angel.

We were setting up for the first time at Max Millers Rosenberg glass show in Houston, Texas. We were set up right behind the ticket booth as the first booth inside the door. We had taken a booth with lots of Morgantown glass for this show and it set up very nicely to present more Morgantown glass than most buyers normally see in one booth. I know it sounds like I am bragging but you have to know the set up to understand the rest of the Angel story.

As the show opened Saturday morning, one of the first people to come into the booth was a lady that had traveled from a small town near Oklahoma City all the way down to south Texas to attend the Rosenberg show. As she was looking into the booth she noticed there was a lot of Morgantown glass. She asked if we had any interest in Morgantown documents?

Knowing that the Morgantown closing auction in 1972 was the last time anyone saw the contents of the Morgantown "Paper Room" with all the historic paper work going to upstate New York never to be seen again, I tried to remain calm and replied, "sure, always interested." She said I have a catalog outside in the car if you would like to see it. I thought it would be one of the more common catalogs from the 60's or 70's. She went to the car to retrieve the catalog and returned to our booth.

I could immediately see it was not a catalog from the 60's or 70's. It was a large, 11 x 17 dark olive green cover that simply said, "Catalog No. 25 The Economy line Morgantown West Virginia The ware of Quality." It was very difficult to restrain my excitement at this point. As I began to look through the fragile pages my mind was spinning with questions. How much would it cost us to buy this? Did the museum already have one

of these catalogs from Jerry Gallagher's estate? Do I have enough cash with me? Why wasn't some of this information to be found in Jerry's Morgantown book?

Remaining calm and not drooling on my self, I asked to take the catalog back to fellow Morgantown dealers Jim and Leora Leasure. I asked if we had one of these catalogs in the museum and Leora said no, and she would be happy to help out with the money to acquire the catalog. So as I went back to my booth I was ready to make an offer to buy the catalog. I figured I didn't need to eat next month anyway.

As I entered the booth, before I could say a word, the lady said she could see how excited I was with the catalog. Ouch, that is going to cost me, I thought to myself. She said I see you love it and have plans to share it with other collectors and the Morgantown museum so I want you to have it. I just want it to be loved and preserved for others.

Wow! Fantastic.

I promised that it would be and began to think of the task ahead. The printing task was also made easy by another Oklahoma angle. Now looking back on our first Houston show, showing mostly Morgantown glass, and being the first booth in the door, and this lady driving down with a rare catalog in hand, this just must have been a Morgantown angel.

The Catalog now resides in the Morgantown museum and we have had copies made to sell in an effort to help raise money for the museum. We made original size copies, standard 8 1/2 by 11 size and a CD covering all pages of the catalog. Standard size copies are being sold at \$25.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping. The CD is being sold for \$15.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping. You can contact the club, OMGCG, at P.O. Box 894, Morgantown, West Virginia 26507-0894.