

## **MEET A MCCOY SOCIETY MEMBER – PAT CREWS-WEIGHT**

**By Chrissy James**

With this article, we are going to start including one of these Society Member articles with the plan to include one in each quarterly Journal. Pat was selected to be our collector in this Issue due to her avid interest in McCoy pottery. She lives in Georgetown, Texas.



Boy, was I in for a surprise as we had a very long conversation about her love for the pottery that has a special place in her life. Pat is a collector of many things from vintage table cloths/linens, sugar shakers, orphaned salt shakers, and flower frogs. She started collecting studio pottery many years ago and her love changed to McCoy.

Her cache pot was her first “real” piece of McCoy that her dad gave her years ago. She did say that she loves auctions but would rather find it in the wild as the hunt is the thrill. Many years later she can proudly say that she owns 600-700 pieces but has also sold around 400. Pat has collected for about 40 years but has really collected heavy the past 30 years. She claims she doesn’t know what dust is but do any of us ever want to dust on a regular basis?

Ninety percent of her collection pieces she has gotten dirt cheap. She loves road trips with her daughter to hunt McCoy. She also finds it on eBay, Etsy, thrift stores and good ole Antique shops. When asked what her best find was, she replied a berry vase for \$12 and she started shaking so bad she dropped her phone.

After 30 years of an engineering career, she retired and now spends a lot of time searching for “the” piece of McCoy. Minis are on the bucket list. When asked what was her favorite era, she replied “has to be the 30’s and 40’s as the shapes and forms are what drives her”. We also talked about the depression era, she questioned, I wonder what possessed people then to buy the pottery but then we agreed that people back in that era were big savers of everything. She says the one piece that she will never own would be the famous Wishing Well and she replied, “I don’t want to see it.” I asked her if she has ever had regrets on not buying a piece and she replied “no but the only thing that she does regret is not bidding a little bit more.”

She was never fortunate enough to meet Nelson and Billie, but if she had the chance, she would asked them...What made them want to continue the tradition of producing for so long and what was the driving factor behind their mass producing and what made them produce such pretty pieces?



What is one thing you would tell a new collector? “Always take your books out on the hunt, talk to other collectors and ask questions. Ask people you can trust as they can give you good advice.” She has never been to Zanesville for pottery week but hopes to make it one of these years to put a face with the name to collectors she comes across on social media. When speaking of McCoy groups, she says it feels as though they are “a close-knit knowledgeable group with so many big collectors with a lot of experience”.

All of her pottery is on display throughout her home, and she never wants it to get to a point where it has to be in totes. Pat said she is very grateful to be the caretaker of each piece.

