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# Star

Diane Whitley has stars in her eyes and on her table

By Tammy Keith

**D**iane Whitley of Wooster has had stars in her eyes since the 1960s. She doesn't want to be famous. She's just been on the lookout for the Early American Prescut glass with the Starburst pattern.

Her impressive collection, everything from oil lamps to snack sets, began in the 1960s when her grandfather banked at Security Savings and Loan in Conway.

"They were giving out sets if you opened up \$100 savings accounts. It was the creamer and sugar and tray. He gave it to me. My grandmother had already passed away," Diane explained.

It was a bank that started her passion for the glassware and a bank where she has spent her life's career.

SEE STARS ON PAGE 24



Diane Whitley's collection is in the hundreds and includes cake plates and vases.



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Diane Whitley and her friends have hunted far and wide for Starburst pieces to add to her collection.

# collection



Diane Whitley's impressive collection of Starburst glassware - everything from oil lamps to snack sets - began in the 1960s when her grandfather banked at Security Savings and Loan in Conway.

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Diane Whitley's collection isn't just for looks. She enjoys using her pieces and sharing it with her family. When one of her sons married, she had enough plates, salad bowls and glasses for the rehearsal dinner.

### STARS FROM PAGE 22

Diane started working at First National Bank, now Regions Bank, 38 years ago. "Back when I started, it was really a prestigious job — it was hard to get on," she said.

Diane started in bookkeeping, longingly looking over the mezzanine at the tellers below, hoping to become one. The bank started building branches and Diane got her wish. Today, she is the manager of the Regions branch in west Conway.

Diane and friends from Regions Bank have hunted the glassware far and wide. Diane said she's been "all over the place," including Missouri and Snohomish, Wash., searching for pieces for her collection.

Diane said fellow employee and friend Linda White describes spotting a piece of the glassware as "an Easter egg hunt and finding the prize egg."

Like the two oil lamps Diane has. "I hunted these the longest time," Diane said. "This is another pride and joy," she said, holding a panel bowl with scalloped sides. It is one of the more rare pieces. The pattern is sometimes called Star of David, she

added.

Her collection is in the hundreds. She has a divided Lazy Susan piece, berry bowls, pitchers, and a piece she said is either a biscuit jar or cookie jar. "We have hunted and hunted and hunted for a cookie jar," she said.

An ash tray on a stand might not have been original, she said. "I'm sure somebody made that."

Her mother gave her the iced tea glasses. "I don't even remember using those growing up. That was probably her crystal," she said with a laugh.

Diane has also ordered pieces through the company Replacements Ltd.

Years ago, the glassware was available at the former Ben Franklin store in downtown Conway, which is where she got her first punch bowl and cups after she was married in 1966 to her husband, Gene. "I had the box for the longest time. I didn't know then it was more valuable if you kept the box."

Her collection isn't just for looks, though. She enjoys using her pieces and sharing it with her family. When one of her sons married, she had enough plates, salad bowls and glasses for the rehearsal dinner.

She had at least three punch bowls in the pattern, so she gave one to her daughter-in-law, Jennifer Whitley, who is married to Shannon, one of Diane's two sons. "Of course, I use my serving pieces," Diane said.

She packed up a good portion of her collection, which numbers in the "hundreds," when her husband installed the hardwood floor in the dining room.

A sugar shaker is the last piece she bought. "My grandchildren came along, and they were more important. I'm through. I kind of got burned out on it," she said.

Stars do burn out, but there are always more to be seen.



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