

# RESTORATION OF THE HAWKES'S SIGNS



**SEPTEMBER 27, 2010**  
**12:00 Noon**  
**Centerway Square**

# The Project



Whenever weather and health allow Peetie and Tom Dimitroff take their dog Baxter for a walk. The Dimitroffs love their community and enjoy and study it on these walks. Often the walks take the threesome along Market Street. On one such occasion, Tom remarked how sad it was to see the two signs on the old Hawkes Cut Glass Co. buildings wearing away almost to the point of disappearing. They both remembered the wonderful old candy company sign on a nearby building that disappeared from neglect years ago. They decided there and then they were not going to let that happen to the Hawkes signs. They were just too important to the history of the community and the visual ambiance of Market Street.

They contacted sign painter, Larry Orr and found they would need to raise some \$8000.00 for the project.

They then got permission from the building owners for the project. Both The Off-Track Betting Corporation and Michael Orr were excited about giving their approval.

Next came raising the money. Peetie, President of the local Southside Neighborhood Association, an active historic preservation organization, presented the project to its Board. The Southside Neighborhood Association readily agreed to support the project by serving as the project's "bank" and collecting funds. Additionally, the SNA contributed a large amount of money to get the project off to a good start. John Kohut, a collector and dealer in cut glass, contacted the American Cut Glass Association which then also contributed a large amount of money and also ran articles in their journal that resulted in several significant individual contributions. Tom and Peetie also contacted the Carder Steuben Club as Thomas Gibbons Hawkes was co-founder of the Steuben Glass Works with Frederick Carder. They also contributed a large amount for the project. The bottom line is the money was raised!

What turned out to be the most complicated part of the project came next. That was getting the legal approvals from the City. However, all was fine with the help of Mayor Rich Negri, City Manager Mark Ryckman and the Corning Zoning Board of Appeals. Then, on **AUGUST 18, 2010**, preparation and painting began.

Our built environment is a product of man. We have the important responsibility of constantly deciding what of that environment we will pass on to future generations. We believe it is a responsibility we can and must all take part. What is it of the present that is important enough to pass on to future generations?



# PROGRAM

1. **A Bit of History Returns to Market Street:  
The Project** (Peetie Dimitroff)
2. **A Man and A Company** (Tom Dimitroff)
3. **“A Good Sign”** (Larry and Eric Orr)
4. **Comments:**
  - A. Mayor, *Rich Negri*
  - B. City Manager, *Mark Ryckman*
  - C. Gaffer District VP, *Rick Maxa*
  - D. Building Owner – *Michael Orr*
  - E. Building Owner – *OTB Representative*
  - F. Southside Neighborhood Association–  
*Peetie Dimitroff*
  - G. American Cut Glass Association –  
*Michael MacDonald*
  - H. Carder Steuben Club – *Marshall Ketchum*
5. **Historical Quotation – President John F. Kennedy**
6. **Walk to Hawkes Buildings – View Signs**





# THOMAS GIBBONS HAWKES 1846 - 1913



- 1846 – Thomas Gibbons Hawkes born at Surrmont, Ireland
- 1863 - Thomas Gibbons Hawkes arrives in New York City & gets employment at the Hoare & Dailey Cut Glass Firm of Brooklyn, New York
- 1864 - The Amory Houghton family acquire the Brooklyn Flint Glass Works
- 1868- The Houghton Family moves the Brooklyn Flint Glass Works to Corning where it becomes The Corning Flint Glass Works. Hoare & Dailey moves to Corning with the Houghtons. Thomas Gibbons moves with Hoare & Dailey as their manager
- 1876 - The Philadelphia Centennial Exposition celebrates our country's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday and cut glass displays there began America's love affair with cut glass especially of the Brilliant type
- 1880 - T.G Hawkes leaves Hoare & Dailey and establishes the **T. G. Hawkes Glass Cutting Works** on Corning's Market Street
- 1884 - T.G. Hawkes receives its first order from the White House - President Grover Cleveland ordered 50 dozen pieces cut in *Russian* pattern. This pattern was used in the White House until 1938
- 1889 - Hawkes enters examples of their glassware at Paris Universal Exposition – Wins both Grand Prize and Gold Medal
- 1901 - Hawkes exhibits rare and novel cut glass bedstead at Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, New York
- 1903 - Hawkes and Frederick Carder form the **Steuben Glass Works**
- 1913 - Thomas Gibbons Hawkes dies. – Samuel Hawkes takes over operation of company
- 1915 - Architects Pierce & Bickford hired to modernize the four buildings 73-79 West Market Street
- 1924 - Fire causes \$30,000.00 in damages. Tiffany designer designs new display rooms – Large copper trademark sign constructed
- 1949 - Samuel Hawkes retires - Penrose Hawkes runs business
- 1962 - Tiffin Glass buys Hawkes' name, trademark, and patterns
- 1972 - Penrose Hawkes dies, Polly Hawkes takes over until 1975



