



PRODUCT DESIGN
& DEVELOPMENT

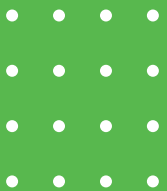
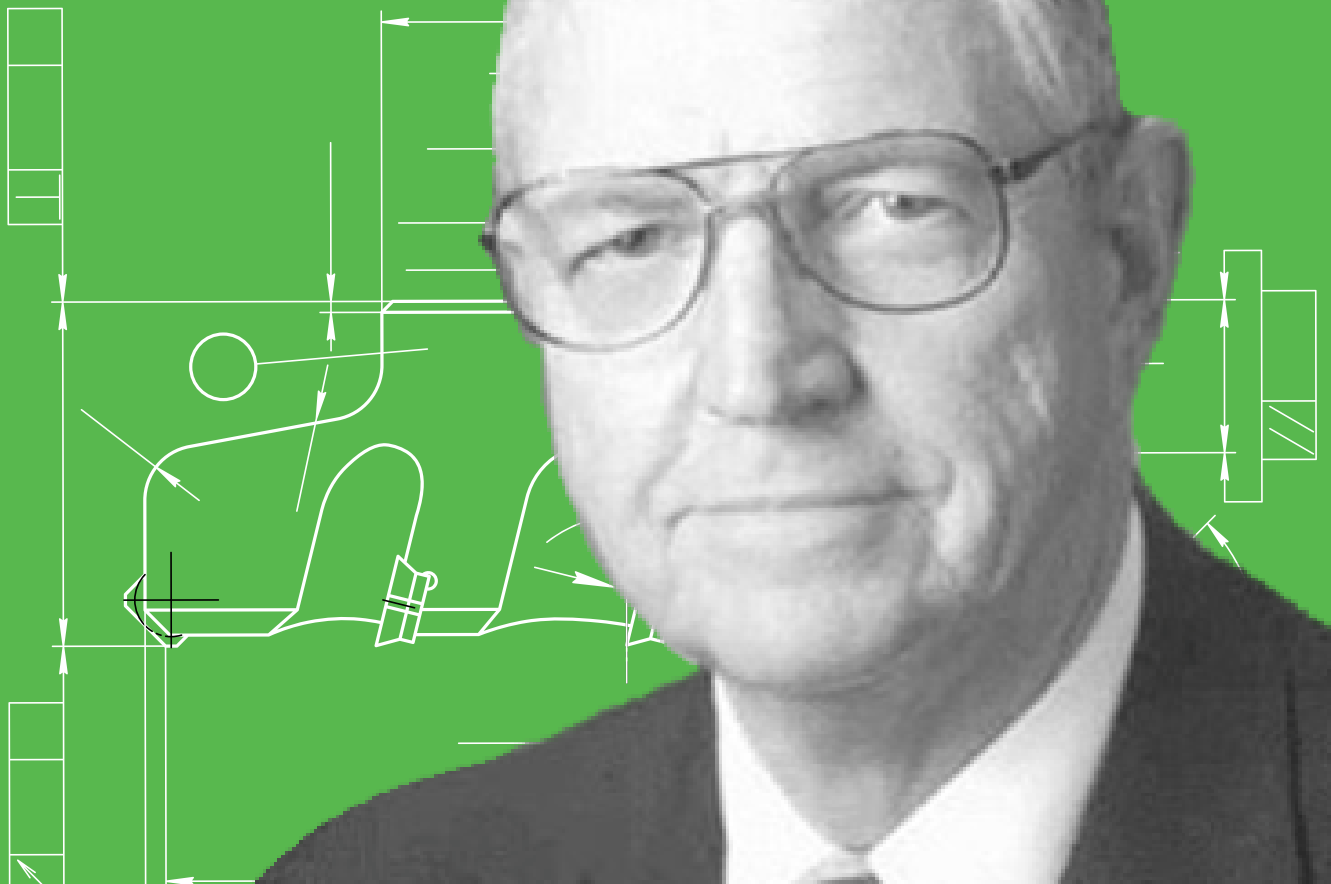
Fall 2025



A Tribute to

Glenn Beall

1933-2025



A Tribute to Glenn Beall

As we reflect on the life of Glenn Beall, we celebrate a man whose influence on our profession and community will endure for generations. Glenn was a pioneer in plastics design and manufacturing, but more than that, he was a teacher, mentor, and friend to so many of us.



His career was marked by innovation, from his early patents at Abbott Laboratories to the founding of Glenn Beall Engineering, Inc., later, Glenn Beall Plastics, Ltd. Glenn never measured success by his own accomplishments. He found his greatest fulfillment in sharing knowledge through hundreds of seminars, countless articles, and one-on-one conversations that inspired nearly 30,000 professionals worldwide.

Glenn’s dedication to the Society of Plastics Engineers spanned more than six decades. His leadership, vision, and generosity of spirit helped shape not only our industry but also the people within it. His induction into the Plastics Hall of Fame and the Symposium held in his honor at ANTEC 2024 are just two of the many fitting recognitions of a lifetime devoted to advancing our field.

Those of us who had the privilege to know Glenn will remember him not only for his technical brilliance but also for his humility, warmth, and kindness. He encouraged us to think deeply, work with integrity, and always give back. And, any conversation about Glenn must recognize the role his late wife, Patsy, the love of his life, played in Glenn’s success. Here’s a little secret: The small “P” in Glenn’s business logo (above) is meant for Patsy (not plastic, as many of us likely thought).

Although we feel his absence, we are grateful for the legacy he leaves. A legacy of innovation, mentorship, and humanity that will continue to inspire us all.

With gratitude and respect,
SPE Product Design & Development Division

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Letter from the Chair

Hello and Happy Autumn,

This edition of the PD3 newsletter is a dedicated tribute to one of the founders and driving forces of PD3 since its inception in 1995, my mentor and good friend, Mr. Glenn L. Beall. As such, the traditional message from the chair has been dispensed with and, in its place, are some personal memories as a memorial to Glenn and his late wife and business partner, Patsy.



Glenn and Mark at ANTEC 2007

We all know the magnitude of great things that Glenn accomplished during his career, and the articles in this newsletter will remind us just how many there were, and how varied they were. For me, Glenn was, at first, this writer in Plastics Design Forum that I admired, and I collected article after article for my reference book (3 ring binder) on design. Later, I was able to get to know Glenn through the PD3 board and we became friends. We would find each other during ANTEC or other conferences or events and spend time discussing the issues of the day for designers, or manufacturers, or molders, and so on. I got to know Patsy as well and, as time moved on, my wife Kim was able to attend some conferences with me. Whenever possible, Glenn was always keen to have dinner with Kim and I to visit and to catch up. I have included a couple of favorite photos, one from ANTEC 2007 in Cincinnati, where I received the SPE Design Award named in Glenn's honor, and the second from ANTEC 2014 in Las Vegas, where we attended a Plastic Hall of Fame Induction ceremony.

Glenn was instrumental in championing my efforts to prepare the manuscript for my book, reading and suggesting thoughts and ideas. Hence, when it was completed and ready for publication Glenn was the only person that I asked to compose the Foreword, and it is exceptional.

It was at ANTEC 2024 in St. Louis that one of my daughters, Dorothy, was able to attend and to meet this guy Glenn that was held in such high regard by her father. That was also the last time that Kim and I were able to visit Glenn in person. Being selected as a speaker for the Glenn Beall Symposium that year was an incredible honor, and indeed one of the great highlights of my career. (cont'd)

Letter from the Chair

But with all the great accomplishments that are attributed to Glenn, he was for me a mentor, a professional supporter, and most of all, a good friend. Each time I would speak or receive some certificate or award, a week or two later, via USPS first-class mail, a letter would arrive from Glenn on his trademark stationery and with his trademark signature. He knew how to teach and to motivate me to want to be a better professional, and to do so with humility. My only hope is that I have learned enough from him to be able to pass on to others, as he did for me.

I am exceptionally grateful for the opportunity to pay homage to my friend and mentor Glenn Beall; it is a tremendous honor for me to bring you this message as an introduction to this wonderful Tribute Edition of the PD3 Newsletter.

Respectfully,
Mark MacLean-Blevins
2025-2026 PD3 Chair, and Friend of Glenn and Patsy



Glenn & Patsy's Memorial *Scholarship*

Please
Consider
Donating



1953

MARRIED PATSY JO WHEELER

1957

**EARNED HIS BACHELOR OF SCIENCE FROM
BRADLEY UNIVERSITY. STARTED AT GE DESIGNING
POWER SYSTEMS**

1958-1968

**WORKED AT ABBOTT LABORATORIES, DEVELOPING
MEDICAL DEVICES AND EARNED 12 PATENTS**

1960

**JOINED THE SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS
(SPE).**

1967

**SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE SPE CHICAGO
CHAPTER**

1972

**TAUGHT FIRST SEMINAR (WITH LARRY
BROUTMAN, FUTURE SPE PRESIDENT)**

1968-1993

**OPERATED HIS OWN COMPANY, GLENN BEALL
ENGINEERING INC., RECEIVED 23 MORE
PATENTS**

1983

AWARDED SPE'S PRESIDENT'S CUP

1985

NAMED AN SPE FELLOW

1990

NAMED A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF SPE

1993

**FORMED GLENN BEALL PLASTICS LTD.;
RECEIVED SPE'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING
ACHEIEVEMENT IN PLASTICS EDUCATION**

1995

**SPE NAMED ITS INTERNATIONAL PRODUCT DESIGN
AWARD IN HIS HONOR; FOUNDED PD3 WITH MEL
FRIEDMAN AND HENRY FINKEL.**

1997

INDUCTED INTO THE PLASTICS HALL OF FAME.

1998

INDUCTED INTO THE ASSOCIATION OF ROTATIONAL
MOLDERS (ARM) HALL OF FAME

2006

IS THE FIRST AMERICAN TO BE INDUCTED AS A
LIVERYMAN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WORSHIPFUL
COMPANY OF HORNERS

2014

PATSY BEALL PASSES AWAY

2019

FIRST MASTER COLLECTOR/HISTORIAN OF US
HONORABLE COMPANY OF HORNERS GUILD

2024

THE GLENN BEALL SYMPOSIUM WAS HELD AT SPE'S
ANTEC CONFERENCE TO HONOR HIS IMPACT

2025

AWARDED EMERITUS MEMBER OF PD3

“The Gallery of Goofs”

By: Glenn Beall : Glenn Beall Plastics Inc.



We are reproducing his first page from the first of a series of articles by Glenn. To see the rest of this article and others, follow this link: <https://pd3.4spe.org/plastic-part-failure/>

Human beings are not infallible(1). They make mistakes. Plastic product designers are human beings and can therefore be expected to make mistakes. I am reluctant to admit it, but I have made more than my fair share of plastic product design mistakes. My only excuse is that plastic technology was not taught at my university. As a result, I learned about designing with plastic on the job, in the school of hard knocks, by reading the plastics industry magazines and the few relevant books that existed back then.

I like to believe I also learned from my own frequent mistakes. However, it didn't take very long for me to realize that it would be faster and less costly to learn from the mistakes being made by other designer engineers. I started saving stories of these mistakes in design.

In September of 1981, I had the good fortune to be named the design editor of the highly respected Plastic Design Forum (PDF) magazine. This was a wonderful job that gave me an opportunity and the freedom to promote my design philosophy to the plastics products design community.

In the normal course of events, I wrote an article about a plastic part that failed due to a lack of attention to the basic plastic part design guidelines. That mistake resulted in the death of an innocent person. This article was well-received and the PDF editors asked for more stories about why plastic parts failed and how those failures were eliminated. After a few part failure articles, the editors established a recurring PDF column entitled “The Gallery of Goofs”. They chose the word goof(2) instead of failure or mistake as those words sounded too harsh in the politically correct society we were living in at that time. For obvious reasons, the names of the people, companies, and suppliers mentioned in these articles were changed to protect the guilty. In some articles, the application was also disguised.

I have been designing plastic parts since 1957. Unfortunately, the same mistakes I made over sixty years ago are still being made today. I admit that my work as a consultant and expert witness in plastic product failure litigations brings me into contact with more plastic part failures than the average product designer. Be that as it may, there is obviously something missing in how plastic designers are being educated.

With that thought in mind, SPE's Product Design and Development Division will be including some of the PDF Gallery of Goofs articles in future newsletters. Hopefully, those reading the newsletter will benefit by learning about these reviews of real-life plastic part failures and how these defects were resolved.

Glenn L. Beall
Glenn Beall Plastics

Webster's Dictionary

(1) Infallible — incapable of erring.

(2) Goof — an incompetent, foolish, or stupid person.

A careless mistake or a slip.

Celebration of Life

September 13th, 2025 - Lake Forest, IL

Approximately 50 people attended a wonderful Celebration of Life Service held on September 13, 2025 at Lake Forest Place in Lake Forest, IL. Please enjoy this photo montage that captures the venue and attendees, the speakers, and some of the displayed artifacts pertaining to Glenn's life.

Thanks to Liz Ganitopoulos, Anne (Rotheiser) Zavell and Mark Wolverton for their help in putting this event together.



Erica Kincaid and Jill Stadelmyer, two waitresses who served the “Regular” Glenn Beall and grew to know him over the years.



Employees at Glenn Beall Engineering.
(L to R) Helen Hansen, Marlynn Czosek, Larry Schneider, Bettie Graning, and Carol Mucha.



Celebration of Life

September 13th, 2025 - Lake Forest, IL



Gail Rotheiser, wife of the late Jordan Rotheiser, with Mark MacLean-Blevins. Gail and Jordan were lifelong friends with Glenn and Patsy. Mark was introduced to them during several events, including an ANTEC in Cincinnati



Len Czuba Speaking



Anne Rotheiser Zavell



Andy Colgan, Glenn's Great Nephew, Speaking



Ken Pawlak Speaking



Mark Wolverton Speaking

love always

GLENN & PATSY BEALL

“At the heart of Glenn’s life was his profound and enduring love for his wife and lifelong partner, Patsy Jo (Wheeler) Beall. They were high school sweethearts and shared an exceptional marriage that spanned 61 years. Their partnership was far more than companionship; it was a shared journey of mutual support and ambition.”



For more than six decades, Patsy and Glenn Beall were true partners in life and work. Their story began in high school, where they met and began a journey that led to 61 years of marriage. Patsy worked to support Glenn through college, later joining him at Abbott Laboratories before the two of them launched their own firm, Glenn Beall Engineering Inc., in 1968. From then on, everything they built, they built together.

Glenn often said his greatest “secret weapon” was Patsy, his wife, his “sleep-in secretary,” and the steady force behind his career. She supported his volunteer efforts, his industry leadership, and his passion for preserving plastics history. Just days before her passing, the Society of Plastics Engineers recognized that devotion by inducting her as an honorary member.

The Bealls also shared a beloved tradition: their annual Thanksgiving card, sent for 36 years with photos, humor, and reflections on time passing. Their final card admitted, “The team is aging, and we reluctantly conclude that the time has come to end the tradition.” It closed, as always, with both their names, a reminder of how inseparable they were.

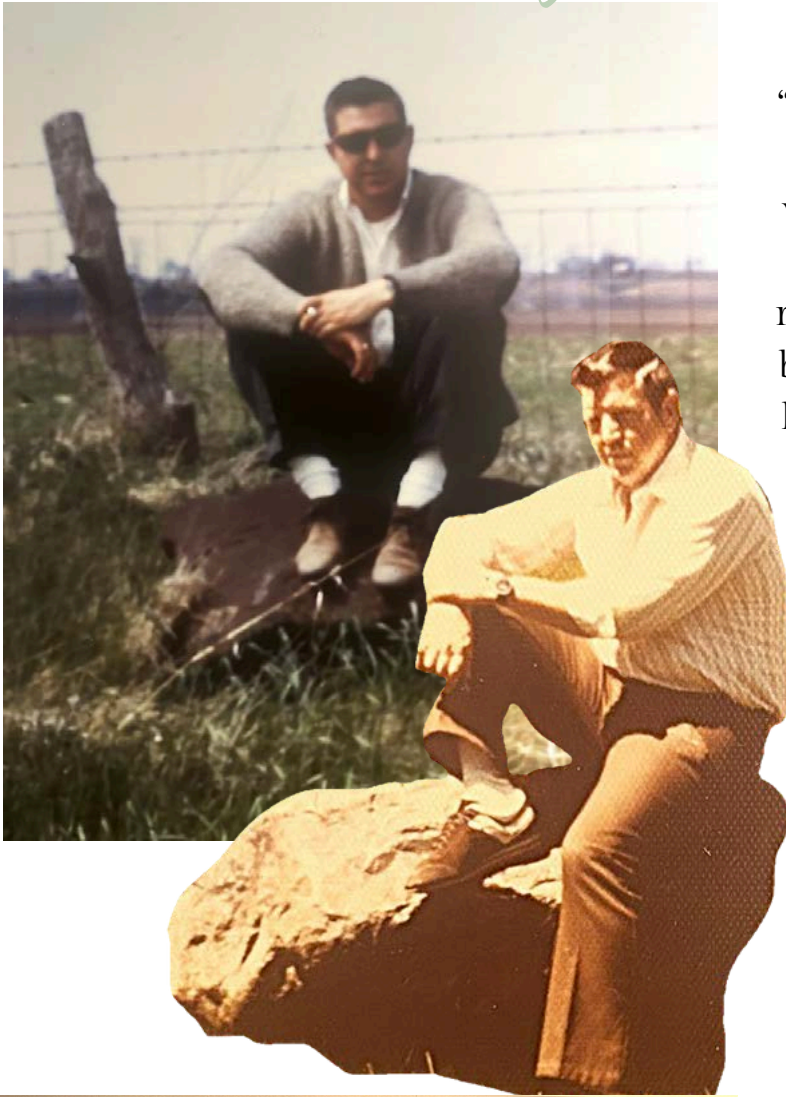
Patsy passed away in 2014, after facing cancer with quiet courage. Reflecting on their life together, the Bealls once wrote: “We wonder what happened to all of those years. Some say they rushed or slipped by; others claim they don't know where the time went. In our case, we were having so much fun that the years danced by and we didn't notice the passage of time.”

Thinking rock

According to notes by Glenn's mother, Lillie.

"This rock has a story: When Glenn was just a little boy, he would go down the road a little ways and sit on this rock and wait for his dad to come in from the field, and then he got a ride on whatever machine was in use that day back to the house. I could watch him from the kitchen window. He always went early (never late, you know!) and I suspect, settled all the problems of his world while waiting!"

The delivery of "The Thinking Rock" to Gurnee in 1971 was a surprise gift to Glenn. It was evidently retrieved and delivered (180 miles) by his mother, Lillie Beall, his sister Dorothy (and Bob) Warren, and friend Don Harrington. Lillie wrote on the back of one of the pictures, "I can't believe it! We really surprised him once!"



Glenn's great nephew, Andy Colgan, plans to move Glenn's Rock back to Stark County so it can continue to provide stories and a history to their family in the years to come.

photo gallery



Glenn and Mark at ANTEC 2014

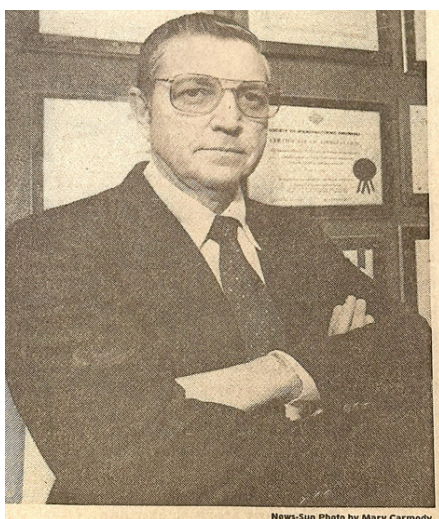
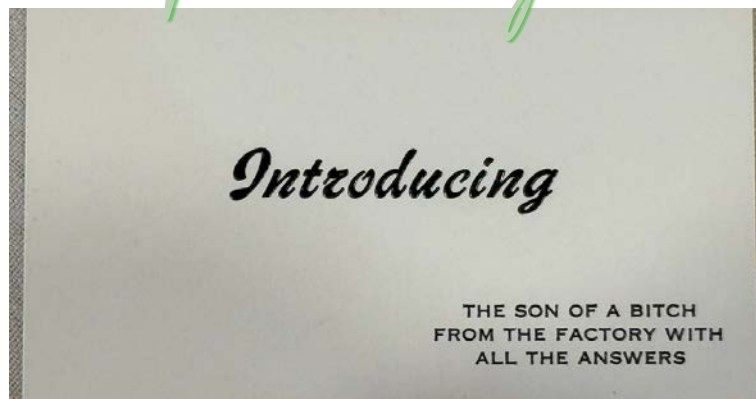
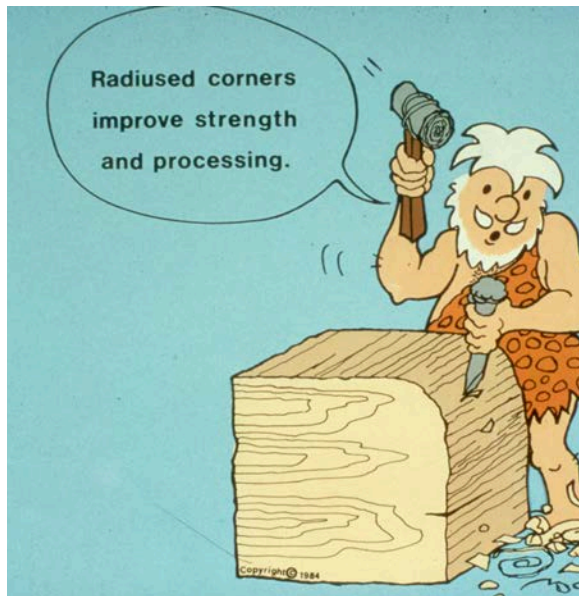


photo gallery



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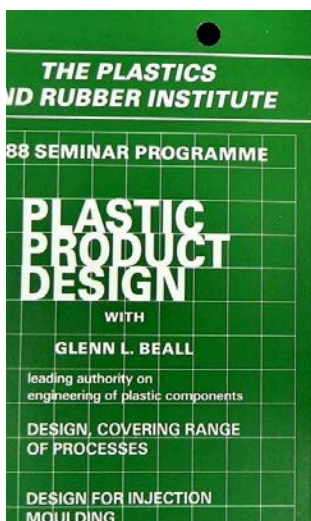


News-Sun Photo

Founded Glenn Beall Engineering in Gurnee

UCKSTEN

ing to build a better mousetrap, chances are it w
t plastic. That being the case, it might be a g
engineering, Gurnee, check out the design before



Glenn L. Beall



Master Profile *Glenn Beall*

Editor's Note:

This is the first article on a member of the Honourable Company of Horners who has achieved the status of Master Collector / Historian. Featured in this article is Glenn Beall whose profile will also be added to the Guild's Website at www.hornsguild.org.

In accordance with the Guild's Standing Rules, two of the major requirements for anyone to become a Master Collector / Historian are that an individual must "Show a superlative collection of horn articles presented in a historical context, (i.e. carved powder horns, folk art powder horns, screw tip powder horns, snuff boxes, combs, etc.) to be reviewed by the Awards Committee for evaluation at the annual meeting." In addition "..... the candidate must give an original presentation to the HCH at an annual meeting on the collection" followed by a written "copy for the study and advancement of current and future Guild members."

This high standard is quite significant in that after 23 years of our Guild's



Introducing Glenn Beall,
Master Collector / Historian

March 2, 2019 was a historic landmark for the Honourable Company of Horners as Glenn Beall was the first Guild member to achieve the status of Master Collector / Historian since its inception in 1996. Of further note is the fact that Glenn is the only individual who is a member of both the Worshipful Company of Horners (WCH) in London, England, as well as the Honourable Company of Horners. Needless to say, Glenn's story along with his achievements, is quite interesting.

for plastics-related technical societies and trade associations.

It wasn't until 1980, that Glenn began collecting plastic artifacts and studying the written history of the plastics industry. Those histories explained that horn was a precursor to plastic materials, both sharing the characteristics of being softened with heat and capable of being pushed into new, commercially acceptable shapes. This fact caught Glenn's interest.

In 1984, Glenn's interest had evolved to a point where he started collecting horn artifacts. He stated that "I am interested in all of the humankind procedures.... and its trade that produced many types of products that provide the incentive for useful and creative expression." He further explained that "My own special interests are horn combs, buttons and cane handles. I am also fascinated by some of the craftsman's or artist's ability to look at a rough, raw piece of horn and see in it the shape of a graceful bird, or a fish, or an old humped-back man. I have always put a high value on the work of the craftsman who can do this and who have the ability to carve three-dimensional, low relief, compression molded horn artifacts."

An interesting aspect of Glenn's story is that although he had started collecting horn items around 1984, how did he happen to become a member of both the WCH and the HCH? Glenn stated that "At that time, I had business in England. I traveled there once or twice a year. I quickly discovered that there were many more vintage horn artifacts in the UK antique markets than in the US. Some of my business friends were members of the WCH. Once they learned I was collecting horn artifacts, they told me about the WCH and asked if I would be interested in joining. I had already



Dreamer

A Poem by Lillie Beall (Glenn's Mother)

A small boy lay upon the grass and gazed up at the sky,
And as he gazed he pondered all the wherefore and the why?
What makes the sun so big and round and what keeps it up there,
And just what are the fleecy clouds, as they float from here to there?
And about the far horizon, why it's just as plain as fate
It's just like Mother's big blue bowl turned over butter on a plate.
And if I should ever travel, if I'd ever really dare,
T'would just be the end of everything, there's nothing over there!

Then supper time and bedtime came, and after prayers were said,
A Mother kissed each rosy cheek and tucked him into bed.
It was then she heard the story of the sun, the clouds and sky,
And she tried to teach a lesson as she made him this reply...
"Yes you are quite right my boy, the sun is just a big round ball,
Tis the hand of God that holds it and will never let it fall,
And the clouds are just like brother's kite, wind swept here and there,
As they gather up the raindrops which they scatter everywhere.
But about the far horizon, you're as wrong as you can be.
For the earth goes on much farther than the eye can ever see.
And when it's your turn to travel where the earth line meets the blue,
You'll see far greater wonders than have ever met your view.
So learn your lessons now my lad, do the very best you can,
So you can take your place out there when you get to be a man."

This lad grew up as small boys do, and got to be a man,
And he took his place out yonder
Midst the world's great caravan, and he saw far greater wonders
Than he ever thought could be, when he was just a little lad
Back home at Mother's knee.

His Mother, old and feeble now, life to her no more looked gay,
God came and took her by the hand and led her far away.
Then this boy who'd grown to manhood became a boy again,
As he grieved for his dear Mother who had always been his friend,
And in his grief he cried out, "I do not think it's fair.

Death is the end of everything, there's nothing over there."
A still small voice then spoke to him, its message sweet and clear
As the voice that never failed him seemed to whisper in his ear,
"But about that far off distant land, you're wrong as you can be,
For life goes on much farther than the eye can ever see.
And when it's your turn to travel where the darkness meets the light,
You'll see far greater mansions than have ever met your sight.
So walk your pathway here with faith, just do the best you can,
Then know God's hand will guide you to that far off promised land."

A Permanent Place of Tribute

A tribute page has been created as a permanent place to honor and remember Glenn Beall's life and contributions. There you will find a collection of articles, archived materials, photos, and other resources that reflect his work, impact, and legacy. It is intended to serve as both a tribute and a lasting resource, preserving his story for years to come.



IN
Remembrance



Please visit <https://pd3.4spe.org/tribute-to-glenn-beall/>
and join us in remembering and honoring Glenn Beall for years to come.