

Marble Memories

Helen has been collecting marbles since she was ten years old. It all started with a corkscrew marble and an imagination. She loved how the colors swirled inside of the marble. She thought if she could collect a few and place them in a jar, maybe when the sun hit the glass the colors would look like the rainbow. The rest, as they say, is history.

At the age of 79, Helen has collected over 100,000 marbles. As you can imagine, along with all the marbles, Helen collected at least that many stories. That isn't surprising considering Helen's past. Helen spent many years driving a tour bus for the Lansing School District, taking children to various historical points throughout the City. Among the highlights of Helen's tours were the site of Lansing's first teepee, first hardware store, and even the first fire station. Helen even wrote a book about the history of Lansing.

"Every marble is washed, dried, and sorted," Helen said. "Each piece has a special meaning and history."

Helen had enjoyed collecting her marbles over the years and loves every last one of them. Even though they don't have a monetary value, their sentimental value is immeasurable. That makes it all the more special when she graces one of her friends with a carefully selected jar of marbles as a gift. She's even been known to share her favorite corkscrew marbles or the large marbles with animals formed inside.

There are many memories attached to Helen's jars of marbles. Over the years, as age has taken some of those memories from the surface, her marbles have brought back the past. There is a joy to collecting things we love and that joy can be found in a jar on a shelf in Helen's "marble room".



Helen shares her prized collection