

## Alaska



The item shown is a **Small Berry Bowl** in a pattern called **Alaska**. It was made by the Northwood Glass Company beginning in 1897, the year of the big Gold Rush to Alaska. This Small Berry Bowl was part of a 7 piece set. There was a Master Berry Bowl, and six Small Berry Bowls which were sold as the set.

The interesting thing is, many times when I found early glass in a home, there is only one of these Small Berry Bowls. I often wondered what ever happened to the rest of the set? This happened more often than not when it came to this pattern. There had to be a reason for it.

Then one day I was looking through some early Butler Brothers catalog pages and found the answer. In a catalog dated 1898, Northwood advertised this Small Berry Bowl as a **Jewel Tray**. So this answered the question why so many early homes only had one of these. This piece would sit on a dresser to hold Jewelry. Now this doesn't mean that Small Berry Bowls in patterns other than Alaska were marketed as Jewel Trays. So far, the Alaska Small Berry Bowl is the only piece known to be marketed this way.

Bill Banks, author.