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Christmas in Georgetown Awakens the Holiday Spirit

Each December the town of Georgetown transforms for two weekends into a bustling Christmas scene reminiscent of Christmas of long ago. Thousands come to this beautiful mountain town to experience a traditional Holiday where Christmas hasn’t changed in 100 years: roasted chestnuts, holiday shopping, horse-drawn wagon rides through Historic Georgetown, and wonderful sights and smells. Come enjoy appearances by St. Nicholas in his traditional dress and the daily procession of the Santa Lucia, as well as carolers in Victorian costume, dancers, and other family entertainment. Adorned with lights and Christmas greenery and blanketed with snow, the quaint, historic town of Georgetown has been a Christmas tradition for generations of Colorado families. This year is a good year to begin making it a tradition of your own! This event will take place in Historic Downtown Georgetown, on 6th Street.

Here are some of the other December events that will take place:



Santa’s Lighted Forest Train, Weekends through Dec. 4 and then daily Dec. 10th through Dec. 31st (closed on Christmas Day), This ride allows you to relax from your shopping endeavors and take the train which offers beautiful synchronized holiday music and a light show in the forest above Georgetown, 4:50-6:00 p.m.

Barris/Folsom Concert will be Thursday, Dec. 8, 7-8 p.m.

Minecrafternoon Building Competition, 12/28 and 12/30, 1-3 p.m. Must be 6 - 16 years old, Snack provided, Registration required.



While in Georgetown visit the Hotel de Paris Museum. It will certainly give you the feeling of days gone by. Visit this American hotel of European inspired elegance and catch the spirit of 1875 by getting to know it's founder, Louis Dupuy. Special Tours available
Continued on page 13

Planes, Trains & Automobiles – Travel in Style

By Carol Mobley

The Holiday travel season has arrived. In December 2015 there were 4.6 million people who traveled through Denver International Airport, the 6th largest in the United States. But airlines are not the only mode of transportation people use to travel. Amtrak carried more than three times as many riders between Washington, DC, and New York City as the airline industry. Travel by bus increased with the introduction of contemporary full-sized buses from the 1950’s. And according to the US Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics 91 percent of most long-distance holiday travel is done in an automobile. Over the past 100 years traveling using these modes of transportation has changed dramatically.

Let’s start with travel by airplane. The first commercial airline flight was in January of 1914. It wasn’t until after World War II that airline travel surged. Documented in postcards, spacious and relaxed travel by airplane was a special event. People dressed to travel by air often wearing their Sunday best. Comfortable seating arrangements and gourmet meals were selling points. (See the Interior of Northwest Orient Airlines DC-6B, Sky Lounge, and United Air Lines Menu postcards on page 17)

Airlines took a lesson from train travel. People have been

traveling by rail since the early to mid 1800’s. Railroads learned to provide creature comforts to passengers while traveling. Union Pacific provided lounges, sun parlors, radios and the latest magazines on some of their routes. The “City of Denver” Streamliner operated by Union Pacific Railroad had the “Frontier Shack” or “The Pub” for passenger relaxation. (See the “Luxurious Club Car on the Columbine to the right. Frontier Shack on the Streamliner and City of Denver Streamliner postcards are on page 17.)

Buses competed directly with air travel. It was an economical way to travel and also offered comfort for the passenger. On this postcard promoting travel by Continental Trailways Golden Eagle, they are advertising to “See America at Scenery Level,” directly promoting travel on the ground vs. the air. Buses promoted full bathrooms and lounges on some routes. (Greyhound and Continental postcards are on page 17.)

But the grand prize winner for travel is the automobile. More people will drive to Grandma’s house than by any other mode of transportation. Early automobiles were considered fragile luxury items. It wasn’t until Henry Ford introduced the production line that automobiles became affordable. With that came rapid changes in design to improve safety and comfort for the road traveler. (An illustration of open air automobile is on page 17.)



Forney Museum of Transportation

The Forney Museum of Transportation is a one-of-a-kind collection of over 600 artifacts relating to historical transportation. It began 60 years ago with a single 1921 Kissel, but soon expanded to include vehicles of all kinds. Today it includes not just vehicles, but also buggies, motorcycles, steam locomotives, aircraft, carriages, rail equipment, fire apparatus, public transportation, sleighs, bicycles, toys & diecast models, vintage apparel and much, much more! The Forney Museum is located at 4303 Brighton Blvd Denver, CO 80216. <http://www.forneymuseum.org/>

Plane, train, bus or automobile, no matter what mode of transportation you choose you should travel to Golden, Colorado for the Denver Postcard & Paper Show on January 13 & 14, 2017. The Forney Transportation Museum will be selling travel related ephemera at the show. For more information visit www.denverpostcardshow.com or contact Carol and Bill Mobley at 303-761-3755.

More photos of postcards depicting travel on page 17.

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- Happy Holidays from the dealers and staff of *Denver's Best Antiquing Experience!*

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Saturday, December 10 ✱ 2-4pm



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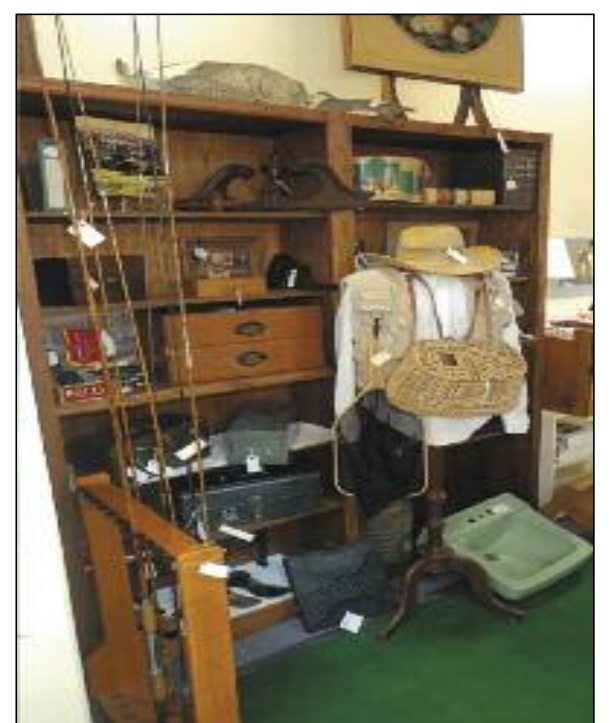
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SHOW CALENDAR

December Events



FIRST FRIDAYS: **SIX FIFTY ANTIQUES** invites you to visit them at the Art District on Santa Fe, 870 N. Santa Fe, Denver, a great date night, the streets are full of people and food trucks. They will have food, music and drink at their shop. More info, call 720-561-9278.

DEC. 9 & 10: **RUE DE NOEL, a PARIS STREET CHRISTMAS MARKET** Ooh la la...over 29,000 sq. ft. of Holiday Cheer indoors at the Douglas County Events Center, Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 500 Fairgrounds Road, Castle Rock, Colorado 80104 (One Mile East of I-25 off Castle Rock Exit 181), Call 303-877-9457 or visit aparisstreetmarket.com for more information.

DEC. 14: **CHRISTMAS IN THE WHITE HOUSE** Discussion led by Cheryl Miller at 2:00 p.m. at The Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. More information, or if you would be interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

DEC. 26 - 31: **LA CACHE HOLIDAY SALE.** La Cache,

located at 400 Downing Street in Denver, will be holding another RDF clearance sale in December, right after Christmas. All "RDF" items in our Building 404 will be reduced 50% with new items added each and every day. No reductions will be taken prior to these dates so mark your calendars now for big savings. All proceeds benefit Children's Hospital Colorado. La Cache is open 10 AM to 4 PM. Call 303-871-9605 with any questions.

DEC. 28: **COOKIE CUTTERS** Discussion led by Arlene Lipman at 2:00 p.m. at The Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. More information, or if you would be interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

Upcoming Events

JAN. 11: **STEAMPUNK** Discussion led by Darlene Gruber at 2:00 p.m. at The Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. More information, or if you would be interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

JAN. 13 & 14: **DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW AND SALE**, at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall (15200 W. 6th Ave., Golden, CO 80401), Fri. 11-7 and Sat. 9:30 to 4:30, \$5 Admission, good for both days, Contact Carol Mobley at 720-308-1516 or email her at camobley@ephemeranet.com, www.facebook.com/denverpostcardshow, www.DenverPostcardShow.com Upcoming shows will be May 5 & 6 and July 14 & 15.

JAN. 25: **COSTUME JEWELRY** Discussion led by Stephanie Davidson at 2:00 p.m. at The Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. More information, or if you would be interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

FEB. 8: **COLORADO BOTTLES AND JUGS** Discussion led by Dan Mayo and Jeff Johnson at 2:00 p.m. at The Brass Ar-

madillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. More information, or if you would be interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

FEB. 22: **SCHOENHUT** Discussion led by Sandra Pappas at 2:00 p.m. at The Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. More information, or if you would be interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

MAR. 8: **COOKBOOKS** Discussion led by Stacey Stryker at 2:00 p.m. at The Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. More information, or if you would be interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

MAR. 22: **PAPERWEIGHTS** Discussion led by Cheryl Miller at 2:00 p.m. at The Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. More information, or if you would be interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

Auctions

DEC. 10: **BRUHNS AUCTION ESTATE SALE** 11:00 a.m., 50 W. Arizona Ave., Denver, 303-744-6505

DEC. 3, 10 and 17: **FAMILY ESTATE AUCTION**, 8032 W. Jewell Avenue, Lakewood, CO 80232, Open at 10 a.m., auction starts at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Previews will be DEC. 2, 9 and 16 from 3 - 7 on Fridays before auctions. Call 303-953-2087 for more info.

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TOYS

Historic Toys of Hubley

By Robert Reed

From coal dump trucks to cap pistols the toys of Hubley Manufacturing Co. were an historic part of the 20th century.

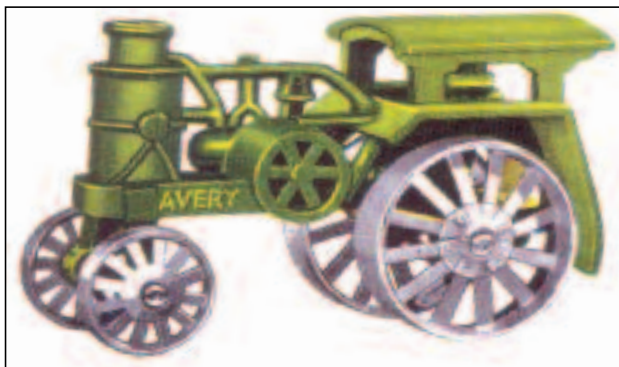
Their colorful catalogs assured, "Hubley toys are made to sell." And sell they did. The Lancaster, Pennsylvania enterprise was at one point among the largest makers of cast iron toys in the world.

At Hubley the emphasis was on brightly colored and detailed toys with what they called "play" features. Moreover their rugged and durable line was remarkably varied. Their 1933 catalog, for example, despite the Great Depression offered hundreds of choices from the Avery tractor to the Lindy airplane.

Bank teller John Hubley launched the company late in the 19th century after first making toys for his own children. Early pieces included everything from toy versions of various horse-drawn carriages to the clock movement Elevated Railway.

While some Hubley toys of that era were motionless, lots of others were steam powered or electric power. Some were amazingly "motorized" with simple key wind springs.

Hubley himself died in the early 1900s but the company continued to produce a vast as-



Avery toy tractor by Hubley. Cast iron, ca. 1930s, five in.

sortment of toy treasures which came to include circus wagons, still banks, trains, Ferris wheels, and miniature stoves for doll-houses.

By the 1920s one of Hubley's most appealing toy offer-

ings was the horse-drawn wagons of the Roy Circus. Writing in The Story of American Toys author Richard O'Brien notes of the Roy Circus, "They were beautifully done, with much

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LAFAYETTE

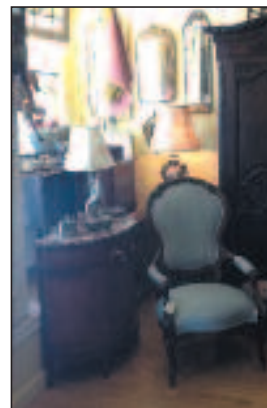


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TOYS

History of Hubley Toys

Continued from page 6

decorative detail, and included such esoterica as bandwagons, calliopes, monkey trapeze, mirror van, and more."

A crowning achievement by Hubley followed the crowning achievement by Charles Lindbergh in 1927. Lindbergh shocked the world with his solo airplane flight from New York to Paris. Hubley had a cast iron version of Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis the following year. The copyrighted and clearly marked Lindy was a big hit for Hubley. Later they included the Lindy Lockheed-Sirius and the Lindy Glider in their winged lineup.

The Hubley company continued to roll during the 1930s with a grand array of toys. Mainstays continued to be au-



Lindy Lockheed-Sirius toy airplane. Made by Hubley, ca. 1930s, 10.5 inches long.

tomobiles, trucks and motorcycles. Many of them were "motorized" with key-wind springs and thus propelled the toy vehicles for some distance. Among the wind-up sections were two sizes of dump trucks, racers,

road rollers, and a van.

Hubley was also a pioneer in the relatively widespread incorporation of name brands into solid toys. In many cases the company obtained exclusive

Continued on page 13



Holiday "RDF" Sale Dec 26-31

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So. BROADWAY, DENVER

Come kick off the Holidays with us on Saturday December 10th for Antique Row's Holiday Open House! Celebrate the winter season as the merchants of the upscale, seven-block shopping district offer visitors a chance to stroll through the unique array of boutiques and galleries and learn why it is a favorite destination among the country's leading interior designers.

We will have Santa with REAL REINDEER, Carolers, and all of the shops on Broadway will have Christmas shopping specials!

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Toothless Murray

During the last week of November, I found myself near the Foothills Animal Shelter in Golden, Colorado. I had no plans to see any dogs up for adoption that day but decided to walk through. It was very nostalgic for me. As a child, I remember going to the local shelter to adopt several dogs throughout my childhood that turned into wonderful family members. The display of hopeful dogs ended in the 'senior' department that was empty except for a tiny toy poodle in a plaid coat. He had a note on his cage that he was 11 years old and had no teeth – not one. He looked brave, sweet, and hopeful.



Rachel Hoffman

I found myself going back up the front of the shelter to inquire about the senior toothless dog in the window. When I asked, the volunteers at the front were elated that I was interested in him. They told me he has come in stray and they held him for several weeks waiting for an owner to claim him. He had long hair, and they thought perhaps his owner passed away which is what often happens with older small dogs. We went into the bonding room. I sat on the floor with Murray who wagged his tail and was content to be curled up on my lap. I thought about what a survivor he was. The sheer fact that he survived on the streets considering his delicate size. Smaller than a cantaloupe and his legs reminding me of spaghetti noodles, Murray immediately

was so relieved to be in someone's arms. I wondered considering his size and having not one tooth that if I didn't adopt him if someone would.

I walked back up to the front desk and said that I would like to take Murray home. He was content to sit in my purse while I filled out the paperwork and paid the special \$25.00 adoption fee for a senior dog. What a bargain! Murray has been right at home helping in the antique doll shop on South Broadway and is on his way to being a BFF with my other adopted senior dog, Peyton. When I am at home, and I get the feeling that someone is staring at me, it's always Murray. He stares at me with intense gratitude as if he knew his situation and he can't believe his good fortune.

Murray is like adopting an antique into your home. He came with a 'patina,' and a strong personality – much like a beautiful piece of old silver or a European chest. Having something in your home with a history and time-worn charm is gratifying. In this season of giving and receiving, I urge you to shop locally for yourself and for others. You may not know it but there are many antique and vintage shops that are brimming with Murray's, and many of them might only cost you just \$25.00.

To learn more about Rachel Hoffman's appraisal practice, visit www.rachelhoffmanappraisal.com. To visit Murray, come on into Turn of the Century Antiques on South Broadway in Denver during open house.

Merry Christmas!



Murray helping price silver at the antique shop



Murray on adoption day



Murray staring at Rachel



Murray and Peyton Marie

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The Mountain States Collector, a tabloid newspaper dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of antiquing and collecting in the Rocky Mountain region, is distributed the first weekend of every month through shops, auctions, flea markets and antique shows, and is mailed to subscribers.

(Opinions of the writers contained herein are not necessarily the opinions of the publishers.)

Advertising information: call Jon DeStefano at 720-276-2777 or email him at jondestef@gmail.com or for any other information, call Spree Enterprises, 303-674-1253 or email us at customerservice@mountainstatescollector.com.

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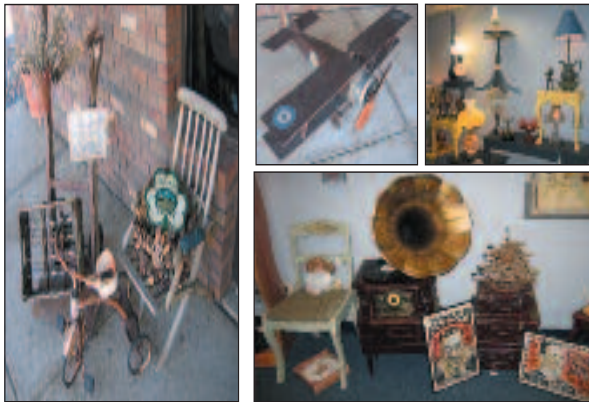
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CHRISTMAS IN GEORGETOWN



Continued from page 1
able by appointment. The Hotel de Paris is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a property of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Colorado. It is located at Sixth and Griffith Street in Georgetown.
Hotel de Paris was recently featured in Colorado Experience: Colorado's Premier History Series. Louis Dupuy's Hotel De Paris is highlighted in episode 2 of the PBS series Colorado Experience! Truly one of Georgetown, Colorado's gems, you won't want to miss this episode. You can stream the episode from the RMPBS website: <http://www.pbs.org/show/colorado-experience/> Marvel at the Hotel's elegant quarters, whet your palette with the elaborate menu (oysters included, and not of the Rocky Mountain variety!) and meet the wealthy businessmen, railroad tycoons and adventure-seekers who found



themselves in the Wild West's lap of luxury. For more information about the Hotel De Paris, visit the official website: <http://hoteldeparismuseum.org/>

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TOYS

The History of Hubley Toys

Continued from page 7

rights to reproduce the brands thus giving them an added emphasis in the marketplace. Brands appearing on Hubley toys during that era include Borden's Milk, Bell Telephone, Old Dutch Cleanser, Maytag washer, G.B. refrigerator, Huber Road Roller, Ingersoll-Rand Compressor, Harley-Davidson motorcycle, Eagle ranges, and U.S. Mail.

The nimble firm also ventured into the comic strip world of Popeye too. The Popeye Spinach Patrol featured the sailor on a cast iron motorcycle. Additionally there was a full range of so-called midget line Hubley vehicles. From boat to zeppelin they were similar to the full-sized models but about four to five inches in length.

"One way of staying in business during the Depression was to make everything you could think of that might sell and then hold your breath," observes O'Brien.

Automated banks produced by Hubley in that decade included the trick elephant bank, the trick dog, and the trick monkey. Still banks featured appliances, bears, lions, dogs, Indians, elephants, and even a copyrighted Fido dog bank.

As 1940 rolled around the Hubley firm had emerged from its humble beginnings to become a world leader in toy manufacturing. Success notwithstanding, the company gradually began shifting from cast iron to die-cast zinc. Heavy metals, more expensive to shift, were also increasingly in short supply. Some toys, like the Texan cap pistol, bore both cast iron and zinc parts. Ultimately all zinc materials were used.

Like most other American toy makers, Hubley switch to military devices during World War II. Full toy production resumed in 1946.

Early in the 1950s Hubley underwent still another material transition-this time from zinc metal to mostly plastic. Again, some toys were made with parts of both materials.



Truck-Mixer from the 1930s. Cast iron toy made by Hubley Co.

Their dandy Frontier Rifle had a metal barrel and magazine but a plastic stock. In 1952 it retailed for \$3.98. The early 1950s version of the Hubley hook and ladder truck had a metal chassis but a plastic cab and trailer. The 'modern' Bell telephone truck was nearly all metal with aluminum trim, but the Motor Express Truck was nearly all plastic except for metal springs and axle is.

A big seller for Hubley starting in the 1950s and continuing well into the next decade was their aircraft with folding. Basically crafted of die-cast metal with sliding plastic canopy and retractable landing gear, they packaged in brightly colored boxes. Each was clearly marked, "A Hubley Metal Toy."

The storied Hubley company was acquired by Gabriel Industries in 1965. A mixture of die-cast and plastic toys were produced. However the new emphasis was on hobby kits. Boxed and Hubley branded kits included the Model A Roadster and the Model A Station Wagon.

Late in the 1970s Gabriel Industries including the Hubley brand became a division of CBS. However the glory days of Hubley's magnificent toys would remain in the past.

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Lady's Dressing Tables Had Varied Names & Looks

By Anne Gilbert

A look at many of today's auction catalogs and antique dealer offerings is a trip through the history of the "dressing table" or "vanity." These days dressing tables are usually "built-ins" that come with a house or Condo. They are a far cry from the elegant examples made of fine woods and often gilded.

Not only did it take several centuries to change women's role in society but to create furniture for their special needs such as the dressing table.

Credit Marie Antoinette for owning the first dressing table for women. In 1778 she commissioned the master cabinet maker, Jean Henri Riesener to create a special dressing table. The result was a mechanical table that was a combination dressing table, writing table, breakfast table and reading table all in one. The French word was "Poudreuse", a derivation of face powder. Simplified versions were made in France after that and copies were made in England in the French style by Thomas Sheraton and



Thomas Chippendale.

However, historically, a version was first made for men earlier in the 17th century, as a shaving mirror. By the 18th century, in England, they were in the form of a knee-hole desk, in the masculine style. The top would lift up to a fitted mirror. Others were simply lowboys with lift tops and interior mirrors. Sometimes they were adapted for women and scaled down in size.

In early 19th century America, the dressing table became simplified. Some had a simple one drawer, table form with a mirrored box on top. Other were elaborately painted and sometimes trimmed with a drapery swag underneath. The biggest change, in Europe and America during the 19th century was the combining of the mirror and table into a single piece. By the 20th century it became known as a "vanity."

CLUES: Each succeeding era reflected the design trend of the times such as Art Nouveau, Art Deco and Mid century modern. During the 20th century it became part of the mass produced bedroom suites made around the world.

However, following World War II, it was sold as an "extra," rather than part of a set. These days they are often used as a decorative accent. Reproductions of antique styles are rampant.

PHOTO to the right: Victorian dressing table.

PHOTO CREDIT: Shackladysantiques.com

PHOTO to the left: Art Deco style vanity.

PHOTO CREDIT: theoldcinemaco.uk



Antique Detective Q & A

Q. This small ceramic object was in a drawer of my late mother's dressing table. Nobody in the family knows anything about it. No maker marks on the bottom. It is charming with the figures of three dogs and flowers. What is the purpose of the hole? I plan to put it in my garage sale but don't know what to charge?



L. Z. - Dallas, TX

A. Forget the garage sale! You have a Victorian watch holder made in England's Staffordshire potteries in the 1840s, 50s. In the 19th century watches were prized as mechanical wonders and status symbols. Owners needed to protect them. The result was a variety of decorative objects made of different materials. Your holder could sell in a retail setting for over \$100.

Q. I recently inherited this unusual chair. I did some research and think it could have been made in the 15th century, during the Italian Renaissance. It was always displayed in the hall. It also folds. Is it a museum piece? What could it be worth?

M. C. - Wilkesboro, N.C.

A. Sorry to disappoint you. Your chair is known by several



names such as the "Dante," "Savonarola" and "X." The style was originally created, as you learned, in Italy during the 15th century. Similar forms were also made at that time in Spain.

It was later named after the Friar, Girolamo Savonarola or Dante, a Renaissance poet. It has never stopped being reproduced, with different carvings. The style was popular during

the late 19th century. Yours was made in the 1930s and a retail price could be from \$250 to \$500.

Q. This shallow metal bowl with a bamboo design was \$5.00 at a garage sale. On the bottom it says "Everlast forged aluminum." It measures around nine inches in diameter. Is it worth more?



R. S. - Lancaster, PA

A. If you had found your bowl ten years ago, it could have sold for as much as \$70 when vintage aluminum was "trendy." Your bowl made in the 1950s has a current shop value of \$25.

Do you have an antique item and need more information? For a personnel reply send a photo, along with history, size and any signatures with a self-addressed and stamped envelope and \$25 to Anne Gilbert, 1811 Renaissance Cmns. Blvd., #2319, Boynton Beach, FL, 33426

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Continued from page 1



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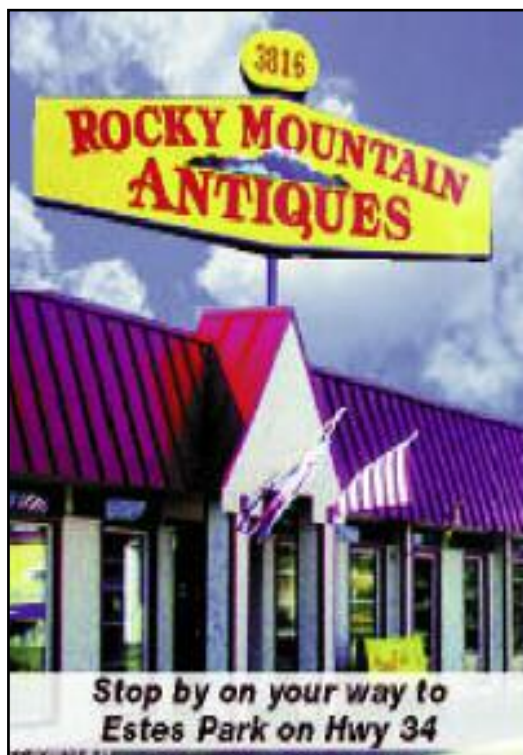
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The Merry Christmas Seals

By Henry J. Pratt

"If each piece of mail were taxed but a pence, then considerable money could be raised for charity." That's what a 38-year-old Danish postal clerk, Einar Holbell, thought and dreamed while sorting mail in his country during the 1903 Christmas rush.

Denmark's then-King Christian quickly approved Holbell's idea. So, in 1904, they printed a picture of the late Queen Louise on each postage piece—called "julenmaerke," or Christmas stamp, in Danish. It marked the issuance of the world's first Christmas seal, and the idea spread like wildfire during the next several decades.

The next year, Sweden introduced and sold several million Christmas seals. Norway followed in 1906, then in the United States in 1907—just 81 years ago.

Money first raised by the sale of Christmas seals was used to control tuberculosis. Once considered fatal, TB led to thousands of deaths in 19th-century Europe and America.

Dr. Robert Koch, a German bacteriologist, had isolated the TB germ in 1882. Then in 1895, Roentgen discovered the X-ray, which made possible detection in man. But patients suffering from the dreaded disease needed long-term sanitarium-type facilities with plenty of fresh air, sun and rest.

Christmas seal sales brought in funds, making it possible to build these facilities. But over the years since 1907, the designs and uses of Christmas seals in the U.S. have changed, making the seals an interesting collectible item.

In the early 1900s, while reading his Christmas mail from abroad, Jacob Riis, an American journalist of Danish roots, noticed the julenmaerke on his envelopes. Several of Riis's brothers had earlier died of TB, making Jacob more than just a little interested in the Danish Christmas stamps. So he wrote a widely-circulated story

about them in 1907.

Emily Bissell, a Red Cross worker, saw the Riis story and readily understood how Christmas seals could be put to good work in the U.S. It wasn't long before she sketched a wreath, added the greeting—"Merry Christmas"—and borrowed money to print 50,000 seals.

With their sale, Bissell hoped to raise the \$300 needed by her doctor cousin to keep his small hospital open for TB patients. To her amazement, Emily raised not \$300, but \$3000 in her seal drive. For those early efforts Emily Bissell today is known as the "Grand Old Lady" of the American Christmas seal movement.

The following year, the American Red Cross agreed to print and market Christmas seals nationwide. In addition to bearing the greeting "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year," the 1908 stamp bore the familiar emblem of this group—the red cross. The Christmas seal movement in the U.S.A., indeed, was then off and running.

From the surprising, but welcome, \$3000 Emily collected in 1907, proceeds from the sales of Christmas seals have risen steadily over the years. Within a decade, Christmas seal fundraising reached almost \$2 million.

Since 1920, Christmas seals have been printed and sold exclusively by the National Tuberculosis Association (now known as the American Lung Association). It annually nets \$25 million and up to help eradicate various lung diseases. Beginning in 1920, U.S. Christmas seals consistently have used the double-barred Cross of Lorraine.

Through the various slogans printed on the seals' selvages, a collector can follow the history of the seals' fight against respiratory illnesses. In 1977, the selva edge read, "Give for a healthier tomorrow." Often repeated is the selva slogan, "It's a Matter of Life and Breath."

Christmas seals continue to be sent unsolicited



through the mails. Beginning in 1982, seal designs made a change to make the seals more interesting and useful to recipients. A sheet of 42 seals also included popular, practical mailing labels or tags. So now, we can buy and use both the seals and the handy labels.

After you've familiarized yourself with the history of America's Christmas seals, you might want to turn your collectible attention to the Christmas seals efforts of other nations.

When it comes to love and charity, nothing succeeds better than success. Today, over 90 nations print and sell Christmas seals, after Einar Holbell in Denmark had his Christmas seal dream. It was Holbell who started it all, while sorting thousands of cards and letters during a holiday rush of yesteryear.

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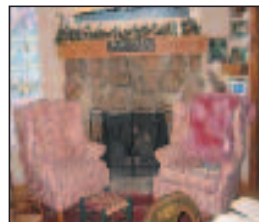
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TERMINOLOGY

What's A Collector?

By Henry J. Pratt

Surely, trillions of words have been written and published about antiques and collectibles, as well as the men and women hobbyists across the country who buy, hold and sell interesting items from America's yesteryear.

One dictionary definition of the word "collector" reads: "A person or thing that collects items...such as stamps." That really doesn't tell us much about collectors,

their motivation, what turns them on, the fun they have collecting, the "mad money" they can earn, and the enthusiasm they can share with one another in pursuing their hobby.

Ted Crom, a horology (timepiece) hobbyist, says, "I believe a hobby is to have fun with, to let you relax, to get your mind off other problems." In collecting, there's "complete absorption of mind required by refinishing a case, making a new watch part, studying the life of a maker, researching the development of an improvement, exchanging views with another collector, preparing a paper or talk for the group, buying and selling at the mart, and digging in antique shops.

"So how do we get the most fulfillment from our hobby?" Crom asks. He explains that each of us has our own bag, but a major step is to "get involved" in your hobby and collecting effort. Crom says, "You should personally contribute to your hobby association or chapter activities.

"Each member of each chapter has some knowledge the rest of us do not. Encourage your membership to give short talks on their collections....Have the members plan activities to get others involved."

Finally, Crom says, "The collector's a guy without an ulcer, having a ball, an interesting member of his community, a preserver of our historical heritage, a student and mechanic, a really busy fellow piling up his fun so that in part it can be measured in ever-increasing dollars and sense. Get aboard, all the way, and have a lark."



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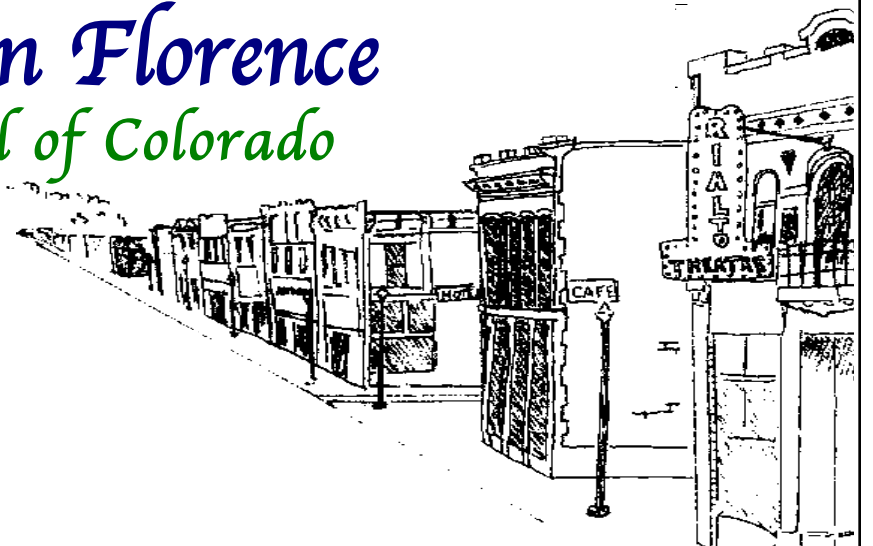
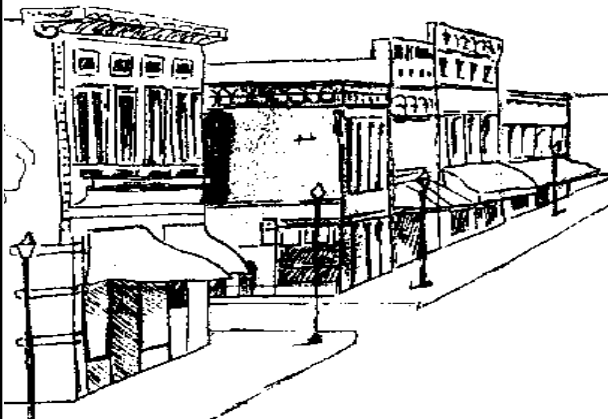
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Season's Greetings from Florence

By Sandy Dale

Finally, the weather is a bit more seasonal with a slight nip in the air. Still no snow here in what we like to call the "Banana Belt," but with all the lights and decorations the season's spirit still soars. The downtown merchants and the Chamber of Commerce present their holiday events and the Bell Tower Cultural Arts Center is hosting its annual members Christmas Show with lots of art for gifting and a concert or two. December 10 is Second Saturday and time for the Second Saturday Gallery walk from 4 to 7 with many of the shops staying open late, too. It's my favorite time to wander shop to shop and gallery to gallery enjoying the wonderful lights, greenery, sales, and, best of all, sampling the array of Christmas cookies and goodies put out for the occasion. If one looks carefully, one just might see Saint Nick, an elf or two or hear sleigh bells.

On December 17, you will find us celebrating Winter Solstice downtown on the street with hot cider, bonfires and caroling.

Christmas shopping in Florence bears no resemblance whatsoever to shopping at the big box stores or the malls. There's a little hustle and bustle, but it is the stress-free, fun kind. This is the place to bring your friends or your mom for a holiday trip...shopping for unique gifts and treasures of Christmases past...

That reminds me. Maybe some of our Christmases past are not memories we treasure for one reason or another. Or maybe some of us are just Scrooges at heart, but it is possible to create new holiday memories and I'd wager it would be difficult to stay Scrooge for long sampling the offerings from our Florence Brewery or chowing down on a nice Quincy's filet mignon. Maybe we are dreading the reunion of a politically divided family, but a daytrip to the Antique Capital of Colorado can remind us that we were all kids once, our parents were kids, their parents were kids, long before a thought of politics entered our heads. Wander in and out of the shops and the past, seeing what they wore back then, what tools and gadgets they used to shape their lives.

Folks take the holidays seriously here in Florence. The shop windows are spectacular and the merchants are so serious that they even have a Pickle Contest. Don't know what this Christmas tradition is? Come to Florence and find out...there are multiple prizes of beautiful gift baskets. Find the Christmas Pickle in Florence!



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DEALER FEATURE

Find It All at Heartland Antiques

By Jon DeStefano

If you are looking for the best in high-end antiques and collectibles you can find it in Florence, the antique capital of Colorado, at Elsie and Keith Ore's Heartland Antiques and Gifts. In this elegant shop you will find not only a great selection of the finest antiques, collectibles, and gifts but also a pleasant and welcoming environment created by its owners. A great antique shop doesn't just happen with a stroke of luck. It happens when preparation meets opportunity.

The preparation began many years ago. Elsie was raised with antiques from the time she was a child and her parents bought and sold them regularly. She was going to auctions with them since she was nine years old. She was immersed in the culture.

In the late 1970's she started her first antique and art store in Owensboro, Kentucky. She moved out to Colorado and married Keith who was working with a Denver water company and then six years ago when Keith retired they moved to Florence, Colorado. Over the years she had an antique business in Hampden Street Antiques and also Brass Armadillo and the Elizabeth Carriage Shops.

The opportunity came some time later. On a trip to New Mexico they stopped in Florence because they had seen it advertised in *the Mountain States Collector* so they decided to stop and check it out. They found a place they thought would make a great antique shop. The following week they came back and signed the lease.

They decided to do a very high quality antique store with fine beautiful antique furniture, a wide assortment of home decor, a great lighting collection featuring beautiful lamps, original art, jewelry, a lot of western goods including a buffalo head and an ox, enough clothing that Elsie has begun a new boutique just down the street. Visitors will also find seasonal custom floral pieces.



We were here in Florence six months," Elsie said, "when we reopened the other side for the first time since twenty years ago, almost doubling the space we had and allowing us to take so much out of storage.

She continues, "Having your own store is a great experience. You have so much more to offer customers. You are not so limited in space or in the size of antiques you are offering." Another advantage of having your own store Elsie notes is you can consistently provide high-end quality goods and service to customers.

When you walk in the store you are greeted first by great primitives and exquisite French country antique furniture. Hanging on the walls are original paintings of American Indian Jim Redhawk, subjects including buffaloes, Indian life, teepees and nature. In front of them are a number of antique jewelry cases filled with beautiful turquoise. Everywhere you are surrounded by elegance.

The best part is Keith and Elsie. Friendly, warm and knowledgeable, Keith is the mayor of Florence and Elsie



his First Lady. They live in the 1900 square foot residence above the store which is very convenient but not the only reason they love their life and antique business in Florence.

Elsie concludes, "The town is great. It is truly the antique capitol of Colorado, you have all the shops and restaurants and best of all are the people, they're great people and good friends."

They say you can find it all in Florence. You can. Elsie and Keith did.



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CONTEST

November's What Is It?

We had three correct answers to our November's What Is It. Terry Cook of Fort Morgan, Colorado; Patty Echelmeyer of Denver, Colorado and Fred Clark of Colorado Springs, Colorado all correctly identified the objects as prehistoric stone axes. These are all lower grade tools. Two lack the shape and workmanship of finer examples. The two celt type axes are much smaller and



have significant damage to the bit ends.

Thank you for venturing a guess. You have all

won a year's subscription to *the Mountain States Collector*.

Congratulations!

December's What Is It?



Send your answers to the What Is It contest, postmarked by December 20, to *the Mountain States Collector*, P.O. Box 1003, Bailey, CO 80421. Three winners will be drawn. Winners receive a year's subscription to *the Mountain States Collector*.

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