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Labor Day Collectibles Gaining Recognition

By Robert Reed

Then hail to labor! everywhere,
Honor to those who do their share.
Labor Day poem by Clara Denton, 1928

Long unnoticed, the collectibles of the Labor Day holiday are gradually gaining in recognition. After all it is an event that has been celebrated nationally since the latter part of the 19th century.

Some true treasures of the American labor movement actually predate the establishment of Labor Day itself. In the Marion Carson Collection of the Library of Congress is a hat ribbon worn for a labor organization parade in the 1820s. The parade was staged in Philadelphia by the Brotherly Union Society. During that decade the journeymen house-carpenters of that city made the first attempt to get the hours of work reduced to ten a day. The effort was unsuccessful.

Historians generally agree that the first actual Labor Day parade was held in New York City’s Union Square on September 5, 1882. Interestingly while the holiday has traditionally been thought of as always being observed on a Monday, the first parade was actually on a Tuesday according to records of the United States Department of Labor. It was held under the direction of the Central Labor Union in that city.

Possibly one of the first Labor Day parade collectibles appeared just one week later in the form of the news magazine Frank Leslie’s Illustrated. The September 16, 1882 issue featured drawings of the event. Marchers were depicted in the artist’s rendering as carrying banners and signs with such slogans as “Vote for the Labor Ticket,” “Labor Creates All Wealth,” and “8 Hours Constitute a Day’s Work.”

Published images of American worker in the 1880s, according to a study done by the Smithsonian Institution a cen-

tury later was a “stereotype of a lone, white, male craftsman in a mechanic’s paper hat, carrying dinner pail.” Such characterizations appeared in magazines and on product labels.

In the years that immediately followed the first parade, labor organization moved the event to a Monday thus providing one of the 19th century’s first three-day weekends for workers. The “working men’s holiday” idea also spread to other major cities where unionization was fairly well established.

Some accounts say the first Monday in September was favored because it came at the “most pleasant season of the year” midway between the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving, and thus would fill a gap in the chronology of legal holidays. Most research indicates that the general idea in New York, Philadelphia, and other industrial centers was to provide for parade to show strength and solidarity, to be followed by a festive family picnic.

Little by little such labor union related events spread to other cities and came to the attention of individual state legislatures. States such as Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Nebraska and Pennsylvania jointed the ‘parade’ by establishing Labor Day as an official holiday.

Eventually the American Federation of Labor forecast “it shall be as uncommon for a man to work on that day (Labor Day) as on Independence Day.” That prediction became a reality in 1894 when the U.S. Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and all U.S. territories.

As the 19th century came to a close Labor Day celebra-



tions, especially parades and similar outings, became widespread. Likewise there were numerous decorative items produced to be wore on such occasions. Striking multi-color celluloid pinback buttons were manufactured by the Whitehead & Hoag Company and others. Typically they included a slogan, ie. “The Union Is Strength,” and symbol of patriotism including the U.S. flag or an eagle along with a symbol of unity such as a handshake. There were multi-colored ribbons too which could be attached to the lapel of a jacket or the front of a shirt. The wording on the ribbons might be as basic as simply the words Labor Day or elaborate enough to show a worker with the America flag and a hammer—all in red, white and blue.

Early in the 20th century, in addition to pinback buttons, lapel ribbons and various badges, citizens could also celebrate the holiday with postcards. Nash Publishing Company pro-

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Heirlooms Antique Mall Celebrates Two Years With Month-Long Sale



Congratulations to Heirlooms Antique Mall. They are celebrating two years under new ownership. It is frightening to start a new venture. The love the owner has for the Mall and all the dealers who believed in him deserve accolades for their accomplishments.

The Mall is located at 1947 S. Havana in Aurora. Scott Davenport, the new owner, is so happy to think that the Mall has done well under his guidance.

As you drive along Havana Street in Aurora, you may notice a small shopping center with an Antique Mall sign. This mall is a hidden jewel you need to explore.

As you enter Heirlooms, you will notice how open and bright it is. There are dealers’ spaces on the main level, the back alcove and the lower level. There are so many specialty items throughout the mall, you may miss something your first visit. Please note that all dealers are helping in Heirlooms Antique Mall at various times. They help often in the shop so they can interact, answer questions and have the opportunity to visit and learn about the customer’s interests.

Look for great sales at Heirlooms in August as they celebrate their two-year anniversary. Call them at 303-337-6880 for more information.



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SHOW CALENDAR

August 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.

ALL AUGUST: **ANNIVERSARY SALE HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE MALL**, 1947 S. Havana, Aurora, Colorado, Open Mon. - Sat. 10-6, Sunday. 11-5, Call 303-3387-6880 for more info.

EVENTS IN AUGUST: **RED ROOF RELICS**, 25871 Duran Ave., Conifer, Colorado, will have several events in August. Aug. 3: Country Sunflowers; Aug. 4: Paint Jam-Country Music; Aug. 5 & 19 Summer Farmers & Craft Market; Aug. 13: Pickers Street Market. Call 720-288-2922 for more info.

AUG. 5: **A PARIS STREET MARKET**, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. rain or shine, an open-air vintage antique and artisan market is celebrating its 16th anniversary this year, at the Aspen Grove, 7301 S. Santa Fe Dr. in Littleton, Call 303-877-9457 or email them at tsvandel@msn.com for more information. Tim and Sandi Vandel are the Managing Members. Future dates are Sept. 2 and Oct. 7.

AUG. 4 & 5: **THE 33RD ROCKY MOUNTAIN BOOK & PAPER FAIR**, Friday and Saturday at the Denver Mart, 451-East 58th Avenue, just East of I-25, Information and advance tickets, go to RMBPF.org

AUG. 9: **ANNA & THE KING OF SIAM** Discussion led by C. Yves at 2:00 p.m. at Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. Info, or if interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

AUG. 10: **PRE-APPRAISAL EVENT** in L.M Cafe from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., Brass Armadillo, 303-403-1677

AUG. 12: **APPRAISAL EVENT** in L.M Cafe from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Brass Armadillo, 303-403-1677.

AUG. 12: **SOUTH BROADWAY BLOCK PARTY**, Antique Row, 1200-1800 So. Broadway, Shopping, free food, drinks, Local Merchants, Live Music. Call 303-722-8700 for more info.

AUG. 23: **BEATRICE POTTER** Discussion led by Suzanne Wingfield at 2:00 p.m. at Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. More info, or if you would be interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

AUG. 26: **ICE CREAM SOCIAL** at the McAllister House Museum in Colorado Springs at 423 N. Cascade, 11-2, Call 719-635-7925 for more information.

Upcoming Events

SEPT. 6: **SCHOOL EPHEMERA** Discussion led by Cheryl Miller at 2:00 p.m. at Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. Info, or if interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

SEPT. 11-16: **LA CACHE FALL SALE**. We are cleaning house again during the Fall Clearance Sale in our annex at 404 Downing, next door to La Cache. All items marked "RDF" displayed there will be half off the price tag. No reductions will be taken prior to the sale dates so mark your calendars now for terrific savings. Stop in often as we will be putting out new items periodically throughout the week. All proceeds from RDF items go 100% to Children's Hospital Colorado. And that's a very good thing for all kids in the Rocky Mountain region. La Cache's main store is located at 400 Downing in Denver and is open 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. daily. Call 303-871-9695 with any questions.

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VINTAGE AT THE HANGAR

SEPTEMBER 15-16-17, 2017

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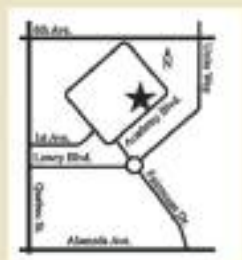
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SHOW CALENDAR CONTINUED

Continued from page 5

SEPT. 12: **VAN BRIGGLE FESTIVAL**, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 1125 Glen Avenue at Uintah in Colorado Springs. Featuring tours of Van Briggles building, experts on site, pottery displays and demonstrations. Admission: \$10 public; free for children 12 and under. Tours run every 20 minutes. Participants may bring their Van Briggles pieces for authentication. Proceeds support scholarships and projects for Colorado College students.

SEPT. 15-17: **VINTAGE AT THE HANGAR**, a partnership between Nancy Johnson Events and Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum, Friday 10-7 (enjoy wine and cheese 5 -7 p.m.) Sat. & Sun. 10-5. More info: www.antiquesatwings.com Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum is located at 7711 Ea. Academy Blvd., Denver, CO 80230.

SEPT. 20: **HATS** Discussion led by Paula Johansson at 2:00 p.m. at Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. Info, or if interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

SEPT. 30 and OCT. 1: **FRONT RANGE GLASS SHOW** at the Budweiser Events Center in Loveland. Contact Jodi Uthe at 319-939-3837 for more information.

OCT. 7: **TIMBER DAN ANTIQUE AND COLLECTIBLE TOY SHOW AND SALE**, Loveland, CO, 9-3 at the Larimer County Fairgrounds ("The Ranch"), First National Bank Exhibition Bldg., North Hall. Take I-25 Exit 259 east to Fairgrounds Ave., then north 1/2 mile. Admission \$4. Sponsored by the Loveland Lions Club. More than 180 tables. For more info, contact Doug Larson, 970-214-1035.

OCT. 11: **QUILT MAKING THROUGH THE AGES - 1800s-2000 Keeping the Traditions Alive** Discussion led by Jeananne Wright at 2:00 p.m. at Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. More info, or if you would be interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

OCT. 13 & 14: **8TH ANNUAL TRI STATE DOLL SALE**, Friday, 1-7, \$5; Saturday 10-4, \$5. Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden, Colorado, antique and modern dolls, accessories, miniatures, bears and much more. Contact Lorella at 303-988-8591 for more information.

OCT. 25: **KALEIDOSCOPIES** Discussion led by Cheryl Miller at 2:00 p.m. at Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. More info, or if you would be interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

NOV. 11 & 12: **COLORADO CORKSCREW AUCTION** The auction will open for postings for all registered users on Friday, October 20, 2017. Auctions dates: Sale 23a November 11, 2017 Sale 23b November 12, 2017 CollectorCorkscrew.com (All sales begin at 1.00 p.m EST) Important notice: We will be increasing the capacity of each auction to 480 lots (closing two lots/minute) and reducing the number of auction days to two Total auction capacity will be unchanged at 960 lots.

Auctions

AUG. 5, 12, 19, 26: **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 from 10-5 on Fridays before auctions. Call 303-953-2087 for more info.

AUG. 11 & 12: **FRONTIER AUCTION** held at Chaffee County Fairgrounds in Salida, Colorado Friday starts at 3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 12, Starts at 9 a.m., preview starts at 9 a.m. on Friday. More info, call Joe Raber, 719-431-3137.

AUGUST 27: **SUMMER 2017 ESTATES AUCTION at BRUHNS AUCTION, Sunday, Aug. 27, 11 a.m.**, 50 W. Arizona, Denver, Colorado, Over 500 pieces of original artwork, antiques, antique furniture, clocks and Persian carpets from several estates. Call 303-744-6505 for more information.

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Art Deco Furniture; a Quick Study

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Rachel Hoffman



Chrysler Building Spire by James Maher

The clean, industrialized lines and fluid, geometric shapes that characterized the movement lent themselves well to architecture, like The Chrysler Building, The Golden Gate Bridge, and Modjeski's I-74 Bridge, so named later as it linked Illinois and Iowa, and to furniture. Even Frank Lloyd Wright influenced art deco when he designed angular accessories like his stained glass, lamps, and tables. His 1908 barrel chair looks like art deco, and showcases that Wright was a strong influence on the modernist, aka, art deco movement.

Raymond Loewy and Henry Dreyfus created clocks and radios with the signature angular lines. Many collectible radios from this era are made of Bakelite.



Big Ben alarm clock, by Henry Dreyfuss

Furniture from this era involved dark woods, chrome, futuristic designs, and fur. Ebony and ivory were popular for making furniture, and Asian influence showed in some pieces. Ruhlmann created a square and rectangular day bed of gilt, bronze, and rosewood that was typical of the era. Eileen Gray



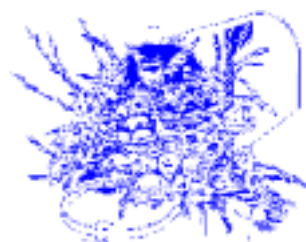
From "Our Modern Maidens"

made lacquer furniture and tubular pieces while Armand Albert Rateau often used bronze to create furnishings in Egyptian-influenced styles. Gordon Russell merged Arts and Craft designs with art deco Parisian designs. Betty Joel's style was influenced by Hollywood and was very popular with royals and commoners. Many of her pieces were used at The Savoy Hotel. Inlaid pieces and exotic woods were characteristic of the furniture created. In America, the Bauhaus movement and modernist architects began to influence art deco furniture.

During the 1930s, the name of the style morphed to Streamline Moderne, and more steel, chrome, and plastic were used in furniture and furnishings. Curves and flowing lines were more popular at this point than the earlier angles and sharp lines. Today, the clean lines and distinctive styling of art deco is as popular as ever, and its influence is strong in jewelry design, haute couture, architecture, and home furnishings.

To learn more about Rachel Hoffman's appraisal practice, visit www.rachelhoffmanappraisal.com

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(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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SHOWS

Vintage at the Hangar Promises To Be Great

Vintage At The Hangar, opens September 15 and continues through September 17 at Wings Over The Rockies Air & Space Museum in the historic Lowry area of Denver.

It's a weekend of shopping for Vintage of the 20th Century, Antiques, Art, Glass, Pot-tery, Furniture, Jewelry, Pop

Culture, and a touch of Contemporary Design. Exhibitors are surrounded by displays about aviation and space endeavors of the past, present and future, all in a World War II-era hangar.

Visitors will recognize visit the booths of exhibitors from throughout the West and exhib-itors from the local scene as well. Plan on seeing antiques and collectibles you have not seen before, with exhibitors bringing new items they have acquired just for the show.

Admission is \$9 (\$7 admission with ad in this publication), and that includes return visits throughout the weekend and access to the air and space exhibits. There are always some StarWars displays for the whole family to enjoy! Children 12 and under are admitted free with a paid adult. Wings is located at 7711 East Academy Blvd., Denver.

Hours are Friday, September 15 from 10 am to 8 pm, and Saturday/Sunday, September 16-17 from 10 am to 5 pm. A wine and cheese evening, 5 to 7 pm on Friday. Free parking, of course! Advance tickets are available at WingsMuseum.org or at the door. Wings is located at 7711 East Academy Blvd., Denver.

Vintage At The Hangar is produced by Nancy Johnson Events Management in part-nership with Wings Over The Rock-



ies Air & Space Museum.

For information about Vintage At The Hangar contact Nancy Johnson at 303.595.0812 or visit NancyJohnson-Events.com/denver.html

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Sale Coordinator
Contact: Lorella 303-988-8591

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8th Annual Tri-State Doll Sale is Being Held at Jeffco Fairgrounds

Tri-State Doll Sale has been a successful annual doll show for the last 7 years. Lorella, the sales coordinator, belongs to 2 UFDC doll clubs that annually give to charitable and club activities.

Dealers will have diverse merchandise including antique, bisque, china, cloth dolls, modern, collectibles and bears. Also miniatures and doll accessories for your doll house, handmade and antique doll clothing, doll books, shoes, wigs, stands and related doll and bear items.

The sale will appeal to all ages from the devoted to the new collectors. Buy now, priced right, come one, come all on the 13 & 14 Of October at the Jeffco Fairgrounds, 15200 W. 6th Ave. (Frontage Road), Golden, CO 80401.

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HISTORY

Labor Day Collectibles Gain Popularity

Continued from page 1

duced a set of two embossed fully illustrated Labor Day Souvenir postcards. One proclaimed, "labor shall refresh itself with hope," while second declared, "Labor Conquers Everything." (Indeed the image of the laborer on postcard number two was much as image Smithsonian had earlier described, "a lone, white, male craftsman in a mechanic's hat..." Lounsbury Publishing did a set of four Labor Day postcards similar in style to those by Nash. The Lounsbury titles included Makers of Prosperity, Man in Overalls, Labor Taking a Day Off, and Our Latest Holiday.

According to Susan Nicholson author of The Encyclopedia of Antique Postcards, the Lounsbury set was published in more limited numbers. The fourth card of the series, Our Latest Holiday, featuring a Labor Day parade which also included Santa and Uncle Sam is the most highly sought of the four. Meanwhile numerous other publishers also issued postcards of actual Labor Days parades during the early 1900s including one in Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

Labor Day buttons and ribbons had taken decidedly more patriotic tone by 1917 and 1918 within the shadow of World War One red, white and blue Labor Day ribbon dated 1918 proclaimed, "We're Behind the Man Behind the Gun." It bore the illustration of a worker rolling up his shirt sleeves with factory smoke stacks in the background.

Later Labor Day parades and events also produced memorabilia ranging from photographs of parade floats to booklets and programs. In 1945 Victory Labor Day Rally celebrated both the efforts of organized labor and efforts of U.S. troops in World War II. Noted the multi-paged program issued by the Baltimore, Maryland Congress of Industrial Unions:

"On this day, labor's traditional holiday, we salute our fellow trade unionists in the armed forces and merchant marine who, scattered over the four corners of the earth, cannot be here to share in the celebration of Labor Day."

In 1982 Carolrhoda Books Inc. published one of the few books devoted entirely to this particular holiday. Labor Day by Geoffery Scott, was illustrated by Cherie Wyman and described the origins of Labor Day including a "monster labor festival"



held in New York City a century earlier.

While still a major American holiday, observance of Labor Day has changed from earlier decades according to

the U.S. Department of Labor, and elaborate displays and massive parades are no longer as prevalent as they were in the heart of the 20th century.

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ANTIQUE DETECTIVE

Wearing or Displaying Antiquities

By Anne Gilbert

Imagine wearing a pair of earrings or a bracelet made in ancient Egypt or a ring made during the Viking era? These and other objects, such as glass and pottery are still turning up at auctions that specialize in antiquities. They often cost less than mass produced contemporary items. \$200 for a ring or earrings and a glass vase are among the offerings at an upcoming auction at Artemis Auction Gallery, Erie, Colorado, who specialize in antiquities. They also guarantee the authenticity of the items.

Collectors have always been fascinated by antiquities. In 15th century Florence, Italy, interest was so great that Michelangelo made his first sale with a statue he had made "in the manner of a" Roman antique.

CLUES: Selling antiquities can be a tricky business and full of fakes and reproductions. Faking was going on by the time Napoleon made his expeditions to the Nile. They included copies and variations of Egyptian bronze statuettes made in the 17th and 18th centuries. By the late 19th century British excavations stirred the interests of tourists and collectors alike. The result was hundreds of faked small artifacts, usually figures and pottery. Especially popular were amulets of Isis and Ra in blue faience. Would you know if they really are?



One of my favorite books, now out of print, "Fakes," by author Otto Kurz in 1948, discusses Greek and Roman sculptures and their 20th century copies. One example mentioned is an 18th century fake marble portrait bust of Julius Caesar, complete with a damaged nose. It was acquired in 1818, as an original by the British Museum. As for ancient glass, old iridescence is layered with corrosion. The fakes have a milky quality.

Sometimes antiquities seemingly disappear through a variety of circumstances. Such was the case of a 3,000 year old statue from the reign of Pharaoh Rameses II. The 1,100 pound, 3 ft. high block sculpture was originally uncovered in the Nile Delta in the late 19th century. In 1894 it was exhibited at the Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, New York. After that it was crated up and forgotten when the museum closed in 1930. It reappeared in 1983 where it was sold at a Sothebys' auction for \$341,000.

If you yearn to own a piece of ancient history, don't let all of these tales from the crypt discourage you. If the seller attests to their authenticity, take a chance, but research before you do. After all scientific tests now uncover the true facts and the sellers should have documents proving these tests were made.

PHOTO CAPTION: (1) Roman glass bracelet. (2) Roman glass bowl. PHOTO CREDIT: Artemis Gallery, Erie, Colorado

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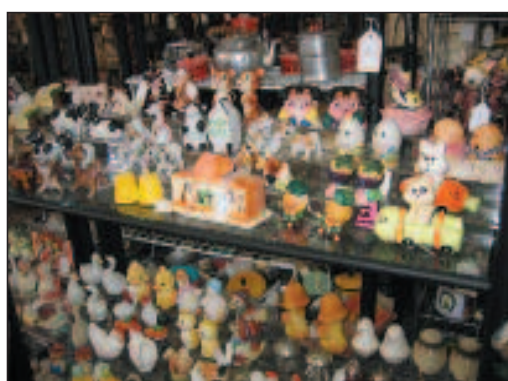
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Then on **August 5 and 19:** there will be a "Summer Farmers and Craft Market" 9-2 p.m. On **August 13,** they will have the "Pickers Street MARKET" 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (10'X10' Spaces are Available). These events will all take place at Red Roof Relics.

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Castle Rock Home & Garden New In Castle Rock

By Jon DeStefano

Please welcome Castle Rock Home & Garden to the Colorado antique and collectible scene. They are the newest consignment and antique shop located between Denver and Colorado Springs. They are home to fabulous antiques, outstanding furniture and beautiful home decor. They carry accessories, collectibles, artwork, jewelry, vintage tools and garden furniture, accents and art.

The owners Joel Gittleman and Darryl Hover began in

the antique business together in 2002 and purchased their new store in May of this year. It is located in Castle Rock at 807 Wilcox Street. Their goal is to appeal to a broader market by offering quality antiques and furniture. Besides their great furnishings and unique gifts, they have a huge selection of artwork.

They are a quality consignment shop and everything is priced to sell, so items are only there for a limited time.

In September they are opening the Castle Pines Motel which is newly remodeled into a boutique motel located adjacent to the shop. Each room is unique in decor and has its own special character. When in Castle Rock spend the night at the Castle Pines Motel. It's cozy and quaint.



Ask Darryl and Joel how to consign your great items and stop by and visit Castle Rock Home and Garden. You'll be glad you did. They are located at 807 Wilcox Street in Castle Rock. Or give them a call at 303-688-1207. Their email is crhomegarden@gmail.com.



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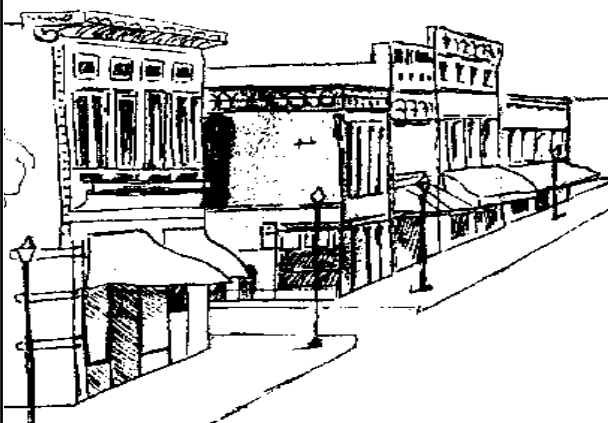
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Let a Butterfly Be Your Guide

By Sandy Dale

It was a coolish, late July morning. I wanted to get my walk in before it warmed up so I picked up my "Dog Whisperer" as my friend Rudl calls his walking stick, and headed out. (I've never needed to use my "Dog Whisperer" because the dogs I meet on my walks are always dutifully trotting along at the end of their masters' leashes.)

I like to start my walk in the neighborhood close to downtown. I'm not a marathon walker, just a stroller. This morning I had decided to stroll by the Bell Tower Arts Center and see the new tile mosaic on the front foundation of the building. The mural sparkled after last night's rain, so I took a few pictures and then sat on the swing in the front garden of the art center admiring the cosmos and the huge sunflowers. Then I spotted a beautiful yellow butterfly checking out the scarlet blossoms on the butterfly bush. (I'm not a lepidopterist so I'll have to go with "yellow butterfly.") He flitted from blossom to blossom then past me toward downtown. I decided to follow him. He winged his way along about three feet above the sidewalk as if he knew I was following. I tried to get a picture of him as he stopped to examine a hollyhock growing near the sidewalk, but I only succeeded in getting a photo of where he had been.

The butterfly turned west down Main Street. I followed. The stores weren't open yet. It was still pretty early. My yellow winged friend stopped in front of the Blue Heron Gallery and checked out the fabulous hanging basket of flowers. He apparently didn't find what he was looking for so he ventured on down the block. We came to the stoplight at the corner and (believe it or not) he fluttered around until the light changed. Then he, with me following, headed back up the block on the other side of the street to flit among the morning glories in front of the Antique Warehouse. Still, he didn't seem to find just the right blossom so back along the sidewalk we went to the next block.

Now, as I said, I don't know much about butterflies, but I'd say he was shopping. He didn't seem bothered in the least by my tagging along. Then he spotted the mammoth dahlias in front of the Mezzanine. He perused several blossoms and then settled on a delightful lavender one. He closed his wings over his back and had apparently found what he was looking for. My friend Skip (who works at the Mezz, as we call it) came out to water all the flowers in front of the store and we chatted. I kept my eye on the butterfly still ensconced on the dahlia.

It was definitely time for me to get to work as the stores opened and what I call the traffic picked up. I thought about the lovely shopping experience I had had with the butterfly as I walked home. I don't think I know of anywhere else but Florence a person could have such a beautiful, peaceful time looking for just the right thing and with a butterfly for a guide. Just imagine...

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