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SEPTEMBER 2017

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Volume 45, Number 9



Bibliography –

Howard Pierce, Treasured Pottery for All

Books

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By Tom Cotter

Howard Pierce is one of the happy stories of the 1930's and on in the pottery community. With limited formal schooling and a self-financed trip around the world, Pierce moved from Chicago to California to live with an aunt in 1934. Devoted to human and non-human anatomy and physiology, Pierce developed exceptional sketching abilities to create simple, flowing figures that helped define Mid-Century Modern (MCM) tastes, especially in California and throughout the United States. Howard Pierce was an integral part of the post-World War II sense of simplicity in design and décor, contributing to the lives and homes of a burgeoning and mobile population, especially the urban and suburban middle class.

Born in the 1910's and living through the extravagant 1920's and the following Great Depression, Pierce entered pottery with William Manker Ceramics, becoming Production Manager within a few years. Having apprenticed under Ernest Batchelder and graduated from the Chouinard School of Art, Manker opened a studio in 1932, later relocating to Padua Hills near Claremont and a teaching position at Scripps College. Manker's extensive work with glazes and multiple colors influenced and provided critical knowledge to young Pierce. He learned the business "OJT," making glazes and designing and creating molds for Manker and others, including Kay Finch, another famous Manker protégé.

By 1941, Howard Pierce struck out on his own while employed as a World War II draftsman by Douglas Long Beach. Joined by his wife and life-long partner, trained art teacher Ellen, they made lapel pins with painted, copper, or pewter finishes. These pieces foreshadowed his post-war ceramics, and occasionally can be found in prices around and over \$100. In 1945, the Pierces opened a home studio in LaVerne with a single kiln, using a base mixture potash feldspar, Florida china clay, and Kentucky/Tennessee ball clay. His satin glazes, particularly satin-matte brown on white, became hallmarks of his pieces, many with script or stamped signatures. (See photo to the right.) After personally building a new



family house and studio in Claremont and with marketing through local accounts including Frankoma Pottery and Calico Ghost Town, and nationally by N.S. Gustin Company from 1950, the business grew to three gas-fired kilns. Pierce experimented for a short time with labor-intensive Wedgwood Jasperware-style planters, vases, boxes, and tea sets. Another interesting venture came with vases, planters, and bowls in high-gloss finishes with carefully made white bisque figure highlights

inset into the piece. (See photo above.) With expiration of the Gustin contract in 1966, the Pierces "retired" to a more leisurely production scale with a Howard-designed house on 20 acres above the desert town of Joshua Tree. External motifs made by Pierce reflecting his desert surroundings and Northwest Native American designs graced the structure. For the next 23 years, Pierce continued to create graceful simplicity inspired by his Mojave Desert

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**MCGUFFEY, SCHOOL-
MASTER OF AMERICA**
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SHOW CALENDAR

September Events



SEPT. 2: **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 date is Oct. 7.

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



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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. 15-17: **90TH ANNUAL FLORENCE PIONEER DAYS**, Junktique Market, Rialto Theater, Pioneer Parade, Airshow, Louie's Street Dance, Tractor Pull. facebook.com/florencepioneerdays.

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 The Ranch Events Center Complex, McKee Building, 5280 Arena Circle, in Loveland (Exit 259 off I25 Crossroads Blvd.). quality dealers from across the U.S., hourly door prizes, featuring American-made glassware, pottery and dinnerware from 1880-1980. Contact Jodi Uthe at 319-939-3837 for more information.

Upcoming Events

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. 12: **PRE-APPRAISAL EVENT** in L.M Cafe from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., Brass Armadillo, 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. 14: **APPRAISAL EVENT** in L.M Cafe from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Brass Armadillo, 303-403-1677.

OCT. 14 & 15: **45TH ANNUAL PUMPKIN PIE DAYS**, Vintage & Antique Market, presented by The St. Vrain Historical Society, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4, at the Exhibit Building, Boulder County Fairgrounds, 9595 Nelson Rd., Longmont, CO, Admission \$5 (children under 12 FREE). Call 303-776-1870 for more information.

OCT. 25: **KALEIDOSCOPIES** Discussion led by Cheryl Miller at 2:00 p.m. at Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, *Continued on page 7*



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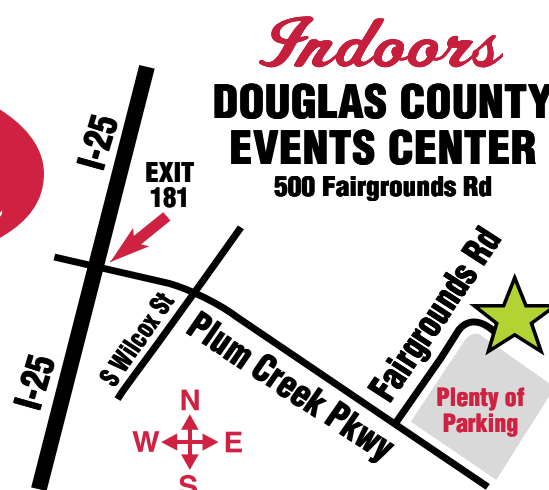
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SHOW CALENDAR CONTINUED

Continued from page 5

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. 8: **COLORADO LICENSE PLATES** Discussion led by Jim Gummoe 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.

NOV. 29: **CATALOGS** Discussion led by Stacy Stryker 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.

DEC. 6: **GREETING CARDS** 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.

Auctions

SEPT. 9, 16, 23, 30: **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.

IN OCTOBER: **SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL AUCTION** at **BRUHNS AUCTION**, 50 W. Arizona, Denver, Colorado, Call 303-744-6505 for more information.

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Lobsters: Culinary Collectibles and Delectable Crustaceans!

The end of summer is approaching, and with that, I have an urgent feeling to squeeze as much summer as I can in the remaining weeks. One of my first thoughts surrounding this was the lobster! Never have collecting and cuisine merged together so nicely. Lobsters are fun collectibles that come in all budgets, shapes and sizes. Many of the objets d'art are functional; they double as cooking utensils, molds, and serving dishes. On the high end are works of fine art like surrealist Joseph Cornell's shadow box, "Lobster Quadrille," or Willem Kalf's "Still Life with the Drinking Horn" c. 1653, National Gallery, London. At the fun end of the spectrum are stuffed toy lobsters, a Steiff lobster, lobster lights to string on a nautical Christmas tree or along a summer patio, and lobster jewelry.



Rachel Hoffman



Charles Collins c.1680-1744. Lobster on a Delft Dish, 1738. Tate



Great Set of Antique German Lobster Forks



Willem Kalf, Still Life with Drinking-Horn, c. 1653, oil on canvas, National Gallery

Germany produced 19th and early 20th-century lobster-shaped serving pieces for serving lobster tails. There are antique silver picks and cracking utensils that go with the serving pieces. Vintage lobster bibs, often provided by restaurants that served the delicacy, are fun kitchen décor, as are aprons with the popular shellfish [though lobsters aren't really fish!] Trays decorated with lobsters and recipes for cooking lobster are fun, too. The American Woman's Cookbook, 1948, contains around 20 entries for lobster. Great recipes include lobster bisque soup, lobster and corn chowder, lobster à la Newburg, lobster thermidor, lobster rolls, and barbecued lobster tail. Or, you can enjoy a good, old fashioned lobster bake,

served on the beach with sweet corn and clams, and of course, the beverage of your choice.

However you serve them up, lobster collectibles are fun, classic and enduring. They also encourage lobster awareness and interest in the sustainability of the oceans. There are laws in place to prevent over-harvesting of lobsters and other crustaceans, and many restaurants now protect live lobsters over a certain size and age. Many years ago, the sitcom "Ellen" dealt with a 100-year-old lobster that was granted amnesty, and SNL has done similar skits. So, find some lobster collectibles, and dig up some recipes for that end of summer cook out.



Rare Vintage Lobster Tureen

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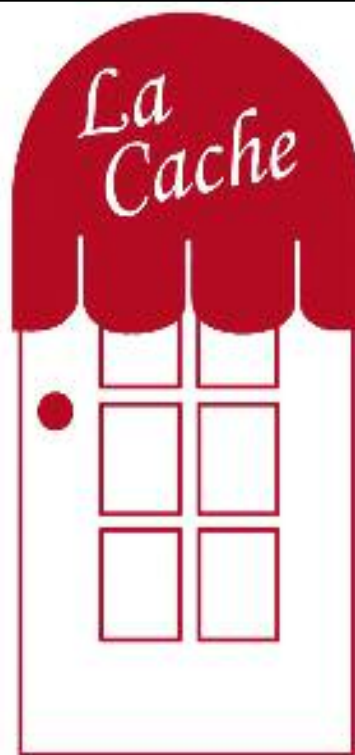
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Today it's a vibrant, living neighborhood that has evolved over 100 years. The types of businesses have changed, but the buildings largely remain intact, stately reminders of a gentler day.

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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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Willie's Antiques & Collectables in Florence Amazing

By Jon DeStefano

Although Willie Miller started in the antique business over 30 years ago she was fond of them a lot longer. "I always have liked old things," she said, "I love history and sometimes I think I was born in the wrong century even though it was a lot harder living back then as compared to now. For me the past was always intriguing."

Willie started with the furniture. She just would buy things then she would find another piece and if it was a better piece than she had, she upgraded. When her children were in college she helped them furnish their places and eventually found out she could sell things. She spent the next fifteen years doing antique shows all over the United States with her late husband and they were very successful with their antique business.

After her husband's death, Willie kept accumulating antiques and remarried. Willie's new husband John Miller

teased her, asking what are you going to do with all this? One day a friend called and told her about an opportunity to open up a shop for a short term in Colorado Springs. She did. That short term turned into three years and it became time to renew the lease.

"John and I talked about what we should do with the lease and we decided to try to open our own shop. We thought there are a lot of antique stores in Florence and decided to look there. One night we had dinner with our children in Canon City and we decided to actually go look in Florence for a store and sure enough we did the next day. There really wasn't anything available in downtown Florence but on the way out of town we saw a for sale sign on this building and to make a long story short a week later we owned the building."

That was nine years ago and Willie and John have been changing and upgrading the building ever since. "God willing we will be here a long time," said Willie. The shop is exquisite. The quality and variety of their collection of antiques is outstanding and the selection is as broad and quality as fine as any in this part of our country. Take their Seth Thomas #32 clock, a unique piece, Willie had restored by a master clockmaker from Woodland Park. "My clockmaker saw the value in this clock. He researched it and it took him a while to get it running and completely restored to its original pristine shape," said Willie.

The furniture selections in the shop are numerous and outstanding. Willie's favorite is Victorian but she also loves French Country with the whimsical designs, which are also very ornate with a lot of carvings. "I love true, old furniture," she continues, "You take a 100 year old American piece and it is simple and beautiful." There is a Brazilian matching table, buffet and chairs. It is so unique, and the base of the table is a carving the likes of which is extremely rare.

Willie's also has a large selection of very unique and wonderful oak furniture. In 1900 you could buy these great oak pieces from the Sears catalogue.

The quality and condition of all the furniture is outstanding. "I like original finishes," Willie says, "I am not a person who likes refinishes."

The chandelier collection (There are perhaps 25 great chandeliers or more.) is all John Miller's doing. He finds them muses Willie and fixes and restores them to perfection. She points to one which is out of Telluride. It was donated to a college there. They had no use for it so they put it on consignment in a shop in Colorado Springs. John bought it from them. It took 3 weeks full time to restore it and replace the missing parts. The crystals are Quartz Crystals. There was only one missing on the inside row and John looked everywhere and finally found the replacement. Everything is original except for the bubble shades. John had to replace them.

Willie points out a beautiful chandelier up front. When she first saw it she asked John, "What is that?" He said, "I can make it something special." It was just a rod iron skeleton. John saw it, took it apart, rewired it, painted it gold, drilled holes for the crystals and made something from basically nothing into a remarkable chandelier.

Their favorite is a very large chandelier they purchased from an estate in Canon City and every individual crystal in it is a marked Waterford. It is very unique and exquisite.

Willie's glass collections are some of the best selections in Colorado. They include many types of glass and crystal, depression glass of all kinds, regular, elegant depression glass, even glass like Westmoreland, every pattern, a lot etched and pressed, Vaseline glass, Crystal Irish



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Colorado Springs — The Bemis School of Art at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) is excited to co-present the annual Van Briggie Pottery Festival with the Woman's Educational Society (WES contributes funds toward tuition and book allowances for 21 Colorado College women who have been selected as WES Scholars) on Saturday, September 9, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with guided tours running every 20 minutes. All proceeds benefit Colorado College student scholarships and Woman's Educational Society programs.

Patrons will be treated to a guided tour of this unique building on the National Register of Historic Places. There will be tours of the adjacent garden and the Horticultural Art Society will be holding a fall bulb sale.

Event details:

- 8:30 a.m. — a dedication to Fred Wills, a potter with Van Briggie Pottery Company from 1947-1988, in Anne Van Briggie's office at The Pottery
- 12 p.m. — dedication ceremony (hosted by the Horticultural Art Society) of the Lorelei sculpture, an enlarged recreation of one of Van Briggie's most well-known and sought after sculptures, created by artist Larry Terrafranca

The festival will also feature wheel-throwing demonstrations and hands-on lessons from the FAC's Bemis School of Art instructors and advanced students. Visitors are invited to bring in their personal pottery selections and renowned Van Briggie experts, Kathy Honea, Gary Conover, and Rob Wheatley will give assessments of the pottery works. Community partners will host tables featuring the Pioneers Museum, Historic Preservation Alliance, Friends of Monument Valley Park, the Manitou Springs Heritage Center, and the McAllister House.

Van Briggie Pottery Festival

When: Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with tours running every 20 minutes

Where: Van Briggie Building at 1125 Glen Avenue on the corner Glen of Uintah. Some dedicated festival parking will be available.



Admission: \$12, to be purchased at the door. Tickets not required for the Lorelei dedication.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) begins with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy by Julie and Spencer Penrose in 1919. During the Great Depression, three dedicated philanthropists — Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor, and Elizabeth Sage Hare — envisioned expanding the Broadmoor Art Academy into an entire arts district under one roof. The FAC changed its name, built a grand building, and opened as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936. In August 2016, the FAC announced an historic alliance with Colorado College and on July 1, 2017, became the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The FAC is deeply rooted in the legacy of its founders, who possessed bold visions, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to the Colorado Springs community. The FAC honors this legacy and spirit today by providing innovative, educational, and multidisciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality, building on its history as a unique cultural pillar of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, visit www.coloradocollege.edu/fac

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DEPRESSION GLASS

Howard Pierce—Treasured Pottery for All

Continued from page 1

surroundings, including Gambel's quail, rabbits, roadrunners, owls, chipmunks, squirrels, desert tortoises, and coyotes. Over the years, Howard's "zoo" also included bears, beaver, bison, chickens, deer, dolphins, doves, ducks, frogs, elephants, (Art Deco) gazelle, geese, giraffes, gulls, hippos, koalas, mice, monkeys, mountain goats, pelicans, penguins, pigeons, porcupines, rhinos, snakes, and unicorns, as well as dogs, cats, horses, and cattle.

While known for his sometimes-whimsical animals, Howard Pierce made many human figurines as well. Some were exotic Polynesian or Eskimo inspired figures, but many were from Pierce's devotion to children and animals together, as well his spirituality, including angels, monks, St. Francis, and several Madonna and Child modernist pieces. Pierce also created experimental pieces in polyurethane, larger pewter and bronze, aluminum, hydrocal, paper for Christmas cards, and plaster. Having moved to Joshua Tree, he created a variety of animals from concrete to adorn the family property; 8-foot tall "Roadrunner Pete," a bison, 200-pound rabbits, a 150-pound raven "Edgar," and 600-pound desert bighorn sheep Henry. With Twentynine Palms and its Marine and Army base nearby, Pierce developed a close relationship with base members, ultimately donating a 12-foot tall bald eagle to Marines in 1985 and a completing his only commissioned work 9 feet of "Howling Coyote" at the Army's Ft. Irwin in 1989. Various Howard Pierce donated pieces decorate the Hi-Desert/Joshua Tree community, attesting to the Pierce's sense of civic pride and service.

Several reasons for Pierce's extended success were his attention to process simplification, self-reliance, and his strong comprehension of both process and market. Pieces were ma-



tured in one 2,150 degree firing and, to save time, his name was stamped. He adopted styles that didn't embody excess detail or decoration, sketched his own designs, built his clay sculptures and the subsequent molds, developed his own spray glazes (avoiding time-consuming hand application), fired pieces only once, and performed most of the production himself.

Howard Pierce spent his life creating treasures for people. While his designs might be considered "mass-produced," Pierce was in many ways the embodiment of the Arts and Crafts Movement of 50-75 years earlier; skilled and hand worked craftsmanship and beauty for the home. He wasn't in business to become rich; the Pierces always lived within their means and were never flamboyant. Pierce porcelain products were priced to sell. His partner and wife helped guide his creativity with focus on marketing. The definitive work highlighting the great breadth of Howard Pierce's art is the Collector's Encyclopedia of Howard Pierce Porcelain by Darlene Hurst Dommel. An insightful website is offered by his son Jerry at http://www.howardpiercec ceramics.com/Howard_Pierce_Ceramics.

I again must give a shout out to the DeStefanos who promote collecting within our region via *the Mountain States Collector*. They perform a great service for many types of collecting hobbies. I am pleased to note Jodi and Mark Uthe continue to sponsor the Front Range Glass Show, this year September 30 and October at the Budweiser Event Center near Loveland, Colorado. I bought several Howard Pierce pieces at last year's Front Range Glass Show, and I expect that this one will have a nice selection from the fantastic dealers Jodi and Mark have gathered.

Information for the show is on the Rocky Mountain Depression Glass Show website at (www.RMDGS.com & SHOWS). This also links to <http://www.frontrange-glassshow.com/>, which has more specifics about the show.



You need not "shop 'til you drop," but please enjoy the show and support antique and collectibles dealers across Colorado and the country as you travel.

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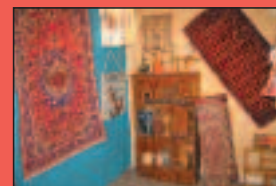
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ANTIQUE DETECTIVE

Recognizing Antique Snuff Boxes

By Anne Gilbert

The snuff box is one of the many items that have outlived their time in history. After all who even knows what snuff is these days? Ever hear of a “spittle cup?” They were part of the snuff culture during the 18th and 19th centuries used by lady sniffers.

You may have bought a snuff box at a garage sale thinking it was a pill box. After all snuff boxes are small, decorated boxes.

So what is snuff? Basically it is dried, powdered tobacco blended with a variety of substances for aroma and flavor. Vanilla and lavender oil were among the substances for aroma. Tamarind and vanilla were used for flavor. The mix was placed in the nostrils and sniffed.

Snuff was first discovered, according to history, by Friar Renon Pane a missionary in Haiti around 1493. By 1500 it was a big hit in Europe thanks to Sir Walter Raleigh who brought it to England at that time.

It had to be kept fresh and dry. Snuff boxes were the answer. Since snuff was first used by royalty and Popes, the first examples were often of precious metals embellished with diamonds, rubies and emeralds.

The royalty and wealthy often had their portraits painted on enamel and inlaid of silver or gold.

Fast forward to the 18th century when sniffing snuff became socially acceptable,



Schools even taught how to do it. The snuff box became a useful, decorative object. Keeping it fresh require a box with strong hinges and a tight lid. It required three finger taps to open it. Often the boxes came with small snuff spoons of ivory. Some boxes had a variety of closures and secret compartments.

As snuff filtered down to the average American or European, boxes were made in a variety of sizes, shapes and materials. The least expensive were made of tin. Boxes were almost mass produced made of papier-mâché with a variety of painted motifs.

After the War of 1812, Birmingham, England made silver snuff boxes for the American market with historic ships and portraits of American naval heroes.

Snuff boxes for ladies often came with “spittle” cups. They were made of a variety of ceramics and glass, small and often with handles.

CLUES: So is your discovery a snuff box or a pill box? Since prices range from \$50 to the thousands, do your research.

PHOTO CAPTIONS: (1) French snuff box, c.1790. Gold with enamel and diamonds. Portrait of a woman. CREDIT: Metropolitan Museum, N.Y (2) Papier-mâché snuff box with geometric floral motif. PHOTO CREDIT: (2) Vintage in-bloom. (3) Woman's spittle cup spittoon. PHOTO CREDIT: ESTY

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McGuffey, Schoolmaster of America

By Henry J. Pratt

More than 180 years ago in Cincinnati, Ohio, the publishing firm of Truman and Winthrop B. Smith signed a textbook contract with William Holmes Mc-Guffey, a dour disciplinarian and relatively unknown homespun philosophy professor. The contract obligated McGuffey to prepare six school books—a primer, a speller and four readers. When the now-famous contract was approved in 1834, the United States was a rapidly-growing country with ever-

expanding western frontiers. People were beginning to appreciate the importance of sound public education, especially at the elementary level. Publishers Truman and Smith and Bill McGuffey were no exceptions. With no vocal minorities or feminists in textbook publishing and no watchdog committees hovering about, McGuffey methodically set about fulfilling his contract terms. McGuffey included in his textbooks what he considered most important for the schoolkids of yesteryear. Studies show about half of America's school-children

in the late 1800s and early 1900s were exposed to the living precepts of McGuffey's Readers. More than 122 million of the McGuffey publications were sold in an 85-year period ending in 1920, and it's estimated that a billion grandparents, great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents read McGuffey during that time. Seven million copies were sold between 1836 and 1850 alone—this in a nation then of 23 million people. McGuffey's texts and basic instruction methods, some

Continued on page 21

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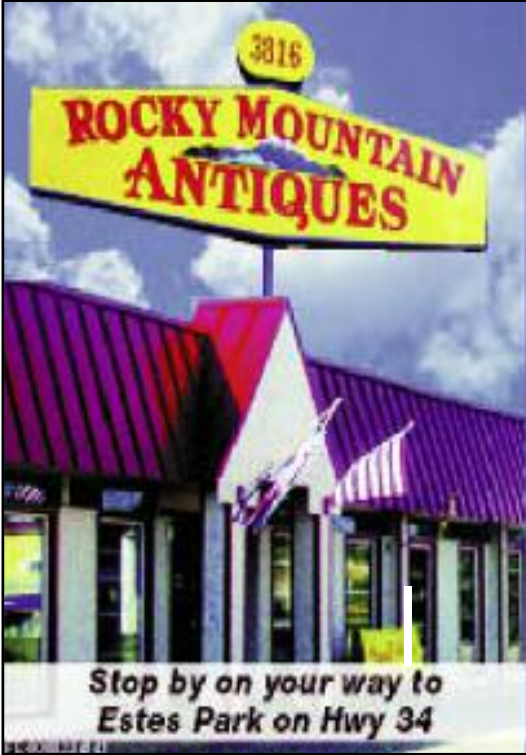
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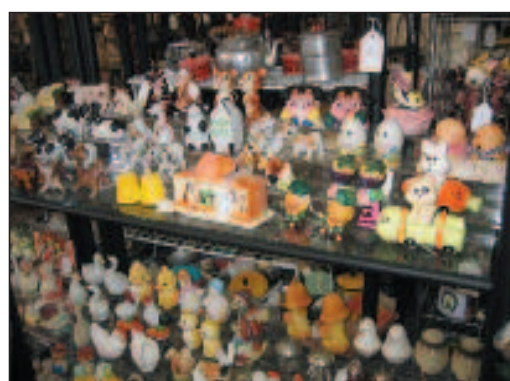
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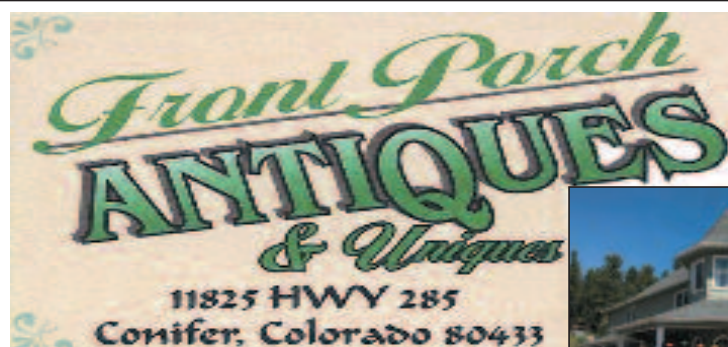
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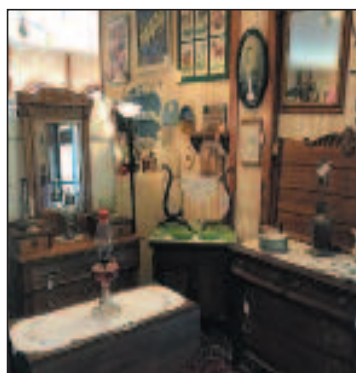


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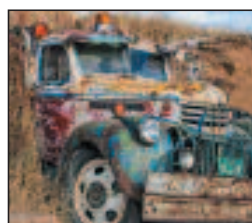
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BACK TO SCHOOL

McGuffey, Schoolmaster of America

Continued from page 17

teachers say now, worked in earlier America because of his strong belief and trust in the classic exhortation: "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Under his textbook contract, McGuffey's First and Second Readers successfully hit the print in 1836, followed by a surge of advertising hype by the publishers. The Third and Fourth Readers came out the next year. Brother Alex McGuffey's The Rhetorical Guide was published in 1844 and later became the Fifth and Sixth Readers. In 1838 Alex also compiled the Speller.

McGuffey's publications became the basic elementary texts in 37 states, and were particularly popular in the frontier west. However, they were little used in New England, where early education was still slanted to the gifted and privileged few.

Now generally taboo in children's literature and textbooks, the McGuffey series abounded in teaching lessons on morality. Many stories were of the Horatio Alger bent, emphasizing to the children, "When there's a will, there's a way."

In McGuffey's Read-

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."



ers respect and obedience to parents and other elders were expected; honesty was the best policy; industry and frugality were glorified. Lying and profanity were soundly condemned. Such standards of conduct and behavior are often missing in today's literature and textbooks. Many of our ancestors memorized poetic McGuffey lessons from yesteryear such as: "All that you do; Do with might. Things done by halves; Are not done right."

McGuffey was born on the western Pennsylvania frontier in 1800, the second of a family of 11 children. Did his teaching methods and textbook contents work in the heyday of a simpler America? This is best answered by saying that many of our great thinkers, political leaders, and literary and industrial giants studied McGuffey Read-

ers while growing up. These included William Howard Taft, Clarence Darrow, Thomas Edison, Mark Twain and Henry Ford.

With our changing educational and social mores and more intense textbook publishing competition, The Readers became passe in the late 1920s. However, long-time admirers formed McGuffey Societies to honor the man. McGuffey was fondly referred to as "The Schoolmaster of America."

After spending 19 years as an Ohio educator, including four years as president of Ohio University in Athens, McGuffey went to the University of Virginia faculty. There, he quietly passed the last 28 years of his life, dying in 1873, but his dramatic contribution to American education lives on.

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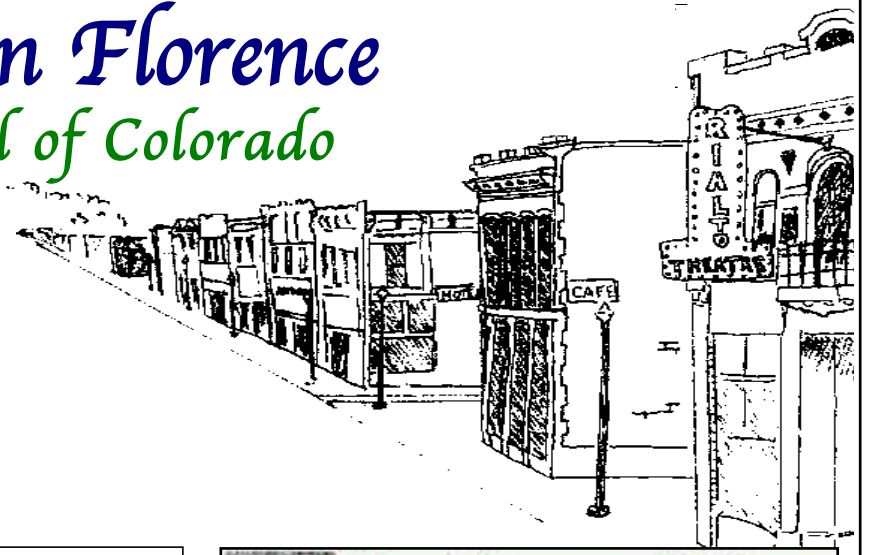
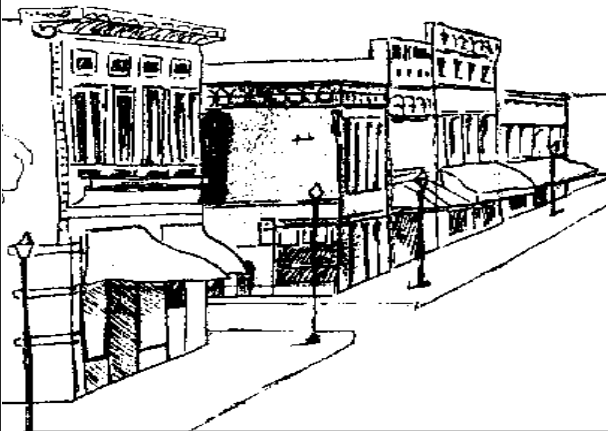
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Thirty Days Hath September...

By Sandy Dale

And every one is busy, busy, busy here in our little Florence. If it isn't doing the yard work that didn't get done during the summer than it is planning out the holidays that get here so much sooner than we think. (Florence is the perfect place to bring those holiday houseguests and family for a day trip, so remember to pencil us into your plans.) Then, there's the putting away the summer stuff and getting out the winter stuff. Canning all the wonderful veggies that grew here this summer. And, of course, Pioneer Day Weekend. A really big deal here in Florence. Just look at what's going on. We have the quintessential small town parade. They even put it in a Netflix movie last year. Check out the poster below. A perfect fall getaway from all the stuff I listed above...plus fabulous antiques. Find lots of fall fun in Florence.

SEPTEMBER 15, 16 & 17, 2017

90TH ANNUAL
FLORENCE
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RANCH LIFE

Friday
Junkie Market
Radio Theatre
Crowning of Royalty
"Spirits of the Past"
Starts at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday
Junkie Market
Pioneer Parade 10 a.m.
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Airport 12 p.m.
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The Goats 3-6:30 p.m.
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CONTEST

August's What Is It?

Surprisingly, we had no correct answers for our August What Is It. The item pictured is a late 19th century, cast iron, store string holder. The ball of twine was placed on the spike that pierced the bowl. The perforated top was put on and the string was pulled through the holes. This cast iron configuration is 7" high. The lid is 2" high and the copper bowl is 24" circumference. Both iron pieces are perforated. The stand has a spike.

Why not try September's What Is It? It has an additional prize that you could win. Good luck!



September's What Is It?

This month's What Is It is provided by Nancy Johnson. Her show "Vintage at the Hangar" is September 15-17 at the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum in Denver. (See ad on front page.) A correct answer can provide you free admission to a future show.

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



Willie's Antiques and Collectables in Florence Amazing

Continued from page 11

Waterford, Brilliant cut Crystal, cut to clear Crystal, Bohemian and much more. She also has an assortment of Victorian Brides' baskets. The bases are usually silver plated. There is also a lot of Moreno glass, venetian glass, elegant glass, art glass bases and milk glass, as well as silver crested signed art pieces.

Willie also has a large assortment of whimsical collectibles, porcelain, Kaiser, Bavarian, art, original paintings, European art, the kind people love. She has just good original art, old inkwells (of which you will never find two alike) and great Italian Anri music boxes.

In the great open room at Willie's you'll even find stuffed animals, liquor neon signs, great silverware, an Austrian figurine 200 years old, a Matador Austrian piece and even a beautiful canoe.

At Willie's Antiques you will find a lot more than just a great antique business, you will find the shop that Willie and John Miller built. It is whimsical, beautiful, friendly and exquisite. You will also spend your time with two charming people who make the experience almost magical. Visit them in Florence, "the Antique Capital of Colorado." They are located at 111 Church Ave. Or, give them a call at 719-784-2336.



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