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OCTOBER 2017

ESTABLISHED IN 1972

Volume 45, Number 10



Rare Corkscrews Come In Many Shapes

Provided by Paul Luchsinger

Collectible corkscrews are many and varied— a Romanian corkscrew museum with over 25,000 different corkscrews has the largest collection in the world. Most corkscrew users are familiar with simple straight pull “T” type corkscrew we all know (but dread to use on today’s frequently used plastic and composite corks).

There are 3 broad variations on the simple straight pull “T” corkscrew:

MECHANICALS: Corkscrews incorporating a lever or other form of mechanical advantage requiring less effort to draw the cork. Mechanical designs mainly trace back to the golden age of industrial invention between 1850 and W.W. I. In the most recent April CollectorsCorkscrews.com auction, perhaps the most surprising mechanical corkscrew sold was a simple French rack & pinion style corkscrew (See photo lower left) which was granted a French patent in 1889 because it could be cheaply manufactured from sheet metal. It looks cheap and flimsy, which is no doubt why so few survived—only 3 marked examples are known. So, even with a distorted corkscrew shaft, it was strongly bid up to \$5,600. (Lot #21041).

POCKETS: typically smaller corkscrews where the sharp tip of the corkscrew is protected so it could be carried on the pocket, hence a “pocket corkscrew.” (See photo top right) The most desirable Pocket corkscrews date back to the 18th and 19th centuries when gentleman might carry one made of silver or more precious materials. The early Pocket corkscrews were straight pulls as the corks were looser but more recently most Pocket corkscrews incorporate a lever for mechanical advantage—the ubiquitous waiter’s friend!

In the recent online sale there were numerous silver Pockets but a particularly attractive example combined a silver protective sheath with a beautifully inlaid ivory handle. It was marked on the sheath base “SP” for the famous late 18th century English cutler Samuel Pemberton. Although the screw had a shortened tip, this lovely piece still sold for \$1,300 (Lot #21074)

Many corkscrews cross over into 2 classifications. For example there are nu-



merous Pocket corkscrews in a Figural form. The most famous are the German folding Pockets from around 1900. The folding handle often took the risqué form

of ladies’ legs in a range of colorful stockings combined with bare legs. A rarer and usually more expensive Figural design is stamped “AMOR” and is usually described as the “kissing couple.” This example (top left) from the latest sale is all metal (usually the scales are made of celluloid) and the definition of the figures is very good. See the detail of the German soldier’s sword and the girl’s pants (most discreet by today’s standards!). In great condition, this piece was bid up to an impressive \$3,100 (Lot #21079).

FIGURALS: Decorative styled corkscrews often intended more for display than use and designed around the shape of some person, animal or other object. (See photo to the left.)

Some Figurals have a Mechanical function. America is the home of many iconic Figural corkscrews and the Syroco Company of Syracuse, New York produced some of the most famous. Syroco corkscrews were made from a wood composite material in the shape of a man. The man’s head detaches to reveal not just a simple corkscrew but a self-pulling bell supplied by the Williamson Company of Newark, N.J.-itself a simple Mechanical corkscrew.

Most Syroco corkscrews take the common form of a Waiter which can usually be

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SHOW CALENDAR

October Events



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.

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. 20-22: **WORLD WIDE ANTIQUE and VINTAGE SHOW**, Denver Mart - Expo Building - I-25 & 58th Ave., Fri.-Sat.. 10am-6pm, Sunday 11-4pm. Get tickets at FindYourAntique.com.

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.

SHOWS

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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 Collector-Corkscrew.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. 17th & 18: **RUE de NOEL - A Paris Street Christmas Market**, Douglas County Events Center, 500 Fairgrounds Road, Castle Rock, Colorado. Indoor, 30,000 sq. ft. Call 303-877-9457 or visit aparisstreetmarket.com.

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

OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28: **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.

OCT. 28 and NOV. 4: **GIANT TRAIN COLLECTION AUCTIONS** at Family Estate Auctions, 8032 W. Jewell Avenue, Lakewood, CO 80223, Call 303-953-2087 or 720-628-3380 for more info.



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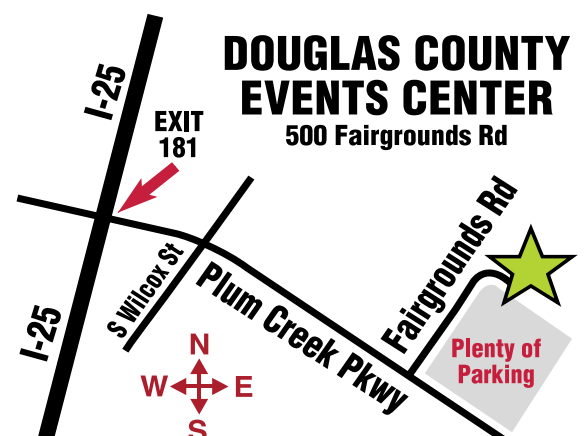
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Architectural Sale Continues to Reduce Inventory

Eron Johnson Antiques continues to have a great sale of their architectural inventory. Don't miss out on this exciting month-long sale.

There are 400 lots of antique and vintage furniture, art glass (including Tiffany, Steuben, Quezal), mirrors, lighting (including Scandinavian mid century and industrial), art, grandfather clocks, decorative accessories and architectural salvage (including doors, ironwork, pillars, balconies, column tops) included in this sale.



Eron Johnson is selling down his very large inventory over the next few months in order to move to a smaller location next year. He is planning to focus more on online sales and not try to maintain such a large showroom open to the public. The inventory in the Eron Johnson Antiques' showroom (389 South Lipan Street, Denver) is on sale from 20-70% off with everything available to view online. For more information, call 303-777-8700.

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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.

Open on the 13th from 1-7 p.m. and open on the 14th from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m..

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Rachel Hoffman

When planning this event, I started to become curious as to the actual origins of Trick or Treating. I have come across many wonderful early (and spooky) antique photos of children and adults in costumes during Halloween, so I knew that this ritual has origins of at least 100 years. Turns out, the term "Trick or Treating" was coined around 1927 but the tradition



of dressing up has been around since the Middle or Dark Ages when the Catholic Church approved of the act of "souling." According to Smithsonian.com, "As for the trick or treating, or "guising" (from "disguising"), traditions, beginning in the Middle-Ages, children and sometimes poor adults would dress up in the aforementioned costumes and go around door to door during Hallowmas begging for food or money in exchange for songs and prayers, often said on behalf of the dead. This was called "souling," and the children were called "soulers."

In 1952, Walt Disney debuted his cartoon "Trick or Treat" and the act of Trick or Treating as we know it was permanently burned into the hearts and


minds of Americans.

Trick or Treat Street on Antique Row invites everyone – families, friends, children and adults of all ages. Come to the 1100-1800 blocks of South Broadway in Denver and look for the orange pumpkin in the window of participating shops. The event is scheduled from 12-5PM on Saturday, October 28th.



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

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ANTIQUE DETECTIVE

Old Car Mascots Can Be Costly

By Anne Gilbert

Once upon a time an ultimate status symbol was a hood mascot for wealthy auto owners. A mascot wasn't a pet dog. These days old car hood ornaments are an expensive collectible, and the pet name is Rene' Lalique.

Probably the first hood ornament didn't adorn a car, but a chariot. Credit Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen with having a sun-crested falcon (a good luck symbol) mounted on the front of his chariot.

Fast forward to the 1920s, and early status cars like Citroen and Bentley. In 1925 Citroen autos commissioned famed glass maker Rene' Lalique



to created a figural glass sculpture to put on top of auto radiator caps. It served as a temperature indicator for the engine coolant. He referred to them as "radiator caps."

Lalique's first creation was fitted for the 1925 Citroen 3CV. Over the next seven years he designed 27 mascots. They were a diverse group that symbolized energy, speed, motion, religion, forms of nature and sexuality.



Made of glass they were clear, frosted or had a satin finish. Others were tinted amethyst, pink and other colors.



His rarest mascot is the "Renard" (fox). Only seven are known to have survived. Later mascots were sturdier, made with thicker bases.

When private collections come to auction, prices are in the high thousands.

Other artist of the 20s also made hood ornaments, mostly in metals. Among them Casimir Braus who created them in silvered bronze as well as chrome-plated steel. William Schnell made Lalique type figural mascots.

CLUES: Of course, there are reproductions. Bohemian glass, currently makes Lalique glass reproductions from the original molds. One example "Victoire" is priced at \$169. The original Lalique car hood could sell for as much as \$17,000.

All authentic Lalique pieces are signed "R. Lalique-France."

These days it isn't the fancy cars sporting hood mascots, but trucks and pickup trucks. Made of chrome they feature all kinds of sometimes weird subjects, from skulls to rams heads with illuminated eyes. Prices are modest these days but they can be future hot collectibles.

PHOTO CAPTION: (1) Cast metal Packard Hood ornament. PHOTO CREDIT: (1) Skinner auctions PHOTO CAPTION: (2) Lalique frosted hood mascot, "Tete D'Aigle" (The eagle.) PHOTO CREDIT: (2) Skinner auctions. PHOTO CAPTION: (3) Reproduction, Bohemian glass. "Victoire." PHOTO CREDIT: CHARMARTS2000. Prague Czech Republic

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AUCTION NOV. 3-12

Rare Corkscrews Come In Many Shapes

Continued from page 1

bought for less than \$100 Other more valued figures include an Indian, Clown and Monk. At the top of the collector's want list is the prized "Golden Knight" a rather garish figure produced in the late 1950's in the dying years of the Syroco Compa-

ny. The Golden Knight is always popular, particularly with American collectors. Seven have sold over the 10 years of on-line sales, the most recent reaching a healthy \$2,225. It had a full gold paint cover and an original label on the base (Lot #20344)

The recent April on-line corkscrew auction was held by CollectorCorkscrews.com, a twice yearly on-line auction sale operated by volunteer collectors worldwide. Over 9,000 corkscrews, ranging in price from \$100 to over \$30,000 have been sold since

the initial auction in 2008, representing over \$5,000,000 in sales.

All past sales results can be freely viewed by visitors in the PAST SALES section of the web site at www.CollectorCorkscrews.com. Also this is an excellent technique for obtaining a value estimate of most corkscrews in a personal collection. The next international auction is Nov. 3-12, 2017. New buyers and sellers may register at any time to participate in the upcoming November auction. Between auction sales, there is always a good range of lower cost corkscrews available for immediate purchase in the BUY NOW section of www.CollectorCorkscrews.com



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Antique Portrait Busts Have Long History

By Anne Gilbert

There has always been a fascination for portrait busts,

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that continues. When they come up for auction prices are varied, depending on many factors. Age and subject are the most important. The sculpted heads of Egyptian and Roman rulers have never gone out of fashion. After all who wouldn't like to display a sculpture supposedly dating to antiquity, the 19th century or even a recent reproduction?

An upcoming Skinner auction of "European Furniture and Decorative Arts" are offering a wide variety of 19th century busts made of many materials. Their catalogue is important for would-be collectors not only for the images but estimated prices.

Historically, early Roman busts evolved from the wax death masks of emperors, statesmen and warriors. They were then copied in bronze, marble and terracotta.

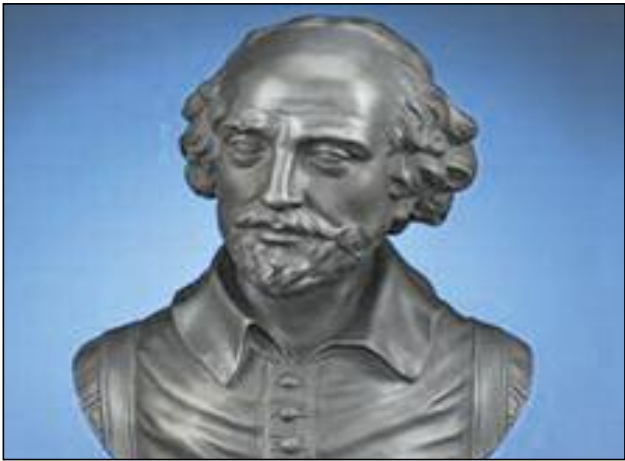
Julius Caesar was the most popular and still is with today's collectors. In Egypt, during the same time period, the most famous bust was Queen Nefertiti, made of painted limestone. Another favorite was the boy King Tut. Both are still favorites as reproductions.

In ancient Greece, busts of deities were fashioned of marble.

During the 17th and 18th century gilt wood carved busts of the saints were made in great quantity. An example is offered at the Skinner auction with an estimate of \$800 to \$1,000.



During the 19th century portrait busts became important decorative accessories. In England Enoch Woods' Staffordshire Pottery created colorful busts of important people of the day, such as Minister John Wesley as well as the Greek goddess Minerva. However, it is the Staffordshire figurines that were even trendier in the 19th and early 20th centuries. During the 1960s, 70s alabaster



busts of women in fancy bonnets were a decorator favorite costing their clients from \$500 up.

CLUES: Reproductions and fakes are still being made. Beginning collectors need to often use just common sense when buying. For instance antique marble should have dullness. Antique, 19th century or earlier bronze busts should have some dust in the crevices. New examples have clean vertical and horizontal surfaces. To find out about other clues research on the internet and visit museum collections.

If you just like the look check out the many dealers advertising reproductions.

PHOTO CAPTION:
(1) Marble bust Julius Caesar. Dating 1st century B.C. PHOTO CREDIT: Vatican Museum

PHOTO CAPTION:
(2) 19TH Century black basalt bust William Shakespeare. PHOTO CREDIT: Rau antiques.

PHOTO CAPTION
(3): Staffordshire earthenware bust Rev. John Wesley. PHOTO CREDIT: Private collector



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Family Estate Auctions is hosting a GIGANTIC Railroad Auction on October 28 and November 4 featuring a gigantic railroad estate assembled from a single collector. The estate has thousands of unique and original items including:

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The railroad era has produced some of the most fascinating collectibles still available to antique collectors and investors. This estate has an extensive amount of all kinds of railroad lighting used in railroad service for relaying signals and inspecting trains at night. The two major categories are lamps and lanterns.

The lamps were used on the back of cabooses to indicate the rear of a train. Lamps were also used for signaling numerous information like how a switch or turnout was lined. Some lamps were hung on locomotives to indicate the classification of a train. They could have a single lens or multiple lenses. Lanterns were used by railroad crew members and conductors as well as for inspections in terminals and yards. Any lantern or globe that carries railroad markings are especially valued. The rarer the marking the more value.

This auction also contains numerous railroad badges of different styles and types. The badges indicate the jobs the railroad crew members have and also designate authority.

No railroad auction would be complete without beautiful railroad signs and this auction features many of them from crossing signs, switch signs, signaling signs, all kinds of great line signs, Burlington Northern, Union Pacific, Rio Grande, Santa Fe, Missouri Pacific, etc.

The auction also features over a hundred of uniform memorabilia including unique railroad uniforms, collector's railroad hats and railroad shirts.

Railroad paper is huge among collectors trying to capture a piece of railroad history and this collection has an immense amount of railroad books and magazines as well as authentic, schedules, maps to advertise routes, and timetables.

They also have documents and rare railroad Ephemera.

This collection of specialized railroad tools is exceptional and immense. You can even find unique railroad spikes, real railroad switches, hundreds of tinware items including long railroad oil cans and many unique containers.

A major part of railroad travel was dining. In order to attract people to longer trips they focused on making dining cars like fine restaurants that meant good food and great railroad china. As a consequence railroad China and glassware, as you can imagine, are great railroad collectibles. The auction features hard to find dining collectibles.

This auction is completed with vintage railroad toys including of course vintage model trains, Lionel, HO, and Marx., great locomotives and other wonderful authentic railroad artifacts from a history long gone.

If you love the romance and the glory of "the Great Age of Railroads" don't miss this gigantic railroad auction October 28 and November 4 at Family Estate Auctions, 8032 W. Jewell Avenue, Lakewood, Colorado 80323. Call 303-953-2087 or 720-628-3380 or check out their website for more information, familyestateauctions.com.



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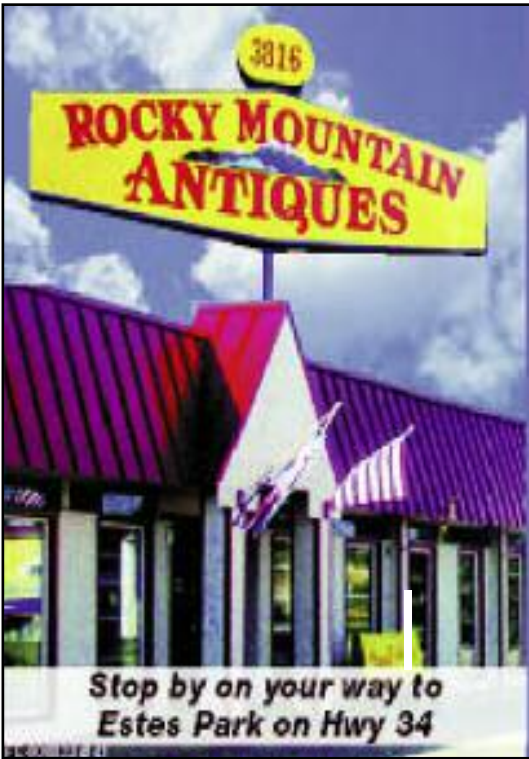
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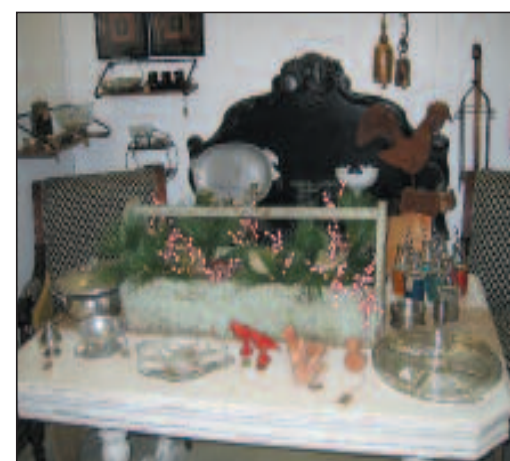
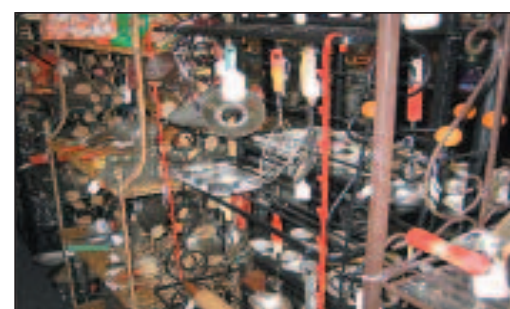
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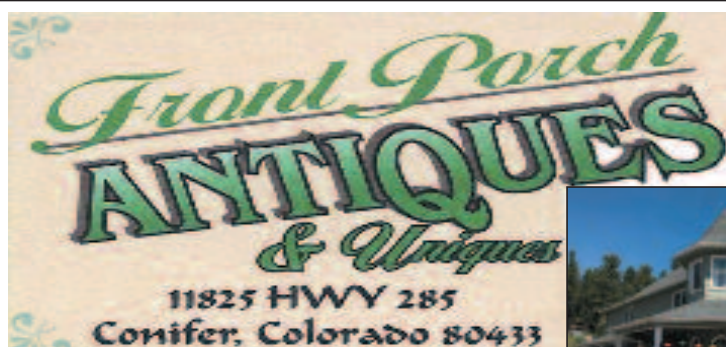
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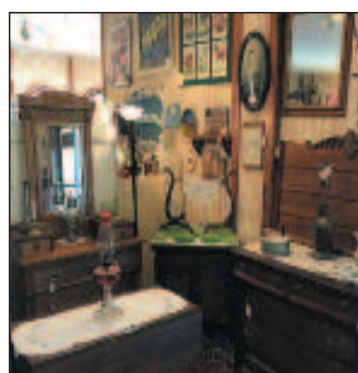
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Viewing the Aspen? Stop by The Hotel de Paris in Georgetown *"Is the hotel haunted?" Good October Place to Explore*

Several of the staff members were having unusual experiences, and they wanted an explanation. Some tour guests also reported unusual sightings that would suggest a ghost resided at the Hotel. Maybe you can find out about this phenomenon with a visit to the hotel.

The Hotel De Paris Museum™, a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is owned and operated by The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Colorado. The Museum is located in Georgetown, Colorado, just west of Denver off Interstate 70. Louis Dupuy's legendary Hotel de

Paris dates to the silver mining boom, when it served as a first-class French restaurant, show-room for traveling salesmen, and luxurious hotel during the Gilded Age. The mission of the museum is to collect, preserve, and share history associated with Louis Dupuy's Hotel De Paris, and serve as a catalyst for heritage tourism in Georgetown, Colorado.

The Museum is open weekends through Dec. 10th. (Christmas Festivities will start later in the month of Dec.) Hours are Sat. 10 am to 5pm and Sun. 12 noon to 5pm. When viewing the aspen, why not stop by?

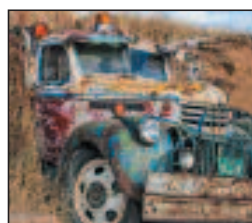


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HISTORY OF PUMPKIN PIE DAYS

Don't Miss Pumpkin Pie Days October 14 & 15

During the summer of 1969, the nation marveled as man first set foot on the moon, young people from across the nation gathered in Woodstock to celebrate the Age of Aquarius, and young mothers introduced their children to a new TV show called Sesame Street. Here in Longmont, the members of the St. Vrain Historical Society were facing the huge challenge of purchasing and developing an area that would become known as Old Mill Park ...and they were looking for ways to raise funds for the project.

That summer, the idea of reviving an historic Longmont celebration – Pumpkin Pie Days – was born. The original Pumpkin Pie Days, held annually between 1899 and 1914, drew thousands of visitors to Longmont to feast on free pumpkin pie, enjoy a parade, watch horse races, and participate in everything from balloon ascensions to beautiful baby contests. The turn of the century was the hey day of community festivals, and Longmont's was touted to be one of the best in the state.

The revival of the festival would be more modest – no parades, races, or balloon ascensions - but plenty of home-baked pumpkin pie. Society members enthusiastically got behind plans for this event, which would honor part of the community's history and raise funds for preserving part of its past.

The first modern Pumpkin Pie Days was held at the Memorial Building in Roosevelt Park on November 15, 1969. Although Pumpkin Pie Days would grow to become one of the best attended antique shows in Northern Colorado, there were no antiques at the first Pumpkin Pie Days. There was also no admission. The draw was

home-made pumpkin pies and coffee and a display of antique cars. The Society raised \$645.78 that day from the sale of slices of the 270 pumpkin pies baked and donated by 56 women, all of whom were listed by name in the Longmont Time-Call. One of the reasons the event was so successful was that total expenses were only \$30.18.

In June of 1970 the Society recreated another historic community celebration – the Strawberry Festival. That celebration included a flea market, which was so successful that it was decided to include one in the second annual Pumpkin Pie Days. (Everyone had already decided that this should be an annual event.) In the fall of 1970, Pumpkin Pie Days was expanded to a two day event. "Seventy dealers and private collectors, as well as individuals selling artifacts and junk" filled the gym floor, the stage and the risers in the Memorial Building. The Society charged an admission of 50 cents to allow visitors to browse among the wares. In the dining room, roast beef sandwiches were added to the menu and a barbershop quartet was brought in to entertain diners. The attendance was an amazing 2,400 and the \$2,600 profit earned exceeded everyone's expectations.

In the early 1970's, the format of the Pumpkin Pie Day "flea markets" (as they were then known) stayed much the same. The number of exhibitors varied, and the hours fluctuated somewhat, but admission was always 50 cents. In the dining room, the Society experimented with several different menus, including bar-be-cue sandwiches, onion soup, French dip sandwiches and hot ham and cheese sandwiches ... but there was always home-made pumpkin pie and freshly whipped cream.

In October 1973 Edith Nelson became general chair of the event, a role she would continue to hold for eighteen years until 1990. By now the Society was working hard to purchase and preserve St. Stephen's Church and had an added incentive to continue to make the



fundraiser successful. Features like the Great Pumpkin Contest and Longmont Artist Guild exhibits were added to the traditional antiques and pumpkin pie. By the late 1970's, the Society had settled on ham and bean soup (together with the pie) as the traditional food for the festival, but kept soup recipe a secret. Only those who helped prepare the more than 100 gallons brewed each year were privy to the recipe.

1981 brought the biggest change to the show when the venue moved after 12 years from the Memorial Building at Roosevelt Park to the newly opened Exhibit Building at the Boulder County Fairgrounds at Nelson and Hover, where it has been held for the past 28 years.

Over the years attendance and funds raised at each Pumpkin Pie Days and at the Strawberry Festivals each May grew steadily. In 1997, the Society assumed the significant challenge of purchasing the local landmark, Hoverhome, and preserving it for the community. A third yearly antique show, The Longmont Heritage Festival, was added at that time.

One reason the shows have been so successful is the large number of Society members and volunteers who staff the shows. Many

of the more than 150 workers it takes to put on each show have been faithfully donating their time for many years as cooks, servers, dishwashers, and pie bakers. They have been a large part of what has made Pumpkin Pie Days a modern community tradition.

Since 1969, the Society has sponsored forty-eight Pumpkin Pie Days. With the Strawberry Festival and Heritage Festivals they have raised more than a million dollars for historic preservation in the local community. Antique show profits were instrumental in the development of Old Mill Park, the campaign to save Old St. Stephen's Church at 470 Main Street, and the purchase and ongoing restoration of Hoverhome and the Hover Farmstead.

Why not come to Pumpkin Pie Days this year? It is October 14 & 15 at the Exhibit Building, Boulder County Fairgrounds (9595 Nelson Rd., in Longmont). You will have a wonderful time and contribute to historical preservation.



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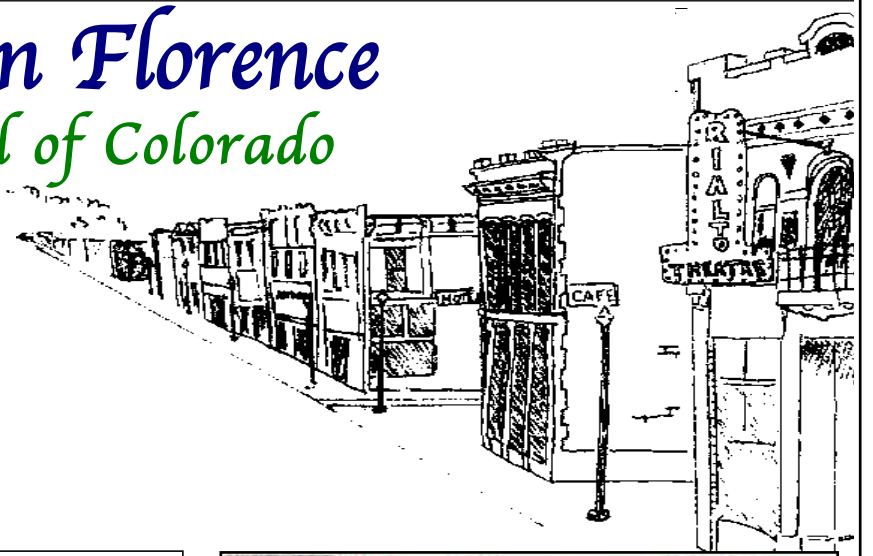
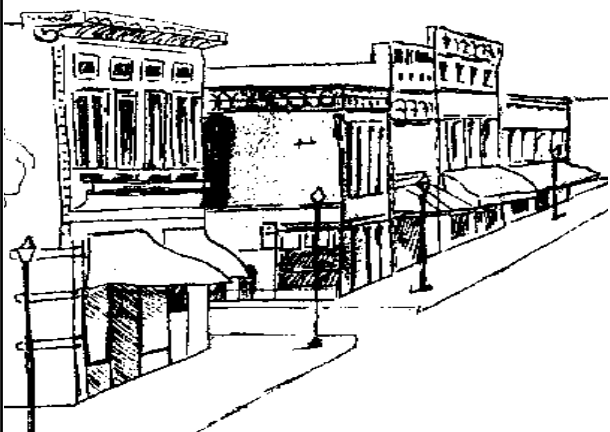
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A Nip of Fall in the Air

By Sandy Dale

It's hard to imagine that the holidays are just around the corner. That is good news to some and dreadful news to others. I personally can't wait. My holiday season officially starts with Halloween. I'm fond of scaring little children out of their wits with my screaming witch cackle and then giving them a piece of candy. (There may be something a bit perverted about this, but I don't believe I'm alone in enjoying this.) Florence has hosted a Trick or Treat walk downtown for many years and children come by the busload. I love seeing all the little ones dressed up like anything from Snoopy to the bloodiest of zombies. I don't understand why we don't have more "dress-up" holidays. It's very therapeutic to be someone else for a day.

Before we know it, Thanksgiving is here. If we were really clever, we have decorated for Halloween with lots of golden leaves and pumpkins and creepy characters. By just removing the creepy characters, we have our Thanksgiving decorations all in place. Maybe we can add a turkey or some pilgrims...

For years, I have included pine-bough garlands in with the fall leaves, skulls and witches. Come to think of it, I have left the pine-bough garlands in my studio window and on my porch through all the seasons. After all, it is Colorado. Right after Halloween, I switch out the skulls, etc. for some nice fake apples, gourds, etc. Then, when I think it's time (please, not too early – every holiday deserves its proper observation), I switch out the fall leaves for snowflakes, holly, ivy and such. I guess I've also left the little faerie lights in the garlands year round as a reminder that faeries, elves and the like are also with us year round.

May I be the first to wish you all Happy Holidays. Come enjoy our festive Florence shop windows and find just the vintage decorations or special holiday gifts you need.

Vote for Florence Mayor Keith Ore for re-election! "It's a team effort, and it involves all of us," Ore said, commenting that the city staff, city council, community members and downtown merchants have all worked together to bring about the work that has taken place here!

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September's What Is It?

Denise Collins of Colorado Springs, Colorado guessed that the item is an anemometer, a gauge for measuring the pressure or velocity of the wind.

Nancy Johnson of the Vintage at the Hangar show tells us it is a Velometer, used to measure air current. It is from the 40s to 50s. Her dealer Amy Fegely of Los Angeles provided this what is it.

We think Denise is close enough! She has won a free pass to the next Nancy Johnson event and a year's subscription to the Mountain States Collector. Congratulations, Denise!



October's What Is It?



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

Children's Early Made Clothing a Hot Collectible

By Anne Gilbert

Do you know that children's clothing has a long and fascinating history dating back to the 16th century? Boys and girls wore gowns, robes or tunics. Totally sexless. Fast forward to your own early childhood! What did you wear when you were from six to ten years old? Maybe its' collectible.

Clothing made for babies, little boys and girls has radically changed over the centuries. This is one of the many reasons that there are collectors who compete with museums for the most interesting examples.

Many collectors are creating their own family heirlooms from the handmade children's clothing from the past and adapting it to the present. It offers a charming alternative to the acrylics and mass produced contemporary children's clothing.

Some collectors display it as an art form, mounted, framed and hanging on a wall. Others photograph their children wearing an example for a special occasion. For those who aren't fortunate enough to inherit lacy christening gowns and bonnets, buying a vintage or Victorian example, from a dealer or auction, is the answer. However there are many treasures lying forgotten in attics awaiting discovery.

Victorian christening gowns, so popular with today's collectors, were meant to be handed down from generation to generation. They had tiny drawstrings at the neck and waist. That way they could be let out or taken in to fit the next baby.

These days the christening gowns lavished with the finest lace work can sell for hundreds of dollars. They could include hand bobbin lace inserts and various types of needlework embroidery.

Historically, children's fashions in the early decades of the 19th century often preceded similar changes in adult clothing. For instance, simple frocks for girls reflected the then high-waisted, neo-classic style for women. Trousers for young boys were popular long before they were adopted as adult male clothing. However, prior to the 19th century, children were dressed as miniature adults. Social reforms at the end of the 18th century inspired changes in clothing designed for the special needs of children's christening gowns and accessories.



Ever wonder why "blue" is the color for boy babies and "pink for girls?" The color code for genders became standardized in 1910, and is still in use these days. Who knows why?

Children's fashions were first mentioned in fashion magazines in the 1870s. At the same time ready-to-wear clothing for children was sold. By the 1920s there were patterns for childrens' clothing. These patterns are a popular collectible these days since they are scarce.

Collectors also like to add bibs, bonnets and other accessories to their collections. For small children a matched set included a dress. Some bibs tied around the waist. Even the humble bib was often trimmed with lace and cutwork.

Rompers are a long forgotten word and item. In the 1890s, these bloomer-like pants were worn by creeping infants of both sexes. They can be classified as the first uni-sex childrens' outfits. Later in the century they became decorated with drums and soldiers for boys and dolls and flowers for girls.



stains and wrinkles. Often all they need is a delicate washing to bring out details such as embroidery and lace.

The most collectible items are christening dresses, childrens purse and accessories. People have discovered that purses and bonnets make wonderful decorative accessories when framed. Workmanship, condition and rarity determine the price as well as eye appeal.

You may be surprised to learn that little boys wore dresses in the 19th century. The clue to if they are boys' are the buttons on the front.

Another surprise is that children's fashions in the early decades of the 19th century often preceded similar changes in adult clothing. For instance simple frocks for girls reflected the then popular high-waisted, neo-classical style for women. Trousers for young boys were popular long before they were adapted as adult male dress. Social reforms at the end of the 18th century inspired changes in clothing designed for the special needs of children's christening gowns and accessories.

Most collectors like to add bibs, bonnets and other accessories to their collections. 19th century babies wore fine silk embroidered bonnets with matching bibs. For small children a matched set included a dress for girls. Some bibs tied around the waist. Fine lace and cutwork were used.

By 1900 there were children's beach fashions: dresses of course.

Historically, children's fashions were first mentioned in fashion magazines in the 1870s. At the same time, ready-to-wear clothing for children was sold.

By the 1920s there were patterns for childrens' clothing. They make an interesting addition to a collection when framed.

Collectors also look for Mod, Hippie and Disco items dating 1965-1976.

Check out sellers on eBay and at flea markets. Prices are down these days and good buys are available.

PHOTO: (1) Antique christening gown. PHOTO CREDIT: LuvMeTwoTimes PHOTO: (2) Boys romper. PHOTO CREDIT: Etsy.com PHOTO (3) Childrens patterns, 1940s PHOTO CREDIT: Leachway UK 40s, 50s PHOTO: (4) Child's bonnet, 1920s. PHOTO CREDIT: Etsy.com



Collectors separate and specialize childrens' clothing into design years during which major changes occurred. For example, the "Mod, hippie and disco" years are 1965-1976. Fabrics and designs define the eras.

Like other vintage and antique textiles time has often created problems. Many times they have been stuffed into trunks and drawers, resulting in

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