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Boxing Day — What It Is and Why It Is Celebrated



Boxing Day occurs every year on December 26th. It's a national holiday in the UK and Ireland. If the day after Christmas falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the following Monday is designated as the official public holiday.

December 26th is also the feast day of Saint Stephen, the patron saint of horses, which is why Boxing Day has come to be associated with horse racing and fox hunting.

Why is it called Boxing Day?

According to some Boxing Day can be traced back to the Victorian era when churches often displayed a box into which their parishioners put donations.

Also in Britain, on the day after Christmas Day, servants of the wealthy were given time off to visit their families because their services were required for the Christmas Day celebrations of their employers.

They were therefore allowed the following day for their own observance of the holiday and each servant would be handed a box to take

Continued on page 6

Hunters and horses gather in Eltisley, Cambridgeshire for the traditional Boxing Day Meet in 2015. CREDIT: DAVID ROSE Cameron Macphail



May the Holiday Season Bring You Much Joy!

Look What We ‘Found’

Found, Unique Antique and Artisan Mall

By Jon DeStefano

When Amy Griesheimer decided to go into the antique business, she never had a store, a booth in a mall, or any professional experience with antiques or the antique industry. Her partner John Graefe, who she is quick to point out, is “her other half and the love of her life,” just decided to dive in. Amy started in business many years ago in Aspen, Colorado, where, she explains, “she just fell into the radio business.” Amy always had a passion for digging around and finding something and making it very special.

A year and one half ago in June 2016 she discovered Ragtime Annies, a Lakewood Antique Mall was for sale. It was a natural fit for her. Amy and John bought it and changed its name to Found. They also made other dramatic changes to the mall which has resulted in a dramatic upgrade of the business and has resulted in a bustling antique and artisan business with 70 vendors spread over 13,000 square feet and offering customers a wide selection of quality antiques, art and furnishings, punctuated by artisan

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SHOW CALENDAR

December Events



DEC. 1 - JAN. 1: **HEIRLOOMS ANTIQUE MALL STOREWIDE SALE**: 1947 S. Havana, Aurora, CO 80014. Call 303-337-6880 or go to heirloomsantiquemall.com for more info.

DEC. 2: **RED ROOF RELICS CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**, 25871 Duran Avenue, Conifer, Colorado. Also, on DEC. 9: **CHILDREN'S DAY - SHOP FOR MOM AND DAD** (Kids under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.), on DEC. 23: **LAST MINUTE SHOPPING** for all procrastinators, 10-5 and finally on DEC. 24 **CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FOR LAST MINUTE SHOPPERS**, 8-12. Call 720-288-2922 for more information or go to redroofrelics.com.

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.

DEC. 7: **PRE-APPRAISAL EVENT** in L.M Cafe from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., Brass Armadillo, 303-403-1677

DEC. 8: **FRONT PORCH ANTIQUES HOLIDAY TEA**, Get your "Girlies" and your fancy hats and join Front Porch Antiques at 11825 Highway 285 in Conifer, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. seating on the 1/2 hour, RSVP 920-716-2572.

DEC. 9: **APPRAISAL EVENT** in L.M Cafe from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Brass Armadillo, 303-403-1677.

Upcoming Events

JAN. 10: **RAY PICKING - SHOULDER & SLEEVE INSIGNIA OF THE US FORCES** Discussion led by Michael Finney 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.

JAN. 15-20: **LA CACHE POST HOLIDAY RDF SALE** After all the decorations have been packed away and the holidays are behind us, keep up your good spirits by going to La Cache's Post-Holiday RDF Sale, January 15-20. You'll find 50% savings on all inventory displaying RDF tags and located in our annex at 404 Downing. More RDF items will be added throughout the week so check back often. Hours are 10 AM to 4 PM, Monday through Saturday. As always, all proceeds benefit Children's Hospital Colorado. Information: 303-871-9605.

JAN. 19 & 20: **DENVER POSTCARD AND PAPER EPHEMERA SHOW**, Friday 11-6, Saturday 9:30 - 4, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 West 6th Avenue, Golden, Colorado \$5 Admission good both days, 1000s of Collectible Antique Postcards, Paper Ephemera, Photographs, Trade Cards, Stocks, Stereoviews, Books, Fun & Wonderful Stuff, DenverPostcardShow.com, for

vendor and visitor information contact: Bill or Carol Mobley at 303-761-3755 or email them at camobley@ephemeranet.com

JAN. 24: **GOLDEN AGE OF CELEBRITY AUTOGRAPHS** Discussion led by C. Yves 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.

FEB. 7: **VINTAGE VALENTINES** Discussion led by Stephanie Davidson 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.

FEB. 17: **TIMBER DAN SPRING 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. Thousands of antique and collectible toys on display and for sale. Admission \$4. Sponsored by the Loveland Lions Club. More than 180 tables. For more info, call Doug Larson, 970-214-1035.

FEB. 21: **PRESIDENTIAL PETS** 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.

MAR. 7: **ALICE IN WONDERLAND** Discussion led by Gena Zerlan 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.

MAR. 9-11: **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. Future Shows are June 8-10 and October 19-21.

MAR. 21: **COORS BREWERIANA** Discussion led by Bill Fredrick 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

DEC. 2, 16, 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 10-3 on Fridays before auctions. Call 303-953-2087 for more info.

BRUHNS AUCTION GALLERY, Located at 50 W. Arizona Avenue, Denver, Colorado, Bruhns Auction is looking for individual items or whole estates for their 2018 auction schedule. Call 303-744-6505 or email pictures to Bruhnsauction@aol.com.

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As Holiday Sale Traditions go, this one is truly worth your time! With nearly 200 Dealers and Consignors, all 'stuffed to perfection' in our 10,200 sf building, the selection of one-of-a-kind gifts is rather amazing!

Many of our Dealers are offering Holiday Sales now through December 31st. Whether it's a piece of antique or gently used furniture you're looking for or just for an unexpected treasure to grab your fancy, we believe you'll find it here and find it affordable! If it's Van Briggles you want, it's Van Briggles you shall find! If you're more into teddy bears or Beanie Babies, we've got those too.

Your journey includes a vintage tour of all that is Christmas. There are ornaments, wreaths, garland, linens, tins, holiday collectibles (some modern, most old). A room dedicated to Christmas, all year round! The walls are painted a Festive Holiday Red to help enhance your Holiday Experience!

Our Library is stuffed with books of all kinds. There's a kid's section, a cooking

section, with lots of books to browse and satisfy. There's even great music available. Elvis, Bing Crosby, even Beatles albums make an appearance. A truly enjoyable Holiday experience. Our staff is friendly and helpful. Be sure to stop in this Holiday Season. We are open daily, Monday - Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm, Sundays, 11 am - 4 pm. A long-time favorite of locals and tourists alike, the Antique Gallery has consistently won 'Best Of' awards by both local papers. You quickly understand our motto, Where You Find It.

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Boxing Day Rewards Good Service

Continued from page 1

home, containing gifts, bonuses and sometimes leftover food. It was also customary for tradespeople to collect 'Christmas boxes' of presents or money on the first weekday after Christmas as thanks for good service throughout the year.

Where else is the day celebrated?

Boxing Day is observed only in the United Kingdom, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and some other Commonwealth nations. The holiday was not perpetuated by the English in the American colonies.

Irish Boxing Day

Boxing Day is really 'St Stephen's Day' in Ireland, dedicated to a saint who was stoned to death for believing in Jesus. 'Wren Boys' were notorious for blackening their faces stoning wrens to death. They would then carry their catch around the town knocking on doors and asking for money. This distasteful act has now stopped, but the Wren Boys still dress up and parade around town but now they collect money for charity.



Samuel Pepys mentions the 'Christmas box' in his diary. CREDIT: JOHN ROBERTSON

Samuel Pepys mentions the practice in a diary entry from December 19th 1663: "Thence by coach to my shoemaker's and paid all there, and gave something to the boys' box against Christmas." Five years later Pepys was not feeling so generous. Complaining in a December 28th entry from 1668: "Called up by drums & trumpets; these things & boxes having cost me much money this Christmas."

Fox Hunting used to be a Boxing Day thing...

Hunts were a Boxing Day tradition but the 2004 ban on foxhunting put an end to all that. Despite this, 10 years

later 250,000 people still regularly turn out to support hunting. Certain modified forms of hunting foxes with hounds are still within the law and hundreds of Boxing Day Meets take place every year.

Shopping—the new blood sport

What was once a day of relaxation and family time has now become a holy day of consumerism. The sales used to start in January post-New Year, but the desire to grab a bargain and for shops to off-load stock means many now start on Boxing Day. Christmas Day itself emerged as one of the most popular days for online shopping, with consumers buying products in the afternoon - often after not receiving their desired gifts.

Activities on Boxing Day

Boxing Day was a day on which families continued their Christmas celebrations by venturing out of their homes to enjoy entertainments including pantomimes, plays, variety shows, exhibitions, and sporting events such as football (soccer) matches and hunts. In recent times, the day has become synonymous with many sports. Horse racing is particularly popular with meets all over the country. A full program of football (soccer) fixtures is also played on Boxing Day. Boxing Day is also a time when the British show their eccentricity by taking part in all kinds of silly activities. These include bizarre traditions including swimming the icy cold English Channel, fun runs and charity events.

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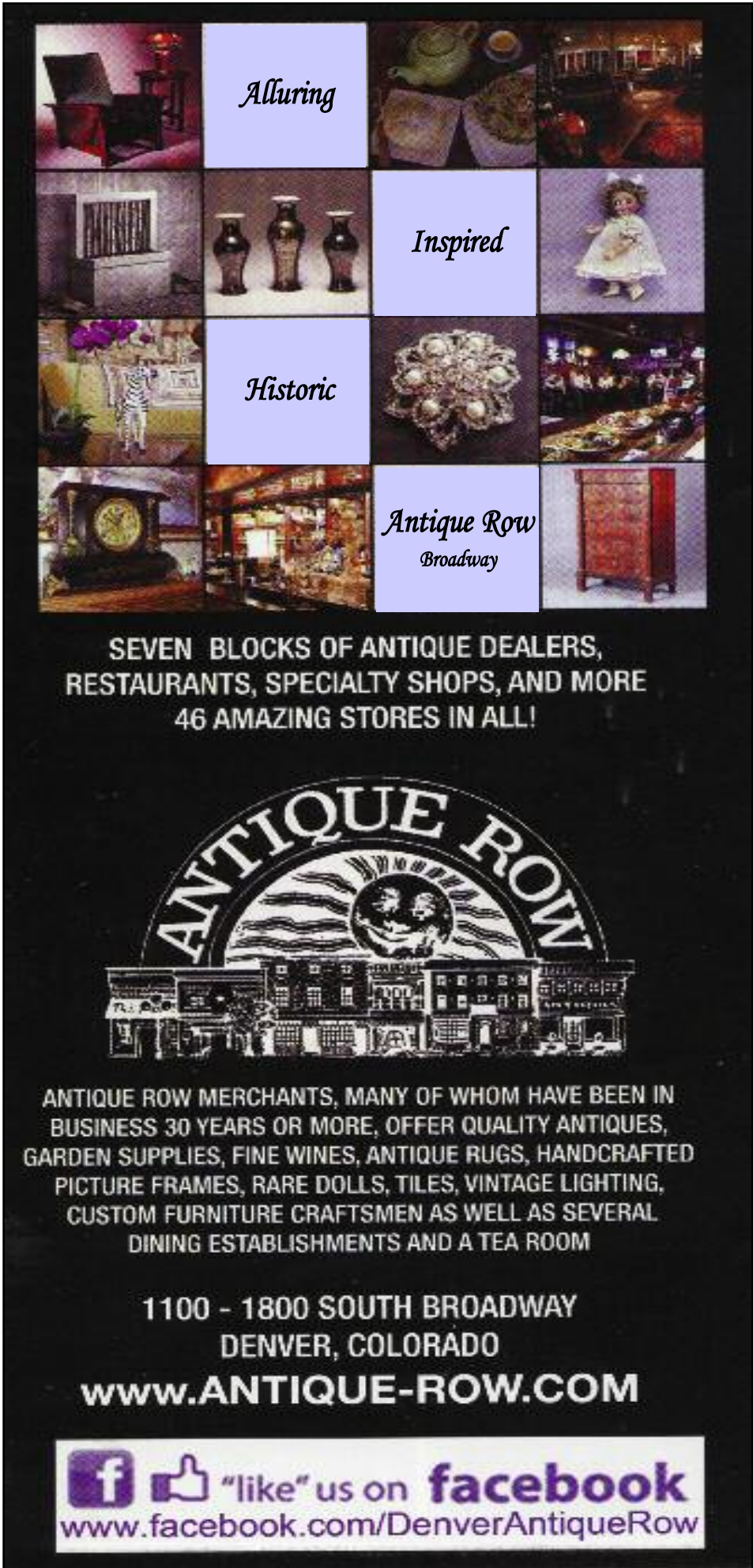




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New Year Greetings!

It has been a great year, and I want to thank my readers for their interest and support. I've appreciated your backing me up in 2017 as I did what I do and as I undertook new projects. I traveled the country to familiar places and new ones. People everywhere greeted me with generosity and kindness. I have much to be grateful about, and I'm looking forward to 2018, with you, with eager anticipation.



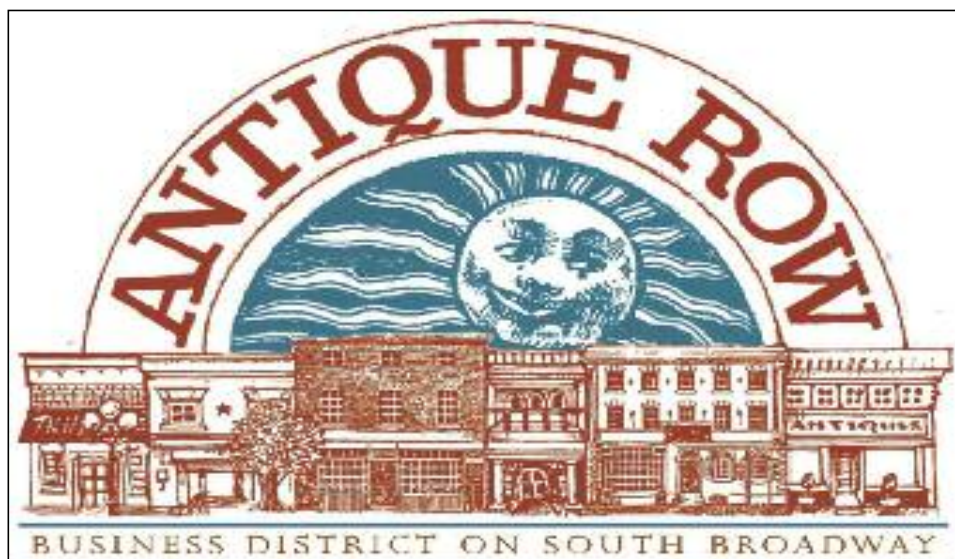
Rachel Hoffman

On the road I met many collectors and renewed dear old ties. I love the many opportunities this country affords us. We shared several exquisite dinners and hustled some local grub. There were many kinds of exciting entertainment. We spoke about the beauty of antiques and the importance of preserving history. Collectors and dealers have a wonderful code to live by.

Collectors and dealers are incredible people. With artistry and skill, they bring



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And what of South Broadway today? Although the factories of upper South Broadway, Bredan Creamery, Samsonite and Montgomery Wards are largely gone, the boarding houses, apothecaries, taverns, groceries, clothiers and other shops still exist, only in a different form. Most of the old buildings still stand, but now are filled with antiques, galleries, restaurants, florists, clothiers and other businesses operating in this historic neighborhood.

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.

antiques to life. They demonstrate diplomacy and initiative, always busy with new projects to brighten someone's life. They are the delight of everyone.

This year saw more collectors using the Internet as a resource and enlarging the market to include every area of the globe. We continue to work hard every day to make new contacts and serve regular customers. We learned a lot, confirmed some basic truths, and recognized the tremendous potential of our businesses. A positive attitude and strong work ethic are as important as ever.

Antiques once belonging to grandparents and to individuals of generations ago have a solemnity on New Year's Day.

Speaking to us from a distant past, antiques and vintage items tell amazing stories. The ticking of the clock brings antique collectors subliminal joy. Denver antique dealer Sally Star had some great words on antiques, "One of the best things about antiques is they preserve our past but also reveal our history, who we are and what we want as a people...what is important to us."

I enjoyed having my articles published in *Mountain States Collector* and distributed every month at your shops, auctions, flea markets and antique shows. Thank you so much, subscribers! Happy New Year! May health, happiness, and prosperity accompany you.

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

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

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HOLIDAY COLLECTIBLES

Christmas Cards Since 1843

By Chuck Thompson

There is some controversy as to which was the first legitimate "Christmas card." Some accounts say Sir Henry Cole, first Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, was first with the idea of a Christmas greeting card. In 1843, artist John C. Horsley was commissioned by Cole to design his first card.

The artist's first card was an oblong, unfolded sheet, with a rustic bower forming a frame for three illustrations. The central scene showed a typical middle-class Victorian family at a banquet table, drinking to the health of the card's recipient. A second scene of feeding the hungry at Christmas was shown. The card also depicted a charitable soul clothing the naked. A banner stretched across the bottom of the central scene displayed the greeting, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You."

Artist Horsley became the first person to send a Christmas card when he presented Cole with a signed copy of his original design. The card was inscribed:

To his good friend Cole,
Who's a merry young soul,
And a merry young soul is he:
And may he be for many years to
come! Hooray!
Sir Henry Cole had a thousand copies

of this first card printed. Less than a dozen are known to exist today. Two of these are in the Hallmark Historical Collection. This collection of 70,000 cards is the world's largest and most representative museum of greeting cards.

Other accounts credit William Egley with printing the very first Christmas card, one year before Cole and Horsley. Egley's card was remarkably similar to Horsley's.

Although Christmas cards were opposed by some critics, the cards were accepted immediately by the general population. Within 20 years the Christmas card had become tradition in Victorian Christmas celebrations.

Many early cards were very elaborate. Much like some Victorian Valentines, Christmas cards of this period were often adorned with layers of lace, silk fringes, ribbons or satin. One Victorian Christmas card consists of 750 pieces of material stitched together.

Bavarian-born Boston lithographer Louis Prang published the first Christmas cards in the United States in 1874. His cards were first produced for export to England, since the custom of sending greeting cards at Christmas had not yet started in America. However, Prang's cards were sold here the next year and Christmas card activity became permanent. Soon, there were collectors.





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Judge's Wall Brings to Life Colorado Judicial History

By Bonnie Scudder, Chair, Jefferson County Historical Commission Judges Wall Project

The Jefferson County Historical Commission, 1st Judicial District, and the Colorado Supreme Court Law Library celebrated the completion of Phase III of the Judges Wall, which features biographies of 73 additional judges who served in the 1st Judicial District between 1858 and 1970. The display includes judges from the Gold Rush Era (1858-1861), the Colorado Territorial Era (1861-1876), and the Election Era (1876-1967). Photographs accompanied biographies for the majority of these judicial officers. This display joins the 46 judges featured in the Merit Selection Era on the opposite wall, which was presented in December 2017.

The Judges Wall covers 159 years of judicial history. In addition to the judges, the display features three large sketches of early Jefferson County court houses by artist Carol Perricone, wife of retired Chief Judge Gaspar Perricone, a sketch of our current court house by Doyle Harrison, graphics designer, and an historical sketch of Gold Rush Justice, donated by the Gardner Family. In addition, several maps which include counties in the 1st Judicial District during different eras help demonstrate the evolution of the current 1st Judicial District. One map is a reproduction of an historical 1862 map of the Territory of Colorado, the first to show the 17 original counties (including Jefferson and Gilpin. This map was donated by Wes Brown and the Denver Public Library Western His-



Bonnie Scudder introduces those who made significant contributions to the project.

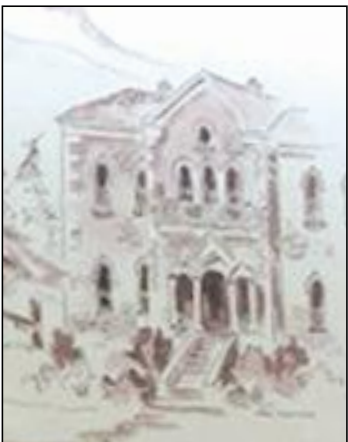
Cynthia Shaw, Chair of the Jefferson County Historical Commission spoke next, recognizing members of the JCHC and Jefferson County administrators in attendance, and

tory Department.

Approximately 50 individuals attended the celebration. Chief Judge Philip McNulty was the first to speak and gave the "Welcome," recognizing current judges, retired judges including Justice Brian Boatright, spouses, widows, including Joyce Jamison, children, grandchildren, and a great-grandchild, and other members of the judicial community. Cynthia Shaw, Chair of the Jefferson County Historical Commission spoke next, recognizing members of the JCHC and Jefferson County administrators in attendance, and

explaining how this project aligns with the JCHC mission. Dan Cordova, who oversees the Colorado Supreme Court Law Library and has served on the Judges Wall Committee since its inception, introduced his staff who assisted on the project, and the members of the Judges Wall Committee. Bonnie Scudder introduced other individuals who have made significant contributions to the project, including Deborah Darnell of the Mountain Genealogists Society, Crystal Samms of the Gilpin County Library, and David Forsythe of the Gilpin County History Museum. She also spoke about the final phase which will include county judges from 7 or more counties that are no longer in Judicial District #1.

Members of the Judges Wall Committee are: Bonnie Scudder, Chair (JCHC), Rick Gardner (JCHC), Margaret Chapman (JCHC), Ronda Frazier, archivist (JCHC), Doyle Harrison, graphics designer (JCHC), Dennis Dompsey, planner (JCHC), and Dan Cordova (Colorado Supreme Court Law Library).



Cheryl Lydyard attended the celebration. Regent of the Mountain Rendezvous Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, her organization has awarded Bonnie Scudder the Historic Preservation Recognition Award.

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Photos from the Hotel de Paris



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Found— Antiques & Artisan Mall in Wheat Ridge

Continued from page 1

effects, gifts, home decor items and even old time candy. It is all very eclectic.

"I remember," Amy recalls, "when we used to go shopping, hunting for things, hoping to discover something unique. That's the atmosphere I wanted to create in our mall."

"It is kind of fun to see a real cool antique piece next to a one of a kind artisan piece. There aren't a lot of outlets for the artisan and combining them with antiques creates a lot of energy."

"It is addictive," she continues, "when you go out and find that special thing. My friends always teased me that I had a good eye. We would go to the Mile High Flea Mar-



ket and we would paw through everything, then I would see one thing and it would be the gem of the day. That's what we want customers to feel at Found."

That is what customers feel. The mall is uncluttered, beautifully decorated and one room flows into another, leading the customers on an enjoyable treasure hunt.

"The staff is like family at Found. We wanted quality dealers, and that's what we have. We don't just rent to anybody. We vet them out. A lot of artisans rent from us, it's very eclectic. It's pretty good for them whether they are a stay-at-home mom, a retired person or full time, they can just rent space and they have a shop daily."

Our staff is amazing," Amy continues, "our manager Mehdi Esfahani and his staff Marilyn, Stacey, Bobby and Scott are wonderful and can help customers find anything. Mehdi has beautiful hand woven Persian rugs in his space and draws many people into the mall."

Found has a little room left but it is filling up. It's really exciting and it gives a better experience for the customer to have so much to choose from without being overwhelmed. People underestimate the size of Found. They come in and are pleasantly surprised by all it has to offer.

Amy and John's goal is to open additional stores under the Found name. Their vision is to bring together one-of-a-kind cool antiques and one-of-a-kind artisan pieces, where you can find both in one place.

Amy is proud with what she and John have accomplished at Found and they should be because they have accomplished a lot. Found gives artisans an outlet for their creativity and customers feel they can find something special in each room and that's good for all the dealers.

Amy tells the story about the tugboat light at the front of the store from the 1940's which she found in Wisconsin on the way home. When she got back home she plugged it in because she didn't know if it worked. and she discovered the light bulb in it was "Popeye" from the 1940's. Discovering something special is always a thrill



for anyone and you will find like this author has, that Found is a very special place.

Found is a great place to go and find stuff for the holidays. A place where you can find something unique for everyone. The hours are Monday through Saturday 10 to 6 and Sunday 1 to 5. It is located at 4501 Wadsworth Blvd. in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. Their phone is 303-463-7796.



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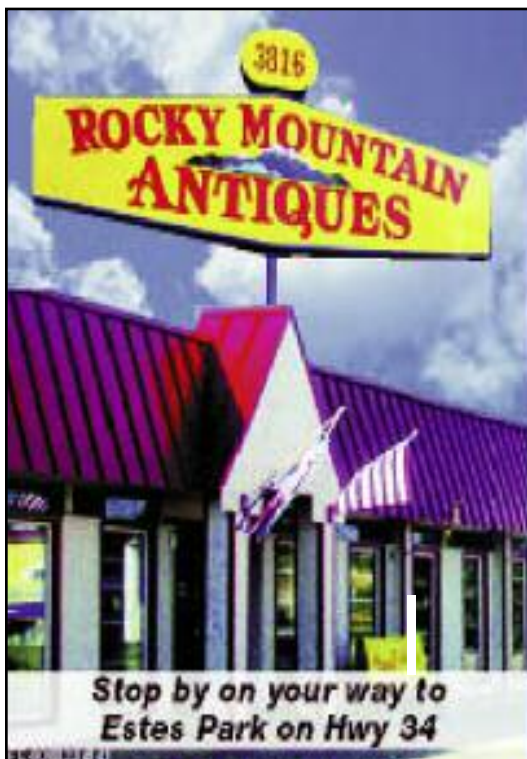
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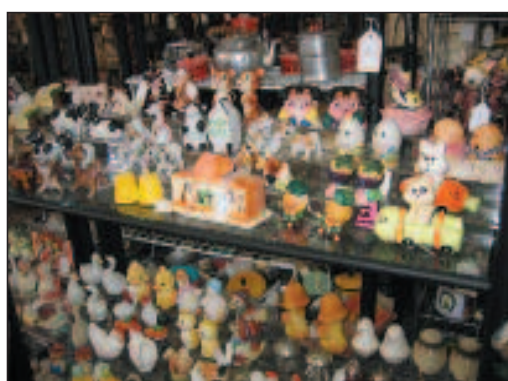
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Recognizing Collectible Ashtrays

By Anne Gilbert

The humble ashtray may not be so humble. Prices can range into the hundreds of dollars and more for unusual examples. They may not even look like conventional ashtrays, in unusual shapes and materials. Ashtrays can be strictly utilitarian or almost an art form. What interests collectors are those made for the many landmark places of business in various cities. Travelers to cities like Paris and Rome brought back ashtrays from famous nightclubs



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LAFAYETTE

and tourist attractions, as did Americans.

During the late 19th century there were ashtrays for cigar smoking Victorian gentlemen. It wasn't till the 1920s when women took up cigarette smoking that a new style of ashtray was created in stylish Art Deco designs and various materials. Designs used geometric shapes. However, cigarette smoking and the necessary ashtrays didn't become fashionable until after World War II. Blame it on the movies when every actor and actress was puffing away.

By the 1950s and 60s they had become elegant accessories, often created by such designers as Michael and Frances Higgins. Their innovative glass technique examples can sell for several hundred dollars.

Some early 20th century examples don't even look like ashtrays. A German floor ashtray of wrought iron was in the form of a Viking ship.

Famous glass houses such as Lalique and Baccarat made ashtrays. Wedgwood created elegant ashtrays in Jasperware. Murano, Venetians glass used a variety of techniques to create art forms.

Then there are the ashtrays from popular bars and hotels that create nostalgic memories. Trips to Las Vegas and the Stork Club are remembered with the swiped ashtrays. The

famous Stork Club in business from 1929 to 1965. With its black ceramic stork motif can sell for several hundred dollars.

These days reproductions are mass produced in black plastic and chins.



Another historic New York icon, Sardi's restaurant, was popular for 75 years with theatre actors and theatre goers. Their ashtrays sell for several hundred dollars.

CLUES: These days, while cigarette smoking is on a downer, collecting ashtrays is on an upper. A collection can be both decorative or utilitarian, depending on how you collect. For instance they can hold cocktails or jewelry or displayed as wall art.

Flea markets and garage sales still offer unappreciated treasures.

PHOTO (1) Wrought iron German arts and crafts floor ashtray. **CREDIT:** infor@leffersantiques.com-
PHOTO (2) 1940s Stork Club ashtray. **CREDIT:** Private collector **PHOTO (3)** Higgins 1950s-60s limited edition ashtray **CREDIT:** Private collector

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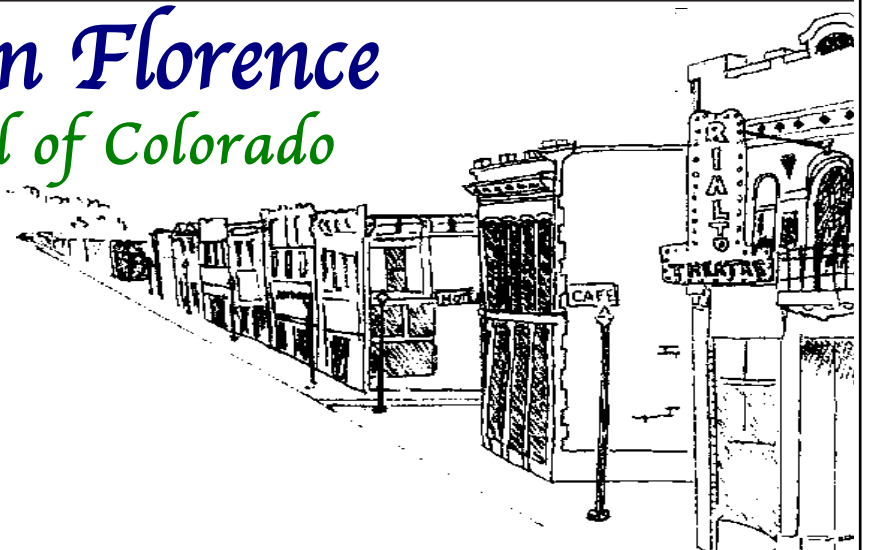
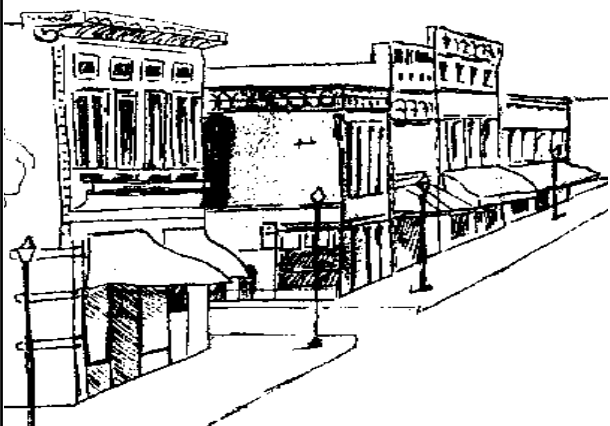
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An Exercise for Enjoying the Holidays

By Sandy Dale

Much is said these days about how to get along with your friends and relatives in this time of differing opinions and beliefs. The news and happenings of today can be confusing and overwhelming. I am going to share my simple rules for surviving and even enjoying this season.

These rules are the same simple ones we tell our five-year-olds before they cross the street.

STOP. That's right, stop. Breathe. Breathe in the crisp December air and the beauty of the bright stars. Or inhale the mist and taste the snowflakes. (When is the last time you had snowflakes on your tongue?) Now, exhale the stress, hurry and worry you have given yourself for whatever reasons. That's not to say that some of those reasons are not worthy of concern, but we are practicing an exercise here. You can go back to worrying afterwards.

LOOK BOTH WAYS. Look around at the places and things you love. Remember why it is you love them. Now, look at the friends and relatives you love. Remember why it is you love them. I'll wager it had nothing to do with their politics, religious beliefs, or gender. (If you can't remember why it was you loved them, then just respect them as the beautiful, unique, living creatures they are.) Look into their eyes and...

LISTEN. Put away your need to be right or your desires to change their beliefs. Or, to teach them what you know to be true. Ask them why they feel the way they do. (You must be prepared to answer why you feel the way you do when they ask you. Remember "feelings" don't have much to do with facts, the news, or sometimes even the truth.) Hear what they are saying and feeling.

MOVE ON. Here is where you tell your child to cross the street. Here is where you let your differences go and start a dialogue about the opinions and beliefs that you have in common...there are some, you might have to dig deeper to find them. (If you were really listening, you might have heard one or two things you actually agreed with.) But this is like any treasure hunt; the deeper you dig, the more precious the treasure.

A great way to practice the exercise above is to visit Florence. **STOP** and park because we still have free parking near your favorite places. Have lunch at one of the great restaurants or cafes. **LOOK BOTH WAYS** at the lovely holiday decorations. **LISTEN** to your friends and relatives tell you stories about the time when they had items just like the antiques in our fabulous shops. **CROSS THE STREET** because there are shops, galleries, and eateries up and down both sides of the street.



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CONTEST

November's
What Is It?

Sue Koppenhafer of Greeley, Colorado correctly identified the November's What Is It. She said that the What Is It brought back memories to her "of my parent's grocery store. It is a large case where receipts of customers' purchases were kept. The customers were ones who came in frequently and 'charged' their groceries. The receipts were totaled and paid at the end of each month. The case had heavy hinged flats inside, enough so the receipts could be alphabetized!"

Thanks, Sue. It is fun to know how these items were used. Congratulations! You have won a year's subscription to *the Mountain States Collector*.



December's What Is It?



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

Painted Japanese Screens Still Popular

By Anne Gilbert

There's nothing like a Japanese wall screen to add a touch of glamour to a condo wall. Best of all they can be as old or new, affordable or expensive. There are great bargains at auction even for Meiji (1868-1912), while those from the Edo period (1603-1867) can cost thousands of dollars.

Historically, painted folding screens originated in China, depicting scholars and landscapes in black and white. The Japanese adapted their techniques adding bright painted colors, gold and silver leaf or foil. Surprisingly what comes to market these days can be anything from the Edo period to contemporary. Sizes commonly range from two panel to six panels.

The finest screens, signed by noted artists of the period were used as diplomatic gifts. They also played an important part in Shinto or Buddhist settings.

Favorite subjects of early screens were cranes and pine trees.

What dictates the price isn't necessarily age or signatures, but beauty and subjects.

Americans have had an ongoing love affair with Japan-

ese screens since they first traveled there, after Japan opened to the Western world in 1868. Interest was revived when American soldiers brought home examples after World War II.

Today many of the finest examples centuries old, are in museums or come to major auction houses such as Christies. However when Asia Week opens from September 8 to 16 in New York, opportunities to buy at all prices will abound.

CLUES: Knowledge and research can be all important to a fair price. Condition is all important since these are fragile paper works of art. Too much



gilding and repainted faces or figures lessen values. Painted areas should feel a bit rough from the grit used in the original mineral colors.

If you like the look, museum gift shops offer

beautiful printed reproductions.

PHOTO CAPTION: (1) Meiji. Six panel screen. Children. PHOTO CREDIT: 1STDIBS. Gracie gallery.

PHOTO CAPTION: (2) Edo six panel screen. Cranes and pines. PHOTO CREDIT: (2) Christie's

PHOTO CAPTION (3) Mid Edo, 18th century. Fans on Stream. PHOTO CREDIT: (3) Harvard University Museum collection.



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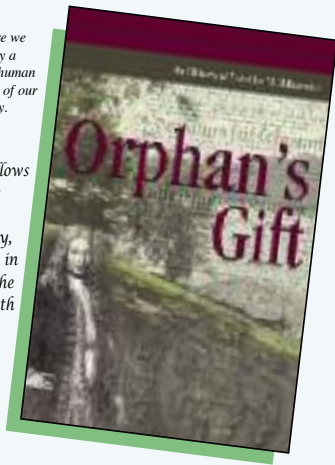
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Orphan's Gift is co-written by Margaret (Peggy) DeStefano, Mountain States Collector's Managing Editor. She and her sisters Mary Sikora and Sally Gronauer have captured the spirit of their Prather line of ancestors. The past has come to life in this historical novel. The book is a great example of taking your family genealogical research to a new level.

"Writing this book has been a fun and often surprising journey. Now that we have finished our first project together, my sisters and I are already fast at work on our second book in what we hope will be a series of historical novels," Peggy DeStefano explains.

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