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JULY 2018

ESTABLISHED IN 1972

Volume 46, Number 7



See America First – Fish in the Rockies

By Carol Mobley

I enjoy fishing. I learned to fish from my dad, not that he was a great teacher but that he enjoyed fishing and thus the act of sitting with a pole at lakeside or next to a stream became a fond activity. There is nothing like the sound of a brook rambling over the rocks or the feel of the tug on your line when you know a fish took the bait.



The majority of my fishing experiences are right here in Colorado where there has been a long history in promoting this summertime activity. In 1912 The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad published an oversized postcard stating “See America First – Fish in the Rockies.” Listed on the back of the card are some of the fishing resorts in Colorado. Encouraging you to spend your vacation in the Rockies it states that: “There are 6,000 miles of trout streams along the line of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad in Colorado, in which 8,000,000 young trout are planted annually by the State Fish Commission and the United States Bureau of Fisheries.”

Encouraged by the Chamber of Commerce of Colorado a series of postcards were issued between 1910 and 1913 all encouraging people to visit Colorado during fishing season between May 25 and October 31 (or November 30). Union Pacific bragged, “The trout seem to grow bigger and gamier here than elsewhere.” Northwestern & Pacific, The Moffat Road said, “...most productive fishing of the West in this territory....”. Colorado Midland Railway wants to “...invite you and the family to enjoy the best trout fishing to be found on earth.” Colorado & Southern Railroad stated this about the Platte Canyon, “The surroundings are so sublimely beautiful that even the most indifferent angler must feel that here he is in touch with the very heart of Nature...”.

Those who came to Colorado for the summer documented their stays with snapshots, travel brochures,

Continued on page 10



Old-School Baits: Antique Fishing Lures and Why They're Collectible

By Robbie Pavey

Best Imitation of a Catfish: The Bullhead, made by Paw Paw Bait Co. of Paw Paw, Michigan, dates to the 1930s. The bait was short-lived — probably



due to the difficulty in shaping its elaborate body. The Bullhead baits even had carved lips and hand-painted whiskers.



Most Artistic Rendition of Frogskin: The wooden "Wotta Frog" was made by Paw Paw Bait Co. of Paw Paw, Mich., from the late 1930s all the way into the early 1960s. Its "wotta frog splatter" paint finish is one of the most unique to the tackle industry. The lure's articulated legs and lifelike bulging eyes make this one a collector's favorite.

Best Imitation of an Entire Food Chain: The Thoren Minnow Chaser was an elaborate bait made by A.H. Thoren



of Chicago around 1940. It was designed to mimic a fish chasing a fish, and features some of the most elaborate mechanical hardware ever used in a lure. It must have made quite a sight moving through the water! The lures are wooden and very well made. The metal parts are machined steel.

Happiest Baitfish Imitation: The "Punkinseed" was one of many famous baits from the Heddon company in



Dowagiac, Michigan. The tall, shaped "seeds" made their debut in the late 1930s with the larger wooden 740 series, soon accompanied by a smaller 730 series. It evolved over the years to include a tiny flyrod size (the Punkie Spook) as well as a host of bass-sized plastic versions. Their smiling mouths, cute shapes and lifelike renditions of bluegill, crappie, rock bass, shad and other species makes them a perennial favorite.



Most Likely to be Seen in an Art Gallery: Get out your best bottle of cabernet, dim the lights and push that Mozart CD. Now you're ready to check out the workmanship of the Klipon lure, made in the 1930s by Green-Wyle Co.,

of Brooklyn, N.Y. The wooden baits have glass eyes and came in a variety of unusual and unique shapes. This one gets my vote for the most beautiful rendition of a natural perch finish.

Most Memorable Misprint For many decades: the Creek Chub Wiggle-



fish was marketed as the bait that was used by George W. Perry to land the 22-pound, 4-ounce world record large-mouth bass caught in Georgia in 1932. As it turns out, the famous fish was actually landed on a different Creek Chub lure - the Fintail Shiner. The revelation was made in an audio recording of George Perry himself - interviewed on Oct. 12, 1973, by an outdoor writer named Terry Drace, working at that time for Bass Anglers Sportsman Society. The long-lost audiotape surfaced and set the record straight.

Most Likely to be Found in Every Tackle Box from the '30s to the '60s: Creek Chub Bait Company's Pikie Min-



now originated around 1919 and evolved to include numerous sizes, from a tiny flyrod version to a huge musky and tarpon bait. Although the colors var-

Continued on page 11

Inside this Issue



**AMERICAN EAGLE –
OUR EMBLEM**
PAGE 9



**THE NEST – GRAND
OPENING JULY 14 & 15**
PAGE 11



**CASTLE ROCK
HOME AND GARDEN**
PAGE 13



**HAMPDEN STREET
REACHES 25 YEARS**
PAGE 17

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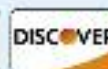
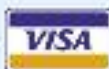
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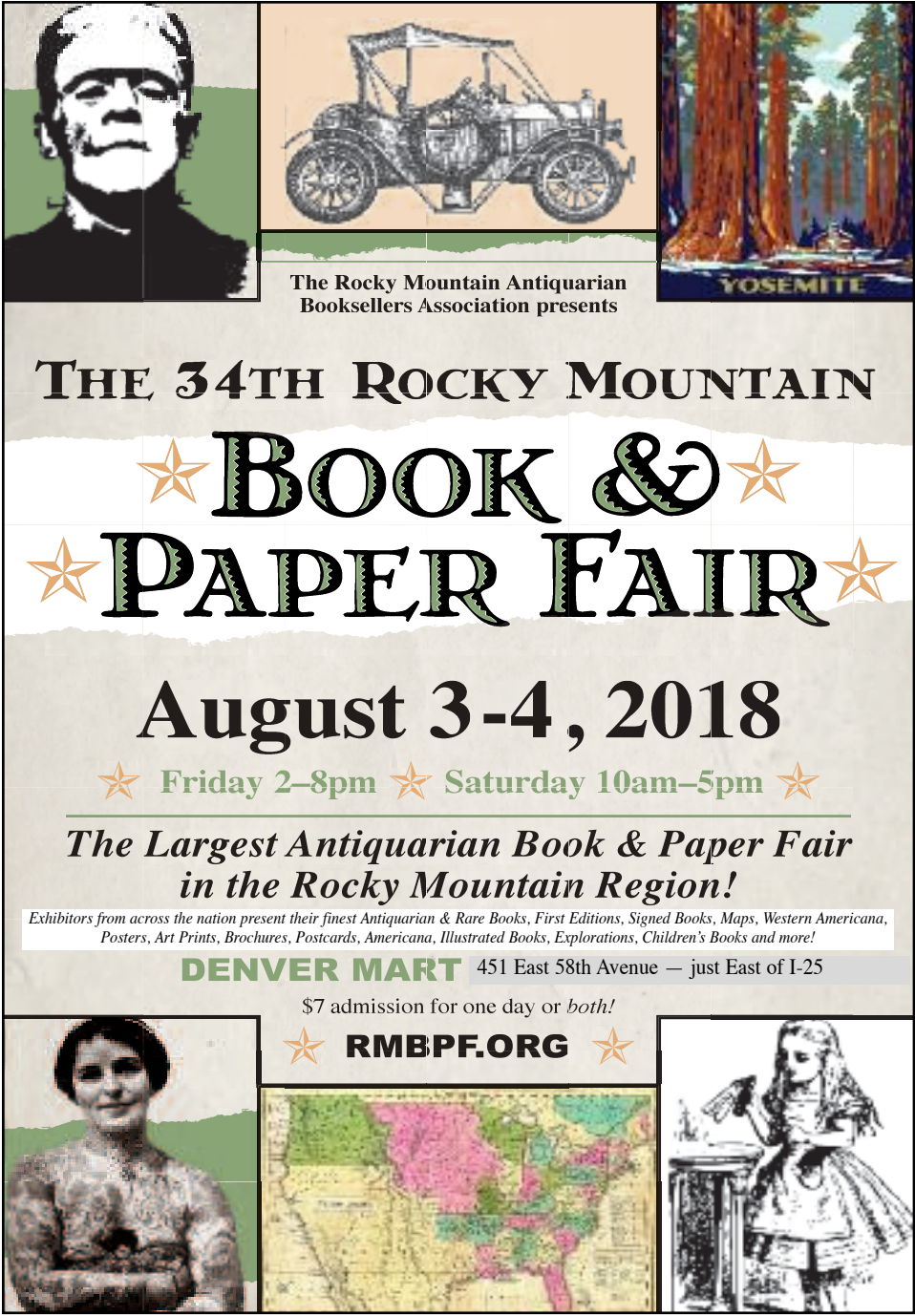


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SHOW CALENDAR

July Events

JULY 7: **A PARIS STREET MARKET**, an open-air, vintage, antique and artisan market, 7301 S. Santa Fe Dr., Littleton, CO 80120, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. rain or shine. Future dates: Aug. 4, Sept., Oct. 6.

JULY 11: **PHARMACY QUACKERY** 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.

JULY 14 & 15: **THE NEST MARKETPLACE GRAND OPENING** in Westminster Art District, Saturday 2-6, Sunday 11-5, 7265 Lowell Blvd. Door Prizes, Hot Dogs, Fresh Squeezed Lemonade, a CAKEWALK, Drawings for Antique Pieces, 10% to 25% Discount Special, More info, call 720-630-4203.

JULY 19: **THIRD THURSDAYS EVENING EVENT First Day of Summer, FOUND ANTIQUE & ARTISAN MALL.** Enjoy some refreshments on us. Special Sales by Various Dealers, 6-9 p.m. This is a special shopping night featuring many discounts. Located at 4501 Wadsworth Blvd., Wheat Ridge, 303-463-7796.

JULY 20-21: **DENVER POSTCARD AND PAPER EPHEMERA SHOW**, Friday 11-6, Saturday 9:30 to 4, at the 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

JULY 25: **TRAMP ART** 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.

JULY 27: **HOTEL de PARIS WINE TOUR**, Guests will explore the site in a quiet setting with a knowledgeable guide to see where culinary history was made. 409 6th St., Georgetown, CO 80444. Reservations in advance required, 303-569-2311. Future Wine tours Aug. 24 and Set. 28.

Upcoming Events

AUG. 3 & 4: **THE 34TH ROCKY MOUNTAIN BOOK & PAPER FAIR**, Denver Mart, 451 East 58th Avenue - just East of I-25, Friday 2-8, Saturday 10 - 5. Exhibitors from across the nation present their finest Antiquarian & Rare Books, First Editions, Signed Books, Maps, Western Americana, Posters, Art Prints, Brochures, Postcards, Americana, Illustrated Books, Explorations, Children's Books and more! RMBPF.ORG \$7 admission, good both days.

AUG. 8: **HISTORY OF SCRAP BOOKS** 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.

AUG. 22: **LUNCH BOXES** Discussion led by Doc Endres 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.

SEPT. 9: **THE LAST EMPEROR** 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.

SEPT. 19: **SEED PACKET ART** Discussion led by Suzanne Wingfield at 2:00 p.m. at Brass Armadillo, 11301 West I-70, Wheat Ridge, CO. More info, or if you would be interested in doing a presentation in your area of expertise, call Dixie or Charlotte at 303-403-1677.

SEPT. 21 & 22: **9TH ANNUAL TRI STATE DOLL SALE**, Fri., 12 to 6, Sat. 10-4, at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 West 6th Avenue, Golden. The sale will feature antique and modern dolls, doll accessories, high-end collectibles, miniatures, bears and much more. Appraisals and doll stringing available. Contact Lorella at 303-988-8591 for more information.

OCT. 6: **TIMBER DAN FALL ANTIQUE AND COLLECTIBLE TOY SHOW AND SALE**, Loveland, Colorado, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 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. More than 180 tables with thousands of antique and collectible toys on display and for sale. Admission \$4. Sponsored by the Loveland Lions Club. For more info, contact Doug Larson, 970-214-1035 or email douglar@comcast.net or visit website at [http://www.lovelandlionsclubs.org/sites/Toy Show. htm](http://www.lovelandlionsclubs.org/sites/Toy%20Show.htm).

OCT. 19-21: **WORLD WIDE ANTIQUE and VINTAGE SHOW**, Denver Mart - Expo Building - I-25 & 58th Ave., Fri.-Sat.. 10am-6pm, Sunday 11-4pm. Get tickets at Find YourAntique.com.

NOV. 17 & 18: **ANTIQUES AT WINGS**, at the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, Sat. 10-6, Sunday, 10-5, Free Parking, 7711 E. Academy Blvd., Denver. A fixture on the Denver scene since 2003, returning with traditional Antiques, Art, Furniture, Jewelry & Collectibles. Also includes two additional shows Books at Wings and Vintage at the Hangar. More info, go to www.AntiquesAtWings.com.

Auctions

JULY 14: **SUMMER ANTIQUE ESTATES AUCTION**, 11 a.m., 50 West Arizona Ave., Denver, Auction conducted by **BRUHNS AUCTION GALLERY**. Exhibition: Friday, July 13th 12-4PM and 9AM Day of Sale Over 500 pieces from three fine estates in Boulder, Colorado! Plus several prominent Denver Estates. Featuring fine French and American furniture, slot machines, antique clocks, over 100 pieces of estate jewelry, rare artwork, mid-century modern furniture, French Sèvres porcelain, Lalique, Steuben, Sterling Silver, fabulous 10 piece dining room set, plus many more fine pieces. Call 303-744-6505 or email Tom at Bruhnsauction@aol.com.

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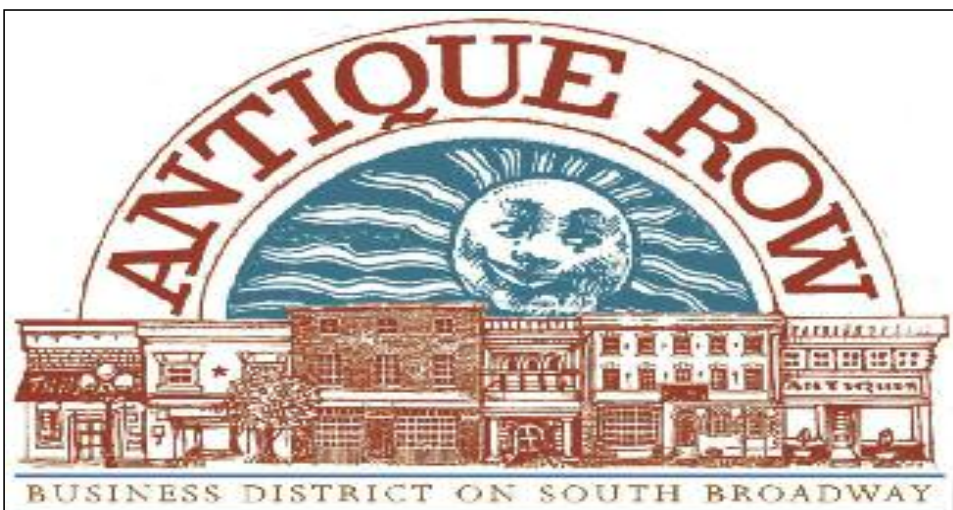


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American Eagle Emblem of Our Republic

The American eagle is the emblem of our republic and one of the most beloved collectibles to be found in every state. The collecting of American eagles promotes an interest in the history of the United States and unites us as a people.

In 1782 the United States Congress chose the bald eagle as the national emblem. It is on many of the nation's coins, seals, and medals. The American people adopted this emblem because the bald eagle is strong and proud and free. It represents power, courage, and dignity. The talons of the eagle have enabled it to defeat mountain lions in battle.

The bald eagle is a majestic bird. Its wingspan may measure more than six feet from tip to tip. It is best known for its keen sight and strong beak and claws. Bald eagles eat mostly fish, which they catch by diving into the water from great heights. They usually place their nests in the top of tall trees.



Rachel Hoffman

it in advertising. Children are fond of the exquisite image of the eagle so it has been a decorative device in children's rooms and used on toys and on instruments.

The bald eagle is also well represented in American heraldry. It has been dramatically painted in the colors of red, white, and blue, so dear to the hearts of our people. Antiques depicting the bald eagle are plentiful and great to collect.

One popular depiction of the American eagle has it bearing a ribbon in its beak that reads E Pluribus Unum. Another popular depiction has the eagle carrying a laurel wreath and a palm branch. Variations and details of each depicted eagle make it special.

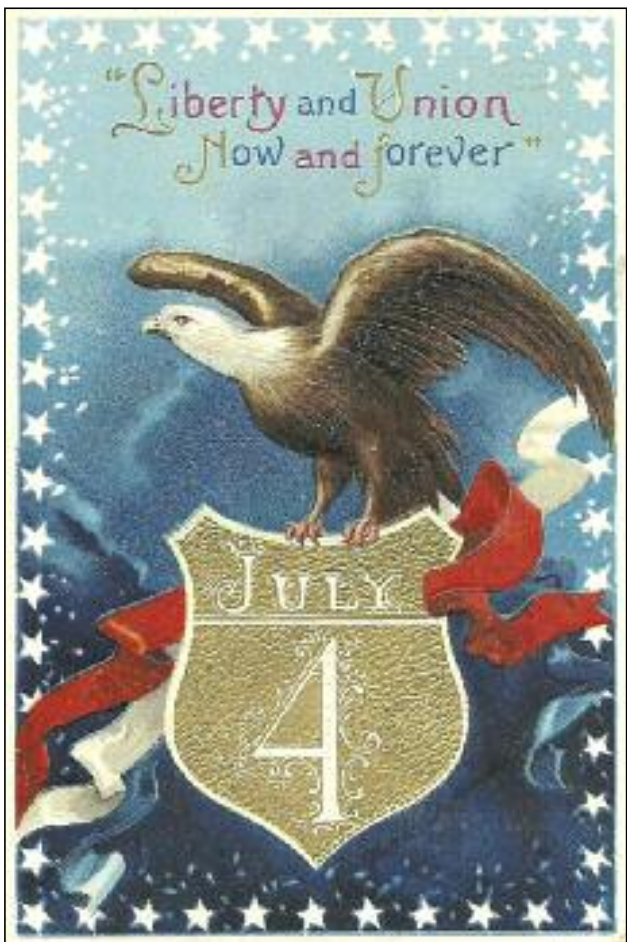
When we visit various museums across the country, we see how often and how cherished the emblem of the eagle has been throughout our history.

To learn more about Rachel Hoffman's Appraisal Practice, visit www.rachelhoffmanappraisal.com



The bald eagle is represented in many wonderful artifacts. It has been carved in many types of wood from our native trees. The emblem has also been fashioned in metals. It is featured in jewelry, and it is printed or sewn on fabric. It appears in scenes on ceramics, porcelain, china, and glass, especially hand-painted dinnerware.

Folk artists have created many remarkable items inspired by the eagle. Fine artists have taken the bald eagle as a theme in beautiful paintings. (John J. Audubon spent years painting the eagle in its natural habitat.) Commercial artists have often used



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SUMMERTIME FEATURE - FISHING

See America First – Fish in the Rockies

Continued from page 1

Railroad tickets, postcards and other pieces of memorabilia. Often found in photo albums or scrapbooks they held fond memories for the participants. Luckily those pieces of history make their way into the hands of collectors who use them to document days gone by.

There are two events this summer worth attending, even if it means you won't be fishing that day. The first is the Denver Postcard & Paper Ephemera Show held July 20-21 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. There will be postcards, advertising, and all kinds of paper ephemera. Details can be found at www.denverpostcardshow.com.

The second event is The Rocky Mountain Book and Paper Fair held August 3-4

at The Denver Mart. There will be over 70 exhibitors with books, art and paper ephemera to sell. There are also 3 free presentations for attendees: Jack Kerouac, The Peak to Peak Highway, and a panel discussion celebrating the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Details are online at www.rmaba.org or call Carol or Bill Mobley at 303-761-3755 for more information.



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The Nest Marketplace Grand Opening July 14 & 15 in Westminster

By Jon DeStefano

Stop by the Grand Opening of The Nest Marketplace in the Westminster Art District at 7265 Lowell Blvd. Saturday, July 14, 2-6 and Sunday, July 15 from 11-5. This great new antique shop has nine unique dealers including owner Lory Ann Martinez. They offer everything from fine antiques and collectibles to unique jewelry, Tiffany glass, refurbished and painted furniture, Asian antiques, great art work from local artists, mid-century to modern antiques, great vintage clothing from the early 1920's through modern day, and much more. During their grand opening celebration there will be plenty of food, hot dogs, fresh squeezed lemonade, door prizes, antique giveaways and 10% to 25% discounts on everything in the store not to mention that you can enjoy all the great activities and treats that happen every second Saturday on the Westminster Art Walk.

The Nest Marketplace has a lot more than just antiques, they are loaded with handcrafted items, glassware, Dixie bell paints, refurbished and repainted items, unique collectibles and all sorts of treasures. You will enjoy yourself in this new shop and mostly you will enjoy the people. Lory and her folks are top notch dealers who first and foremost care about their customers.

Lory started in antiques collecting vintage clothing



twelve years ago and opened a vintage clothing store in Pueblo. She expanded when she moved to Denver and began doing liquidations and estate sales and rented booths at Heirlooms and Hampden Street Antiques. She began looking for space about a year ago in the Denver metro area for a shop of her own. She wanted a place in a growing area that didn't have a vintage clothing and fine antique shop.

She soon discovered the Westminster Art District, an up-and-coming area where they feature a ton of local artists, and they have the Art Walk the second Saturday of every month. There you will find a unique festive atmosphere, live entertainment, music and bands, many vendors, plenty of food, sidewalk sales, carnival rides, tent sales and numerous activities. Lory's shop The Nest Marketplace is right in the heart of it on Lowell Blvd just north of 72nd.

The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 to 6:00 pm and on Sundays from 11:00 to 5:00.

Lory is a collector herself and like many of us always enjoys the great treasure hunt of antiquing, but mostly she loves the connections with people she's gained from antiquing. It is all very personal to her. Among her favorite collectibles are love letters from soldiers during wartime.

She loves the history antiques not just military letters and collectibles, but the story behind each item. One of her favorite memories was an encounter with one customer who admired Lory's sparse collection of a Johnson Brothers China set. Lory only had part of a set, 16 pieces, but the lady told her the story of her grandmother's set and about the fond memories she and her grandmother shared over tea. The only piece of the set the lady was missing was the tea pot. Lory sold it to her. "I didn't want to sell it," Lory said, "but it meant so much to her. She needed it."

Some of Lory's other favorite collectibles are uranium glass and old paper weights and she has a story for each of them as well.

The typical new customer for The Nest Marketplace are women from their late 20's to 50's who are looking



for something special for their home or perhaps a starter set. Many customers are repeat customers, people who have relationships with Lory's dealers. "My dealers are great. They are very knowledgeable and professional and they really just like people."

Lory says she owes a lot of thanks to her family, her mother who supports and helps her a lot and her two sons who run the business hand-in-hand with her. It's a true family business. Her daughter-in-law has done a lot of the computer and on-line work and she does the bookkeeping. Lory says proudly, "and especially my husband helps financially and gives wonderful support and guidance. I couldn't do it without my entire family."

The Nest Marketplace is a shop where people come not just to shop but because they are connected and have a relationship with the people there. It's a place space where people come and enjoy shopping and visiting.

Lory says, "It's all about relationship. Nothing stays the same and I am always excited to see what and who comes through the door."

Visit The Nest Marketplace at 7265 Lowell Blvd. in Westminster, phone 720- 630-4203. You'll be glad you did. It's a great new antique shop with great people. Don't miss their Grand Opening July 14 and 15.

WESTMINSTER



**7265 Lowell Blvd.,
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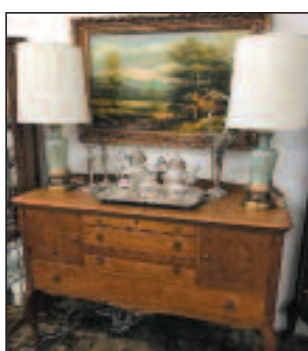
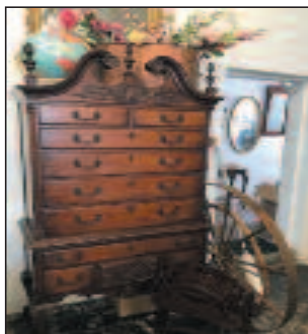
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Antique Fishing Lures and Why They're Collectible

Continued from page 1

ied, the basic body shape remained much the same. These lures later were known at the "Famous Pike Minnow" because they were, indeed, famous - and they still are.

Best Mechanical Amphibian: The prop-driven Live Action Frog, made by Action Frog Corp. of Long Beach, Calif., in the late 1940s, is a

favorite among collectors of mechanical lures. This frog features a four-bladed stainless steel prop protected by a device at the mouth that looks like a dental retainer from our childhood. As the lure is retrieved, the prop turns a driveshaft that makes the legs kick open and shut. Its tall, handsome picture box is a plus.

Most Likely to Revolutionize Bass Fishing: William Shakespeare of Kalamazoo, Michigan, offered his "Revolution" baits around 1900. They were made of aluminum



and floated on the surface in an era in which most lures were underwater baits.

Most Beautiful Unpainted Wooden Lure: The Clyde Hoage Spoon-Fin Minnow is a 1930s Minnesota lure with a finely machined set of animated metal fins. The Hoage Spoon-Fin was usually finished in natural wood. They are rare, and Spoon-Fin boxes are difficult to find, too. The Hoage Spoon Fin's makers called it "The Perfect Minnow."



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How many consignors do you have?

Right now we have over 1700 consignors. Sure some have moved out of state but we have a lot of "pickers" too. Pickers go to estate sales

and auctions and buy items that they bring to us to consign for them. It's a win-win-win situation; a win for the picker, a win for the shop and a win for the buyer of the great item!

What are some of the more unusual items you've received?

You never know what is going to come in. Among other unusual items we've received cabinets from hardware stores in the late 1790s, early 1800's cash registers, a Sears & Roebuck caponizer kit (google it!), and oddly enough an actual iron ball & chain. Just what every married couple needs.

What about Castle Pines Motel, how is that going now that the remodel is complete?

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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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By Peggy DeStefano



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while Lazarus lakes they be

enter, white amure,
steal into our streams
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of our country
need, bleed for
a throbbing victory

oh, perfect fish,
multiply your weight
taste
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and floating refuse
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Hampden Street Antiques Proudly Celebrates Quarter Century Mark

By Jon DeStefano

Hampden Street Antiques has been in business over 25 years now and they have over 120 fine antique dealers. Sue and Don Hesse founded Hampden Street Antiques in 1993 and when John Helke bought it three years later he, “didn't know a lot about antiques” but he had many years of experience as a landlord and he became a landlord for the more than 100 antique dealers.

John said, “I was fortunate because I had a strong retail business background. So I knew how to work with people and I stepped into a business that was in its third year, it was up and off the ground, I had a staff, a ready-made staff and I just relied on them to teach me everything.”

Twenty-two years later he says, “We’re still here much stronger and better.” Hampden Street Antiques has everything from fine antique furniture and collectibles to unique artwork, exceptional jewelry, currencies, glassware, and 120 plus great antique dealers for which they have always held the highest standards.

Today although John is still very involved, the shop is managed by his son-in-law, Dmitriy Odnorlov who is responsible for the day-to-day operations, renting of spaces, customer service and marketing. Dmitriy has four solid years under John’s tutelage and a strong background in sales and business management.

Dmitriy notes that, “the spaces and booths are profes-



sionally staged and ideal for meeting the needs of people looking for that perfect piece or item for their home. It is arranged for an exceptional shopping experience for customers. You will find the people here are personal, warm and friendly. You will find an antique mall that is truly, an antique mall. Our dealers are indeed a cut above what you will find in most malls. Our dealer retention is exceptional although all the dealers are on a month-to-month basis most have a long history with the mall some since the beginnings twenty-five years ago and there is a waiting list.”

Dmitriy continues, “John Helke is stepping back and I am taking over all the responsibilities John had. He has prepared me well for this and he has done such a tremendous job here and has built a great team. John has taught me to love the business. I really like the variety of items coming through the door and especially the history of these unique items. I have always been a fan of history and the history behind each piece, where they are made, the technique used to create it. I love the business side as well, the model John has developed running this business is solid and so professional. I’ve been very fortunate.”

Dmitriy boasts about his family, his wife Jessica and his three kids. The oldest,” he says, “Evalina is 4, Eliana is 2 1/2 and Marius his son is 9 months, with 6 teeth coming in. He is so strong he pulls himself up and just keeps going.”

Most challenging for Dmitriy are what he calls, “the technical difficulties, solving problems of customers or dealers, or being on the phone for 5 hours to get the credit card machine up, until the internet provider finally fixes it. The business is harder during holidays, summertime vacations can be a slow time, late spring, retail is a tricky thing. You just keeping working at it, making it better. It works out and, of course, I have the best help a person can have with John Helke in my corner.”

Perhaps the strongest factor in our success Dmitriy says “is the solid foundation Hampden Street Antiques has been built on. Incredible, quality dealers and our excel-

lent reputation means a lot. Their high quality goods, art, rare finds, furniture, and their always competitive prices all make a difference.”

Hampden Street Antiques is not just one man, it is truly a team effort and the store has never looked better. Their strategy is to be more upscale and more diversified than their competition. “When

you walk into the store you do not look at one booth after another, after another, that looks like a variation of the same. The dealers here are generally a little more professional than what you'll find in a lot of places. They take what they are doing here very seriously and have a lot of pride in what they are doing.”

“We've tried to keep the bar as high as we can in the overall quality of the store and then our prices too are very good. Our goal is to be the nicest antique mall in Denver and to also have the best prices.”

The team works extremely hard for their dealers, helping them promote their dealer space, and helping them become successful in many different ways: pricing, identifying, merchandising and setting up their booths, anything that helps them be better dealers.

All this has made for an exceptional experience for customers. So come visit Hampden Street Antiques. They are located at 8964 E. Hampden Ave. in Denver. They are opened Mon. - Thurs. 10-6, Friday and Saturday, 10-7 and Sunday 12-5. For more information, call 303-721-7992.

(Please see their ad on page 4.)



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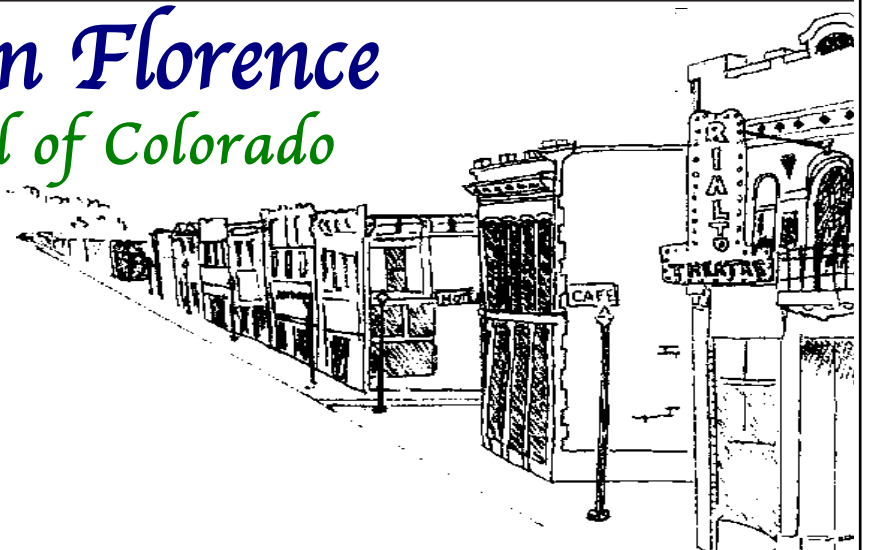
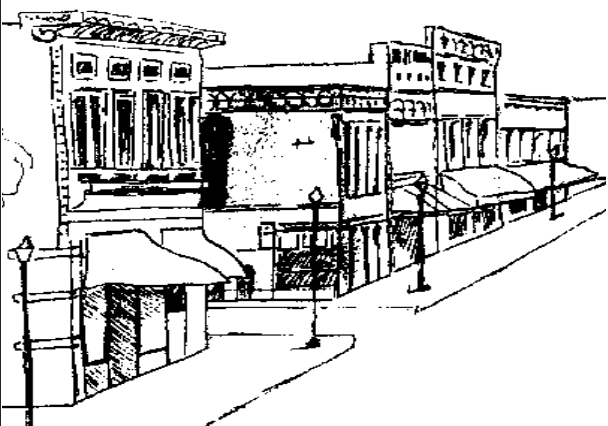
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Romance Is In the Air

By Sandy Dale

It is definitely too hot to work in the garden. Time to go inside where it's cool, sip a lemonade and read a romance novel. Well, probably not a romance novel for me, but I did pick up a great decorating book at one of our thrift shops called Romantic Style. Every year about this time I get the wild urge to go all pink and white and ruffy. Not my clothes, my décor. I want fine antique lace curtains, an easy chair upholstered in chintz with big dusty pink roses on it. White, white, white...everywhere. Kinda what we've called "shabby chic" but is now "cottage" or romantic style. It's sort of American "country" gone Italian or French. Light and airy and fresh. So, I went for a walk down the Main Street of Florence to see what I could find.

I checked out Heartland Classic, Heartland Antiques, Legends and Lace and a few other of my favorite shops. I knew they'd get my decorating juices flowing. Ambling down the street to my surprise, I discovered two new shops filled with cottage classics.

The first was Rustique Treasures in the 100 East Block. Fun painted furniture and, believe it or not, Watkins spices, extracts, and soaps. Remember those? I had trouble leaving the shop without the cute little gate-leg, lime green table...so light and summery. You can usually find the owner in her studio at the back of the shop painting up a new treasure. A great high table and stools perfect for the patio caught my eye as I was leaving.



The second new shop, 103 Vintage Market, in the 100 West Block of Main had a great 4th of July "shabby chic" red, white, and blue window display. A handsome new "primitive" take on your grandmother's early American. Perfect for the cabin or the cottage. This shop definitely has a French Provincial feel with a little Tuscany thrown in for good measure with some fabulous "chalk" painted furniture and even vintage clothing, a certain nod toward the romantic style.

As I strolled home, my head spinning with decorating ideas and trying to figure out where to put the cute little green table, I started thinking about what makes a romantic room romantic. Flowers, of course. Live ones are best, but I don't seem to have that in my meager budget. I thought of the elegant arrangements at the Heartland shops...and then there I was looking in the window of Florence Flowers & Antiques right next door to 103 Vintage Market. Melissa arranges both live flowers and faux flowers...I guess I'll just have to stretch my meager budget. Well, folks, it's true. You can find it in Florence.



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CONTEST

June's What Is It?



Our June's What Is It is a water cooler wood grain paint over tin. Once humble general store items such as water coolers were often beautifully decorated. Water coolers were japanned in color and painted with floral motifs or even scenes. They were also stoneware, and decorated. They can be used for cool drinks at patio parties or without their tops to hold bouquets. Prices

depend on where you find them.

We had several winners to our contest. Barbara Houser of Florissant, Colorado; Terry Cook of Fort Morgan, Colorado; Jacque Rutledge of Northglenn, Colorado and Sally Eberhard of Wateroliet, Michigan all correctly identified our What Is It. Congratulations! You have won a year's subscription to *the Mountain States Collector*.



July's What Is It?

Send your answers to the What Is It contest, postmarked by July 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*.

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