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JULY 2019

ESTABLISHED IN 1972

Volume 47, Number 7



Rocky Mountain Antique Festival Returns to Loveland July 13 and 14



Heritage Event Company's Rocky Mountain Antique Festival will return to Loveland, July 13 & 14 at the First National Bank Building on the grounds of the Ranch Events Complex. Held indoors, this event features a sold out dealer floor filled with quality antiques and authentic vintage brought by 50 dealers from 12 different states.

Antique shoppers look forward to this event as it hosts many dealers from outside the state as well as local favorites. Attendees can expect to shop a diverse selection of treasures from times past including: furniture, primitives, advertising, estate and Native American jewelry, vintage clothing, post cards, vintage toys and dolls, comics, vinyl records, coins, antique tools and much more!

Antique show promoter, Gail Kinney, moved to Colorado from Oklahoma nearly five years ago, wanting to bring quality antiquing events to her new home. She says her shows were welcomed by an enthusiastic audience who enjoyed shopping with the dealers following Heritage Events for the past ten years. "Our customers are loyal because they prefer genuine 'old stuff,' and that's what had made our name recognized in the business. We do not court dealers with reproduction merchandise." Heritage will also be hosting events in Estes Park August 9-11, Greeley November 1 & 2 and Colorado Springs, November 9 & 10.

The Rocky Mountain Antique Festival is climate-controlled, with concessions and free parking. The venue address is 5280 Arena Circle in Loveland. Adult admission tickets are \$6, valid for entry all weekend, and may be purchased at the door. Show hours are: Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday 10am-4pm. For more information call 918-619-2875 or visit www.HeritageEventCompany.com

Primitive Blessings Antiques Celebrates One Year Anniversary

CONGRATULATIONS to Primitive Blessings Antiques, a unique antique store you must visit on Hwy 285 in Pine! They are celebrating their one year anniversary. Sometimes the first year is the hardest. So, we, at *Mountain States Collector*, want to recognize this charming venture.

Primitive Blessings' Owners Ron and Debra VanWyhe have created a different atmosphere in their antique store and old fashioned Western Town, and you will notice the moment you pull in the drive. After several opportunities to sell their treasures on 285, they decided to offer the public a different shopping experience.

Gone are the booth-by-booth shopping, instead an open concept like walking in their home. Starting outside, rummage through the aptly named Woodshop, shopping for tools for yourself or for the men and the women who buy them, then the Garden Center for the industrial and outdoor lovers and finally the Farmhouse, catering to the rustic, shabby and unique décor of a by-gone era.

As you make your way in to the main house, you are immediately drawn to the warm hospitality and the absence of any pretense. The only thing present is the genuine "welcome" and ease at which you will shop and prices you can afford. Displayed with your home in mind, you will find many styles to choose from, as they mix primitives, antiques, vintage, rustic, rarities and other décor display possibilities.

Debra says, "People are amazing and we all have different tastes, so while catering to us all, I want you to feel welcome and at ease in our store from the moment you come in. We offer honesty, low prices and sell memories mixed with homemade goodies from local artisans, too."



We work hard at displaying all these old treasures in ways to make your own home cozy and inviting while providing you with a quality made piece of history. We admire how after 100 years they're still better, stronger and usually cheaper than anything made today.

I seek and love one-of-a-kinds and wish I had held on to my own growing up. I didn't know how much I would appreciate them at this age. Naturally drawn to homemade quilts, primitive 1800's and rare pieces, you will find many different antiques to choose from at Primitive Blessings and a nice selection of Christian gifts and locally made candles."

Tucked away in a small mountain

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July Events

JULY 6: A PARIS STREET MARKET, 19th SEASON, an open-air, vintage, antique and artisan market, 7301 S. Santa Fe Dr., Littleton, CO 80120, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. rain or shine. Future dates: Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5. 303-877-9457.

JULY 10: EDITH HOLDEN Discussion led by Suzanne Wingfield at 2:00 p.m. in the L&M Cafe at the 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 13-14: ANTIQUE FESTIVAL COLORADO - LOVELAND, The Ranch Events Complex at the Larimer County Fairgrounds ("The Ranch"), First National Bank Exhibition Bldg. North Hall, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4, admission \$6., For more info, call Heritage Events Company at 918-619-2875 or go to Heritageeventcompany.com

JULY 19-20: DENVER POSTCARD AND PAPER EPHEMERA SHOW, Friday 11-6, Saturday 9:30 - 4 Postcards, bottles, books, photos, stamps, railroadiana, collectibles of all kinds at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 West 6th Avenue, Golden, \$5 for both Days (\$1 Off with this ad.) DenverPostcardShow.com

JULY 20: A PARIS STREET MARKET INAUGURAL SEASON, an open-air, vintage, antique and artisan market, 8401 Park Meadows Dr., Lone Tree, CO 80124, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. rain or shine. Future dates: Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, More info, call 303-877-9457 or go to aparisstreetmarket.com.

JULY 20: PRIMITIVE BLESSINGS invites you to help them celebrate their one year anniversary at their antique store in Pine (one block south of Shaffer's Crossing on Hwy 285 & S. Parker Ave.), 10 to 3 p.m., offering outdoor vendors, food, in-store specials and good ole' Southern hospitality. Call 303-838-1122 or 720-556-0456 (Debra's Cell) for more information.

JULY 24: QUEEN ELIZABETH II Discussion led by Gena Zerlan at 2:00 p.m. in the L&M Cafe at the 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.

Upcoming Shows and Events

AUG. 2: 35TH ROCKY MOUNTAIN BOOK & PAPER FAIR, Friday, 2 p.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Denver Mart, 58th & I-25, 80 Exhibitors from across the U.S. selling Books & Ephemera. For more information, call Carol Mobley, Chairman, 303-761-3755 or http://www.rmaba.org/rmbpf/2019/rmbpf_2019_GeneralInfo.html

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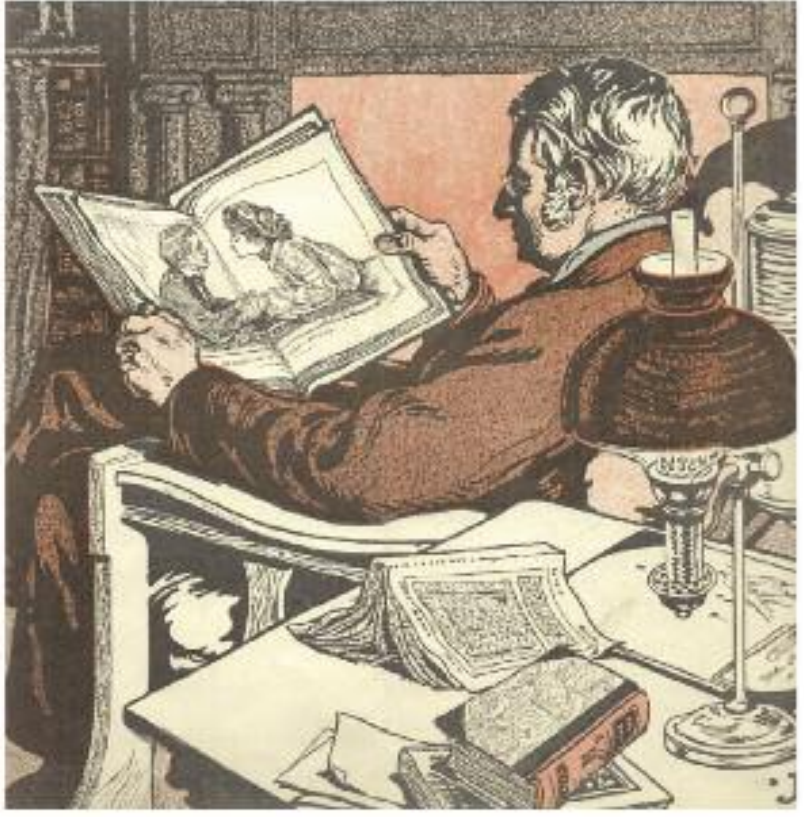


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SHOWS AND EVENTS

Continued from page 5

AUG. 5-8: **BLAZIN' HOT "RDF" SALE** at La Cache, 400 Downing Street, Denver, Colorado benefits Children's Hospital Colorado. More info, call 303-871-9605 or go to childrenscolorado.org/lacache

AUGUST 9 - 11: **ANTIQUÉ FESTIVAL COLORADO - ESTES PARK**, The Estes Park Event Center, Fri. 10-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4, admission \$6 valid all weekend, For more info, call Heritage Events Company at 918-619-2875 or go to Heritageeventcompany.com

SEPT. 13 and 14: **10TH ANNUAL TRI STATE DOLL SALE 2019**, Fri. 12 noon - 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 West 6th Avenue (Frontage Road), Golden, Colorado 80401, The sale will feature antique and modern dolls, doll accessories, high-end collectibles, miniatures, bears and much more. Appraisals, doll repairs and doll stringing available. Sale Coordinator Lorella, 303-988-8591

SEPT. 21 & 22: **FRONT RANGE GLASS SHOW & SALE**, Sat. 10-5 • Sun. 10-4 at The Ranch Event Center Complex, McKee Building, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, CO 80538, Exit 259 off I25 Crossroads Blvd., \$6 admission, Kids 17 & Under are FREE, FREE Parking, • Quality dealers from across the U.S. • Hourly door prizes, • Featuring American Made Glassware, pottery and dinnerware from 1880-1980. Contact Mark & Jodi Uthe for show information 319-939-3837 or frontrangeglassshow@gmail.com or go to www.frontrangeglassshow.com

OCT. 5: **TIMBER DAN FALL 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. Thousands of collectible, vintage and antique toys on display and for sale. Admission, \$4. Sponsored by the Loveland Lions Club. For more info, call Sherlyn Sampson at 970-663-9392 or email: sherlyn@sampsong.net or visit website at <http://www.lovelandlionsclubs.org/site/ToyShow.htm>

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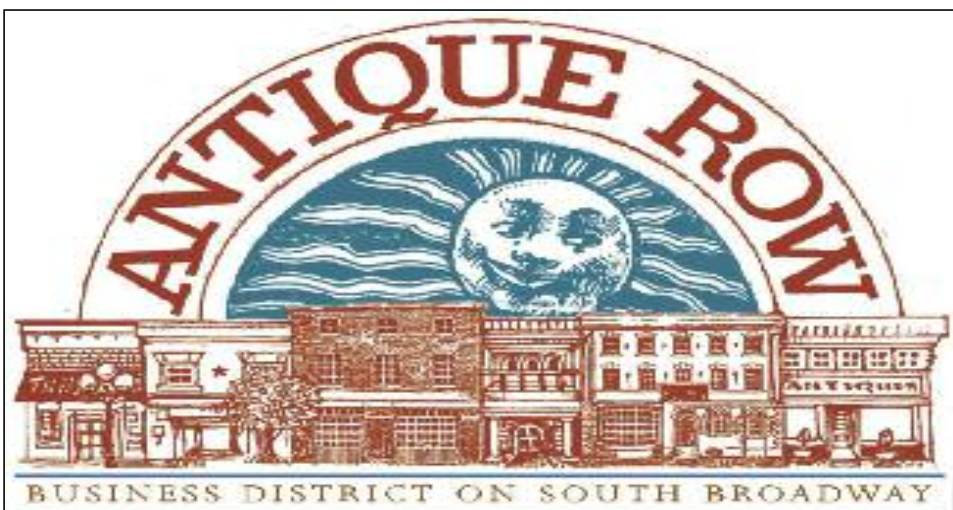
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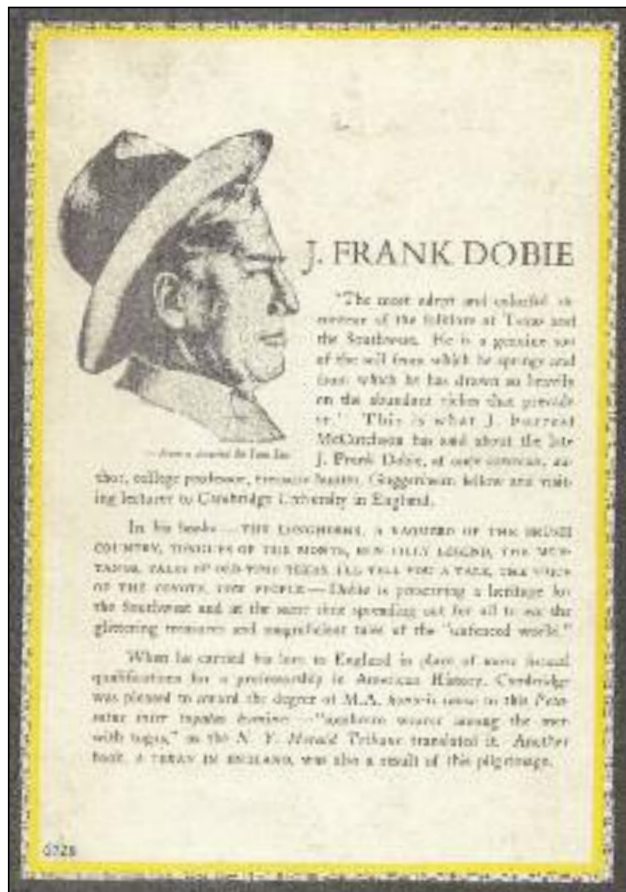
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Paper Wrapper to Dust Jacket

By Carol Mobley

First let me say, "I love books." I love to read, I love the smell of the ink on the paper, I love the feel of turning a page as you read. I love it when an author is especially talented and writes an engaging story but I also love it when a book has an interesting dust jacket. Sometimes you can be suckered into buying a book because the artwork on the dust jacket is so appealing. Just like selecting a new craft beer or wine — some of the labels get you before you can even read the details about the selection!

I decided to find out about dust jackets or dust covers, or book wrappers. The modern style dust jacket was first used in the 1830's. It was a plain paper cover with flaps that kept the cover in place and most often times was torn off the book much like wrapping paper on a gift. Few examples of this type of dust jacket remain. Most book



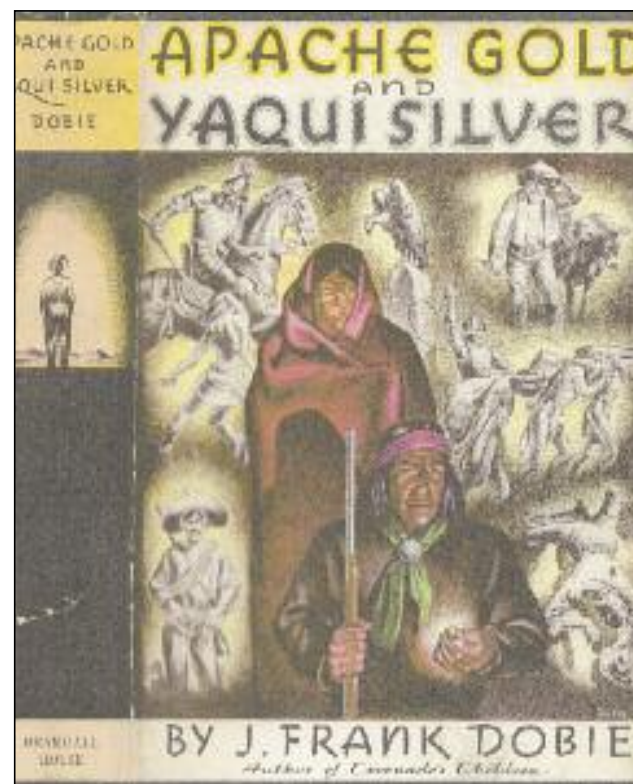
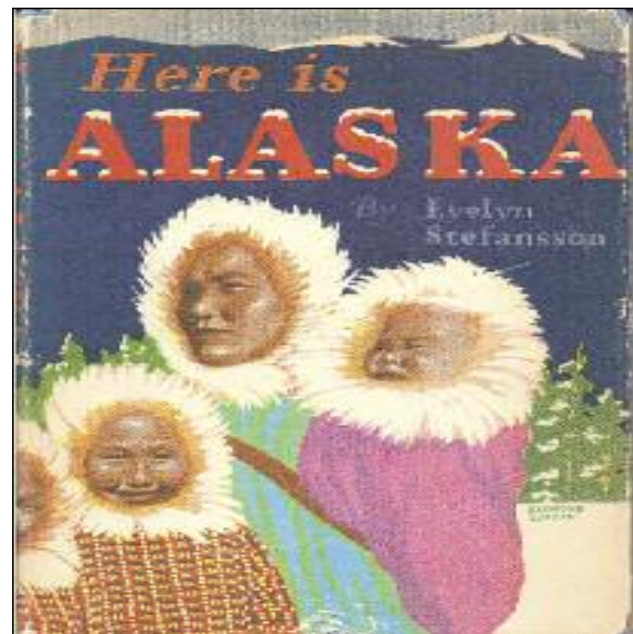
owners wanted the fine binding of their books to be seen on the shelf rather than a brown paper wrapper.

By the 1870's dust jackets were in wide use as it protected the book and kept it pristine. Lewis Carroll sent a letter to his publisher in 1876 where he requested that the publisher print the title of his latest book on the spine of the "paper wrapper." That way the book buyer could keep the dust cover to protect the book and still identify at a glance which books were on the shelf. Books still were made with fine bindings and a simple paper cover with title and author were printed on the dust jacket.

In the 1920's the dust jacket evolved into something more. It now included biographical material about the author. Graphic artists were hired to create artwork for the cover and that is what attracts me. Graphic artists have my utmost admiration. Both of the examples I have provided with this article have the artists identified, Tom Lea and Raymond Lufkin. The internet provides a showcase of great book covers and artists who created them. You may have even created a dust jacket out of a brown paper bag to protect your school books.

There is something else a dust jacket does for a book — it increases the value! Especially with older books, the dust jackets were removed and discarded so there are more books without jackets than there are with the dust jacket. This has created a market for 'counterfeit' dust jackets. Scrupulous book sellers will identify if the dust jacket is a reproduction.

There are 2 events this summer you should attend if you like graphic art and books. The first is the Denver Postcard & Paper Show on Friday & Saturday July 19 & 20 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. There will be postcards, posters, graphic art, Colorado history and much more. The second is the 35th Rocky Mountain Book & Paper Fair on Friday and Saturday August 2-3 at the Denver Mart. This is the largest book and paper ephemera show in the Rocky Mountain region and will have approximately 70 exhibitors with books, ephemera, art, Colorado history and so much more. If you want information about either show visit www.denverpostcardshow.com or www.rmaba.org/rmbpf/2019/rmbpf_2019_GeneralInfo.html You can also call Carol or Bill Mobley at 303-761-3755. Hope to see you at both events!



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Elvis Presley Collectibles

By Barry Krause

"By the latter part of 1956, there were already hundreds of items that appeared in every department store, drugstore, specialty shop and music store in the country. There were bubble gum cards, pin-back buttons, handkerchiefs, dolls, guitars, billfolds, photograph albums and... you could even buy sideburns from a coin-operated machine," says the Elvis Presley collectibles section of the "Garage Sale & Flea Market Annual" for 2007.

Elvis Aron Presley (1935-1977) was the first rock music super star, a major influence on pop culture during his career, and continually celebrated even three decades after his death on August 16, 1977.

I was playing poker at a home game with some friends on the day he died, and one of them came back to our card table and told us, "Elvis Presley just died," and another one said, "Good riddance!" I didn't say anything because I didn't admire Presley as much as I do now, but I knew then that he had been a major player in the game of life which beats any card game any day.

"His intensely charismatic personal style - the sexy hip shaking that earned him the nickname 'Elvis the Pelvis' and the condemnation of television censors, the ducktail haircut, and the characteristic sneer that combined with an aura of vulnerability - excited young fans, especially females, to wild adulation," says "The Encyclopaedia Britannica."

The five original 45 RPM records that Presley recorded for Sam Phillips' Sun Records in Memphis were Elvis first commercial records. They were locally popular, but are rare enough now that each one is worth from \$1,000 to \$5,000 or \$6,000, depending on the songs and record condition.

Presley's five sun 78s from the same time period of 1954-1955 are also valuable, priced today at \$500 to \$3,000 each. Watch out for reproductions and counterfeits of the original Presley Sun records, some using genuine out-of-stock Sun labels to fool collectors.

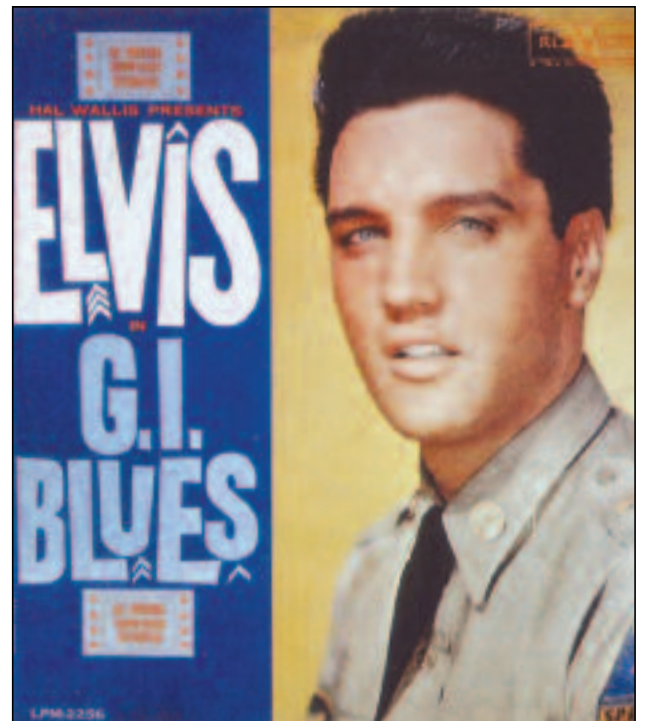
"Any Sun Elvis recording pressed on colored or swirled vinyl is a reproduction; the originals were pressed only in black. There were never any 'picture sleeves' for Elvis Sun recordings [and] legitimate copies of his first four releases have 'push marks' - three circles pressed into the label itself," says "Warman's American Records" collector guide book.

After Sam Phillips sold Presley's recording contract to RCA Victor, the original Sun recordings were reissued with RCA catalog numbers and labels in 1955, but these "first reissues" are now worth only \$30 to \$60 for each 45, and \$75 to \$150 for each 78, with the price range for Very Good+ to Near Mint, according to Warman's.

However, Warman's adds that "Presley is one of the very few artists whose company-produced reproductions have collectible value." Presley's autographs are also lofty in price, but buy them only from the most ethical sources such as a long-established autograph dealer or auction house, because there are many fakes floating around.

His signature all by itself on a scrap of paper or page torn from an autograph collector book is worth \$500, signed photos of him start at about \$1,000, signed albums start at \$1,000 also, and documents or typed signed letters begin at well over \$1,000.

"The standard Guide to Collecting Autographs" (1999) by Mark Allen Baker doesn't even give a price for an "Autograph Letter Signed" (ALS) by Presley, that is, a letter written entirely in his own hand and signed by him. If an authentic Presley ALS should appear at auction, it



Presley released fourteen consecutive million-selling records before being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1958. He was discharged in 1960 when his movie "G. I. Blues" came out. This sound track album of the movie isn't rare, but collectible nevertheless. Illustration from "The Encyclopedia of Collectibles" (1980).

would attract spirited bidding, especially if it had good contents.

Presley appeared on endless magazine covers, and these can be found for sale today at about \$10 and up. The

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"TV Guide" from September 8-14, 1956 with the "Plain Truth About Elvis Presley" is worth \$500 or so in pristine condition.

Presley badges and pin-back buttons can bring \$100 or more if early, \$20 or \$30 if later in his life. Movie posters from Presley's films can sell for several hundred and up, but be careful about later reprints made to feed collector demand.

Presley memorabilia from his movies is always popular with collectors. Whereas a simple black-and-white publicity photo signed by Presley can be valued at \$1,000 or so, an autographed photo with inscription of him in his "G. I. Blues" costume, circa 1960, is priced at \$5,295 in "Kovels' Antiques & Collectibles Price List" for 2007.

Kovels also mentions a sample of Presley's hair, authenticated, in a sealed plastic container, for \$8,722 but it had better be genuine at that price!

I'd feel safer buying a "Jailhouse Rock" lobby card from 1956 for \$75, or a ticket to see Elvis perform at a show in 1956 for \$80, as listed in "Schroeder's Antiques Price Guide" for 2007, but those can be cheap replicas, too, and worth little.

Don't get discouraged by the costly scarce Presley record albums. He sold about half a billion records during his lifetime, and the most common ones are available today for a couple of dollars each.

The album soundtracks to Elvis' movies may contain promotional posters or postcards. "For an album to qualify as near-mint, these postcards and posters must be part of the package, with no tack holes or pen marks," warns Warman's.

Also, most Presley RCA records came with a picture sleeve which can be worth more than the record itself. "Ofentimes the company would continue to press an old-style

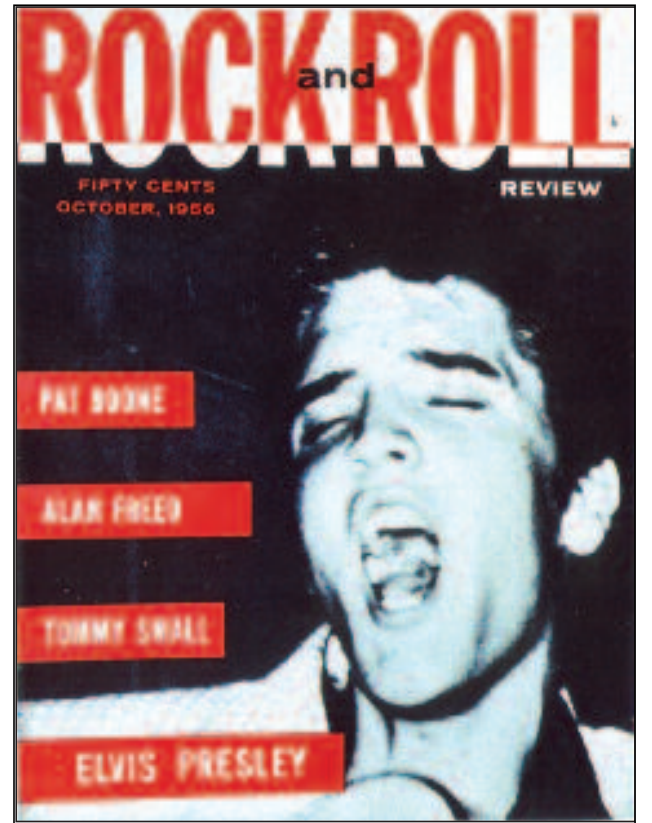
jacket with old-style logos, while inserting a new recording inside," says Warman's. Genuine signed sleeves are valuable.

Any early Presley souvenir item marked "Elvis Presley Enterprises" with a 1956 or 1957 copyright date is highly desirable. The "Boxcar" trademark in one form or another was used in Presley memorabilia from 1974 to 1981. The name "Elvis Presley Enterprises, Inc." reverted to Graceland, Presley's estate and business office after death, in 1982, and all new objects marketed today with Presley's name or image must have official permission from Presley Enterprises, including the 29 Presley U.S. postage stamp issued a few years ago and now worth double face value to some Presley fans, although it isn't rare.

You need a guide book to wade through the amazing quantity and variety of Presley collectibles to get your money's worth whether buying or selling. May I recommend "Elvis Collectibles" by Rosalind Cranor, "Elvis Presley Memorabilia" by Sean O'Neal, and the "Official Price Guide to Elvis Presley Records and Memorabilia" by Jerry Osborne.

A bewildering array of biography books have been written about Presley exclusively or as a chapter in a wider book by authors who may or may not have experienced Presley as a personal acquaintance. It's hard to sort out the myth and speculation from the facts in many of these references, which always happens when a world famous entertainer gets written about, particularly after his death when he can't defend himself against rumors and criticisms.

The "Last Train to Memphis" (1994) and "Careless Love" (1999), both by Peter Guralnick, are a two volume narrative that, together, "constitute the only accurate standard biography" of Elvis Presley, according to the "Encyclopedia Britannica," and might be a good place to start reading about Presley if you know little about him. When he died, hundreds of thousands of his fans mourned outside the gates at Graceland in Memphis, Presley's mansion estate, which continues to be a tourist attraction today. The local hotels



Presley appeared on so many covers of different magazines that a large collection could be assembled of those at moderate cost for cheaper issues. This 1956 magazine was published the year that Presley became world famous. Illustration from "The Encyclopedia of Collectibles" (1980).

and motels fill up fast around the anniversaries of Presley's birth day (Jan. 8) and death (Aug. 16) when Presley admirers pay their respects at his home and grave site, so visit at a different time if you don't like crowds.

When I was a kid, I played Presley's "Hound Dog" and "Don't Be Cruel" records until they got badly scratched and worthless for record players or collecting, and I think I later threw them away.

I never saw Presley perform in person, but I recommend the "Legends in Concert" floor show at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada where the Elvis impersonator is usually excellent and worth seeing if you like Elvis music and history, and a lot better return for your money than you'll probably get in the casinos there.

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 mer - i - cal A - mer - i - cal God shed His grace on thee, And
 crown thy good with broth - er-hood From sea to shin - ing sea.

*O beautiful for pilgrim feet / Whose stern impassioned stress
 A thoroughfare for freedom beat / Across the wilderness.
 American! American! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
 Confirm thy soul's self-control, / Thy liberty in law.*

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Collectible Chrome Decorative and Functional

By Anne Gilbert

Chrome was a trendy category from the 1930s to 1940s. It was first made by the Chase Brass and Copper Company in Waterbury, Connecticut.

The name “Chase” became practically synonymous with chrome. As a new and different material it attracted top name designers. It also appealed to young marrieds who couldn’t afford sterling silver, but most pieces sold for \$1.00 to \$3.00, and were created by such designers as Russel Wright and Norman Bel Geddes. Fast forward to the prices today that can range in the thousands of dollars. Bel Geddes designed the famous “Manhattan Serving set” in the shape of a skyscraper. One of his cocktail shakers with eight cups and a tray has sold at auction for several thousand dollars. The original price was \$ 16.50.



By 1935 there were many makers of chrome items from bar carts to book ends. Today’s collectors pay top dollar for whimsical shapes of cocktail shakers. Among them a “dumb-bell,” rooster and airplane. The airplane, by an anonymous maker has sold for over \$ 4,000. However, not every chrome piece is costly. Since there is still much around beginning collectors can build a modest collection or just simply buy as decorative or useful objects.

CLUES –Research and get acquainted with the names of the top designers, the type of pieces they designed and the firms they worked for. Scroll the internet items for sale to get an idea of prices.

Other ways to judge a piece would be the quality of the design. Does it have the stylized look of the 1920s, 30s? Is it considered a rarity? A good example would be anything designed by Rockwell Kent for Chase. He only designed three items, each with a young Bacchus motif. Others are a wine cooler and wine bottle stand. All Chase products are stamped “Chase” with their centaur trademark.

Condition is all important since there are so many pieces still around. If the piece has plastic trim and handles be sure there are no chips and cracks. If there are glass liners they should be in mint condition.

Reproductions of several pieces are buyer beware.

A piece doesn’t have to be made by Chase to be collectible. Other firms hired name designers. Examples are pieces marked Foreman Brothers, Farber Brothers, Manning Bowman and Revere Copper and Brass Company.

Some collectible and expensive chrome pieces were also made in France, England, etc.

With the advent of WW11, when most metals were needed, chrome was replaced by aluminum.

PHOTO CAPTION (1) Pair of chrome, art deco book ends, c. 1935. PHOTO CREDIT: 1stDibs

PHOTO CAPTION (2) Chaise “Gaiety” chrome cocktail shaker. PHOTO CREDIT : 1st Dibs



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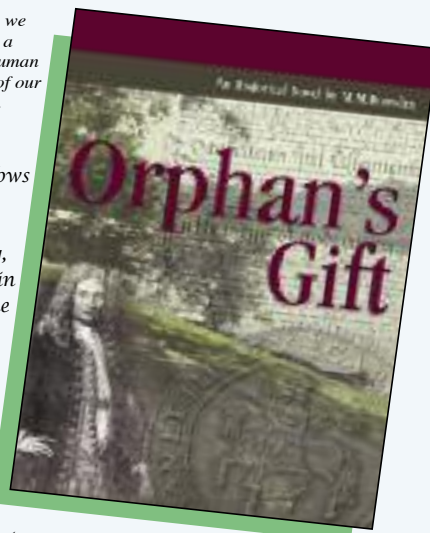
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(Opinions of the writers contained herein are not necessarily the opinions of the publishers.)

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The American Eagle Symbol and Treasure

By Robert Reed

At the height of the country's quest for independence and freedom from foreign domination, America's leaders selected the eagle as its national symbol.

Historians note that the American eagle was officially adopted in June of 1782 by an act of the Continental Congress. It was a suitable choice.

In writing suggestions earlier to the selection committee Philadelphia sculptor William Rush movingly endorsed the "elegant figure" of the eagle. Rush the artist visualized, "the American Eagle darting upon and destroying the vitals of tyranny, the shackles of despotism...and hurling them under the feet of the Genius of America."

To be specific the nation's choice was not just any eagle.

The founders, for example, ultimately rejected the idea of a traditional doubleheaded eagle that prior to that time had often been used as a heraldic representation. It was simply too much in the realm of old country royalty.

Neither would any single eagle serve the purpose. Eagles had been used as symbols before in the Colonies, but when it came to the Great Seal the choice centered on a particular native species the American Bald Eagle. The term 'bald' was a bit of a misnomer since the bird simply had white head and tail feathers rather than the full brown coloring of other eagles.

As officially adopted on the Great Seal the American eagle had outspread wings and clutched arrows in one claw while holding an olive branch in the other. It also had a crest with 13 stars representing the 13 then existing states.

Almost immediately, if not before, the American eagle



appeared everywhere in the United States as a popular and powerful symbol. As the nation's first president, George Washington, toured the states after his inauguration he was greeted at each stop by carved and painted American eagles.

It was carved on ship's figureheads, scratched on powder horns, fashioned from all manner of folk art, added to flagpoles according to observations by author Katharine Mc-

Clinton. Further it appeared on everything from hand-stitched quilts to shop signs. Throughout the so-called Federal period it was proudly displayed as an architectural motif and stood above doorways and on mantle pieces inside.

McClinton in The Complete Book of Small Antiques further describes, the American eagle carved and inlaid on furniture of the period, and mounted on clocks. Further it could be found, "embroidered with gold thread on bright silk." A particular popular item during the War of 1812 in the states were cotton printed kerchiefs showing the eagle emblem in a sweeping design together with scenes of naval battles and portraits of Washington or Thomas Jefferson.

One especially striking example of fashionable eagle-adorned clocks was cast in bronze with gold gilding. The early 19th cen-

tury shelf clock featured the American eagle clutching olive branches and a shield with the motto, E Pluribus Unum inscribed on it. Standing alongside of the eagle and the clock was George Washington. For all of this patriotic glory however, it had been crafted in France and noted in the United States.

"Such American symbols were added to everything from clocks to earthenware jugs made in Europe early in the 19th century in an attempt to appeal to the growing American market," notes author Erwin Christensen. Writing in The Index of American Design Christensen adds, "when they appeared in this country, they found eager buyers."

When France's Marquis de Lafayette visited the United States in the 1820s he found a great deal of glassware similarity bearing the American eagle. The glass flask, in particular, featured several different designs all starring the country's own version of the eagle.

By the Erie Canal ceremonies of 1825 the American eagle emblem was wildly popular on folk art, imprints, and all manner of souvenirs. A water keg decorated with the painted eagle was used in dedication ceremonies and is now displayed by the New York Historical Society. Meanwhile there was an abundance at the time of eagle motifs on pressed-glass plates, salts, and cups. The Sandwich Glass Company was especially prolific with the eagle image offering in a wide range of glass that included blue, yellow, opalescent, as well as clear white.

The American eagle also appeared on a wealth of milk glass covered dishes, fire-fighting helmets and other related equipment, drinking glasses, wallpaper designs, and even carefully stitched coverlets.

The eagle appeared in furniture too. Sometimes a standing or soaring eagle adorned a delicate candle stand, chair or table. There was eagle-decorated pottery made in American locations such as Pennsylvania and Ohio and also in the Staffordshire region of England as well. A transfer decorated pitcher from Liverpool, England paid tribute to Washington in 1840 bearing the inscription, "Washington in Glory, America in Tears." It also bore the American eagle and the seal of the United States. Beyond the pots and pitchers, there were also butter molds and mugs, and more.

By the middle of the 19th century the American eagle had made quite an impression as a weathervane on a vast number of rooftops around the country. Often copper or zinc, or combinations of both, most were of the spread wing variety. Often they appeared perched on global orbs or metal stands.

When the Civil War arrived in the 1860s the northern armies carried the American eagle off to battle, often in the form a brightly colored image on a drum. The eagle stood on various drums of that era. Smaller drums, usually carried by drummer boys around 12 years of age, typically bore an eagle with a shield and a sunburst beneath it. Larger drums used for parades and ceremonial marches were often even more lavishly decorated with the American eagle.

During the Civil War the eagle also frequently had a renewed patriotic role on decorated quilts. A cotton Civil War memorial quilt was made by Mary Ben Shawvan of Wisconsin for her soldier husband John Shawvan. When her husband was killed in the battle of Chickamauga in Tennessee, Mary was left a widow with six children and only a Civil War widow's pension. Still the quilt with its spread wing eagle and shield among meandering flower vines and perching birds was impressive. Nearly a century and a half later the

historic eagle-dominated quilt sold at a major east coast auction house.

During the second half of the 19th century the mighty American eagle was often the center of a wide range of carvings from signs and ship's figure heads to small handheld objects.

One of the most famed eagle carvers of that era was John Hale Bellamy. An artist and sculptor of considerable note, Bellamy's flourished in Massachusetts and later in New Hampshire. His shop boasted the ability to "service a single order for 100 eagles" and they could be accompanied by "emblematic frames and brackets" too. Bellamy advertised his talents at "house, ship, furniture, sign and frame carving...furnished at short notice."

The grand eagles created by Bellamy were usually

Continued on page 16

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The American Eagle Symbol

Continued from page 15

large and often embellished with all type of slogans from Don't Give Up The Ship to simply Happy New Year. Typically the eagle and U.S. flag were decorated with red, white and blue paint. Among Bellamy's most impressive eagle carvings was an 18-foot figurehead personally made for the U.S.S. Lancaster.


At the other end of the carved eagle scale was now memorialized folk artist Wilhelm Schimmel. At about the same time Bellamy was carving giant-sized eagles in New England, Schimmel was going from town to town in Pennsylvania carving small eagles and other animals in exchange for hand-outs or liquor. Decades later his pine eagles shaded in brown, black, red and yellow became highly sought as classic examples of late 19th century folk art. In 1890 "Old Schimmel" died in a Pennsylvania poorhouse, and a newspaper noted, "his only occupation was carving heads of animals out of wood, he was apparently a man of a very surly disposition."

Today surviving American eagles once made by the transit Schimmel bring \$15,000 to \$25,000.





As late as the 1960s, antiques historian and author McClinton observed that the American eagle "is one of the most sought after collector's items" in the country today. McClinton attributed the fascination in part to the nation's history and the eagle's personal symbolism for individuals.



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Primitive Blessings Antiques Celebrates One Year Anniversary

Continued from page 1

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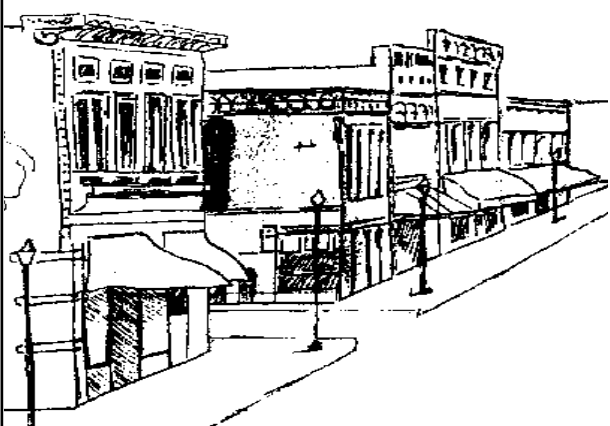
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Summer Is Here!

By Paula Svincek

The first day of summer is here, with the Fourth of July rapidly approaching. Florence's Wet and Dry Parade on Independence Day is always a hit with young and old alike. Everyone is looking forward to the festivities during the three-day holiday event in Pioneer Park, as well as an opportunity to stroll the streets of Florence to see what goodies there are to be had.

Oil City Merchant Antiques has some wonderful vintage signage, a variety of period furniture, and a magnificent example of a Brunswick Balke Collender Company Back Bar. If entertainment is what you are in search of, you can find a gorgeous card table at Florence Consignment Corner. By day it's a lovely dining table, remove the formal top and voila, instant card party. Heartland Antiques not only offers lovely furniture, some of the finest jewelry in town can be found on display. The Mezzanine is well known in the area for their variety, primitive to fine porcelain pieces are available. Their collection of antique granite-ware is quite impressive.



Rena Pryor



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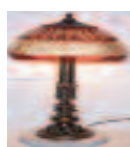
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CONTEST

June's What Is It?



We had one correct answer to our June's What Is It. Jack T. Briggs of Denver, Colorado correctly identified the vehicle as a Dodge Power Wagon used by the Waco Fire Department. Congratulations! You have won a year's subscription to *the Mountain States Collector*.

The Dodge M37 3/4-ton 4x4 truck (G741) was Dodge's follow-up to their successful WC Series from WWII. Introduced in 1951 it was used extensively by the United States armed forces during the Korean war. During the 1970s, they were replaced by the commercial truck based 1 1/4-ton M715 and M880 series.

It was not the most glamorous military vehicle, but it served an important job of transporting troops and supplies. It was the unsung hero of the Korean war. More recently it was used as a municipal brush firefighter truck. This one is from Waco, Texas.

The new owner Tim Gregg plans to use it as his barbecue kitchen from which he will sell some of the best barbecue meals in the mountain town of Bailey, Colorado. He is naming it The Smiling Pig. If you see this truck in Bailey, stop by. You can be assured you are in for a real treat.

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. At least three winners will be drawn. Winners will receive a year's subscription to *the Mountain States Collector*.

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