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AUGUST 2020

ESTABLISHED IN 1972

Volume 48, Number 8



La Cache Reopens With New Days & Hours

By Marcia Ragonetti

La Cache, “offering upscale antiques for a good cause,” is now welcoming back shoppers and consignors alike – with masked smiles and friendly elbow bumps. Both you and Children’s Hospital Colorado are the beneficiaries of this happy event and we couldn’t be more excited.

After a four-month hiatus, we are now carefully and thoughtfully reopening with NEW sales days and hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For the present time, Monday and Tuesday will be closed for sales but open and reserved for consignments by appointment only.

La Cache is well known as a place for extraordinary treasure hunting. Among its trove of consigned items are china, crystal, sterling, jewelry, rugs, glass art, framed artwork and furniture—some 2,000 tags currently in store! Donations are also unusual, one-of-a-kind items and bargain priced with the added bonus of 100% of proceeds from these generous donations going to the hospital. Since 1982 the shop has contributed more than \$5,000,000 to enhance the many critical programs and services at CHC.

Besides our unique merchandise, we have an unusual business model. There are no paid employees at La Cache, only a dedicated cadre of 50+ volunteers who cheerfully and tirelessly assist shoppers with their purchases and consignors with their entrusted valuables. We also have scheduled markdowns on all consigned items and periodic 50% off sales of our “RDF” (Red Door Fund) goods housed in our “404” annex. All combine to keep our loyal and enthusiastic customers returning again and again.

For those with COVID-19 concerns, know in advance that we



Volunteer Jan Hoskins stands ready to assist shoppers with their jewelry choices. Giant facsimile check in background celebrates the shop's cumulative \$5 million donation to Children's Hospital Colorado since opening in 1982.

are following public health and hospital guidelines as well as government mandates. Well-fitting masks are required to enter the shop and must be worn at all times. Be advised you will be greeted by one of our volunteers as well as a healthy squirt of hand sanitizer. They will explain our new, safer traffic patterns and point out directional arrows throughout the shop which serve as reminders to practice social distancing. High-touch surfaces are regularly disinfected and touchless payment options are available. Plexiglas shields have been installed in key areas – at checkout and at our ever-popular jewelry counter — for the protection of both our volunteers and shoppers.

We at La Cache are thrilled to have our doors open again for your benefit and all those at Children’s Hospital Colorado. Our shelves, walls, floors are currently being refreshed and restocked with new merchandise to tempt and delight you so come visit us soon.

La Cache is located at 400 Downing Street in Denver and is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Consignments by appointment on Monday and Tuesday only. For more information call 303-871-9605.



Above artwork provided by Dr. Bonnie Scudder.

AMERICAN HISTORY August Anniversaries

August 7

George Washington creates the Purple Heart (1782)

August 14

FDR signs the Social Security Act (1935)

August 24

British troops set fire to the White house (1814)

August 26

100th Anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote (1920)



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COSTLY

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MARBLES

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Twenty-Year Brass Armadillo Associate Dies

Dixie Kilborn Will Be Remembered Always

Editor’s Note:

Dixie was a long-time friend of the Mountain States Collector. We are so sad that she will no longer be with us. Below are a couple of reminiscences from her close friends and co-workers:



By Linda Lancaster

Dixie was born in 1940 in Imperial, Nebraska. Her parents were itinerant teachers and they moved 16 times in 17 years. She attended Gracelin College and graduated from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

She had her first date with Larry Kilborn in 1962 and they went skating on Evergreen Lake. Dixie worked for the Jeffco school system for over 30 years. She started at Fruitdale in Wheat Ridge and moved to Bergen in 1970. The Kilborns bought their house in Evergreen in 1966 and shortly after their children Jodi and Brad were born. (1967 and 1968)

Dixie's first collection was marbles and she said that her brother and her Father always beat her playing marbles so she decided to collect them when she left home. Her second collection was Navajo weaving after she had come to a talk I gave about them in the Bergen library as part of the Native American curriculum.

After starting work at the Brass Armadillo in 2000, she collected storyteller dolls (of the Cochiti pueblo),

cookbooks, school bells, hotel bells, ink-wells, match safes, German-carved cork screws, toys and whistlers. She worked at the Brass Armadillo for 20 years so she essentially had two careers.

Larry still lives in their original house in Evergreen — that's 50 years in the same house. My husband Steve and I thought Dixie probably was sick of moving and did not want to do that again. Larry was an architect for the National Parks Service until his retirement. Dixie was also a life-long member of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Evergreen. I never in my long friendship with Dixie ever knew anyone that did not love her for her down-to-earth manner, her kindness and her intelligence.

From Sondra Jackson

Thank you for doing this for dear Dixie!! As her principal at Bergen, I would like to say that Dixie was loved by her students and parents. Her own love of reading inspired her students to read. She was a calm, caring, compassionate teacher who excelled in working with special needs students. Dixie was admired and respected by her colleagues as well. She definitely made a difference.

We were in the same book club. During this time, I was privileged to get to know Dixie on a more personal level. The stories that she told about her upbringing were intriguing. She often talked about her family with pride. She was such a humble, kind person with a sweet smile and welcoming personality.

It was always a pleasure to go to her house for book club where she assembled a magnificent spread of food.



Dixie added a great deal to our discussions and will be sincerely missed!

When I wrote to the family, I mentioned that she and her teammate Ellen Thompson always dressed up at Halloween as "The Picky Old Ladies." They were hilarious and had so much fun.

SHOW CALENDAR

AUGUST 2020

NOW OPEN: HOTEL de PARIS, Georgetown, Colorado. Tours enter the Lion’s Gate and then into the kitchen. This gives them an opportunity to stay in the open air of the courtyards for a few minutes to explain safety protocols to visitors. All Virtual tours also available on their website. Click on links. Call 303-569-2311 or go to hoteldeparismuseum.org.

Upcoming Events

OCT. 10 & 11: PUMPKIN PIE DAYS VINTAGE & ANTIQUE MARKET presented by The St. Vrain Historical Society. Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-4, Boulder County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building, 9595 Nelson Rd, Longmont, CO. For more information, call 303-776-1870 or go to www.stvrainhistorical society.com

OCT. 16-18: WORLD WIDE ANTIQUE AND VINTAGE SHOW Denver Mart Expo Building, I-25 & 58th Ave., Fri.-Sat. 10 am - 6 pm, Sunday 11 am - 4 pm. Get tickets at www. FIND YOUR ANTIQUE.com

CALENDAR LISTINGS

Calendar Listing Information

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Shows, Auctions, Estate Sales and Event Calendar listings are FREE with your display ad. Club News and Museum News also welcome.



From the General Manager of the Denver Brass Armadillo David Simonsen:

“There are few words that would capture how special Dixie Kilborn was. She’s going to be missed greatly. For me, she was a wonderful resource. She made my start here as general manager so much easier.”

From the Archives, Oct. 2007

Dixie and Larry Kilborn, Collectors Extraordinaire



By Peg DeStefano

It all started with one marble. Of course, it was a fairly unique and one-of-kind marble but it was all that was needed to spark the collecting gene in Dixie and Larry Kilborn. That was in 1998. Now the couple has over 20,000 marbles. The most they ever spent on a marble was \$400, which is relatively inexpensive for an antique handmade marble. It is a handmade red mica from the late 1800s. There were blue, white, green, and amber mica marbles but very few reds. They consider this marble a true treasure.

On a visit to their home in Evergreen, I was amazed at the collection this couple has been building of marbles of the 20's and 30's. Dixie, who is a retired educator and her husband Larry, an architect, were most helpful explaining to me what different marbles were. I learned about cat eyes and banana marbles and about how there is the pontil where the marble is cut from a glass cane. They told me about the marbles made by Peltier and that they also sold to other companies so even though the marbles were packaged by different companies, they were still Peltier. They have a real marble from Marble, Colorado among their collection. The Kilborns are not too interested in more common contemporary machine-made marbles. "I'm afraid we've become marble snobs," Dixie laughingly explained.

The marbles are only one of their many



collections. Dixie and Larry also collect storytellers. These are clay figures made by Native Americans including several from the Taos Pueblo. Their most valuable storyteller is a big black Cherokee figure. It dwarfs all of the other storytellers. All of these clay figures have in common that their mouths are always open and they are surrounded by children. To supplement this collection they also have many other Indian-made wood carvings, kachinas and weavings. The weavings are primarily Navajo but from many different clans. One is from Two Grey Hills that uses grey and brown as the predominant colors. Most of the dyes are from natural sources. The Kilborns blame their friend Linda Lancaster, a fellow teaching friend of Dixie's, for starting them down this path. Their collection of weavings, both old and new, is astounding.

Since Dixie and her parents were all teachers, it is not surprising that she also has a collection of school bells. The better bells have a lovely tone and the clapper must be original. All of the school bells have the same basic construction. Their most recent purchase came from Leadville, Colorado. Being from Nebraska originally, Dixie remembers the one and two room school houses. When she went to school, she recalls that only the good kids got to ring the bell. She remembers that she was the only child in third grade. Her grandfather homesteaded in Chase County in Western Nebraska. Her father and mother were both teachers and they had to move around a lot because back then rather than give a teacher a raise, the school districts would just hire a new teacher. It was a difficult way to live.



The Kilborns also have a great toy collection. They have a large amount of ramp walkers from the 40s, 50s and a few that made it to the 60s. Ramp walkers are usually Disney characters, some are military, animals and little people. These cute little figures, when put on an incline, seem to walk. They were given out in cereal boxes and at movies. You could also buy them at a dime store like Ben Franklins, Krescke, Kress, or Woolworths. Dixie also has a lot of windup toys and banks.

Dixie and Larry say that everyone collects in their family. I asked Dixie to what she might attribute that and she said, "We had to move around a lot and were always giving our toys away. By age 16, we had moved 16 times. Also, we grew up poor and didn't have much." Now that she is older, she can buy all the toys she would like. "It's kind of like having a second childhood," Dixie explained.

There were so many poignant stories that Dixie and Larry told as they were showing me their collections. One story was about Dixie's favorite Teri Lee doll. "I had stopped playing with it and mother decided one of my cousins might enjoy it." Dixie agreed to give it to her cousin but was sad to see it go. After her mother died, she discovered her mother had kept the doll, all her clothes and the doll house for her. She cried at the discovery.

Well, just when I thought I had seen everything, Larry pulls out yet another collection. This one was of bar spoons, cap lifters and spatulas, including spinners, all with advertising on them. He has about 150 of these items.

I'll tell you, this couple is having fun! Never before have I met such consummate collectors. Dixie and Larry Kilborn are the prime example. I'm sure that they will continue their search to complete each collection. They are never bored and always enthusiastic. They have proven to me that people who collect have very interesting lives.

Ad Signs Collectible and Sometimes Costly

By Anne Gilbert

Would you hang a huge tin sign depicting a yellow Shell gasoline product in your living room? These days the concept of what is collectible has changed. Check out the TV show “Flea Market Flips” and you are in for a surprise. Prices are often in the high hundreds.

Late 19th and early 20th century advertising signs first became hot collectibles in the 1970s. Interest grew and once flea market bargains found their way into private collections and as decorations for theme restaurants. These days they are considered as decorative accessories. Prices for some can be thousands of dollars.

Dealers became aware of the collecting potential of 1920s and 1930s gas station signs. “Urban Trade Remains” in Chicago began selling them in 2006 and is still in business. They don’t have to be old to be costly. In fact they can be of such humble materials as cardboard or tin.

While most 19th century trade signs are in museums periodically an example will show up at a high end auction house like Skinner or Sothebys’. If a sign can be attributed to a famous 20th century illustrator the price zooms.

Historically trade signs were first used in America on the coastal settlements of New England, Philadelphia and Virginia. By the mid 19th century many talented artists and carvers supplemented their incomes making trade signs.

Among them Edward Hicks famed for his Peaceable Kingdom animal paintings. The purpose wasn’t merely to attract customers but to help the many people who couldn’t read

and identify what the shopkeeper was offering. They were often figural, such as a pair of spectacles for an optometrist.



CLUES: If you like the look of 19th century figural trade signs there are reproductions. However, there are a wide variety of vintage trade signs at affordable prices.

When it comes to vintage, however, age, rarity and quality of art are important factors determining the price. However, significant changes during the 1930s in materials created an entirely new category: Neon signs. Currently a neon tube sign can fetch \$1,400 or more in a retail setting.

Metal gas station signs from the 1930s are considered collectible rarities. A double-side Shell gasoline sign can also be priced at \$1,400.

Should you buy a damaged but unique example? At a past auction several cardboard and paper signs had been professionally restored. A professionally restored Du Pont “E.C.” and “Schultz” shotgun shell lithograph sold over estimate for \$2,875. Helping the value was the fact that the flock of ducks were illustrated by Lynn Bogue Hunt, famed illustrator.

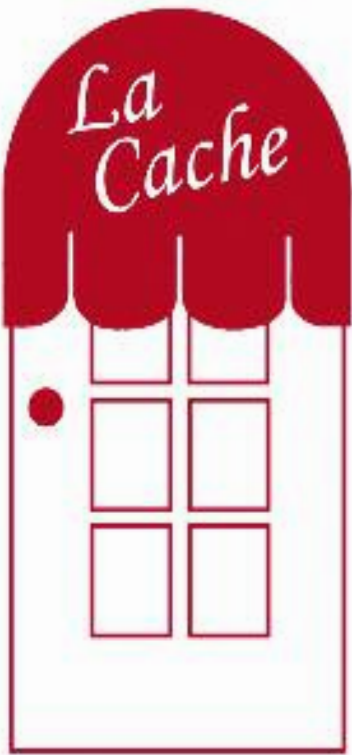
Subjects with popular of historical interest can also effect the price. An example would be women competing in sports with men in the early 20th century.

PHOTO CAPTION: 1930s neon sign. CREDIT: Urban remains, Chicago, IL.

PHOTO CAPTION: Double side Shell gasoline sign CREDIT: hiddentreasuresut.com



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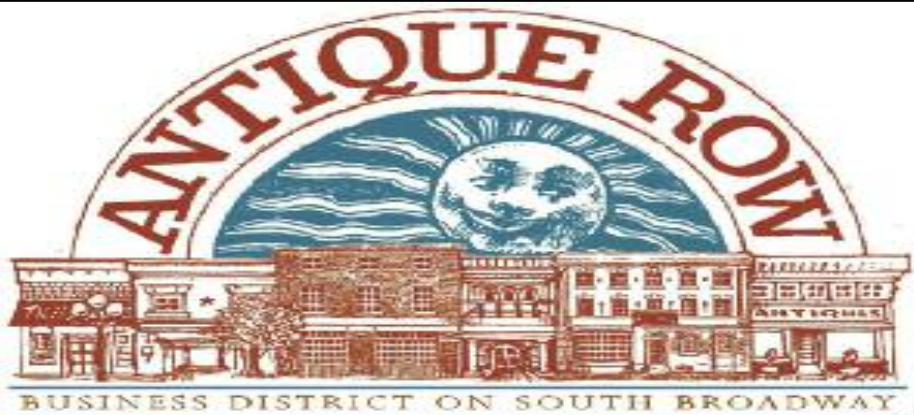
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*Dolls and toys are our passion at
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Those Marvelous Old Marbles

By Robert Reed

There is still a bit of everlasting joy in a jar full of old marbles, sitting snugged away on a shelf and holding warm memories as well as vivid colors.

Marbles, of course, have been treasured by children for centuries, dating to the days of Egypt and later to Rome, where Emperor Augustus Caesar himself is said to have left the royal grounds to join youngsters in the streets shooting marbles.

Besides Egypt and Rome, marbles were also the delight of children in ancient Greece, whence comes the word "marble" itself, which means a polished white agate.

Marbles were introduced into the American colonies by the Dutch, who identified shooters as taws, and considered anything smoothed from cobalt, onyx, jasper, jade or marble to be fair game.

By the 1770s a book entitled The Pretty Pocket Book offered some references to marbles, playing and endurance:

Marbles
Knuckle down to your Taw.
Aim well, shoot away
Keep out of the Ring
You'll soon learn to play.

Still another children's book, published in New York in 1829, suggested that taws of red marble were the choice, and second best were those of yellow stone with bits of brown and black. The least desirable, according to the book's ratings, were the Dutch marbles of glazed clay.

No less than William McGuffey created a conversation in his 1837 Third Electric Reader involving a horse owner and a boy who had saved a runaway. The man asked if the boy had playthings such as "nine-pins, tops, wooden horses, and marbles." The lad replied he had none.

Up through the middle of the 19th century, marbles were imported into this country from Europe. A vast majority of them were sulphide marbles produced by glassmakers in the Lausca region of Germany. During the Civil War, soldiers carried such marbles and a small board to play the game of Solitaire, jumping them until only one remained.

However, the industrial revolution left its mark on marble production as well as most other items of mass manufacture. As early as the 1880s, marbles were being made in the United States in general, and in the potteries of Ohio, Indi-



ana, Vermont and Pennsylvania in particular. One of the leading manufacturers in Ohio was Samuel C. Dyke of South Akron. Brown and blue glazed clay marbles were first offered, and finally the more colorful agates or "aggies."

By the 1890s aggies were being produced in numbers in the U.S., and even offered for sale by the prosperous Montgomery Ward and Company. Still another retail outlet of the gay nineties advertised such standards as "Jaspies, Brandies, Bowlers" and a host of others.

Yet the best was still to come.

In the early 1900s, the firm M.F. Christensen became firmly established in Navarre, Ohio. They were one of the first to use marble-making machines to fully compete with the German imports. By 1911 the Akro Agate Company had emerged to not only encompass machine manufacture, but to include specific changes from only bulk sales to department stores to the expanded selling of small individual packages in various places.

After the end of World War I, the U.S. moved to the lead of marble manufacture, but both Americans and Germans had abandoned handmade types for the mass production of machines to meet the demand.

By this time the colorful playthings were everywhere in the U.S. Note the authors of Greenburg's Guide to Marbles, "Schoolyards, playgrounds, city sidewalks. Playing marbles was one of the great American pastimes."

Write Mark Randall and Dennis Webb: "During the late 1920s and early 1930s, business was booming—the game of marbles was a given fact of American life. The foreign competition was long gone, and did not trouble the U.S. marble



makers for many years. The competition on the home front was fierce enough: After a series of court battles over patent infringements, the field was thrown wide open to newcomers by the ruling that certain crucial patents were invalid, and that the technology that had previously been a monopoly was now available to everyone."

Besides the attractive agates, there were the sparkling sulphides of clear glass with frosted flowers, animals or other figures encased inside. The sulphides are some of the rarest and most-valued of marbles today, and frequently command prices of \$50 to \$150. German glassblowers used figures of chila clay and supersilicate of potash in the center of a hot glass plug to capture the beauty forever.

Swirl marbles are also popular with collectors. Among their many patterns were Candy, Clambroth, Goldstone and Indian Swirl. Various swirls were made by using the method of heating and twisting bundles of long, colored glass rods, and enclosing them in clear glass. Most of the swirls were made in the first half of the 20th century by machines. One of the most desirable of the swirls is the Venetian swirl type, with ribbons of colored glass set in the clear marble.

The machine-made marbles of the 20th century were certainly more clearly rounded for play, but the less-round, hand-made marbles remain more valuable to collectors.

Continued on page 8

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Marvelous Marbles — Historic Toys

Continued from page 7

Especially prized are those clay spheres made by the legendary Bennington factory during the late 1900s and very early 1920s. Like other pottery marbles, most were of blue or brown glazed clay.

The Tiger Eye came in later years, and often included golden quartz along with bits of asbestos. China marbles, meanwhile, sometimes offered a variety of hand-painted designs.

"If you saved that bag of marbles containing your favorite shooter and all those sparkling glass puries, somebody out there wants them," writes Marian Klamkin in the 1981 book *Collectibles*.

"The same somebody also wants the sulphides, those marbles made with figural centers, those with mica spots, polka dots, or stripes or plaids. They want your tiniest as well as your largest marble, whether made of glass or clay. If you have any tiger eyes, they'll gladly take those, too."

Typically, of the marbles from one-half inch to two inches, the larger the marble the more value it has if the marbles are all of the same type and pattern.

Back in the 1920s, historians unearthed a site in New York of a British encampment linked to the Revolutionary War. The site contained toys brought by the children of soldiers, including slates, fragments of dolls, earthenware lambs and, of course, marbles.



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

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Pocket Watch Stands a Timely Collectible

By Anne Gilbert

Chances are you wouldn't recognize a watch stand if you saw one. At first glance some look like small picture frames. The frames may be figural or even of a precious metal. They belong to a bygone era when watches were somewhat of a novelty and meant to be displayed when not worn. When they come to auction they may be referred to as a watch stand, watch hutch or watch holder.

They are being rediscovered as unique collectibles. Never mind if you don't collect pocket watches, the stands that displayed them are a fascinating collectibles category.

Watch stands were as practical as they were decorative. When a delicate 18th or 19th century watch wasn't carried in a pocket it needed a protective display case. The pocket watch was after all a status symbol, like today's Rolex.

Watch stands originated in Europe and were imported to America between 1725 and 1850. At that time watches were prized as mechanical wonders and usually owned only by the



wealthy. Customarily women wore them attached to a chatelaine that was hung from the waist. The chatelaine was a chain girdle that held everything from scissors to scent bottles. Men carried watches suspended on a long chain.

By the end of the 17th century watch mechanisms evolved, becoming more delicate, influenced by changes in temperature and vibrations. Either of these could upset the time keep mechanisms. They could no longer be hung on chains. Now, the watches needed to be protected. The creation of the watch stand solved the problem. Early versions had a rear pocket that held the watch and a circular opening in the front to display the face. Some were also designed to hold the thicker French watches. By the early 19th century less expensive watches were being made and affordable holders as well.

However, many late 19th century watches were thinner didn't fit into these holders, so, once again the form of the holder changed as did the materials. Figurals of pottery, metals or wood were popular, as well as glass examples. For the wealthy precious stones and metals were used.

CLUES: You can still find holders at auctions or retail settings. Collectors are finding the Staffordshire figural stands fun collectibles. A real discovery would be a 19th century Meissen porcelain holder. You can recognize them by the combination of a fine piece of Meissen sculpture, aligned with a circular holder and signature.

The more unusual the carving, the more expensive and desirable the piece. Some 19th century items made of precious metals and stones can fetch several thousand dollars at auction. Others can be offered on eBay for under \$100.

Depending on what style they are they can fit into a specific category. For instance if handcarved they could be part of a folk art collection. If they are in the early Art Deco style they could become part of a Mid-Century Modern collection.

The good news for collectors is that they are out of fashion and often can be found unrecognized and underpriced.

PHOTO CAPTION; (1) Pocket watch stand. Carved rabbit, Black Forest, Germany.

PHOTO CREDIT: A N T I Q U E S ATLAS, UK.

PHOTO CAPTION: (2) Cranberry glass watch stand.

PHOTO CREDIT: Heidelberg Fine antiques. Heidelberg MS.



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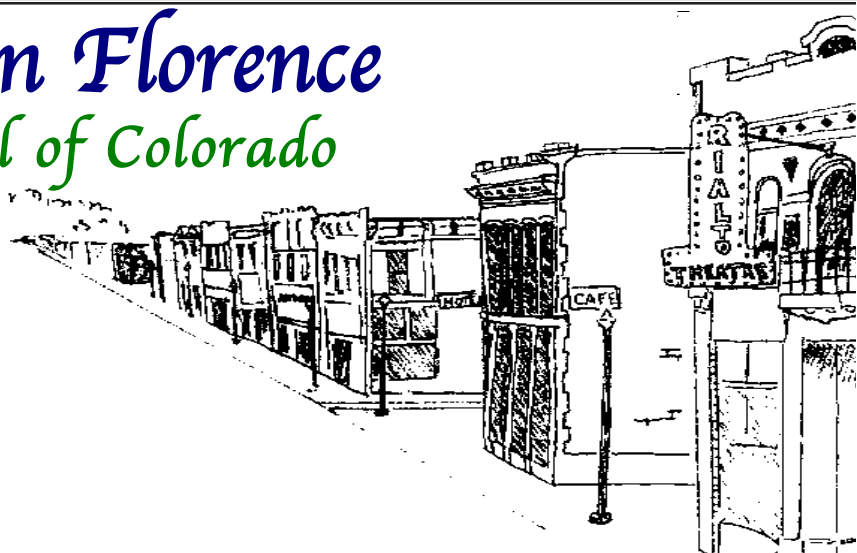
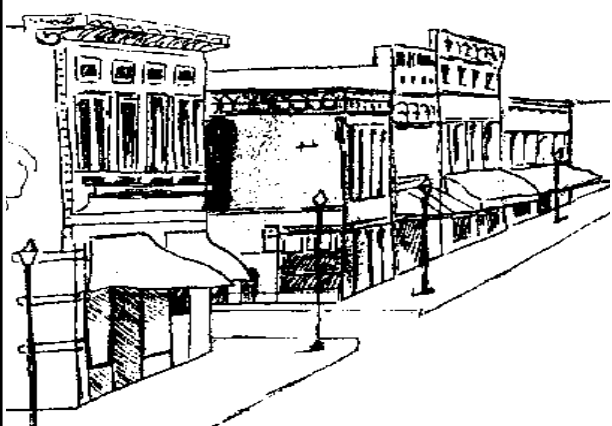
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New Normal: Making New Memories

By Sandy Dale

Well, here it is August. Can you believe it? Time does fly whether you are having fun or not. So, best to have fun or at least make some. We will always have the Corona virus to remember, but will we remember what our teachers, our shop keepers, our librarians and so many of our community members have done to maintain some sort of normalcy? I live in a very special little town. Folks here weren't going to let the Class of 2020 think they were forgotten. Our volunteer fire department and the police had a very loud parade and invited the seniors to join them. It was not like any other graduation, but I'll bet those kids won't forget it. On the fourth of July, Florence has held a very popular Wet or Dry parade. The dry part consisted of bands, floats, and cowboys on horses (and cows).. Every fire truck and water truck in the county would drive down Main Street, dowsing the huge crowd of kids and parents gathered on the sidewalk. There was a virtual Wall of Water as the crowd fired back with every water weapon one could imagine... Imagine if you were a kid not having this. Again, our fabulous fire fighters, police, mayor and a few other civic minded folks took matters in hand. They assembled a small group of water wielding trucks, a couple of old cars, and a pickup pulling a mammoth horse trailer and drove through the neighborhoods spraying down all the water armed assassins they could find right in front of their own homes. I doubt if the kids will forget this fourth of July. (I'm not sure the horse trailer was an intended part of the parade, but if you think about it...how many horses get to ride in a parade?) So are you getting the picture?

Florence calls itself the Antique Capital of Colorado and for good reason. There are over twenty antique shops. And what are antiques if not memory prompts?

"Oh, look, my grandma had one of these." And "I bet I could make muffins like my Mom's if I had this muffin tin."

What better way to make new memories than search out some of the old ones. Our parents, grandparents and great grandparents survived much worse than we have. They invented new machines, gadgets, and recipes to help them cope. You can get a really good idea of what life was like by visiting our antique stores and our great Pioneer Museum. A day trip to Florence is a great way to find old memories and make new ones.

New Treasures in Florence at 202 W. Main. See article to the right.



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Newest Shop 'Treasures' in Florence

It is often said that when shopping for antiques, you didn't know what you needed till you saw it. Or maybe, it is like a day-long scavenger hunt. These are both accurate ways to describe my recent visit to Florence's newest shop, Treasures. There are, of course, antiques, but also

much more to tantalize the scavenger. The Bohemian style of the shop incorporates original art (Ari Hope and Sylvia Andrews), woodworking (Josh Jordan and Dean Edwards), photography (Dave Brown), pottery (John Noble), jewelry (Kathy Sweeney), assemblage art (Joan Elliott), furniture, and much more into an eclectic wonderland. It is definitely not your average antique shop.

Treasures is the bright idea of Joan Elliott. She cites her family hobby of "treasure hunting" with her grandmother as her inspiration for the shop. She and her two partners, Fred Samora, a long-time collector of Native American, mid-century, and old automotive paraphernalia and Larry Nelson, an entrepreneurial purveyor of antiques, Asian antiquities and owner of several shops in



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Florence, opened Treasures in the middle of June. Not a particularly auspicious time, but with hard work and a super sense of humor, they have created a great new addition to the adventure of shopping in Florence.

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CONTEST

July's What Is It?

We had several correct answers for our July's What Is It. This picture is from the book by Margaret Lynn Rosack called The Expanded Guide to Collecting Trivets. In the book she had this bit of advice:

"During hard times the prevailing thought is to hunker down, be frugal, continue to save, and hope that the economy improves soon, however, buying during a recession can be a very wise move. The bargains are out there, and now is the time to identify and make some astute additions to your collection."

Trivets have long been a part of our American kitchen tradition. They are used to protect your counter from hot dishes and pans and irons. These pleasant utilitarian objects have been around for a long time. The first Wilton trivet came in 1894.

Congratulations to our winners: Jean Helzer, Arvada, CO; Jeanne Wright, Longmont, CO; Jeannie Reynolds, Nederland, CO; Fred Clark, Colorado Springs, CO; Jean Kropp, Westminster, CO; Terry Cook, Fort Morgan, CO; Vicky Kellen, Castle Pines, CO; Barbie Groff, Syosset, NY; and Elizabeth Puls of Boulder, CO who had this to say, "These are a variety of trivets or holders for "sad irons"—coal-filled irons of the 17th, 18th 19th and 20th centuries. Actually these type of irons may go back further than that in time. Some types of sad irons were just heated on wood burning stoves and alternated as they cooled; other types were hollow and held hot coals within. Sizes varied greatly. These trivets represent different companies and their names or symbols like the eagle on picture #4. These trivets could be hung on a nail for storage or on a wall for decoration." Thank you, Elizabeth. We learn so much from our readers! Everyone, enjoy your year's subscription to MSC!



August's What Is It?

Send your answers to the What Is It contest, postmarked by August 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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