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# THE TALE OF TWO GREAT ANTIQUE MALLS

## Colorado Antique Gallery Is Now 29 Years Old

The year was 1992 when the Colorado Antique Gallery first opened their doors. Gas was \$1.12 a gallon and a stamp was 29 cents. Guns N Roses, Billy Ray Cyrus, and Boyz 2 Men were at the top of the music charts. The median household income was \$30,000, and the average house cost \$144,000. The oldest Baby Boomers were still in their 40’s, and the Barcelona Olympic games had just ended. Things have changed mightily over the past 29 years, but the Colorado Antique Gallery has endured and remains Littleton’s go-to stop for antiques and collectibles from all eras.



To celebrate their 29th Anniversary the Colorado Antique Gallery is having a month-long sale with up to 50% off. With nearly 300 vendors on sale, you are bound to find something you can’t live without. The 29th Anniversary sale started February 26th, and runs until Monday April 5th. Located at 5501 S. Broadway in Littleton, Colorado, since 1992 the Colorado Antique Gallery has become a center for the antique enthusiasts and collectors for nearly three decades. What have been the keys to their longevity? Their loyal and growing customer base, their pool of great dealers, and their unsurpassed customer service, to name a few. Without these key ingredients the Gallery would not be here today.

*Continued on page 6*

## Brass Armadillo Mall Celebrates 22 Years

To celebrate their 22nd Anniversary, Brass Armadillo will be having an Anniversary Sale March 12, 13, and 14—15% off of everything in the Mall. (The “Antique Army” gets an additional \$5 off every purchase over \$20.) Then on March 27th, they will have a Case Sale, which will be 25% off of anything in a locked case. These sales promise to be very well attended. Certainly you will find that special something you’ve been looking for.

In our effort to learn more about this outstanding mall, we talked to



David Simonsen, the General Manager of the Brass Armadillo Mall. After 22 years, this Mall is an institution. We were curious how this happened and how they run this delightful mall.

Dave credits it to the philosophy of their SAT program. SAT means Security, Accountability and Traffic.

Security includes their systems camera, their tracking program, security tags and the fact that their vendors get paid every two weeks without fail.

Accountability means that the Brass Armadillo is strictly the landlord or as Dave says, facilitator. Sales employees for both cases and

*Continued on page 7*



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# 29<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary SALE



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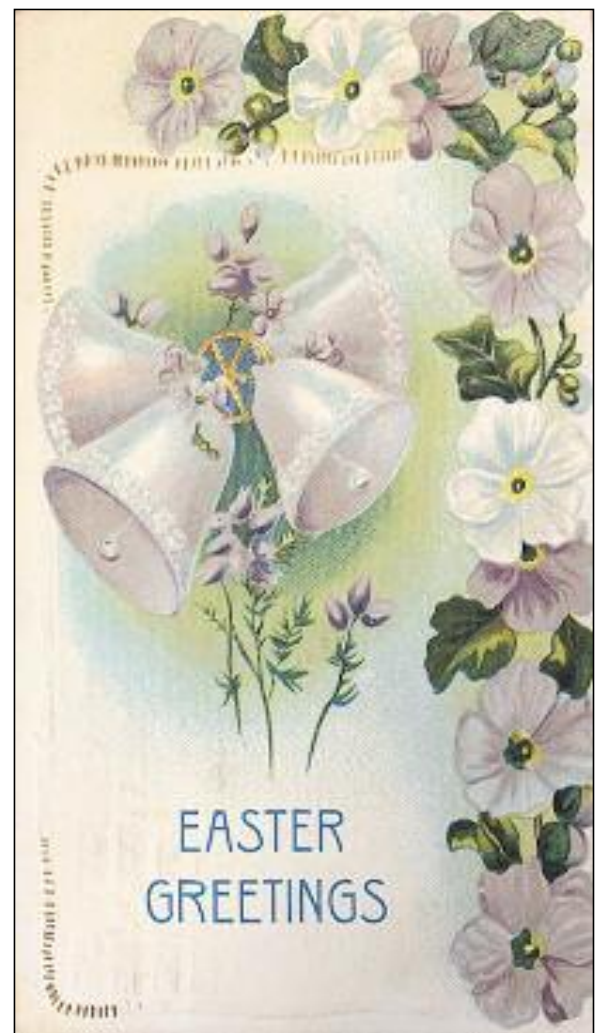
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# Doll Enthusiast Her Whole Life, Patty Will Be Missed

## Patricia Cress

August 6, 1930 -  
December 30, 2020

Patty Cress, former UFDC Region 6 director, passed away Dec 30, 2020. Patty loved dolls and was a doll enthusiast all her life. Patty served as director for Region 6 (Colorado, Wyoming, Montana) from 1989 to 1992. Patty belonged to the Doll Study Club of Colorado Springs from 1982 to September 2004 and served as president for a term. She remained a member-at-large until August 2013. In 2012 Patty served as one of the Judges for collectible dolls at the Colorado State Fair. She rarely missed the national UFDC conventions and was well known and loved by the antique doll community.

In addition to antique dolls Patty's interests included miniatures, dollhouses and furniture, teddy bears, Mexican religious icons, Mexican baskets and carvings.

Patty will be missed not only by her family and friends but by a great many charities that she supported. She put her personal effort into causes where she felt a need. Patty created Christmas stockings for the Salvation Army, volunteered for over 20 years at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, and personally delivered carloads of clothes to coastal natives in Mexico.

Patricia was survived by her husband Richard, and sons Greg and Barry, and daughter-in-law Pam.

Place of interment, Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs.



*Pictured above: Patty, as a child, with her beloved Lu Lu; to the lower left, Patty; and pictured below, Patty with 4 of the Dionne quintuplet dolls, 1936*



## GOLDEN

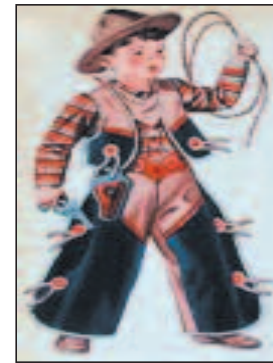
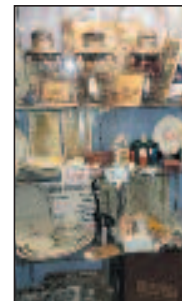


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# Colorado Antique Gallery Has Something for Everyone

Continued from page 1

With 285 vendors and 52,000 square feet, the Colorado Antique Gallery has a lot to offer. Whether you need a birthday present that says “you’re special” or a treasure to light up a living space, the Gallery has something for everyone. Furniture, coins, collectibles and fine European antiques are a few of the many fabulous finds at the Gallery. Customers spend hours browsing their “Miles of Aisles” in search of the next great find. The thrill of the hunt drives most antique and collectible enthusiasts...The love of preserving a piece of the past or finding a great treasure...sometimes meeting a new friend in the process.

Take a trip down memory lane at the Colorado Antique Gallery, located at 5501 S. Broadway, Littleton, Colorado. If you are one of the thousands of people who have entered the doors at the Colorado Antique Gallery over the past 29 years, they would like to say, “Thank You, for making it possible for us to serve our wonderful community over the past twenty-nine years.” The March anniversary sale at the Colorado Antique Gallery is one of Denver’s best. Their dealers and staff look forward to welcoming you soon. More info, call 303-794-8100.





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# Brass Armadillo Has A Lot to Celebrate

*Continued from page 1*

booths cannot be vendors. The staff is professional and trained. Their most recent promotion is to Steve Fivehouse who rose from cashier to supervisor to assistant manager.

And the last is Traffic. Brass Armadillo guarantees that there will be customer traffic. They have one of the longest ranges of hours available in Colorado. They are open 9-9, 7 days a week. They have an interstate location, which also makes this traffic possible.

They have interesting programs for their customers. The Antique Army rewards customer loyalty with a credit toward future purchases. So every dollar spent gets 1 point toward new purchases. Brass Armadillo also offers a personal shopper service. You can go on-line and let them know what you are looking for. Then the vendors can respond and tell the customer that they have the object. "It saves time," Dave explains.

Occupancy at the Mall is almost full. There is some availability in cases. There is a waiting list for both.

Brass Armadillo keeps their Facebook and U-tube presence active. Their corporate search engine is at optimum in other words "thru the roof."

Aesthetically, the Mall has just recently put new flooring in and they have developed their Roxie's Café and espresso bar. There are new owners, Geno and Brenda Baca. Geno's mother-in-law Dee is also very much a part of this operation. They have daily specials, fresh every day, handheld sandwiches, wraps, Reuben combos, tuna and chicken, their own green chile and breakfast burritos.

Because of COVID, the Brass Armadillo has



had to put their seminars on hold and their filming on hold.

David is very proud of his staff and his own experience with the Brass Armadillo corporation (they have malls in Des Moines, Iowa, Kansas City and Omaha, two malls in Arizona, north and west Phoenix and, of course, Denver.) has been very gratifying. There are benefits and profit sharing. The corporation is very generous. The Denver location is the top performing store saleswise of the whole Brass Armadillo network.

If you haven't visited the Brass Armadillo, you should. It is a great experience. If you have any questions, give them a call. Their number is 303-403-1677.



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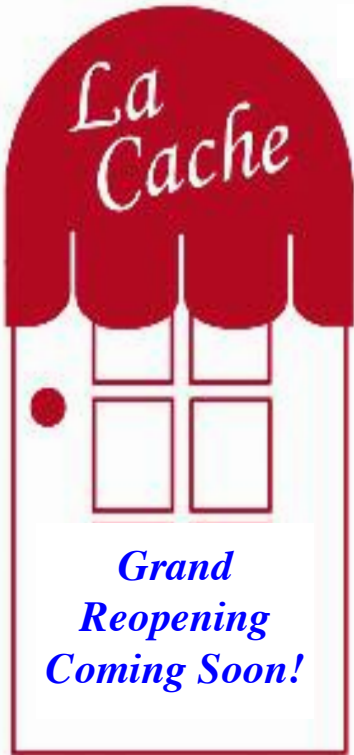
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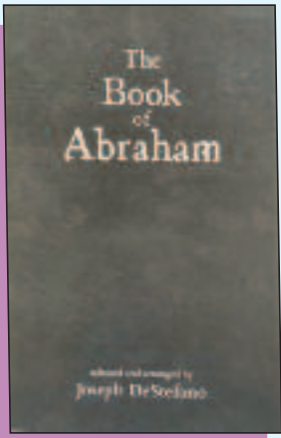
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"I take up the spiritual content of our worst national crisis to date in an attempt to inspire us to ask and answer old questions anew — within ourselves."



And, indeed, the first speech of Abraham Lincoln, only a few pages into the first part, might just as well have been written yesterday as 160 years ago. And so it is with the words and actions of Jefferson Davis, of Grant and Lee, of Sherman, Forrest, and Frederick Douglass, and of all the rest. In *The*

*Book of Abraham*, the crystalline prose of Bruce Catton, the breathtaking stories of Shelby Foote, together with the research of Joshua Wolf Shenk, James McPherson, and Ibram X. Kendi, are interlarded with extractions of *The Old Testament*, and of other ancient works, and with poetry, oratory and song of more modern authors and actors — interlarded, that is, with inspiration available to all our current creeds.

Answering old questions anew, himself, DeStefano is obviously only interested in that which has proved timeless. He offers it all as "A Gift," for us to wonder at its startling power, yes, but more to help us recognize the challenge of its continuing pertinence. This book believes in us — in what we are now: both what we have been and what we can be."

*The Book of Abraham's* author Joseph DeStefano is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. He teaches high school English in Littleton, Colorado where he lives with his wife and children.

You can order your copy of *The Book of Abraham* through Amazon. You can use this link:

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Publisher

Spree Enterprises, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1003  
Bailey, CO 80421  
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Production

Spree Enterprises, Inc.  
Peg DeStefano  
Jon Patrick DeStefano  
Sam DeStefano

Printing

Signature Offset



*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.)

**Advertising information:** call Jon DeStefano at 720-276-2777 or email him at [jondestef@gmail.com](mailto:jondestef@gmail.com) or for any other information, call Spree Enterprises, 303-674-1253 or email us at [customerservice@mountainstatescollector.com](mailto:customerservice@mountainstatescollector.com).



# So Much To Learn About Your Irish Ancestors

By Peggy DeStefano

My sister Mary Sikora has spent her life researching our ancestors. She spent an awful lot of time tracing our mother's side but has at times dabbled in my Dad's story. He was 1/2 Irish and 1/2 German. It is so much fun to learn the results of her research. I am forever grateful to her. I thought I would share it with our readers.

Here is what my sister Mary discovered about my Dad's Irish 1/2:

"Searching for my father: Harold Patrick Sweeney. Discovering his family has been a journey obscured by half-remembered tales and lost stories.

I knew we had a German grandmother and that our father always liked "sour meat," otherwise known as sauerbraten. And it began with the surety of the older ones that the Irish ones came from County Cork. I also heard that someone was born on the ship over. One heard something about a Sweeney ancestor that jumped off the boat in the harbor to make it to the American shore rather than go down with a sinking ship or something. Some of you may have heard the variation. That's all I remember hearing.

### THE IRISH

They are part of the huge Irish exodus to America that began mid-18th century in Ireland. And, they appear to be part of the great amnesia the Irish in Ireland and in America share. Many say it was because they wanted to forget the hardships. The poverty. The famine.

Here's what I had to begin the search:

A carbon copy of a letter my father sent to a company in Ireland, saying he was coming over and that his great-grandparents' names were Owen and Hattie Sweeney. I didn't have a return letter, so I don't know what the company sent back to him.

I also had a letter from Ellis Island, thanking him for his contribution.

Here's what I learned as I searched:

In the 1870 census, Patrick Sweeney (the first to come) and his wife Margaret are living with daughter Margaret (age 7 months). His age is given as 37, which puts his birth date

around 1833. He says he works in an ice house. There is another daughter there named Annie. She is age 12 and is attending school. Annie is apparently born in Ohio. In the 1880 census, he is listed as living at 215 Broadway Street. He says he is 55. That would date his birth to around 1825.

Patrick's granddaughter, Gertrude *James Sweeney and Flora Arlinghaus* Troxel, whom I interviewed in a Cincinnati nursing home, said her mother was Annette Kaveny and her grandmother was Gertrude Sweeney Harnish. She said there was a first marriage for Patrick and among the children of that marriage were Anna Sweeney Spear who lived in Serinac, NY, (near Oneida). The cemetery lot in New St. Joseph Cemetery was owned by someone named Spear which, according to Gertrude Troxel is the married name of one of Patrick's children from his first marriage.

She said that Patrick's daughter, Margaret (from the second marriage), died in a fire in the Over-the-Rhine district in Cincinnati. She said that John Sweeney (from the second marriage) had an "open leg," whatever that meant at the time.

It is my belief that Margaret (of the second marriage) changed her age frequently. She appeared to get younger in each census. In the census data, we see that Margaret reports having had five children, but four are alive. That appears to account for the younger Margaret's death. John, the one with the "open leg" is almost always living with his mother. After she dies, he becomes a boarder in various Cincinnati homes. He is always listed as a laborer.

Margaret Dyer (Dwyer) was Patrick's second wife. We have her death certificate on file. It says her father's name (as



we look at it) was Hugh "Dyer" born in Ireland. And her mother is Margaret, that from the New St. Joseph Cemetery records. It also says she died of "acute dilation of heart." The New St. Joseph Cemetery records indicate she was 60 years old when she died (same as the death certificate).

All this did not prepare me for Ireland. Not at all. My husband John and I went over in 1998 to begin that search. Everywhere we went in County Sligo, we met with Sweeneys. They all agreed we were related because they all were in Sligo.

Yet, no one knew which of the many Owens and Patricks were ours. These were common names for the Sweeneys in Sligo and the connections were blurred. The Dyers (or Dwyers, depending on the records) were the same. When I went to the Family Research Center, they found a lot of Hugh Dyers married to Margarets. There was simply no way to know for sure, given my predilection for proofs.

I hired a driver one day while John was playing golf in Donegal. The driver took me to every possible Sweeney abode he could find. We knocked on many doors and we found . . . are you ready? We found a Harold Patrick Sweeney. I took John back to meet him later. Harold had checked with his family and he said they knew only that he'd been named for someone in America. But his family assured him it wasn't our Harold Patrick. Of course, they were just guessing, he said.

Then, the Irish Harold Patrick Sweeney (who looked like a version of our Uncle Jimmy, as did many of them) took John and I to the ruins of the old homestead. He'd taken the stones from the old building to help build his new house. But he'd left the stables up. You see, he said when he took over the property, he realized the stables had been whitewashed. He heard that Sweeney families had come to live in the stable rooms in the worst times. One family to a stall. He thought he should leave the stables up. The Irish do that a lot. It's a visual memory as opposed to a visceral memory.

It was then that the horror of the Irish starving times came to us. And we understood how they chose to forget who was whom back then. The Irish Sweeneys were living better in 1998 than they had lived since the time of Oliver Cromwell

*Continued on page 11*

## AMERICAN HISTORY March Anniversaries

**March 1:** Ratification of the Articles of Confederation (1781)



**March 5:** 251<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Massacre (1770)

**March 11:** Congress establishes Army Corps of Engineers (1779)

**March 16:** James Madison, "Father of the Constitution," born (1751)

**March 22:** Stamp Act passed by Parliament (1765)

**March 29:** National Vietnam War Veterans Day

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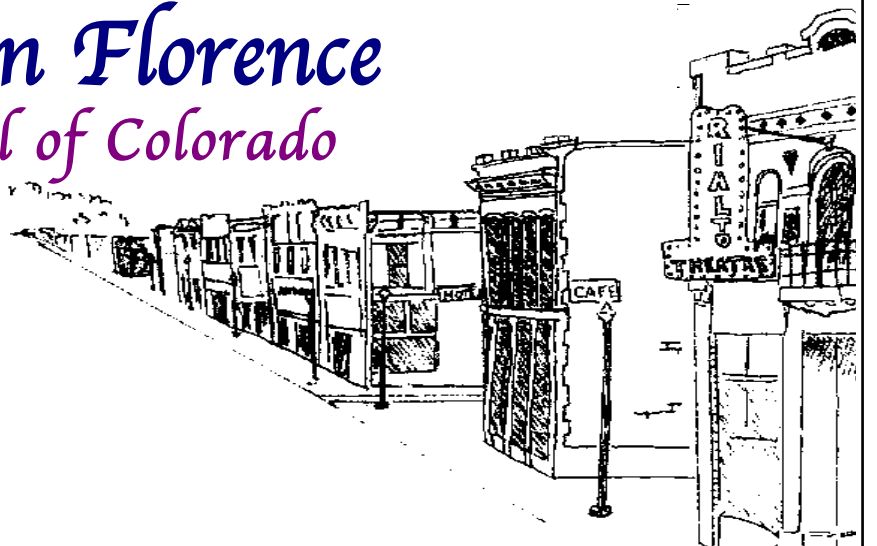
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## Shamrocks, Green Beer and the Little People

By Sandy Dale

Well, if it isn't March again. Time to not be thinking of the be-deviled year behind us, but of the potential for great times, fun and adventure ahead. At least, that's what the Little People tell me. And, yes, those who know me, are aware that I communicate regularly with elves, gnomes, boggarts, an occasional faery now and again, and even leprechauns (if I am lucky enough). I am one of the local authorities on "unseen beings" (self proclaimed, of course, as most of us are). March is one of my favorite times of year. It might be a bit too chilly here in Colorado to go out hunting "unseen beings," but it is the best time to study up on their habits and habitats. Also, a great time to plan a faery garden complete with a faery cottage, faery doors, and gates, etc.

Once upon a time, people all over the world believed in faery folk. These nature spirits inhabited every living thing. It was rude

and sometimes even dangerous to disturb their environment as retribution could be troublesome at the least and deadly at the most. Over time, humans decided they could control Nature and so began the destruction we are attempting to cope with today...a topic I have not nearly enough space here to address. Recently however, a resurgence of interest in folk and faery lore has begun...and none too soon, I might add. Hopefully, this will encourage an interest in preserving and restoring "wildlife" areas.

On these blustery March days, I would suggest perusing some gnome tomes for your education and entertainment. Though a few of these might be hard to find, they are well worth the search: Gnomes by Rien Poortvliet and Wil Huygen, Faeries by Brian Froud and Alan Lee, Good Faeries/Bad Faeries by Brian Froud, and The World Guide to Gnomes, Fairies, Elves and Other Little People by Thomas Keightley.

On those sunny days through March 20, trust me you can find gnomes in Florence. Come take a look!  
\*Remember Covid Restrictions apply.



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# Finding Our Father's People

who had them crushed. Sligo was the last bastion of Irish freedom then. They weren't going to remember the horror that followed.

It was then that the realization that what we'd heard about the Sweeney family was true. They were mercenaries. They took money to fight. They taught others to fight. They went to Scotland in the year 1000 A.D. for 300 years to fight for and to teach the MacDonalds. They came back to Ireland after the battle of Bannockburn, which they

lost. They took up the battles of the O'Donnells then.

In Dublin, I talked with the head of the younger clan (not the Banagh, because our clan head is in Canada), but Loughlin Sweeney. I discovered that many of the defensive castles around the northern part of Ireland were built by the Sweeneys. I also discovered that they earlier had married into the Vikings. That explains the

periodic tallness I saw. That explains the taller Uncle Jimmy, too. Or, so I think. (Peg's note: My Uncle Jimmy, my Dad's brother, was over 6 feet tall. The other Sweeneys were shorter including my father.)

So, we came from County Sligo in Ireland. (On the German side, we came from Dinklage, Oldenburg in Germany. That's another story.) And our grandparents met because they were living in the same neighborhood in Cincinnati, working in the same factories. They were chairmakers, shoe lacers, buttermakers. Flora, our grandmother, was a laundress right before she married Grandpa.

We didn't come from Cork. And we came much earlier than Ellis Island. And there are no records of ship jumping or birthing, as it were. I'll continue my research. There is so much to learn."

Thank you, Mary!

Happy St. Patrick's Day

## PINE



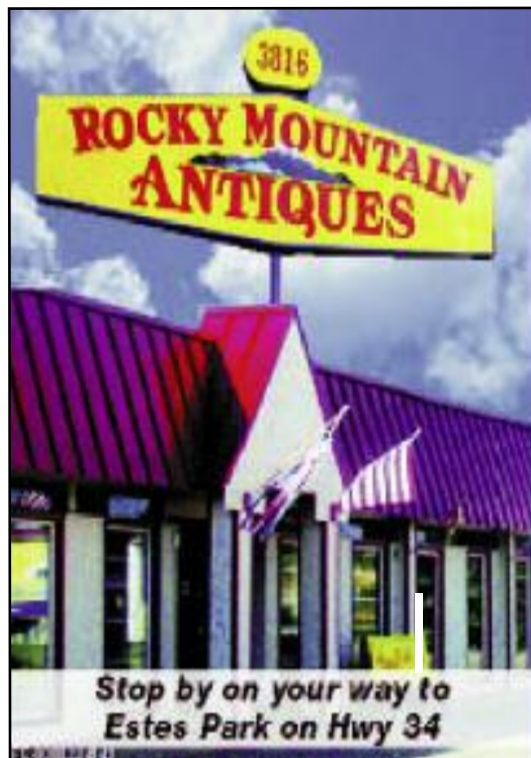
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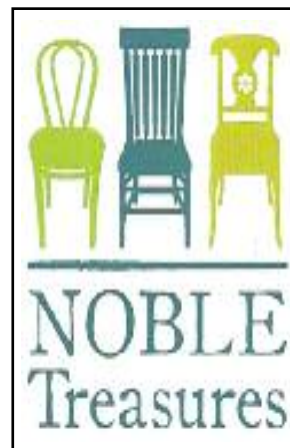
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Send your answers to the What Is It contest, postmarked by March 20, to *the Mountain States Collector*, P.O. Box 1003, Bailey, CO 80421. At least three winners will be drawn. Winners will receive a year's subscription to *the Mountain States Collector*.



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## March's What Is It?

We had several correct guesses for our March's What Is It!

Congratulations to Dennis Dahl, Denver, Colorado; Terry Cook, Ft. Morgan, Colorado, who says, "This is a dropside toaster from the 1920s to 1930s. I believe it is electric even though no cord is visible. Sometimes you can see one in a table scene in an old movie;" Jerome McLaren of Conifer, Colorado says, "It is a 1929 Universal brand antique art deco double-sided flipping toaster;" Jacque Rutledge, Northglenn, Colorado; Elsie Claire Loyle, Wichita, Kansas; Jonah Maziarz of Denver, Colorado, who says, "This is an electric toaster made more than 100 years ago. The heating element is in the center of the appliance. The two outer frames, held the bread and were automatically turned by pushing the corresponding button. These buttons are located on the lower left;" William McLaren of Anchorage, Alaska, tells us, "This item is an early electric toaster made by Landers, Frary & Clark of New Britain, Connecticut under their trade name "Universal," designated Universal Model E9410. Its design was patented in 1929. The model was known fondly by collectors as the "Sweetheart." Considered advanced for its time, the Sweetheart was attractive in design and included some clever features. It cooks two slices at a time in a swiveling cage, controlled by two buttons by the base which enable the toasting of both sides of each slice. The unit also boasts a nickel-plated body embossed with classical motifs and feet, buttons and handles of ivory-colored bakelite;" Jeannie Reynolds, Nederland, Colorado; Michele Pontious, Belleair, Florida; and Vicky Kellan of Castle Pines, Colorado.

Thank you all for guessing our March's What Is It. You have added so much to the contest! And, you have all won a year's subscription to *the Mountain States Collector*!



## April's What Is It?



HAPPY ST. PAT'S DAY!



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