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SEPTEMBER 2021

ESTABLISHED IN 1972

Volume 49, Number 9



AMERICAN HISTORY September Anniversaries

September 2

V-J Day - The 76 Anniversary of Japan signing formal surrender (1945)

Congress Establishes U.S. Treasury (1789)

September 5

First session of Continental Congress convenes (1774)

September 9

Congress renamed the nation 'United States of America' (1776)

September 11

20th Anniversary of 9/11 attacks

Patriot Day

September 12

Grandparents Day

September 17

Constitution Week Begins

September 18

Congress establishes U.S. Air Force (1947)

POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 28

Battle of Yorktown begins (1781)

Trending on Main Makes Its Debut!

It's not easy to compete in Florence, The Antique Capital of Colorado, but *Trending on Main* is here to give it a shot! The shop carries furniture of all kinds, a variety of home decor items and unique gifting items. Located on the east end of historic downtown Florence, Colorado, you just KNOW that you're going to find something for yourself or someone else!

Sue Tierney opened *Trending on Main* on May 16, 2021 after moving her business to Florence from Illinois. Her Illinois business, The Picker Sisters, was started in partnership with her sister, Picker Gal Sal. "We were in business together for 9 years and had booth spaces in several vintage businesses, participated in lots of flea markets and conducted estate sales. We both started the business out of our love and passion for antique furniture and it blossomed from there!"

Trending on Main carries an eclectic mix of antique and new home decor, handbags made of authentic military tents, some repurposed furniture and unique gifting items. "I carry lots of seasonal decor, especially now for Fall/Halloween and will be bringing in MEGA Christmas this season! I love to laugh, so many of my items are humorous—magnets, greeting cards and humorous themed tea towels!" When asked what sets *Trending on Main* apart from other stores in the area, Sue stated, "I am not your typical antique store that Florence is well known for. I wanted to mix new trending products with the antique furniture. I hope that people will welcome this type of eclectic mix."

"I strive to develop a relationship with my new customers that would make them want to come back and shop again," Sue added. "I put out new stock several times a week so there is always something new to see!" Sue frequently posts on her



Facebook page and Instagram to give people a view into the kinds of items that she carries at her shop. "Inventory is changing constantly so if you see something you like, better grab it before it's gone!"

When Sue isn't at her store, she enjoys traveling back to Illinois to pick up old pieces, visiting family and friends, taking road trips, and spending time with her husband, a loyal shop helper!

Trending on Main is located at 125 E. Main Street in downtown Florence, Colorado. Business hours are: Thursday-Saturday 10am-5pm and Sunday 11am-4pm.

For all the latest additions to her shop, follow her on Facebook and Instagram: Trending on Main.



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GRANDMOTHER'S
CAKE STAND
PAGE 9

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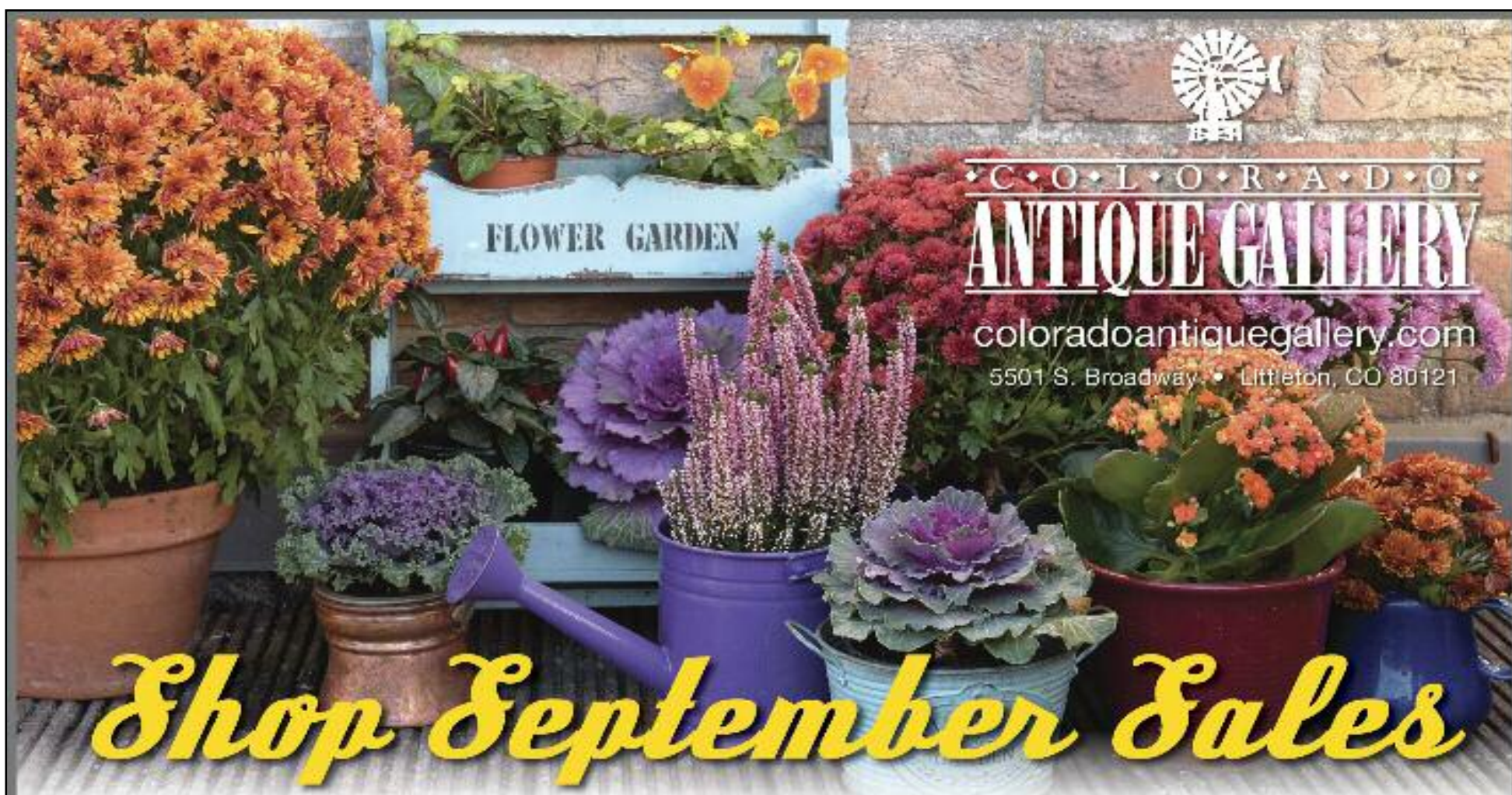
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Check Website & Map. Visit us for more information 219-410-3817 or frontrangeglassshow@gmail.com
www.frontrangeglassshow.com



Shop September Sales



September always ushers in great sales at the Gallery and this year is no exception. Visit the Gallery's 280 dealers' booths during the month for great storewide savings—up to 50% off.

LABOR DAY SALE

August 27–September 7

Twelve days of fantastic savings. Hundreds of dealers making room for the holidays. Save up to 50% off!



4-DAY POP-UP SALE

Friday, September 24 thru Monday, September 27

Don't miss this last sale in September with dealer mark downs up to 50% off. Bargains can be found throughout the Gallery.



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Kids 17 & Under are Free

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McKee Building
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Exit 259 off I25 Crossroads Blvd.

Contact Mark & Jodi Shaw for more information 319-939-3837 or fronrangeglassshow@gmail.com
www.fronrangeglassshow.com

SHOW CALENDAR

September and October 2021

SEPT. 4 and Sept. 18: **A PARIS STREET MARKET**, 8401 Park Meadows Center Dr., Lone Tree, 9 am - 3 pm.

THROUGH SEPT. 7: **LABOR DAY SALE** at the Colorado Antique Gallery, 5501 S. Broadway, Littleton, CO 80121, coloradoantiquegallery.com. Denver's largest antique mall and our 285 dealers thank you for almost 30 years of patronage! Give us a call at 303-794-8100 for more information. We are open 7 days a week, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 pm and Sunday: Noon - 6 pm.

SEPT. 24 -27: **4-DAY POP-UP SALE!** at the Colorado Antique Gallery Dealer Mark Downs up to 50% off. Bargains can be found throughout the Gallery, 5501 S. Broadway, Littleton, CO 80121, coloradoantiquegallery.com. Denver's largest antique mall and our 285 dealers thank you for almost 30 years of patronage! Give us a call at 303-794-8100 for more information. We are open 7 days a week, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 pm and Sunday: Noon - 6 pm.

SEPT. 25: **FALL JUNE BERRY VINTAGE MARKET**, Sat. 4-10 pm, 11535 US-6, Merino, Colorado

SEPT 26: **NIWOT ANTIQUE AUCTION**, Sunday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. p.m., 9595 Nelson Rd., Longmont, Colorado.

OCT. 2 & 3: **FRONT RANGE GLASS SHOW & SALE**. Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-4, To be held at the Ranch Event Center Complex in the McKee Building, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, CO 80538, Exit 259 off I25 Crossroads Blvd. \$6 admission, kids 17 and under are Free, Free Parking. Featuring American-made Glassware, pottery and dinnerware from 1880 to 1980. Quality dealers from across the U.S., Hourly Door Prizes. More info, call Jodi Mauthe at 319-939-3837 or go to www.fronrangeglassshow.com.

OCT. 15 & 16: **TWO SHOWS IN ONE! The Denver Postcard & Paper Show combined with The Cherrelyn Stamp Show**, Friday, 10 to 5pm and Saturday, 10 to 5pm. New Venue: Denver First Church, 3800 E. Hampden Ave., Englewood, CO 80113. Dealers will be offering postcards, stamps, postal history, paper ephemera, travel, maps, posters, books and art. FREE Admission, FREE Parking and Food Vendor onsite. www.denverpostcardshow.com, Carol Mobley camobley@ephemeranet.com. Dealer Inquiries welcome.

IN OCTOBER (to be announced): **BRUHNS AUCTION COUNTRY CLUB ESTATE SALE** Auction to be held on site in October, date and address to be announced. 17th - 18th -19 century French, Italian and Dutch. See ad on pg. 6.

GOLDEN



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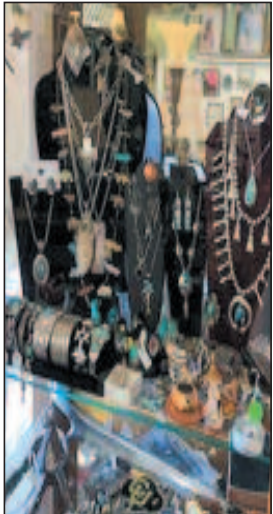
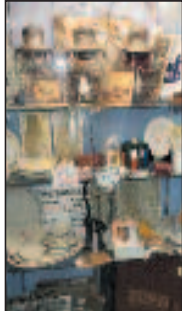
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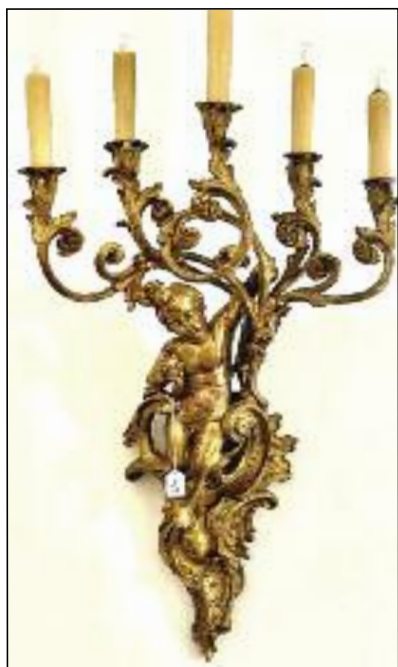
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 On-site auction



American Mid-Century Modern Ceramics, Part 2, West is West

Article and Photos By Tom Cotter

As previously threatened, I'm providing this companion piece to my article in the August 5, 2021 *Mountain States Collector* on Mid-Century Modern ceramics in the U.S from eastern companies. There were not a large number of established works in the west of the Mississippi in 1940, and not many of those produced significant amounts of china, artworks, or tableware. Several started out as makers of sewer pipes and patio/outdoor pots, transitioning to finer wares as the population boomed. But between 1940 and 1970, the population in the West grew from just over 14 million to nearly 38 million. This growing number of Western residents had new tastes and homes, with a drier and barer landscape to match with their decor. A number of new companies along with a few older ones blossomed to fill those desires. Post-War America took to the highways with an automotive boom, gulping up souvenirs along the way. Within this context, I present Western companies by the states in which they produced their wares.

Between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains, several art and decorative potteries or souvenir companies flourished. In Arkansas, Camark Pottery was made with a variety of ornamental pieces. In 1946, and nearby, Jim Dryden moved his pottery to near Hot Springs from its souvenir foundations in Kansas. In Texas, Alamo Pottery made attractive pottery from 1945 to about 1951 but gave way to Gilmer when the company was sold in 1951. Of course, Hot Springs and San Antonio were significant tourist meccas after the war. With quality clay deposits and creative artists, Oklahoma served as home to several exceptional art potteries, all near Tulsa and major highways, e.g. Route 66. Probably the most recognizable was Frankoma, with earthy tones and a variety of Western concepts in serving and decorative pieces. Frankoma dinnerware included names like Plainsman, Wagon Wheel, Mayan Aztec, and Ranch in colors of Prairie Green, Desert Gold, and Woodland Moss. Tamac offered uniquely formed pieces in subtle organic shapes and hues. Flora Hammat and family designed and made

extraordinary pieces from figurines to biomorphic ashtrays and serving pieces with interiors of shining, multi-hued mother-of-pearl surrounded by sandy exteriors. Adding to the Sooner variety were Winart and Synar, generating various unique souvenir pieces. South Dakota introduced Pine Ridge Pottery, a variety of Sioux-produced pieces growing out of a WPA project from the University of North Dakota. Beware of bogus "Pine Ridge Pottery" made in China! North Dakota joined the ceramics surge with Laura Taylor Hughes-designed Rosemeade Pottery offering mostly souvenir animals, often salt and pepper shaker sets, but also ashtrays, vases, small bowls, and sugars and creamers, including 19 different pheasant figurines. Short-lived Ceramics by Messer and Little Heart Ceramics made a variety of quality figures including pronghorn and cattle, as well as trays, vases, and cups. Between the Rocky and the Sierra Nevada Mountains, MCM ceramics making was limited, with several companies in Arizona. In the 1950s and 1960s California transplant La Solana Pottery offered a full range of kitchen and serving pieces in primarily pastel hues of turquoise, sage/green, yellow, pink/beige/rose, and some sets with different color lids or with unique decorations. Rosemary's Ceramics in Mesa produced a variety of souvenir and decorative items from about 1954 into the 1960's, often with Southwestern and native subject matter. Down the road in Tucson, Kay Mallek Studios began in 1947, manufacturing and decorating souvenir pieces. Mallek's wares drew on a number of concepts, including desert animals and cacti, Mimbres Indian designs, and a series of Christmas plates with native motifs.

In our own Colorado, ceramics discussion must include Van Briggie of Colorado Springs. While continuing its art pottery tradition, Van Briggie expanded into gloss glazes and more modern designs for post-World War II tastes, with Clem Hull, Fred Wills, and the Stevenson family leading the pottery through most of this period adding new shapes in colors like Ming or Turquoise Blue and Persian Rose. The "Anna" Van Briggie line of gloss-finished distinctly MCM pieces spanned from 1954 to 1968, and, accord-



ing to Fred Wills, "It was just a way of keeping a problematic line of clay and glaze that we bought from Dryden Pottery separate from the normal Van Briggie clays and glazes."¹ Few older potteries in Colorado survived the upheavals of Depression and War, but Loveland saw both Rocky Mountain Art Pottery (ROMCO) and Loveland Art Pottery companies making primarily mountain/forest-themed pieces for the tourist trade.

Dozens of companies in California generated a wide variety of ceramics between 1940 and 1970. A couple continue to exist. Since 1959, Heath Ceramics maintains design and production of dinnerware, tile, decorative pieces, and even flatware for home and restaurant, following the vision of Edith Heath in her early lines Coupe and Rim, with a gentle palette and fundamental shapes still greatly in demand. Begun in 1945, Hagen-Reneker is still alive and kicking out intricate miniature figurines, notably horses.

Former California firms ranged from giants like Bauer, Gladding, McBean & Co., Metlox, and Vernon Kilns to small studio makers like Howard Pierce. Those big four created extensive lines of dinnerware and decorative pieces. Before succumbing to financial pressures in 1958, Vernon Kilns made relatively soft, eye-catching shapes, colors, and decorations mostly in pastels like Early and Modern California, Organdie (plaid), Brown-Eyed Susan, Winchester '73, San Marino, San Clemente, and Transitional. Besides vases, bowls, and other decorative wares, Vernon specialized in souvenir plates for cities, states (all 48!), colleges and universities, historic persons, National Parks, and special order custom plates. Hollywood figures immortalized by Vernon Kilns included Sally Rand, Gary Cooper, Dorothy Lamour, and Disney characters from Fantasia and Dumbo, all rare and desirable. Although Vernon Kilns ceased to be an independent company, it lived on as a division of Metlox into the late 1970s. Initially using glaze formulas created by Victor Houser around 1930, J.A. Bauer pioneered colors that revolutionized California's ceramics industry. As talc became used in the 1930s to make higher quality bodies and glazes, Bauer and others improved vitrification and reduced

Continued on page 8





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American Mid-Century Pottery Ceramics, Part 2, West is West (U.S.) Pottery and China

Continued from page 7

crazing. With their Louis Ipsen-designed “Ring” line coming out in 1933, Bauer’s styles dovetailed perfectly with the new styles in houses and furniture. A new line called Monterey heralded post-war production of La Linda, Monterey Moderne, and Brusché Al Fresco. Formulated by Houser due to War material shortages, new brilliant glazes included burgundy, Chinese yellow, Delph blue, ivory, jade green, orange-red, royal blue, and rare black and white. Tracy Irwin created a number of bowls, vases, and ashtrays with unique shapes and colors in the 1950s. Nevertheless, by 1961 market loss and a labor strike led to closure of the firm. Gladding, McBean & Co., expanded into art pottery and Franciscan dinnerware in the late 1930s. Metropolitan, later Tiempo, preceded true fine Masterpiece China, and the informal Discovery design. In 1940, hand-painted, embossed Apple earthenware hit the market, with Desert Rose and Ivy coming soon after as major contributors to the company’s success for several decades. The epitome of Mid-Century Modern emerged from Gladding, McBean in 1954 with the George James’ Eclipse shape in patterns Eclipse White, Pomegranate, and, most notably, Starburst, a decoration from the imagination of Mary Chalmers Brown. The Contour line followed shortly. Nostalgic Apple and Desert Rose contrasted with atom-flavored Starburst and the muted shades of Contour. Evan Shaw was the driving force behind Metlox (metal oxide) beginning in 1946. Shaw differentiated Metlox from the other by-then Big Four, producing hand-painted designs by Bob Allen



and Mel Shaw. Beginning with California Ivy, dinnerware was produced and marketed as Poppytrail. Significant lines were Ivy, Provincial, with its embossed “rivets,” Shoreline, Confetti, Tempo with Navajo design, and Frank Irwin’s Freeform shapes with the Aztec pattern by Bob Allen, accompanying Irwin’s California Contemporara, Freeform, and Mobile as Metlox’s avant-garde motifs that embodied MCM.

The California Cleminsons offered useful and colorful housewares such as figural ironing sprinkler bottles, Pinocchio toothbrush holders (after he lied!), spoon rests, egg timers, wall hangers with pithy sayings, and pie birds to let off steam during baking. Hedi Schoop’s theatrical creations experienced great demand, but a fire in 1958 ended her manufacturing. Trained ceramic artist Kay Finch took the advice of her professor, noted ceramicist William Manker, generating a line of quality animals, often cutesy, AKC-inspired dogs, and delicate, ornately dressed people. Betty Lou Nichols developed exceptionally detailed period figures and head vases.

Betty Lou’s head vases were highlighted by intricate eye-lashes, bows, lace, and luxurious hair. Freeman-McFarlin created animals and exotic creatures such as centaurs and mermaids from the late 1920s into the 1970s. They also developed a variety of household decor and incorporated some late animal designs by Kay Finch after her business closure. Another Manker-trained artist was Howard Pierce, who never expanded beyond what he, his family, and occasional paid help could do at his home studio very successfully for over 50 years. Partnering with artist wife Ellen, Pierce’s mastery at developing stylized but instantly recognizable figures in singles, pairs, and groups of animals, select people such as angels, children, and “natives,” and decorative pieces epitomized artwork that generated high demand across the country. My article “Howard Pierce: Treasured Pottery for All” is available in the *Mountain States Collector* archives from September 6, 2017. Florence Ceramics, the inspiration of Florence Ward, grew from a garage into a 10,000 square foot factory producing intricately detailed period figures with characters often inspired by the Victorian era Godey’s Lady’s Book. Special Florence figures included French kings and queens, Scarlett and Rhett, Gibson Girls, and mermaids, birds, and children. Roselane Pottery offered classically styled animal and human figures, as well as whimsical animals with rhinestone or plastic “Sparkler” eyes. Brad Keeler’s exotic birds (including flamingos, pheasants, and cockatoos), lobsters, and cats displayed attention to detail and quality

that unfortunately ended with his death in 1952. Brayton Laguna made many figures and accessories, becoming known for Walt Disney characters such as Bambi, Donald, Mickey, Minnie, and Pluto. Virgil Halde-man’s Caliente Pottery used his unique matte and gloss glazes to create high-demand bowls, baskets, candleholders, ash trays, and figures. Twin Winton made mostly farcical figures and cookie jars. Smaller companies included DeLee Art, with hand decorated small animals, especially skunks, and other art ware. Other figurines came from Clay Sketches, and Claysmiths, both known for their intricate airbrushed birds and animals. Claire Lerner generated green, pink, and grey decorative pieces, often leaf-shaped. Stewart B. McCulloch made decorative horses, Asian, Dutch, and U.S. children planters, and deer. Chain stores and stamp premium companies carried Maddux of California’s birds, cats, ashtrays, and bowls. Some of the Maddux ashtrays appeared in MCM colors like stunning lava, glaring avocado, and unsympathetic chartreuse (author’s adjectives).



Southern California Pottery by Brock offered tasteful dinnerware lines with labels such as Chanticleer, Desert Mist, Manzanita, and Harvest. Wallace China’s Western themes including Boot and Saddle, Rodeo, and Little Buckaroo were very popular in the 1940s and 1950s. Winfield Pottery maintained an exotic flair with Dragon Flower, Bird of Paradise, Blue Pacific, and other decorations. With a variety of distinctive glazes in chartreuse, turquoise, yellow, coral, and bright red, contemporary designs, and often a crackle finish, Barbara Willis successfully built a following and lingering demand.

Two companies really, really embodied the Modern in MCM, beginning with Sascha Brastoff. Brastoff was a larger than life character, with connections to the Rockefellers and Hollywood greats like Zsa Zsa, Mitzi, and Edward G. Though fragile, his colorful works ranged from totems to pagodas, bejeweled birds and horses, fruits and flowers, and an Alaska series (designed by Matthew Adams). Brastoff’s works were sometimes muted, but never bashful. A Brastoff protégé, Marc Bellaire, created impassioned artworks like Mardi Gras, Jamaica, Bali, and Beachcomber, alive with colors, textured backgrounds, and figures in motion.

But all good things must end, and U.S. Mid-Century Modern declined in the 1960s and 1970s amid changing tastes, cheap imports, and plastic. Come indulge your own interests at the **Front Range Glass Show** Saturday and Sunday, October 2 and 3, 2021, at the Ranch Events Complex near Loveland, presented by Jodi and Mark Uthe. There will be a whole lot of period glass, pottery, and china. Yes, a bunch of Mid-Century Modern. The Rocky Mountain Depression Glass Society offers great ways to learn and collect and the Society will have a booth at the Front Range Glass Show, with members, including myself, offering information and insight into the local collecting as well as fascinating items for sale. Find or indulge your own passion. Nothing can provide much better visual and mental stimulation than a day at Kirkland Museum of Fine and Decorative Arts, scheduled to re-open later this month. Visit shops advertising in our *Mountain States Collector*, published by friends Peggy and Jon DeStefano.

From a speech given by Jon DeStefano to educators, parents and guardian-grandparents on Grandparents Day. . .

I think I have a pretty good idea of some of the things grandparents do for their grandchildren and the difference it makes. My wife Peggy and I have 13 grandchildren ages 6 years to 18 years old. While I consider myself somewhat of a veteran I must admit most of what I learned about the difference grandparents make in a child's life came from my own grandparents.

Think back for a moment to your own grandparents. See if you can stir up a happy memory or two. Can you remember them and perhaps what differences they made in your life?

Today we live in a very different world than the one we grew up in. Children and families have great challenges. As you know grandparents today are playing much greater roles in the lives of their children and grandchildren.

I remember when I was a little boy at a time when my home-life was in great turmoil, my grandparents were there for me. Being at their home and with them was my sanctuary, the place where I always felt safe and loved.

Every evening Grandma would take me for an Italian lemonade and we would walk a half mile each way to get a 10 cent comic book which was a long way for Grandma to go. And Papa on Saturdays would take me to the movies to watch Tarzan and cartoons.

My grandparents made a huge difference in my life. Not just because of the time they gave me but because of what I learned from them.

Years later when I was a teenager and lived in the suburbs they would drive out to see us every Saturday and then in college one letter I received every week was from Grandma.

Two lines:
“Dear Grandson Jon, We love you. Grandma Christine and Pa Caltro.”

And always two one dollar bills.
Grandparents are there for their grandchildren no matter how old their grandchildren get.

Years later when I was in college and a freshman my girlfriend Peggy stopped in Chicago to visit me on her way home to Cincinnati and I took her to the old neighborhood to meet my Grandma and Pa.

Grandma took Peggy by the hand through the old neighborhood and raising their hands together she shouted to all the neighbors as she went, “This is my future grand-daughter-in-law!” Sure enough, four years later the Saturday after I graduated from college, Peggy and I married.

Grandma Christine was a great grandma but equally great as a grandma is my wife Peggy. We are blessed to be raising one of our grandchildren, Paul. We have had him with us since he was in second grade. It has been wonderful and at times challenging. He is about to be a senior in high school with a 4.4 gpa and he is anxiously planning his college career.

When he first came to us, it was a great challenge for him, too. He was behind in school. His mom, our former daughter-in-law, was remarried with a second son. She was dealing with a substance situation she could not control.

Grandma Peggy helped Paul understand that his mother loved him so much she brought him to us where he would be safe and could grow up in a healthy environment. His father, our son Jon, agreed, living with his grandparents would be the best scenario, though he would always be nearby for his son.

What a gift to help a child understand what a difficult and sometimes mixed-up world this is. To help him understand his past, to help him feel good about himself and the people who love him—these are the things grandparents do.

That's what you do as grandparents, too. You understand that children learn what they live. You help your grandchildren make sense of the world they live in and how they fit in. That is what my grandparents gave me and that is what you give your grandchildren as Peggy and I have.

We all realize we won't be here with our grandchildren forever but I want to reassure you, it will be okay. Because while we will not dwell in their house of tomorrow, when our grandchildren get there they will know they were loved and they will feel good about themselves. They will know the difference between right and wrong and they will be well prepared for life and that will be enough for us.

I want to tell you, for your grandchildren, that they will realize what you did for them and they will say, “Thank you, Grandma and Grandpa, you made a difference for me.”



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 or for any other information, call Spree Enterprises, 303-674-1253 or email us at customerservice@mountainstatescollector.com.

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NSCDA/Colorado, D.A.R.,
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Printing Signature Offset

Grandmother’s Cake Stand — More Than an Antique

By M.H. Crain

Recently while browsing in my attic, I came across a box I had not opened in years. Packed in crumbling yellow newspaper I found some of my Grandmother's things she had given me a quarter of a century before.

As I unwrapped the pieces I found them beautiful. Beautiful not so much for the design or quality—Beautiful not because most of them were now over 100 years and thus qualified as antiques—But beautiful because of the memories they evoked.

Downstairs I washed the accumulation of dust and grime from one of my favorite pieces—her footed cake stand. Touching the tiny rim around the edge I let my mind wander back to some of the happy times and wonderful treats I had experienced with my Grandmother.

I could almost see the TEA CAKES she used to pile high on this very cake stand, little dainty ones when we had company but big "hand-full" cookies she always made for me when it was just "US."

Digging in some of my old boxes I found the recipe. Not for her the no-fat: no-salt recipes. Such a thing was not yet imagined. But aren't there times when we NEED a special treat —a reminder of the gracious—good eating of former days. Here is the recipe, just as she gave it to me:

Cream together by hand:

- 1 cup BUTTER
- 1 cup white sugar

Beat in very well:

- 2 fresh eggs
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla

Stir in:

- 1 and 3/4 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup broken pecans

Drop from a small spoon on ungreased baking sheet and bake in a moderate (375°) oven until lightly browned. Do not let it get very brown. About 7 or 8 minutes.

For "hand-full" cookies, place tablespoon of batter on ungreased cookie sheet and bake about 10 to 12 minutes.

She would sometime make faces of raisins on the cookies or place a pecan half or a cherry on top. How happy this would make me! Of course, now I use my mixer to make these cookies, my flour comes from a 5 lb. sack of pre-sifted flour—hers from a 25 pound sack (the sack later used to make me a pinafore or apron). Use plain oatmeal or whatever kind is handy, but always use BUTTER. The difference in taste and texture is worth the extra cholesterol!

Now I can stack these cookies on her cookie stand for my grandchildren, and tell stories of my wonderful GRANDMOTHER.

Another thing Grandmother served from this cake stand was HER strawberry shortcake. Not for her the spongy shells that detracted from the berries and cream, but delicious flakey piecrust, cut in large circles and layered with sliced berries that



had been "soaked" in sugar for several hours in the ICE-BOX. Then whole berries completely covered the top, and softly whipped HEAVY cream drizzled over the tops of the berries, and allowed to run in small streams down the sides. It was a thing of beauty to behold, but even more of a delight to eat.

She was very proud of her pie crust, and I had many lessons on a stool by her side at the small enamel table in the center of the kitchen. A little flour sprinkled directly on the table top, the rolling pin with the left handle removed (so she could put her weight on the pin itself with the left hand) guiding and rolling it with the handle on the right, and roll, roll until it was so thin you could "read a newspaper through it." She told me many times, "roll from the center to each hour on a clock in turn, this will make it come out smooth." She laid a large salad plate on

top and cut around it with a "butcher knife." This delicate circle was transferred to a baking sheet by folding it in quarters, picked up and placed on the baking sheet, then BAKED FAST, while she rolled out another. At least 6 Layers were required to make what she considered a Shortcake.

This is her pastry recipe, just as I learned it. It is a large recipe and I make it up, roll out what I need and refrigerate the rest to use at a later time.

GRANDMOTHER'S PIE CRUST

- 3 cups unsifted flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt

Cut in with 2 table knives 1 cup Lard (I use a vegetable shortening and it is OK but not quite as flakey as hers) Add 6 tablespoons of this mixture to 1/2 cup milk and stir well. Pour this over the remaining, flour mixture and stir quickly with a fork. If it did not quite hold together we would add a little more milk, 1 teaspoon at a time. When it began to really hold together in a ball it was turned out onto the enamel table which had been sprinkled lightly with flour.

With the heel of her right hand she pushed the dough down onto the table a little at a time to complete the mixing. This dough was divided into six pieces and then rolled as directed above, cut and baked. The small pieces that were cut from around the plate were placed on a separate baking sheet and later baked for US to snack on with a cup of tea.

These circles were baked in the HOT oven of her wood stove which had no temperature gauge. I use 425 degrees and it works almost as well. 7 to 8 minutes is usually enough to have the edges start to turn brown. Do not overcook!

There were many other things my Grandmother served on her CAKE STAND: Her "mock" beaten biscuits—Airy Divinity—peanut butter fudge— and if you had been ill and could only eat custard she would make that special person her caramel custard and serve it from that very cake stand. That always made you feel better.

I hope I can pass this “Antique” and its meaning on to my Grandchildren. This world is so swift that we are losing much of the charm and “specialness” that was a part of life many years ago.

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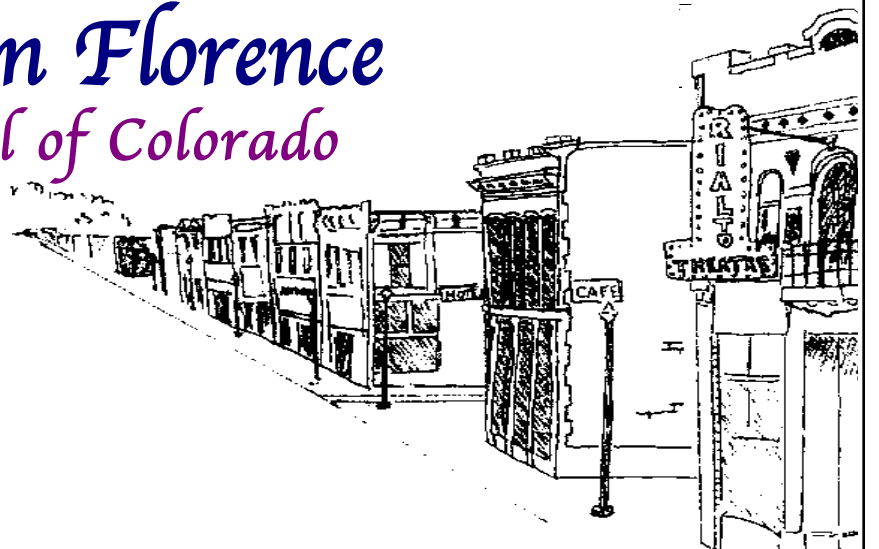
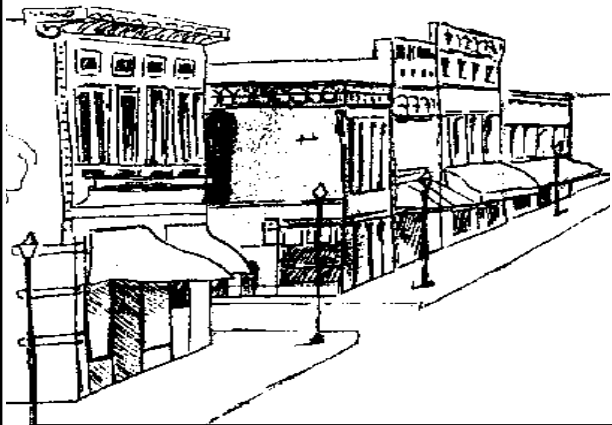
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Too Much Ado about Nothing or Too Much To Do About Something

By Sandy Dale

Here it is September again. Did you get everything done you wanted to do this summer? Of, course not. I didn't. Now, the kids are back in school. Most of them have forgotten how much they (said they) hated school and are really glad to be back...mask or no mask, new rules and all. I looked up my little column from September last year. It was about "being here now." Still good advice. But the NOW seems to be incredibly busy now. Many things to do. Everyone trying to make up for the year, or so, that they "missed." Perhaps we need to step back a few paces and look at all that stuff we are trying to do. Maybe look at the stuff we actually did do during our "year off." Just because we can go somewhere and do something, should we? It might be time to examine how enjoyable and inspiring an event is rather than trying to do everything that we can. It might be time to try new places to go and new places to eat. This all brings me to mentioning Florence and upcoming events...

How about a great small town parade? At 10 o'clock on Saturday, September 18 and afterward a celebration of Florence's pioneers with grub, goodies, games, vendors and music in our Pioneer Park or a visit to the Pioneer Museum, or to the Florence Brewing Company Brew Ha Ha across the street. Or, of course, a stroll down Main Street visiting the many restaurants and antique stores.

Because it is always good to plan ahead, mark your calendars for Junktique Antique and Flea Market another of my favorite Florence



Enjoy the Aspen!

events. Two days of antique shopping, October 2 and 3. Main Street (plus a few side streets to catch the overflow of vendors) is closed down and booths are set up down the middle of the street. The local vendors also put up booths with amazing "deals" on their items. If you are a collector or an admirer of "old stuff" or a dealer, this event should not be missed.

The next weekend, Oct. 9 and 10, is the Steampunk Festival. If you haven't attended this or don't know what it is, I recommend googling the word "steampunk" and art, costume, and history. It would take way too long to describe it here. There are, of course, vendors, food, and live music.

Starting October 11 and continuing through October 16 is Paint The Town, another of my personal favorites sponsored by the Florence Art Council and The Bell Tower Cultural Center. Plein Air artists from all over the state, gather to paint outdoors. They can choose from several locations during the week, but on Friday they must paint in our historic Victorian town...you can come and watch them. Then you can see (and purchase) their work at the Bell Tower on Saturday evening at the reception. (Have dinner afterwards at one of our great restaurants or fun food trucks.)

Come find out how a small town does FUN. For information on Florence and/or these events check out www.FindItInFlorence.com.



Rena Pryor



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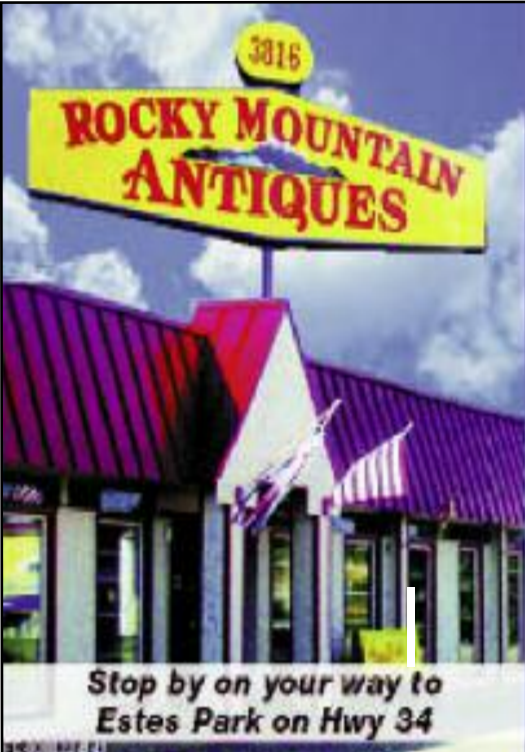
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CONTEST

August's What Is It?



Golden Haired Woman Figurehead attributed to Louis Joubin, 1883; 73 inches high; sold for \$98,600 in 2008. Photo courtesy of Northeast Auctions.
The golden-haired figurehead in her white and green gown seems confident and casual about her ability to calm Neptune. Battling the wind she embodies the spirit of the sailing ship as she looks down over the waves. Soothing the sea gods, she makes sure the voyage will be safe.
Terry Cook of Ft. Morgan, Colorado points out that, Carved figureheads of women were also known as "Neptune's wooden angels." She also tells us these ship figureheads were popular between the 16th and 20th centuries."
Patty Echelmeyer of Denver, Colorado also correctly identified the August's What Is It as a ship's figurehead.
Congratulations! You have both won a year's subscription to *the Mountain States Collector*.

September's
What
Is It?



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