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## Blenko Glass, Bold and Beautiful

By Tom Cotter

Photos and identification by David Cleveland and  
Scott Montroy

The history of United States glass is filled with stories of immigrants who came from Europe to advance, inspire, teach, and build an industry like none other. From pioneer entrepreneurs like Stiegel, Wistar, and Amelung in the 18th century, through the 19th century with masters such as Heisey, Miller, Dorflinger, Hawkes, and others, then into the 20th century with visionaries such as Bennett, Carder, and Nash, the knowledge of Europe melded with the American spirit and ingenuity to continually keep U.S. glass at the front of innovation and beauty. One of those major contributors was William John Blenko, whose fourth, final, and first successful venture led to the founding of Eureka Art Glass Company in out-of-the-way Milton, West Virginia. His stained glass factory had access to all the major elements; silica, coal, labor, and the C&O railroad running conveniently along the Mud River. Everything a small enterprise needed in 1921. When the Great Depression severed the architectural glass backbone of the firm, the founder's son William H. (Bill) Blenko, having joined the firm in 1922, pushed the renamed Blenko Glass Company toward colorful tableware into the 1930s. Aided



*TEQUILA SUNRISE, #8310S Vase (sold only in Blenko Visitor Center)*

by Swedish glassmaker brothers Axil and Louis Muller and, later, Carl Erickson, Blenko created ties with Carbone's of Boston and Macy's. Blenko established a nearly 30 year contract with Colonial Williamsburg for historical reproductions in 1937. Along with a firm business base, Blenko Glass received accolades at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. In 1938, Blenko fashioned the unique and timeless #384 Water Bottle with two spouts; "With function before form in mind, it was made to fit into the narrow door shelves of the relatively new 'electric ice-box'."1 While World War II halted production, the post-war boom created great opportunities for Blenko's colorful hand-blown creations.

*Continued on page 8*



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38th ROCKY MOUNTAIN BOOK & PAPER FAIR

September 9-10, 2022

Friday 2-7pm & Saturday 10am-5pm

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
BOOK &  
PAPER  
FAIR**

Fri. Sept 9 at 6PM—Taylor Kirkpatrick  
Collecting the Printed Page in the Digital Age

Sat. Sept 10 at 1PM—Karen Jones  
Caring for Your Home Library

Douglas County Fairgrounds  
500 Fairgrounds Rd, Castle Rock, CO  
www.RMBPF.org





Fall is almost here and our *Miles of Aisles* are stocked with inventory. Everything from retro furniture to jewelry to that unusual decorative item to bring fall into your home. So many choices to spark your creativity. Search for that particular curio to round out your collection. It's a walk down memory lane unlike any other.

And, don't miss our *Labor Day Sale* starting Friday September 2. Check out the fabulous bargains from any of our 285 dealers with savings up to 50%.

We are Denver's largest antique mall with over 50,000 square feet. Stop by for a unique and fun shopping experience!



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**New Root Beers Weekly - We are continually expanding our variety!**

***Veteran Discounts Every Day***

***Labor Day Weekend Sale Storewide - 15% Discounts***



Live edge wood  
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Saturday, Sept. 3, 12 - 3 p.m.  
(First Saturday Every Month)

Get estimates on your favorite  
treasures. Talk to experts about your  
antiques, art, vintage and collectibles.

*Limit 1 item per person*



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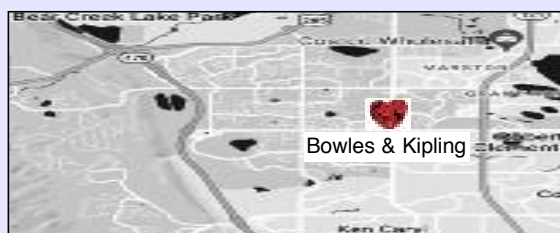
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CAR SHOW**



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# Show Calendar — September and October '22

SEPT. 3: **OLD CROWS' ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW**, 12-3 p.m. (First Saturday of Every Month) 10081 West Bowles Avenue, Littleton. Get estimates on your favorite treasures. Talk to experts about your antiques, art, vintage and collectibles. Limit 1 item per person. Call 303-973-8648 for more information.

SEPT. 9 & 10: **JUNKTIQUE ANTIQUE SHOW AND MARKET**, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Florence, Colorado, Two-Day Shopping Event, antiques, vintage, crafts, handmade, salvage, Junk and more! More info, go to [www.finditinflorence.com](http://www.finditinflorence.com) or call 719-784-3544.

SEPT. 10: **LITTLETON CAR SHOW** 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., weather permitting, at Old Crows Antique Mall, 10081 West Bowles Avenue, Littleton. Featuring vintage and collectible vehicles. Last month there were over 70 vehicles. An event that is fun for the whole family. Call 303-973-8648 for more info.

SEPT. 9 & 10: **ROCKY MOUNTAIN BOOK & PAPER FAIR** Friday 2-7 and at 6 p.m. Taylor Kirkpatrick Collecting the Printed Page in the Digital Age; Saturday 10 -5 and at 1 p.m. Karen Jones Caring for Your Home Library. At the Douglas County Fairgrounds, 500 Fairgrounds Rd., Castle Rock, CO. For more information, go to [www.RMBPF.org](http://www.RMBPF.org).

SEPT. 10: **ANTIQU BOTTLE COLLECTORS OF COLORADO SHOW** 56th Anniversary, at the Douglas County Fairgrounds at Kirk Hall, 500 Fairgrounds Dr., Castle Rock, CO 80104 (1/2 mile east of I-25 on Plum Creek Parkway), free admission, contact Eric Grace 303-250-7498 for more information or go to [www.antiquebottlecollectorsofcolorado.com](http://www.antiquebottlecollectorsofcolorado.com)

SEPT. 24: **HARVEST FESTIVAL** at the McAllister House Museum, Colorado Springs, 10 -2, event includes tours of McAllister House, arts and crafts for families, games, food and drink, antique cars, fun raffle prizes and local arts and crafts vendors, from 11-2 jazz group Wayne Wilkerson Trio will perform, call 719-635-7925 for more info.

WEEK OF SEPT. 26: **LA CACHE RDF (50% off) SALE**, RDF items found in our our Blue Rooms. 400 Downing Street, Denver, CO 80218, 303-871-9605 or go to [childrenscolorado.org/lacache](http://childrenscolorado.org/lacache) for more information.

OCT. 1-2: **FRONT RANGE GLASS SHOW & SALE**, Sat. 10-5 and Sun. 10-3:30. Quality Dealers from across the U.S., Hourly Door Prizes, Featuring American Made Glassware, pottery, and dinnerware. Show is at The Ranch Event Center Complex, McKee Building, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, CO 80538, Exit 259 off I25 at Crossroads Blvd. Contact Mark & Jodi Uthe for more information, 319-939-3837 or go to [fronrangeglassshow@gmail.com](mailto:fronrangeglassshow@gmail.com)

OCT. 1: **TIMBER DAN TOY SHOW Antiques and Collectibles**, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., First National Bank Exhibition Bldg., Larimer County Fairgrounds, The Ranch, Exit 259 off I-25, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, CO, Thousands of collectibles, vintage and antique toys on display and for sale, Kids of all Ages, more info, call Loveland Lyons Club, Sherlyn Sampson, 970-663-9392.

OCT. 8 & 9: **PUMPKIN PIE DAYS**, Sat. 10-5 and Sun. 11 - 4. Sponsored by the St. Vrain Historical Society, to be held at the Boulder County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building, 9595 Nelson Rd., Longmont, CO 80501. \$10 per person (children under 12 free), call 303-776-1870 for more info.

## TIMBER DAN TOY SHOW

### - ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES -

**Saturday,  
Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022  
9am to 3pm**



**First National Bank  
Exhibition Bldg • North Hall  
Larimer County Fairgrounds  
'The Ranch' • Exit 259 off I-25  
5280 Arena Cir • Loveland, CO**

**ADMISSION: Adults \$5<sup>00</sup>  
Children (12 and under) FREE**

**1,000s of Collectible, Vintage, & Antique Toys  
on Display & FOR SALE • Kids of All Ages!**

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## Front Range Glass Show & Sale

**OCTOBER 1 - 2, 2022**  
Sat. 10 - 5 • Sun. 10 - 3:30





**\$7 Admission**

Bring this card or a friend and get \$1 off each admission (good for both days)  
Kids 17 & Under are Free

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The Ranch Event Center Complex  
McKee Building  
5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, CO 80538  
Exit 259 off I25 Crossroads Blvd.

Contact Mark & Jodi Uthe for show information 319-939-3837 or [fronrangeglassshow@gmail.com](mailto:fronrangeglassshow@gmail.com)  
[www.fronrangeglassshow.com](http://www.fronrangeglassshow.com)

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**September 9-10, 2022**

**Friday 2-7pm & Saturday 10am-5pm**



**Fri. Sept 9 at 6PM—Taylor Kirkpatrick  
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**Sat. Sept 10 at 1PM—Karen Jones  
Caring for Your Home Library**

**Douglas County Fairgrounds  
500 Fairgrounds Rd, Castle Rock, CO**

[www.RMBPF.org](http://www.RMBPF.org)

The St. Vrain Historical Society Presents

## Pumpkin Pie Days

**Saturday,  
October 8, 2022  
10am-5pm**

**Sunday,  
October 9, 2022  
11am-4pm**



*St. Vrain Historical Society Members Get Early Entry on Saturday-9:30am!*

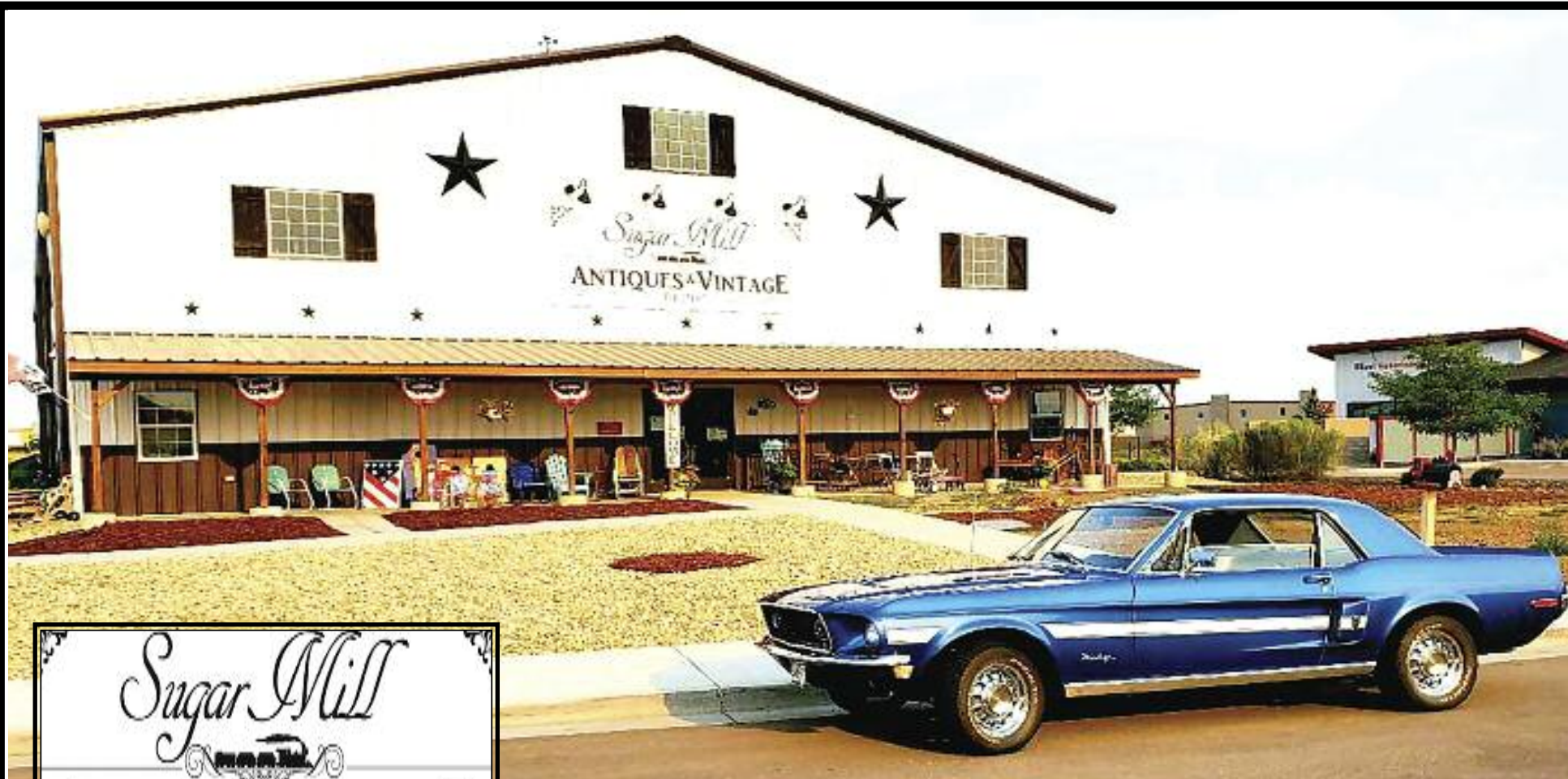
Boulder County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building  
9595 Nelson Rd. Longmont, CO 80501

Admission: \$10.00 per person (children under 12 free)  
(303) 776-1870

*Admissions & Cafe Sales Support The St. Vrain Historical Society's  
Mission of Historic Preservation & Education in the Community!*

[www.stvrainhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.stvrainhistoricalsociety.com)





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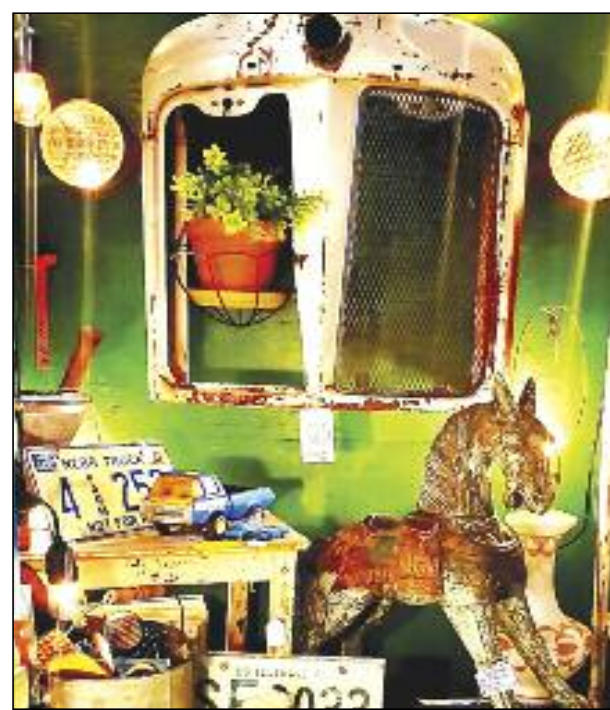
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# Old Wagon Antique Mall Prospering

"Hal" Reed is proud of having owned Old Wagon Antique Mall in Northglenn for four years now. "We've grown tremendously," Hal tells us. There are up to 100 dealers who are part of the Mall. "We normally don't have any empty spaces."



People are coming into the Mall from all over the world. "We're lucky to be next door to Andre's and Lana's Market - European Grocery Store. So many visitors there include us in their shopping excursions. Then a Chinese Tour service has put us on their route and once or twice a month they bring about 40 people through to see what's new at the Mall.

Of course, what they find at the Old Wagon Antique Mall is an extremely well-organized shopping experience. "Our floor manager Bill Worner gets credit for that. He sets everything up. He also insists that everything is kept clean and he has strict regulations about how the dealers set up their booths," Hal shares. "This is Bill's part-time job. Believe it or not he works a full time job at another business. "He has a real passion for displaying all of the antiques and collectibles in an inviting way. He is so great at putting things back together, too," Hal points out.

Another helper is Donna who also is part-time but loves being here at the Mall. I owe my helpers a lot of credit for how the Mall runs.

The dealers are great, too. At Old Wagon, each dealer does their own discounting. The dealers are encouraged to constantly keep their inventory fresh and to keep their booths uncluttered. This makes the shopping so much easier. You can be assured that you will receive personal attention at Old Wagon, too.

The Mall has 8,000 square feet and has over 100 dealers to choose from. The booths are full of antiques, collectibles and vintage for a variety of interests. The place is open and inviting.

The inventory at the Mall includes a lot of glass, specialty smalls, tools, etc. There is a Star Wars dealer, sports card dealer, and a train person and, of course, there are clocks, which is Hal's specialty. "We are also seeing a lot of higher end furniture being offered at the store."

Bill and Hal go on antique and collectible shopping trips. They love checking out stores across the country. Whenever they can, they add to their inventory. Sometimes they will buy from people who bring in their items to sell and they do a little consignment but not much. There is a "discount room" in the Mall for items. You can always find a deal there.

Old Wagon Antique Mall is located at 10685 Melody Drive in Northglenn. Next time you're in the Northglenn area stop by Old Wagon Antique Mall, you'll be as impressed as we are. It's a great Mall. You can call Hal at 303-280-8114 for more information. The Mall is open 10:00 to 5 Monday thru Friday. Saturday 10:30 to 5, 12 to 4 Sundays, Closed Tuesdays.

See you at Old Wagon Antique Mall!



## NORTHGLENN



10685 Melody Dr.  
Northglenn, Colorado

I-25/104th

Check for Available Space  
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<https://oldwagon.wixsite.com/antique>

# Old Wagon Antique Mall

**Come Shop With Us —Up to 100 Dealers To Choose From**

*Toys, Clocks, Glass, Furniture, Collectibles, Books*

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily, Saturday 10:30 to 5, 12 to 4 Sundays, Closed Tuesdays



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# Blenko Glass, Bold and Beautiful

Continued from page 1

Bill Blenko, by then Sr., proved a visionary, doubling down on quality and color and hiring a quartet of designers from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University. Innovative shapes from Winslow Anderson (1946-1952), Wayne Husted (1952-1963), Joel Myers (1963-1970), and John Nickerson (1970-1974) fit perfectly with the tastes of the now-labelled Mid-Century Modern marketplace as Blenko became the U.S. leader in factory made decorative glass with a vast array of colors. Designers not familiar with glass? No problem; the amazingly skilled mold-makers and glass workers could provide the expertise to fashion drawings into reality. After the Alfred Quartet above, Blenko kept its creativity with a flow of wonderful artists: Don Shepherd (1974-1987); Hank Adams (1988-1994); Trey Gott (1995-1996); Matt Carter (1995-2002); Richard Blenko, (1980-2007); and Arlon Bayliss (2007-2012). These gifted creators put their stamp on



the company and the design industry. Designs met the public's wants. Pieces flashed curves, angles and sometimes straight lines along shoulders, waists, hips, feet, and necks with stoppers crafted to match the piece. While many pieces were quite functional, others ranged into the territory of "What? Really?". Audacious decanters and vases; a curved neck; daring 2 ½ to 3 ½ foot tall pieces, like the #5829-L or #6535 decanters, that would intimidate any host or hostess; and amazing textures and pictures molded into the glass that highlight the vast color panoply. Husted's #6316 decanter was wider than it was tall and only about 3 ½ inches deep. Stoppers looking like flames, chess pieces, teardrops, coins, knobs, cupolas, cubes, and spheres carried the basic shapes of the pieces to new and exciting levels. Grace, form, and color abounded in each catalog. The palette of colors never ran out; what a magnificent batch book Blenko must have.

Crackle finishes, applied heavy spirals, rings, leaves, rosettes, ropes, and blobs, controlled bubbles, air twist stems and stoppers, big hobnails, textured and smooth finishes all differentiate Blenko from most other U.S. glass companies. Fantastic cats, horses, fish, owls, bulls, goats and other creatures were specific pieces or adornments. Unusual human figures



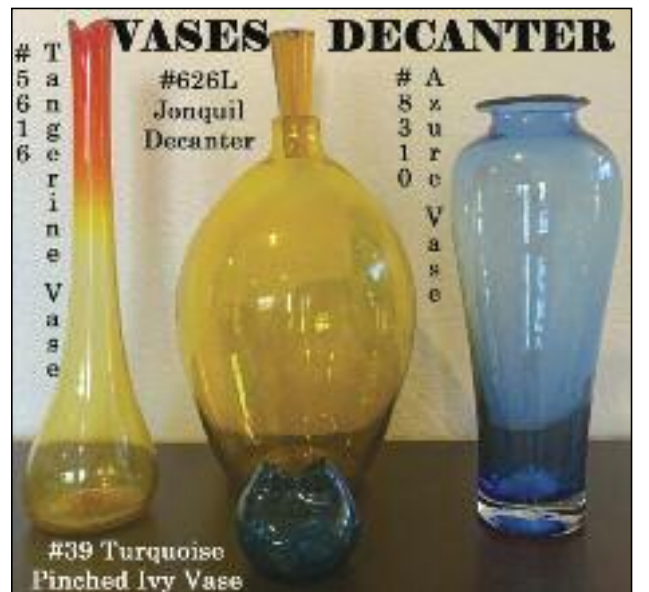
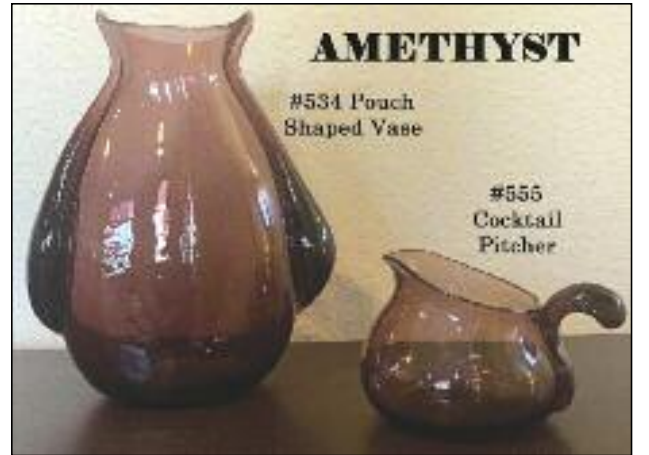
and faces appeared, as well as a mermaid. Some have tried to imitate, but there is only one Blenko Glass. Imagination and singularity are hallmarks of Blenko.

As I look at the incredible history of Blenko Glass, the term “stunning” frequently comes to mind. In Reims, France, Washington D.C., Huntington, Colorado Springs, and other locations chapels, sanctuaries, and cathedrals share the beauty of Blenko stained glass in their windows. Bold innovation married with a palette of colors unknown in the U.S. outside of modern studio glass has propelled Blenko through its first century. The Bold and the Beautiful; to hell with soap operas. That label belongs to Blenko.

Would you like to see more Blenko or other fantastic U.S. glass, pottery, and china? Jodi and Mark Uthe give you that opportunity at the Front Range Glass Show Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2, 2022, at the Ranch Events Complex near Loveland. There will be a lot of period glass, pottery, and china; Mid-Century Modern such as Blenko, laced with Early American Pattern Glass, Brilliant Cut glass, Art Deco, and Elegant and Depression era pieces, and other wares provided by dealers from all parts of the U.S. The Rocky Mountain Depression Glass Society will have a booth at the Front Range Glass Show, with members, including myself, providing information and insight into the local collecting as well as fascinating items for sale. Find or indulge your own passion. When in downtown Denver, you can constantly be amazed by exhibits at Kirkland Museum of Fine and Decorative Art, highlighting a vast array of extraordinary art in many genres. Our Mountain States Collector friends Peggy and Jon DeStefano provide shops to ex-

plore and articles on many, many, many collectibles. And a special thank you to Scott Montroy and David Cleveland, collectors extraordinaire, who share pictures and their incomparable knowledge with me, making this article possible. Visit, read, enjoy, learn, and indulge. Bon voyage!

1 <https://blenko.com/products/384-water-bottle> NOTE: Bibliography available on request.



# DENVER





# Hirakata Family Honored at State Fair

The legacy of Japanese-American farmers in Otero County used to include dozens of families. Today, the Hirakata family runs the only active Japanese-American farm in Otero County.

Hard work, commitment to family, and the importance of education and adapting to new approaches and techniques have always been core values for the Hirakatas.

Tatsunosuke Hirakata was born on June 3, 1870, in Fukushima, Japan. In 1913, Tatsunosuke emigrated to the United States arriving in Seattle. Initially, he worked for the railroad before making his way to Rocky Ford.

Over the years, Hirakata Farms expanded to become a leader in agriculture in Otero County and Colorado. They grow the famous Rocky Ford cantaloupe, watermelon, pumpkins, and other crops.

Honoring and supporting farms and ranches across Colorado is a key driver for the Department of Agriculture. The Hirakata Family was honored at the Colorado State Fair on Friday, Aug. 26.

*Article courtesy of History Colorado. Images courtesy of the Hirakata Family, one of the recipients for this year's Colorado Centennial Farm or Ranch. Special thanks to Mary Rudolph for sharing this information with us.*

**Editor's Note:**

The Colorado State Fair will run through September 5. Plan to visit the Fair before it is over for another year. You will not be disappointed. There are so many amazing things to see and do. There are exciting rodeo events, fun amusements rides, great food. It's a wonderful way to celebrate Colorado!



## DENVER



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# Final Resting Place

Compiled By Peggy DeStefano

In 1886, determined Sisters of Loretto arrived in Denver where they proceeded to found a Catholic girls’ high school. They made their way here in covered wagons following the Santa Fe Trail as they travelled West. No cowards these!

Prior to coming to Colorado, the Sisters of Loretto began because a small band of women left their Maryland settlement for Kentucky (where they still have their mother house) to escape the discrimination against church members in the east. Three young women established the Loretto order on April 25, 1812.

The group was criticized by the Pope (Pope Pius VII) for their “radical feminism.” Yes, the Sisters of Loretto believed girls and women should have an education. They maneuvered themselves so none of the Bishops or even the Pope could deter them from their goals.

On their journey West, they first had to overcome cholera which affected them as they were ascending the Missouri River by steamboat. Then the Sisters rode in their buggies through a mighty storm on the open plains. They narrowly escaped from 400 Indians which surrounded their caravan.

Their first landing place was Santa Fe, New Mexico. On their arrival to New Mexico they passed under triumphal arches, heard church bells clanging and struggled with their buggies to get through adoring crowds. It was 1852.

As New Mexico became less wild, additional ranks of teachers were summoned from Kentucky to staff new Loretto schools in such places as Taos, Mora, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, Bernalillo, Socorro and Las Cruces. Their contribution to education in the territory was enormous.

Three Sisters came to Colorado from Santa Fe in June of 1864 under the escort of Bishop Joseph Machebeuf, who recruited them as educators. Loretto sisters handed out the state’s first high school diplomas at St. Mary’s Academy in what was then Colorado territory.

They then founded Loretto Heights Academy as a Catholic girls' high school in 1886 in Denver, Colorado.

The Sisters were enterprising. They purchased the 76 acres of land that sat atop the hill at 3001 South Federal Boulevard. They had one of Denver’s premier architects, Frank E. Edbrooke design their landmark administration building.

Over the years, the school became a college

that included teacher-education programs, nursing programs, and classes in business and dance for both men and women. They even had a stable for horses through the mid-sixties. Students could bring their horses to school with them.

The nuns also provided a ministry which spanned education, health care, hospice and even lobbying. The sisters are teachers, nurses, lawyers and administrators. They serve the elderly, youth, poor, homeless, imprisoned and immigrants.

The Sisters of Loretto even made sure they had a final resting place for the sisters of their order. The cemetery on campus was the burial ground for dozens of nuns who provided instruction at the Loretto Heights College. Sixty-two nuns were buried there— some more than a century ago.

But this unusual situation is finally changing. The nuns' remains have now been relocated to Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery, 12801 West 44th Avenue in Wheat Ridge, after more than a half-decade of discussion and debate.

Meanwhile, the campus was put on the block, and it had plenty of attributes: fourteen buildings spread out over 76 acres, including a 1,000-seat theater (a theater that hosted the Russian ballet, a Japanese tea ceremony, the joint choirs of Loretto Heights and the Air Force Academy, several writers and poets like *Black Like Me* author John Howard Griffin and British poet Paul Roche) , an interfaith chapel, a swimming pool, a cafeteria, residence halls and recreational amenities. The focal point of the campus was the landmark administration building designed by one of Denver’s premier architects, Frank E. Edbrooke, that was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. (Thank God the nuns did this because now they can’t tear down these buildings.)

Westside Investment Partners, which bought the campus in 2018, was reportedly open to building around the cemetery.

But in the end, the decision was made to move the graves to Mount Olivet and construct what's characterized as a "memorial garden" in their honor where the nuns had previously been buried.

Over 120-plus years, the hilltop campus on south Federal Boulevard has been an academy for girls, a World War I military training ground, Teikyo Loretto Heights University, and perhaps most famously, Loretto Heights College. To Martha Kirkpatrick, who graduated in 1982, Loretto Heights College was “a magical place” — a tight-knit community of dedicated students and talented teachers and professors.

The Sisters of Loretto were truly pioneers in education. Much of their curriculum was similar to many Ivy-league universities including Harvard. They also developed programs like “University Without Walls” which made it possible for students to take courses at other institutions and apply them to their degree program.

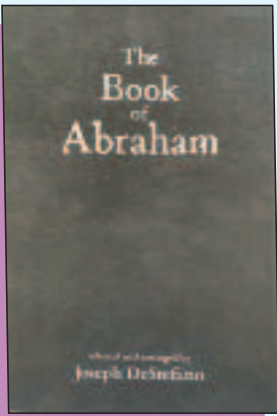
The college became part of Regis University in 1988, and the campus was sold. Regis continues several of Loretto Heights’ programs, most well-known is their nursing program.

Now, it is on the brink of yet another incarnation: a mixed-use residential and commercial development. On a late-May afternoon, dozens of Loretto Heights alumni got a last look at the college and its buildings. Kirkpatrick, who led some of the tours of tiny dorm rooms and even a climb up the bell tower, said she is grateful the developers are honoring the campus’ history,

## CIVIL WAR BOOK

The subtitle of the book is “A Biblical Version of the American Civil War.” Whether to distinguish it from, or to draw it closer to The Bible, one might suspect Joseph DeStefano is wanting to reclaim our attention with circumstances and characters of bygone, perhaps nobler times. But, as he makes clear in his preface, it is the times we are living in, “Now, in 2020,” with their own potential of nobility, and of ruin, that makes his effort seem “especially relevant” to him. He writes:

“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 interfused with extractions of *The Old Testament*, and of other ancient works, and with poetry, oratory and song of more modern authors and actors — interfused, 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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# For Pioneering Nuns

and that the iconic administration building, the chapel and perhaps other buildings will be preserved. "I'm very hopeful for what the future holds."

In 1989, the campus was transformed into Teikyo Loretto Heights University, which focused on attracting international students. Two decades later, in 2009, Teikyo University Group, a multi-national education foundation based in Japan, opened Colorado Heights University, a nonprofit private institution, on the grounds, and Denver Public Schools also operated several programs there.

Denver City Council approved rezoning for the area in May 2021, formally sanctioning a plan approved two years earlier that pledged "preservation and maintenance of the historic buildings on campus; a better pedestrian experience and improved mobility through street improvements and new bike lanes; development that matches the patterns of surrounding neighborhoods; for-sale and for-rent affordable housing, including units for families (two bedrooms or more) for a wide range of incomes; and climate friendly construction that will be the first major residential development in Denver to test the Denver Green Code." Among the centerpieces of these efforts was the transformation of the school's Pancratia Hall (my dorm) into 72 affordable apartments; the renamed Pancratia Hall Lofts opened in May.

Other buildings that will be preserved include: The main administration building, opened in 1891, which was designed by Frank



Edbrooke, who also designed Denver's Brown Palace Hotel. The 121-year-old administration building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will remain on the Loretto Heights campus as will the chapel. (The college's historic bell will also remain on campus.)

During the Loretto Heights College era, the cafeteria in Machebeuf Hall, which was built in 1960, doubled as a gathering spot and student union. It was, in fact, where I met my future

husband Jon at a college mixer. Loretto Heights was still an all-girl college and Jon went to Regis which was an all-boy college. That was in 1963. Now in 2022 we have just celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary. Loretto Heights will live forever in our memories.

The Sisters of Loretto, because of financial pressures, had to relinquish their historic and beloved Loretto Heights campus in Denver in 1988.

## Sisters of Loretto Recommittal Held at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery at the Gallagher Chapel August 22, 2022.



### History of Mt. Olivet

The site of Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery is a 440-acre farm located in rural Jefferson County between Denver and Golden which was purchased in 1860s by Bishop Joseph Projectus Machebeuf, Denver's first resident bishop. Bishop Machebeuf later donated the land to the Catholic Diocese of Denver.

Mount Olivet Cemetery is a Roman Catholic cemetery operated by the Archdiocese of Denver. The cemetery is located at 12801 W. 44th Avenue in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. It is the first cemetery owned and operated by the Archdiocese of Denver, the second being Saint Simeon Catholic Cemetery in Aurora, Colorado.

Mt. Olivet Cemetery was consecrated on September 25, 1892 by Bishop Nicholas Chrysostom Matz. On that day, a special Union Pacific train left Denver Union Station carrying 1,500 people to Mt. Olivet for the cemetery consecration. Bishop Matz officiated at the dedication and described Mt. Olivet as the "new City of the Dead."

The primary Denver cemetery until that time had been Prospect Hill Cemetery, southeast of the city. In 1890 the city designated those grounds to be turned into a park. The Catholic section of Prospect Hill Cemetery was then renamed Mount Calvary Cemetery. The first burial at Mt. Olivet Cemetery was Elizabeth Kelley of Annunciation Parish on July 5, 1892.

*Continued on page 12*

Everyone who worked on the relocation of the graves of the 62 Sisters, a project called *Operation Sacred Rescue, Loretto Heights Cemetery*, gives credit to Sister Mary Nelle Gage. "She worked tirelessly for many years to see that the nuns were reinterred at Mt. Olivet," said Jeanne Close Bradac, Class of '67. These nuns, with the first being buried in 1870 and the last being buried in October of 1969 have found a new home at Mt. Olivet.





# Mt. Olivet New Home for Pioneering Loretto Nuns

Continued from page 11

An examination of the record book of Mt. Olivet tells a graphic history of the times. Causes of death entered in the late 1800s include “died of softening of the brain,” and “died of acute insanity,” and “died of cramps.” Other poignant entries include a mother and child “killed by Indians” August 26, 1868. Six members of another family were killed in a snow slide on March 10, 1884; 12 members of the family now lie together, side by side, at Mt. Olivet.

Relatively isolated, visitors often came to Mt. Olivet by horse and buggy. Union Pacific funeral trains made almost daily trips from Denver to Mt. Olivet. The trains were met by teams of ponies or horses, hitched to funeral biers, to travel up the long drive into the cemetery proper. It took almost an entire day for a funeral cortege to travel by train to Mt. Olivet and back to Denver. Later, interurban street cars served as funeral cars.

In 1871, the first tram service from Denver was by horse-drawn trams. In 1886, they were replaced by electric trams. The route from Denver to Golden was known as the “Wishbone” Route and was luxury, comfort, and speed. In 1891, Bishop Matz announced that Old Calvary Cemetery had been condemned by the city of Denver and proclaimed that Catholics should use Mount Olivet Cemetery for burials. The Union Pacific Railroad agreed to build a funeral car, special funeral train, and a depot near the cemetery. The charge for roundtrip was fifty cents.

Colorado's largest and most deadly influenza outbreak arrived on or about September 20, 1918. It did not take long for it to spread throughout the state. On October 7, a statewide advisory was posted to close public places and gatherings. By October 16, people were prohibited from entering Colorado by rail or horseback. People coming from other states were quarantined at least two days at all of the borders. All schools and government offices were closed for weeks and weeks. This pandemic was the largest outbreak in recorded history, spanned from 1918 to 1925. Victims of the outbreak are buried in many locations at Mt. Olivet cemetery including Sections 12, 14, 22, and 26.

### Gallagher Memorial Chapel

Gallagher Memorial Chapel, dedicated in 1939, “stands guard” over the entire Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Mary J. Gallagher donated the chapel as a mausoleum for the Bishops and Archbishops of Denver, in memory of her husband “Reddy” Gallagher. Reddy was a red-headed, colorful boxer and wrestler who was a major proponent of the sport of boxing in Denver and had a long career as a sports columnist for The Denver Post.

Mt. Olivet succeeded Mt. Calvary, the first Catholic cemetery in Denver, located at 900 York Street, which is now part of Cheesman Park and the Denver Botanic Gardens. After Mt. Olivet became the principal Catholic cemetery, Mt. Calvary was closed. In 1950, the land of Mt. Calvary Cemetery was sold by the Archdiocese of Denver to the City of Denver with the provision that it would not be used for commercial purposes, and that the city would pay the expenses of reintering the bodies

from Mt. Calvary to Mt. Olivet.

In 1950, from June to September, the remains of more than 7,000 persons were moved from Mt. Calvary to Mt. Olivet. Most of the bodies were reinterred in Section 24 while about 1,000 where buried elsewhere at Mt. Olivet, in family plots. Extraordinary care was taken to ensure that the remains of each person were carefully identified and transferred and the new burial spot was painstakingly marked. Of the total buried at Mt. Calvary, approximately 50% were infants and children. Amazing mementos were found when graves were opened. Several disinterred bodies were of men in full military uniform, including spurs and swords. One grave contained several newspapers dating back to April 22, 1905; a copy of The Boston Post headlined the opening game of the American League between Philadelphia and Boston, in which Rub Waddell saved the day for Philadelphia.

Another astonishing tale from men who worked on the project relates that when the grave of an Irish woman from Leadville was uncovered, the scent of rose petals filled the air. There was great consternation that the body of a saint might have been disinterred. Her sanctity terrified all. This created great problems for Church officials who had to verify or deny the saintliness. Despite intensive research by The Denver Catholic Register, the Irish woman remains a mystery.

Some of the greatest orators of Denver preached at the Memorial Day Masses. Orators like Msgr. William O’Ryan, Msgr. Hugh L. McMenamin, Msgr. Francis Walsh, and Fr. E. J. Mannix delivered stirring sermons on patriotism and the virtue of praying for souls of the dead. In one of his sermons at a Memorial Day Mass, Bishop Tihen reportedly urged those at Mass to visit the cemetery often, to bring their picnic lunches and enjoy the beauty as a park of inspiration.

### Notable burials - Mount Olivet Cemetery

- Bishop Joseph Projectus Machebeuf, 1st Bishop of Denver (1887-1889)
- Bishop Nicholas Chrysostom Matz, 2nd Bishop of Denver (1889-1917)
- Bishop John Henry Tihen, 3rd Bishop of Denver (1917-1931)

- Archbishop Urban John Vehr, 4th Bishop (1931-1941) and 1st Archbishop of Denver (1941-1967)
- Archbishop James Vincent Casey, 2nd Archbishop of Denver (1967-1986)
- Julia Greeley (“Denver’s Angel of Charity”), buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in 1918. As part of the Cause for Canonization, her remains were transferred to the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on June 7, 2017.
- William Gilpin (governor), 1st Governor of the Territory of Colorado 1861-1862
- John “Jack” Swigert, Command Module Pilot aboard Apollo 13 and Colorado Congressman
- Jacques Benedict, one of the most prominent architects in Colorado history
- May Bonfils Stanton, Colorado heiress and philanthropist
- Michael James Dempsey, American-born Catholic bishop in Nigeria
- Jerry McMorris, former principal owner of the Colorado Rockies
- William H. McNichols, Jr., Denver Mayor 1968
- Verner Zevola Reed, Colorado pioneer and businessman
- Mary Johnson Reed, wife of Verner Reed and philanthropist
- Baby Doe Tabor, flamboyant wife of Horace Tabor, and inspiration for the opera The Ballad of Baby Doe
- Horace Tabor, Colorado pioneer and businessman
- Martin D. Currigan, building contractor and city councilman in Denver, Colorado
- John Kernan Mullen, an Irish-American businessman and philanthropist
- John Francis Campion, businessman and philanthropist
- Sister Mary Lucy Downey (Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth), founder of Archdiocesan Housing
- William and Dorothy Harmsen, Founders of Jolly Rancher Candy Company
- Daniel Mauser, Matthew Kechter, Kelly Fleming, victims of the Columbine High School massacre
- Sisters of Loretto, reinterred from Loretto Heights College campus (2022)



**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 Peg DeStefano at **303-910-2604** or email us at [spreepub@mac.com](mailto:spreepub@mac.com)

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**McAllister House Museum**  
**Harvest Festival**  
**Sept. 24th**  
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Please join us for a fun family day on September 24th. The event will include tours of McAllister House, the oldest home in Colorado Springs, built in 1873 and opened as a museum in 1961. There will be arts and crafts for families, games, food and drink, antique cars, fun raffle prizes, and local arts and crafts vendors. You can take part in community conversations with Executive Director Eric Metzger about gardening and architecture in the early decades of Colorado Springs, and the McAllister's role in their development.

From 11-2, there will be a performance by the Wayne Wilkerson Trio. This is a marvelous Jazz Group, well known in our community.

If you have any questions, you may call Terry Thatcher, the Chair of the McAllister House Museum, or contact the Museum.

**McAllister House Museum**  
**719-635-7925**

**McAllister.curator@gmail.com**  
**www.McAllisterhouse.org**  
**Terry Thatcher**

## COLORADO SPRINGS

### McAllister House Museum A Great Place to Visit

Major McAllister made his home in this small house until his death in 1921. For the next 30 plus years the house was rented by the family of Mrs. Fanny Robbins who used the house for a candy and "wedding gift" shop. Upon her death in 1958, the family sold the house.



In 1961 a historic preservation group, the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Colorado, with the help of the El Pomar Foundation and Shepard's Citations, was able to buy and restore this Colorado Springs (Fountain Colony) house. Why not visit this lovely house and enjoy the historically true restorations?

# AMERICAN HISTORY

## September Anniversaries

### September 2

Congress establishes U.S. Treasury (1789)

V-J Day; Japan signs formal surrender (1945)

### September 5

First session of Continental Congress convenes (1774)

Labor Day

### September 9

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

### September 11

Grandparent's Day

Patriot Day

21st anniversary of 9/11 attacks

### September 16

POW/MIA Recognition Day

### September 17

Constitution Week begins

### September 18

Congress establishes U.S. Air Force (1947)

### September 28

Battle of Yorktown begins (1781)

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## GEORGETOWN



The Hotel De Paris Museum™, a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is owned and operated by The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Colorado. The Museum is located in Georgetown, Colorado, just west of Denver off Interstate 70.

Louis Dupuy's legendary Hotel de Paris dates to the silver mining boom, when it served as a first-class French restaurant, showroom for traveling salesmen, and luxurious hotel during the Gilded Age.

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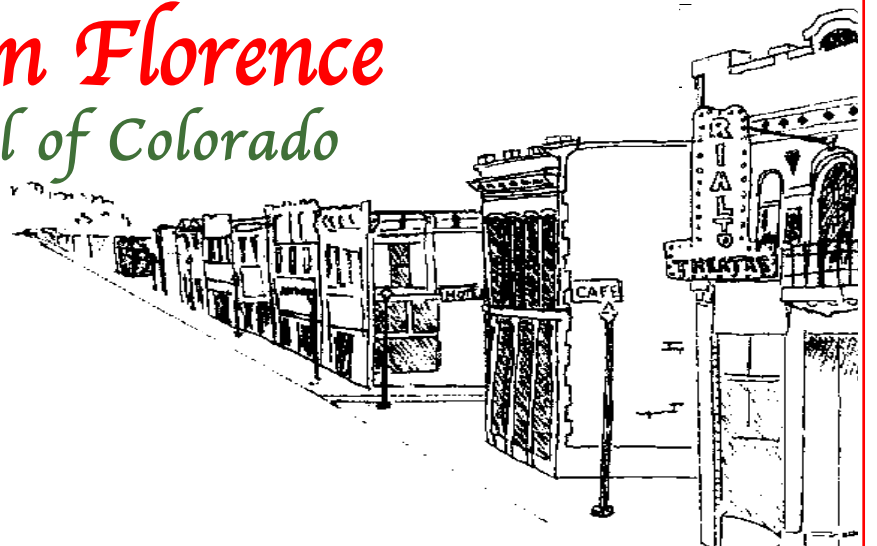
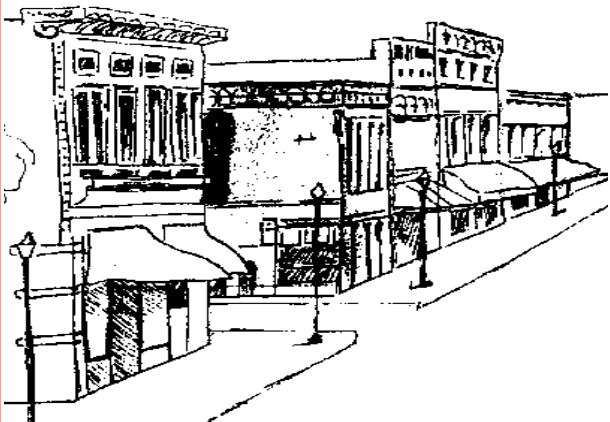
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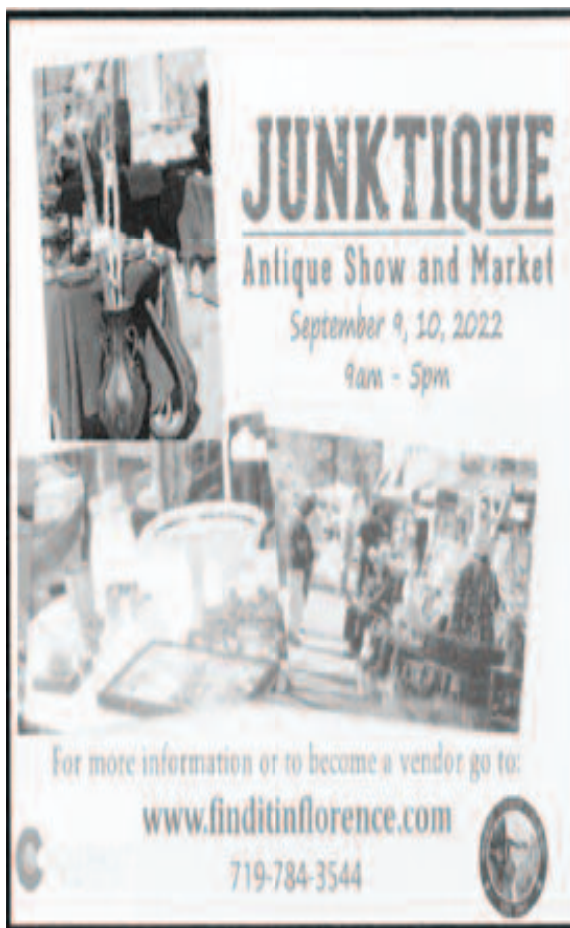
By Sandy Dale

As fall approaches, 'tis the season of great outdoor events across the country. Florence is no exception. It is the 200 Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail and the 150th of the platting of Florence by James McCanless. The history of Florence is filled with stories of how entrepreneurs got rich in gold, oil, and the railroad, but it is the traders, merchants, miners, farmers and ranchers that made Florence what it is today.

These pioneers traversed hundreds of miles of prairie and desert to follow a dream of freedom, profitable trade

and/or adventure. They left their homes in the east because they believed there was something better "out west." They fought and/or befriended the Cheyenne, Comanche and Arapahoe already here. Many of us would not be here today if not for those pioneers and pathfinders who settled in southeast Colorado.

Want to find out more about our "colorful" Colorado history? Visit the Florence Pioneer Museum. Check their website for location and times of operation. Help us celebrate our Florence history at these events:



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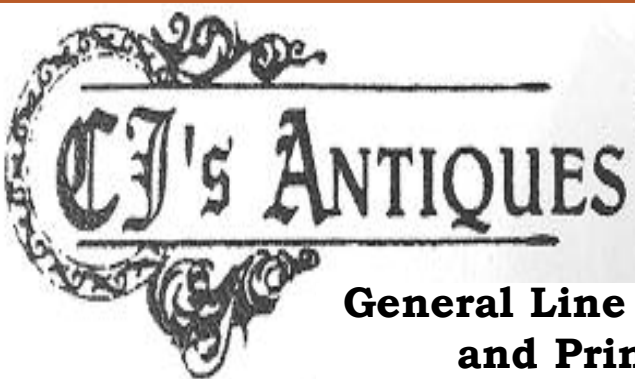
# Welcome to Our Nebraska Neighbors

CJ's Antiques of  
Chappell, Nebraska joins the  
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Next month we will have an article which explores  
this new advertiser's shop. See pictures and ad below.



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## CONTEST

### August's What Is It?

Elizabeth Puls of Boulder, Colorado guessed that these objects are hand-held musical instruments, blown by mouth and fingered on various holes drilled into the sides. They are probably made out of gourds, bone, maybe plastic or wood. I think they probably came from South America in origin—Peru, Chile, Ecuador. They could be called “pig whistles” or “whistle-pigs” or “shepherd’s flutes.” Christine Rhodes of Littleton, Colorado says that they are ocarina. Terry Cook of Fort Morgan, Colorado; Loretta Lockett of Longmont, Colorado and Jean Helzer of Arvada, Colorado all agree. Jean adds that sometimes they were referred to as “Sweet Potatoes.” These are all correct answers.



Ocarina is actually Italian for “little goose,” a name given to it by an Italian teenager, Guiseppe Donati, when he invented a submarine shaped clay flute in 1853. He showed it to his friends and, together, they perfected an instrument that has been carried to all corners of the world.

The ocarina belongs to a very old family of instruments, believed to date back over 12,000 years. The ocarina has similar features to the Xun, another important Chinese instrument. Different expeditions to Mesoamerica, including the one conducted by Cortes, resulted in the introduction of the ocarina to the courts of Europe. Both Mayans and Aztecs produced versions of the ocarina.

In 1964, John Taylor, an English mathematician, developed a fingering system that allowed an ocarina to play a full chromatic octave using only four holes. The ocarina features prominently in the Nintendo 64 games: The Legend of Zelda, etc. The games have been credited for increasing the popularity of ocarinas.

Thank you to our winners for playing our What Is It contest. You have all 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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- Hand sanitizer is available at the front counter, employees are encouraged to disinfect after handling money.
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