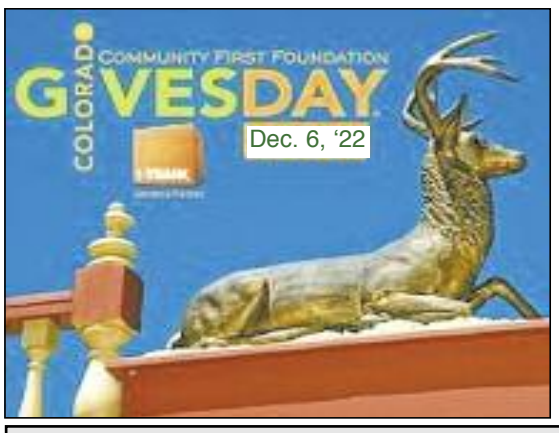

the mountain states Collector

DEVOTED TO ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, FURNITURE, ART, DESIGN AND HISTORY.

50TH ANNIVERSARY — ESTABLISHED IN 1972

Volume 50, Number 11 November 2022

Inside this Issue

The History of Voting

By Evan Andrews

Why Is Election Day a Tuesday in November? The answer lies with America's 19th-century farmers.

Americans first began the custom of weekday voting in 1845, when Congress passed a federal law designating the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November as Election Day.

But why a Tuesday in November? The answer stems from the agrarian makeup of 19th-century America. In the 1800s, most citizens worked as farmers and lived far from their polling place. Since people often traveled at least a day to vote, lawmakers needed to allow a two-day window for Election Day. Weekends were impractical, since most people spent Sundays in church, and Wednesday was market day for farmers.

With this in mind, Tuesday was selected as the first and most convenient day of the week to hold elections. Farm culture also explains why Election Day always falls in November. Spring and early summer elections were thought to interfere with the planting season, and late summer and early fall elections overlapped with the harvest. That left the late fall month of November—after the harvest was complete, but before the arrival of harsh winter weather—as the best choice.

Before then, states were allowed to hold elections any time they pleased within a 34-day period before the first Wednesday in December, but this system had a few crucial flaws. Knowing the early voting results could affect turnout and sway opinion in states that held late elections, and those same last-minute voters could potentially decide the outcome of the entire election. Faced with these issues, Congress created the current Election Day in the hope of streamlining the voting process.

Elections in Colonial America Were Huge, Booze-Fueled Parties

From rum to cakes to rowdy parades, election day was a time for gathering and celebration.

Voters for the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1758 had their choice of candidates. And one of them—a wealthy planter who had made his name in the French and Indian War—gave them their choice of alcohol, too. Candidate George Washington plied potential voters with 47 gallons of beer, 35 gallons of wine, 2 gallons of cider, 3 1/2 pints of brandy and a whopping 70 gallons of rum punch. He carried the election with 310 votes.

The future president wasn't the only candidate who knew how to grease the wheels of the colonial electorate—and his voters weren't the only colonists who knew how to party on election day. In the days before the American Revolution, colonial elections were festive, even rowdy occasions. Elections were a chance to weigh in on important business, but they were also an opportunity to let loose and party.

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Voting: A Sacred Right & Responsibility

Our sacred right to vote was given to all Americans by the founding fathers of this democracy. It was laid out clearly in our Constitution and yet it is the only constitutional right that we have to register for. We don't have to register for our right of free speech and we don't have to register to exercise the right of free assembly. However, voting for many people is more difficult than it should be due to intentional voter suppression and obstruction. It isn't right.

"Elections belong to the people,"Abraham Lincoln said. All the people. The most important office each of us hold is that of private citizens and our most important obligation is to vote. Voting is a sacred right and responsibility. If we don't vote, we are ignoring history and giving away the future. Voting is a commitment to ourselves, each other, our country and our world.

Our main article in this issue of ***the Mountain States Collector*** *is about the most important day in our democracy, Election Day. It is the day we make our voices heard. We hope you enjoy the article and it gives you insights into voting in America and appreciation for our democracy.*

—Jon DeStefano

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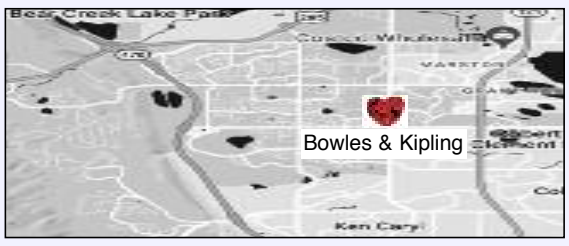

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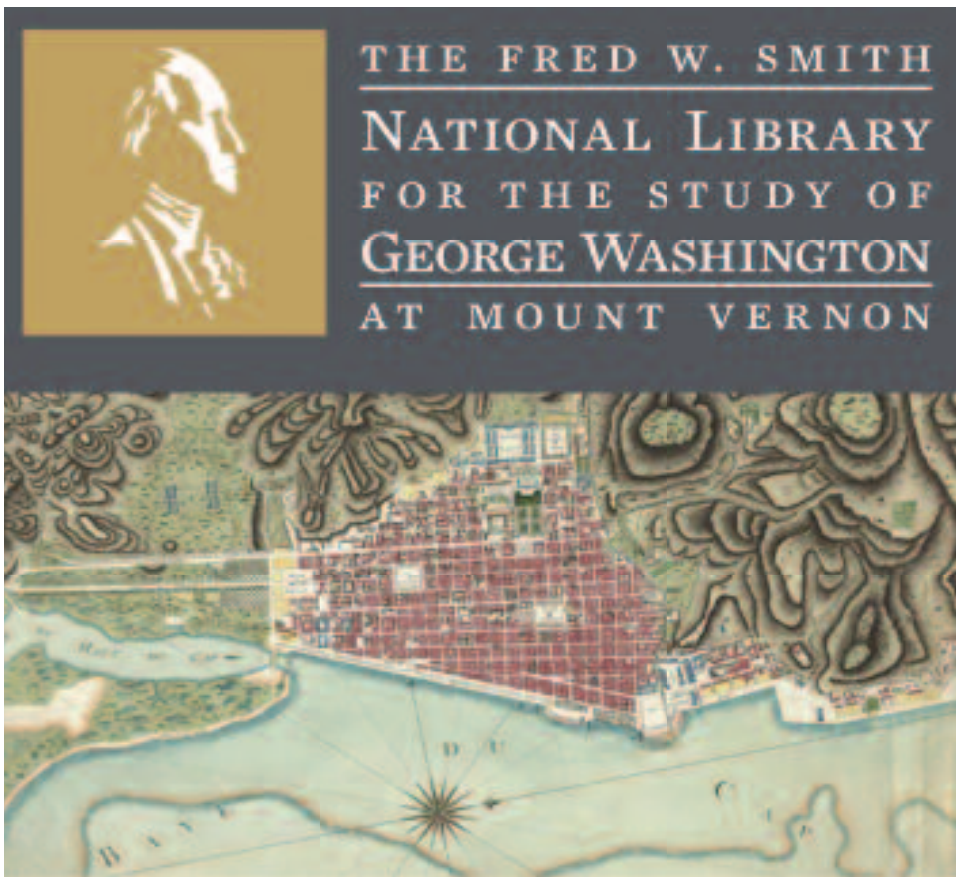
Show Calendar — November '22 - July '23



Nov. 4 - 5: **ANNUAL GEORGE WASHINGTON SYMPOSIUM** An enlightening look at the cartographic revolution that took place during the eighteenth century. They will also examine how and why maps became vital political, economic, and social tools in the Revolutionary era. Virtual: Watch in real-time or through December 5 (30 days after the event) Call 703-780-2000 for more information. Mount Vernon is owned and maintained by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, a private non-profit organization. The event is located at the Fred W. Smith National Library. As a young surveyor in the mid-eighteenth century, George Washington participated in a cartographic revolution. Newly accessible across social classes, maps became a critical tool for eighteenth-century North Americans to envision their place in the world and their relationships to each other. Surveyors like Washington used ink and paper to trace the course of rivers and the boundaries of land grants; French officers like Lafayette's aide-de-camp and mapmaker Michel Capitaine du Chesnoy depicted major battles of the War for Independence; and cartographers like Thomas Jefferys engraved and published maps that featured prominently in homes and councils of war alike.

NOV. 5: **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 info.

NOV. 12: **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.

DEC. 3 & 4 and 10 & 11: **CHRISTMAS MARKET first two weekends in Georgetown**. At the Hotel de Paris there will be self-guided tours as part of these Christmas festivities. See Hotel de Paris Museum decked in festive Victorian-style decorations. Self-guided tours run continuously from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Allow 30 minutes. ADA accessible on first story. Visits to second story require the use of stairs. For your comfort in our high altitude, we encourage the consumption of bottled water and the use of pocket-sized oxygen canisters. Photography allowed. Locals know holiday photos are special in front of our themed Christmas trees. Call Kevin Kuharic, Executive Director of the Hotel de Paris Museum at 303-569-2311, office line: 303-569-1034 for more information.

NOV. 21-28: **THANKSGIVING WEEK HOLIDAY CELEBRATION** at Old Crows Antique Mall and Root Beer Bar, 10081 West Bowles Avenue, Littleton, Colorado. 15% Storewide Discount, Join Old Crows for Black Friday and Small Business Saturday and support over 300 small businesses. Call 303-973-8648 for more information.

NOV. 25-27: **HOMESTEAD ANTIQUES SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY OPEN HOUSE**, 6530 Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 130, Arvada, Colorado, treats and extended hours. Call 720-484-3644 for more information.

JAN. 20 & 21: **DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW**, Friday 11-6, Saturday 9:30 to 4. at the Holiday Inn Lakewood, 7390 W. Hampden Ave., Lakewood, Colorado, $5 admission - good for both days. More info, www.denverpostcardshow.com or camobley@ephemeranet.com.

APR. 8: **TIMBER DAN SPRING TOY SHOW Antiques and Collectibles**, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., First National Bank Exhibition Bldg., Larimer Country 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 or email her at sherlyn@sampsong.net or visit website at http://www.lovelandlionsclubs.org/sites/ToyShow.htm or Facebook at Loveland Lions Clubs/events.

MAY 26 & 27: **DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW**, Friday 11-6, Saturday 9:30 to 4. at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, $5 admission - good for both days. More info, www.denverpostcard show.com or camobley@ ephemeranet. com.

JULY 14 & 15: **DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW**, Friday 11-6, Saturday 9:30 to 4. at the Holiday Inn Lakewood, 7390 W. Hampden Ave., Lakewood, Colorado, $5 admission - good for both days. More info, www.denverpostcardshow.com or camobley@ ephemeranet. com.

STARTS NOV. 25: **COLORADO ANTIQUE GALLERY ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE**, up to 50% off, 5501 S. Broadway, Littleton, Colorado, coloradoantiquegallery.com, 303-794-8100 for more information.

Colorado Balloon Festival

Yuma Balloon Festival

Sat., Nov. 19 – Mon., Nov. 21

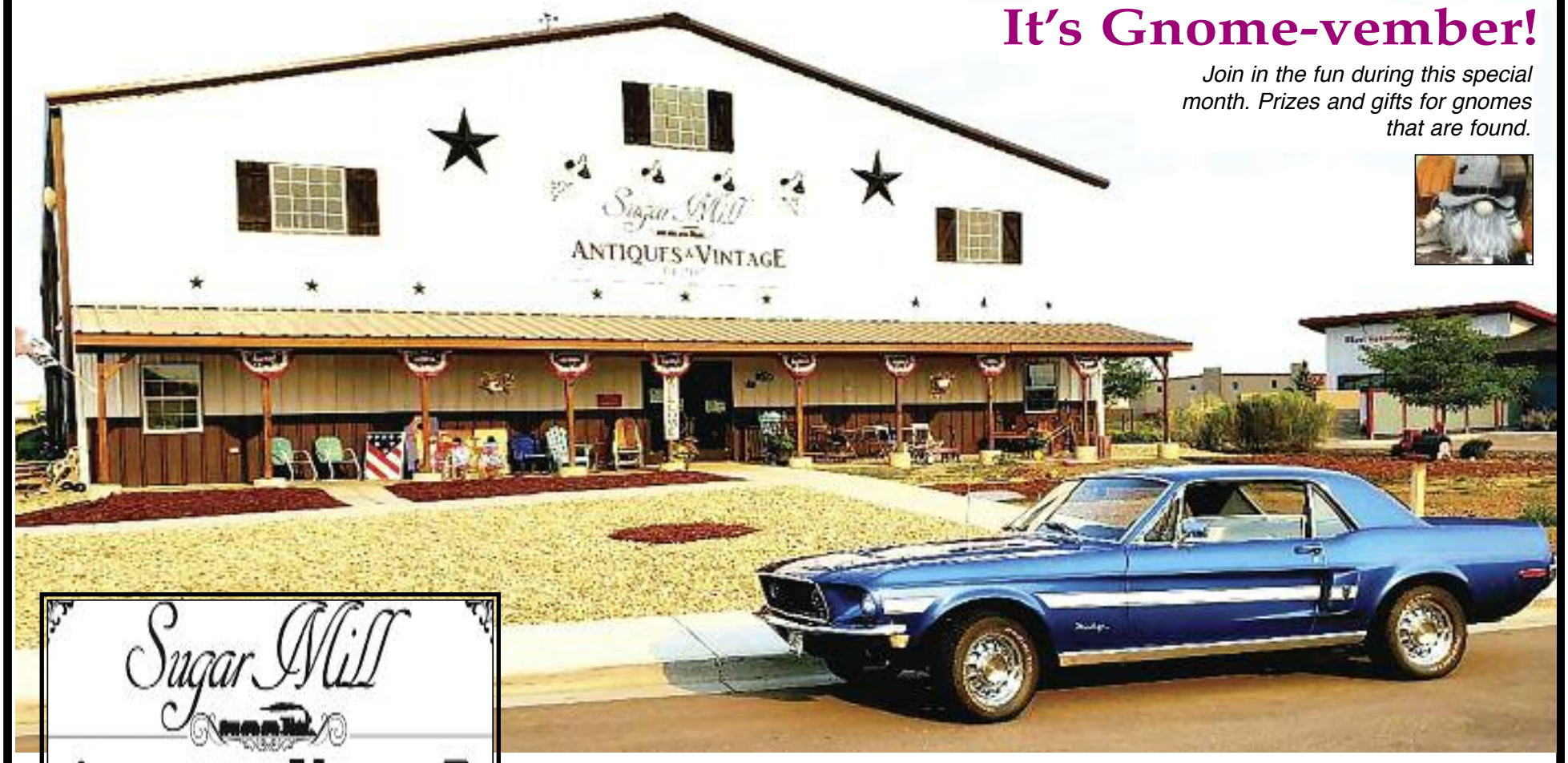
The Colorado River Crossing Hot Air Balloon Festival is the most popular hot air balloon festival in Colorado, organized by the Caballeros de Yuma.

Balloon pilots from across the country and the world fly their "airships" at Colorado hot air balloon events. Chilly mornings with coffee and majesty and "glows" at night make living in Colorado great.

Those wonderful hot air balloons that you see with the gondolas that hold the pilot and four passengers can run $35,000 to more than $45,000. Add in the hours of travel and setup time, you know that these pilots really love hot air ballooning. That's why when you attend a festival or rally you should try to thank those pilots, as courtesy.

It's Gnome-vember!

Join in the fun during this special month. Prizes and gifts for gnomes that are found.



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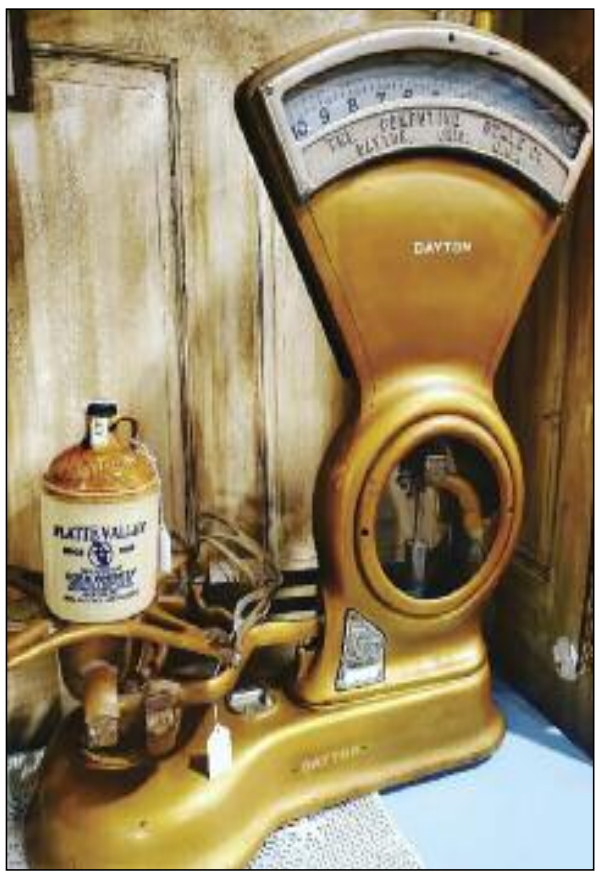

Sugar Mill Ready for Gnome-vember

Gnome-vember features a month long scavenger hunt as well as having the famous Gnome Naughty Norman getting into a little mischief daily as he roams through the store causing havoc. Norman constantly turns things upside down, hides clues. He is a naughty little gnome and it's a fun scavenger hunt, changing every week. Kids love it because they find the gnomes hiding all over the store and every week, Sugar Mill gives out little prizes and gifts when the Gnomes are found.

Thanksgiving's Historic Decorations for the Table

By Robert Reed

That grand American holiday Thanksgiving had long been celebrated, but it really wasn't until the 20th century that it came with commercial table decorations.

Before the elegant turkey dinner was mostly fine. A colorful touch direct from the family's garden harvest might be added.

"Decorations from the earliest (19th century) celebrations were usually homegrown fruits and vegetables used to decorate the dining table or the nearby sideboard," note Helaine Fendelman and Jeri Schwartz authors of the Official Price Guide to Holiday Collectibles.

"It was not until the early part of the 20th century that manufacturing decorations became widely available to the average homemaker," they add.

Before that time there was the occasional small silver ornamentation of a figural turkey for the fashionable dining table. Elsewhere the turkey image might appear on silver tableware, or even a cornucopia (horn of plenty). Some leading manufacturers of fancy ware supplied such items by the 1890s but they were relatively expensive certainly not commonplace as Thanksgiving came around.

Early in the 20th century German manufacturers produced a number of Thanksgiving-related items for the marketplace. Frequently they were candy containers in the form of a chicken, duck, turkey or other game bird made of papier-mache. Often such colorful figural containers had metal legs, and some had a metal spring in the neck to provided limited movement in the figure.

Such candy containers varied in size from the typical five to six inches up to a full 16 inches in height. Usually the head of the figural could be removed to gain access to the candy contents.

Depending on what material was available for manufacturing, such figural designs of the first few decades of the 20th century might also have been made of composition or even celluloid.

By the middle of the 1920s wholesale catalogs in the United States were sometimes devoting several pages to special decorations for this particular all-American holiday.

"Thanksgiving assortments are given our special attention," noted one such catalog in 1924, "and we are sure they will prove most satisfactory."

Both celluloid and china Kewpie dolls were offered as table decorations for the holiday. The Kewpies could be costumed in a white apron and cook's hat, dressed as a farmer in overalls, or simply jumping out of a pumpkin. Still others might be dressed in a fringed skirt and holding a pumpkin, carrying a basket of fruit, or clad in gold and green colored crepe paper with a small turkey seal in their hand.

"If so desired we can supply dressed (Kewpie) dolls in all of the above Thanksgiving styles," assured the wholesale suppliers.

Ironically, while many of the items were clearly marked and marketed within the pages of the catalogs as for the Thanksgiving holiday time has blurred the lines. Today many classic collectibles of that era involving pumpkins and costumed figures are mistakenly placed in the much more popular category of Halloween collectibles.

Additional Thanksgiving table decorations of the 1920s decade include a variety of celluloid turkey figures serving as place card holders. At the other end of the scale were fairly elaborate centerpieces. Among them were the so-called Jack Horner Pies which included a miniature hay wagon filled with hay and drawn by two miniature cows. Variations included the Farmer Pie, and also large pumpkins filled with leaves and fruits topped off by a standing turkey.

There were also a variety of colorful pressed paper offerings ranging from a turkey gobbler to a frying pan, and even a imitation wood butcher's block complete with turkey gobbler and a meat cleaver.

Retail customers could also order up various turkey designs and fruits made of wax to decorate their Thanksgiving tables. The wax items were accompanied with enforced paper boxes to further hold their arrangement. Additionally there was a limited supply for Thanksgiving nut cups, seals, paper table covers, and paper napkins along with folding crepe paper for further table decorating.

By the 1940s holiday-minded consumers could find cellophane packages of paper napkins with Thanksgiving motifs. Printed images included the traditional turkey, Pilgrims, American Indians, and various combinations of all three. Two American companies had assumed a major role in producing paper-based decorations of the Thanksgiving holiday.

America's two masters of paper decorations for the holidays were Dennison Manufacturing and the Beistle Company. Dennison was the source of a vast selection of Thanksgiving table decorations. Done in rich tones of the holiday season were all manner of turkeys, Pilgrims, Indians and even stands of wheat. From small seals to cardboard stand-ups the colors were always exceptional. After decades of manufacturing the company was eventually swallowed up through a series of corporate buy-outs and mergers.

Beistle was particularly prolific in the production of so-called honeycombed foldouts of the turkey characters. In addition to the turkey Beistle also sometimes did the honeycombed orange pumpkin or yellow haystack to further complement the table setting. Unlike Dennison, Beistle continued to manufacture delightful holiday decorations of brightly colored paper throughout the 20th century and beyond.

Candy containers enjoyed a renewed popularity on the Thanksgiving table of the 1940s and 1950s. For example L. E. Smith company provided some extraordinary two-piece turkey shaped candy containers. Advertised as turkey candy box or turkey candy bowl, they stood seven inches tall. In the 1970s the firm was sold to Libbey Glass in Toledo, Ohio before being acquired by other companies.

Some of the most resplendent Thanksgiving table decorations of those same 1940s and 1950s decades came

Gurley Candle Company turkey candle for Thanksgiving table decorating Ca. 1940s.

in the form of candles from the Gurley Novelty Company. The firm produced an entire line of holiday candles during those years including selections marketed particularly for the Thanksgiving holiday. Their Thanksgiving line included individual turkeys in various shades of color, Pilgrims, Indians, and related objects. The male Pilgrim varied in that it was sometimes shown armed with a musket, and sometimes not armed. The actual size of the objects varied from time to time.

Like those for other holidays, the Thanksgiving type candles from Gurley were sold individually or sometimes in boxed sets. Individual candles were readily identified by the cardboard tag attached to the underside of their base. The tag itself offered the selling price, the company name (which was later changed to Gurley Candles), and brief message of caution. While the Gurley-warning itself evolved over the years, typically it cautioned that burning could deform the figures and otherwise leave a mess. Fortunately lots of people chose not to use them as candles at all but simply as table decorations.

Once stocked in vast numbers across the nation in Woolworth's and other variety stores, such Thanksgiving candles are quite collectible today. Such candles may be "relatively easy to find but condition and vibrant color are important," note John and Sandra Thomas the co-authors of Thanksgiving And Turkey Collectibles. They further suggest that the male and female Native American Indian figures "are less frequently found" and their fragile Indian head feather components were "prone to snap off" at some point in their shelf life.

Continued on page 8

Thanksgiving's Historic Decorations for the Table

Five inch female and male Pilgrim candles for Thanksgiving holiday Produced by Gurley Novelty Co. middle 20th century.

Continued from page 7

Tavern Novelty Candles also made various Thanksgiving candles as late as the 1960s including a box set of four figural Pilgrim candles. Other makers during that period included W & F Manufacturing Company.

By the 1960s plastic turkey candy containers were being produced in Hong Kong for the American market. Plastic candy containers in the form of a turkey were also being made by the E. Rosen company in various colors plus solid white.

Pair of Papier mache table decorations. Turkey figures were candy containers.

Collectors today look for all the "decorative turkey accouterments" of the past to highlight their Thanksgiving table according Thomas and Thomas. Initially there is glass, pottery and papier-mache. However they add watch as well for "paper displays, candles, figurines, centerpieces, and other things" of grand Thanksgivings past.

Brightly shaded turkey decoration made by the Gurley Candle Co. in Buffalo, New York. Ca. 1950s.

Recommended reading:

Thanksgiving And Turkey Collectibles, Then & Now by John Thomas and Sandra Thomas (Schiffer Publishing).

Thanksgiving Day—A Harvest Celebration

By Bobbie Sweeney

People all over the world set aside at least one day of the year to celebrate the harvest of the land. In America, one of the first celebrations of this kind was initiated by the Pilgrims. In 1621, they held a three-day festival by order of the Governor of the Colony, William Bradford. The Indians who had become their friends were invited to join the Pilgrims in their celebration.

Throughout the eastern part of North America, harvest festivals became an annual custom during the month of November. It was not until 1789 that George Washington proclaimed Nov. 26 as the first national day of Thanksgiving. However, the entire nation did not accept the idea until President Lincoln proclaimed a national harvest festival in 1863. From then on, Thanksgiving Day has been an annual holiday in the United States.

The reasons for celebrating on this day are basically the same as they were at the time the Pilgrims had their first feast. Families and friends gather together to give thanks for the blessings they have enjoyed all year long.

Wild turkeys roamed the eastern coast at the time the Pilgrims settled here, and turkey was one of the main dishes served at their feast. Because of the abundance of wild turkey, they became a staple diet for the Pilgrims.

Long before the Pilgrims settled on American soil, the Indians had used turkeys not only as a food source but also as a means of keeping warm, using their feathers for making cloaks and blankets. The Indians trimmed their arrows with turkey feathers and used the sharp spurs of the male turkey as arrow tips. Indian hunters made blow guns and darts, to kill their prey, from turkey bones.

The Pilgrims cooked other foods for their feast that had been their harvest for the year. Cranberries, pumpkin, corn and chestnuts were made into sauces, pies, puddings and stuffing for the turkey. While turkey became the traditional meat to be served on Thanksgiving Day, cranberries, pumpkin, etc. became traditional side dishes at the meal.

Thanksgiving Day brings pleasant memories of years gone by to all of us. And we have the Pilgrims to thank for starting this joyous festival in our country.

Elections Were Festive Occasions Years Ago

Continued from page 1

Colonists didn't have as much leeway to choose their elected officials as U.S. citizens do today. But those who could vote—wealthy, landholding Protestant men, for the most part—did so in a much more intimate fashion than modern voters. Voting happened in person, and didn't always involve a ballot. Rather, men would travel from near and far to participate in voice votes affirming candidates for town and city governments, colonial legislatures and, in some colonies, governors.

It was a time before campaign finance as we know it, and campaigns happened in person or by letter. Rich, landed voters might receive individual visits from the rich, landed men who could afford to run for office.

For less wealthy voters, though, the action was on election day itself. "Prospective officeholders were expected to be at the polls on election day and made a point to greet all voters. Failure to appear or to be civil to all could be disastrous," writes Ed Crews.

In New York, for example, candidates and their supporters rented out taverns and held huge, boozy parties. Often, candidates would take care of transportation, too—and the trips toward the polling place often took on the trappings of a rowdy parade complete with brawls, taunts and delighted onlookers.

The parades were impromptu affairs that reflected the nature of colonial life. Colonial assembly elections brought men from near and far, but also attracted family members, who traveled with them to the colonial capital to see the festivities. As they moved, the parades became jocular and increasingly spirited affairs that were egged on by onlookers eager to greet their far-flung friends, get the latest news and watch the election itself.

As voters moved toward the election green in New York City in 1768, writes historian Nicholas Varga, candidates and their supporters "coaxed and bullied each voter as he strode to the poll." All this cheering and shouting seemed to add to the festive occasion. After the vote, the celebrations kept on going. "It was customary for everyone present to adjourn to the nearest tavern where the winning candidate was expected to treat all the electors (regardless of how they had voted) to more drink and food," he writes.

Elections were so festive that they even called for special food. Election cake—a massive loaf of sweet bread with raisins, figs and spices—was common throughout the colonies from the 1660s on. The delicacy eventually became particularly associated with Hartford, where town representatives provided it to voters who came to the colonial capital from afar.

Elections weren't always as festive: Occasionally, they became dangerous. In 1742, for example, a scuffle in Philadelphia escalated into an outright riot. Quaker politicians had long dominated the city's political scene, but a growing group of Anglican politicians threatened their dominance in city government. Amidst rumors that the Quakers had recruited unnaturalized Germans to vote for them, a group of rowdy, pro-Anglican sailors descended on the courthouse. Violence ensued, and the fiasco became known as the city's "Bloody Election." (The Quakers prevailed.)

The election day festival tradition continued after the formation of the United States and throughout the 19th century. At its height, an estimated 85 percent of the U.S. electorate turned out to vote. However, there were legions of Americans who could not vote, including Native Americans, some immigrants,

women and black Americans whose voting rights were challenged and stripped from them after Reconstruction. Today, we can all vote.

There are renewed calls to make election day more festive—or at least a national holiday on which more people can exercise their civic duty and vote. "Declaring Election Day a federal holiday and rekindling the celebratory spirit that marked the day in previous centuries would be an important step toward promoting democratic participation," writes historian Holly Jackson for the Washington Post.

The idea has been proven successful: In 2007, political scientists were able to use election-day celebrations to drive voter turnout. Election Day may never again be soaked in rum and filled with brawling, drunken parades, but Jackson and others argue that revisiting some elements of colonial election day traditions could boost voter turnout.

Election Day is a civic holiday in several states including Delaware, Hawaii, New York, New Jersey and the territory of Puerto Rico. Many have called for Election Day to become a federal holiday, so people can take time to vote without missing work.

Veteran's Day

Freedom comes at a high price when men and women have to risk and sacrifice their lives for the nation we have built and way of life we have come to enjoy. The men and women who have served our country in times of war and peace are some of our nation's best citizens. We justly honor them on Veterans Day.

Americans show their appreciating to men and women in the Armed Forces in many ways. When we erect a monument, lower a fag to half-mast, set a wreath, attend a function, and gather at a VFW hall on this day to hear speeches, we show respect to the nation's peacekeepers, and we acknowledge virtues to be passed on for generations. Our silent meditation and prayers for the fallen are heartfelt. The brave deeds of soldiers stir the imagination of our youths.

Our veterans are the backbone of the nation. We Americans hope to avoid war, and when we send our forces off to war we long for their safe return. Veterans deserve the benefits we authorize Congress to give them. Our veterans have earned their pensions. We support hospitals to care for the wounded and sick. We care for the widows and children of veterans. We generously help veterans receive grants for continuing education and vocational training. We will never forget those who serve in the Armed Forces. Let us observe Veterans Day with devotion in any and every way we can.

The wellbeing and happiness of our veterans are on the minds of parents and spouses, family and friends, and every freedom-loving individual. We gladly read about our armed forces in books, see them in action on film, and picture them on postage stamps.

Veterans of the United States, we proudly salute you on this Veterans Day and always!

History of Veterans Day

World War I formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. The United States previously observed Armistice Day. The holiday was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

The National Veteran's Art Museum in Chicago has an unusual work of art which you may not have even known existed!

When visitors first enter the museum, they will hear a sound like wind chimes coming from above them and their attention will be drawn upward 24 feet to the ceiling of the two-story high atrium.

The dog tags of the more than 58,000 service men and women who died in the Vietnam War, were hung from the ceiling of the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum in Chicago on Veterans Day, November 11, 2010. The 10 x 40 foot sculpture, entitled Above & Beyond, was designed by Ned Broderick and Richard Stein.

The thousands of metal dog tags are suspended 24 feet in the

air, 1 inch apart, from fine lines that allow them to move and chime with shifting air currents. Museum employees using a kiosk and laser pointer help visitors locate the exact dog tag with the imprinted name of a lost friend or relative.

"If you can read this, thank a Teacher ... If you are reading it in English, thank a VET."

Calendar Listings

Calendar Listing Information

Promoters: send us your calendar information. We will publish it free (and in boldface type) with your display ad. Otherwise the cost is $35 per issue. Calendar entries are published on a three-month basis (month of show and two months previous). So send in your info as soon as possible. It's never too early. Stories and features about shows are provided free with your display ad.

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For more information, call **720-276-2777**.

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

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Faded Glory of Advertising Almanacs

By Robert Reed

People would probably guess that Benjamin Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanac is one of the most prized of historic almanacs in the country. And they would be right. A 1749 issue recently brought $3,000 at a leading auction gallery.

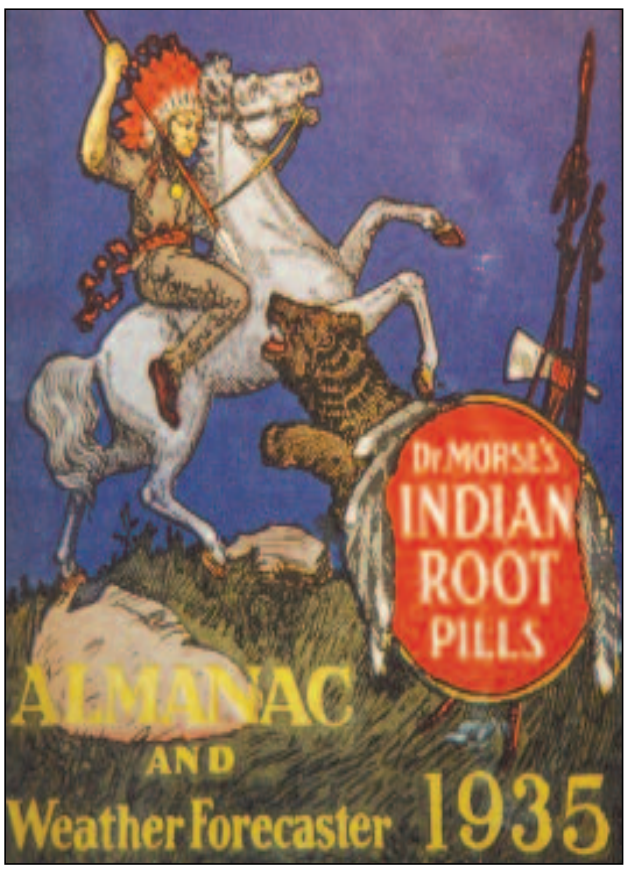
However a great many advertising almanacs are still out there – if not undiscovered at least at relatively reasonable prices.

Almanacs offer a faded glory. Part of their appeal is the fact that they have come and gone on the American scene. With all due respect to the Old Farmer's Almanac and a few others, the almanac is no longer a part of the culture of this country. While more of us can read than ever before, we no longer thumb through the almanac for advise on weather, health, cooking, or when to plant winter peas.

There is no denying their impact however. Spanning over 350 years, as many as 7,000 different almanacs were consumed and saved by Americans. Today they are collected by generations far removed from their proud past. They are now being saved for their content, design, and advertising sponsors.

Most accounts say the first almanac printed in this country was published by William Pierce Mariner in 1639. Scores of similar publications followed offering general information and even astrological and weather data for a particular year. Early almanacs provided a listing of moon phases for planting and harvesting crops, gave social advice, and became one of the few sources of reference on home health care. The Boston Almanac of 1692 carried an announcement for some super tonic said to cure any number of things including "distemper of the dry bell ach...." Other equally questionable tonic cures were also noted in the New-England Almanac of 1696.

After a stay in prison for his publishing activities in Boston, James Franklin took his operation to Newport, Rhode Island where he published Franklin's Rhode-Island Almanac starting with the year 1728. Other publications of that grand era included Bowen's New England Diary, Poor Job's Almanac, Bickerstaff's Boston Almanac, and



Advertising Almanac, 1935 Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills.

Ben Franklin's famed Poor Richard's Almanac. Franklin used the pseudonym of Richard Sanders in those times, and thus the now famous title of Poor Richard.

From 1733 to 1748 the Poor Richard Almanac was published by Franklin directly and more the imprint B. Franklin. After 1748 the imprint was B. Franklin and D. Hall, as a partnership was formed. Still later issues of the Poor Richard Almanacs were identified as from Hall and Sellers.

Toward the end of the 18th century almanacs were appearing more and more often, almost any city of any size that was served by an ambitious printer. In Connecticut, for example, there were almanacs published in at least three different cities between 1783 and 1800–Norwich, New London, and Hartford. Meanwhile in Philadelphia, Bailey's Pocket Almanac printed in 1786 included maps of proposed western states including Michigan, Illinois, Assenisipia, Sylvania, and Polypotamia.

There was a flood of almanacs in America during the 19th century. Readers could select form such titles as the Hard Cider and Long Cabin Almanac, the Rough and Ready Almanac, the Piratical & Tragical Almanac, The Brethern Family Almanac, and even the General Taylor Almanac. Many supported political or social causes and used their title and many pages to promote their intended goal.

DeSilver's Almanac of 1831 listed Civil and Military officials of the United States, Masonic information, advice to mothers, and an account of the most extraordinary cases ever recorded in the annals of medicine. The 1840 American Anti-Slavery Almanac was "calculated for New York, and adapted to the northern and middle states."

"Almost everyone, especially readers whose livelihood came from the sea or from farming, respected the almanacs' weather records and data," confirms the able Family Encyclopedia of American History. "But most of the wisdom actually centered on subjects like health, household hints, and recipes."

Still the major trend for almanacs during the second half of the 19th century was purely commercial. Some bore outlandish scientific beliefs, and offered wild medical claims. Manufacturers, especially those dealing in patent medicines, began to see advertising potential in such 'must read' almanacs and local merchants were encouraged to give them away to customers at little or no charge. At this point almanac choices reached from the likes of the August Flower and German Syrup Almanac to Morse's Indian Root Pill Almanac. By 1890 millions of patent medicine almanacs were being distributed every year to a semi-rural population that dearly loved them. For many of these families, a handed-out almanac was the only book they could afford.

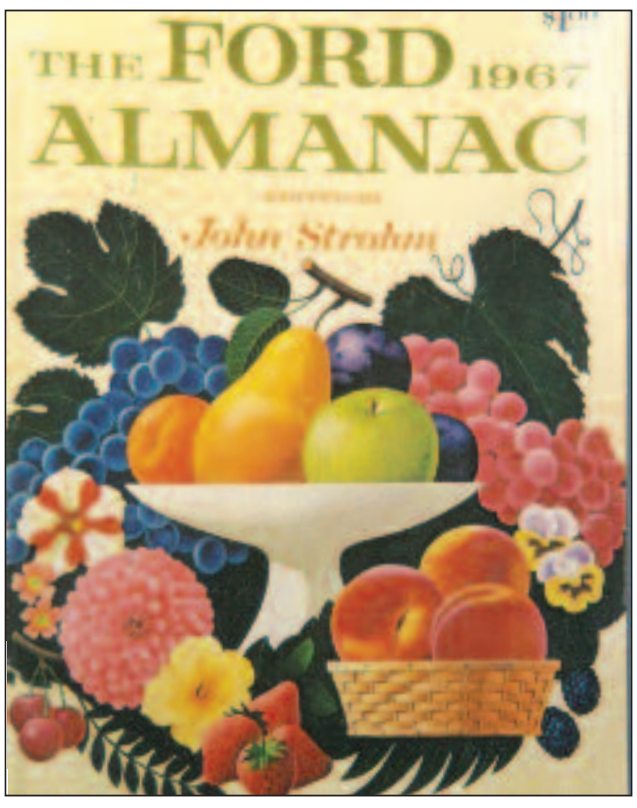
Advertising played a dominate role in almanacs early into the 20th century as a majority were either published by those with goods or services to sell directly, or published by those with a general audience and again made available though local merchants. Titles like Rawleigh Products Almanac, Watkins' Home Doctor and Cook Book Almanac, Studebaker's Farmer's Almanac, and Hill's Southern Almanac were distributed to an eager public.

Even in the 1930s and 1940s sources for almanacs remained somewhat diverse extending from F.S. Royster Guano Company and B. F. Goodrich to the folksy almanac premium from the Lum and Abner radio show and Kellogg's Housewife Almanac Yearbook. During the 1950s as Americans spent greater time with television and other more immediate sources of information, the number and variety of almanacs dwindled considerably.

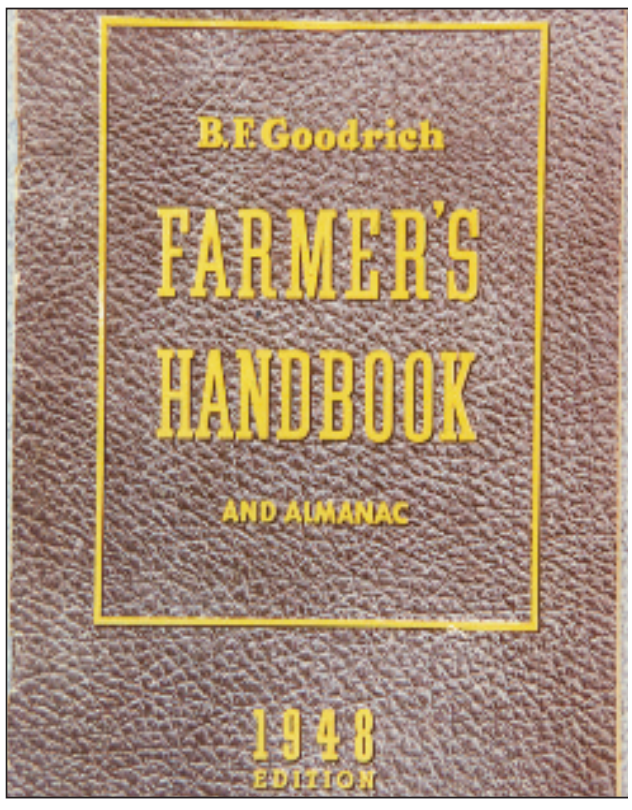
While cherished issues of Poor Richard's Almanac and the Wilmington Almanac are not likely to be found outside of major auction galleries or the inventory of leading dealers, others can be readily found. Almanacs without important historical connections, even fairly old ones, can still be found in the marketplace.

Those almanacs which tout political and social causes, i.e. anti-slavery, anti-Masonic, are probably the second most collectible category of American almanacs. Prices on these issues have appreciated significantly in recent years.

Finally, almanacs with colorful and interesting (if not entirely truthful) advertising as their main thrust remain relatively inexpensive. As interest grows in this country's advertising past, particularly advertising paper, fine examples of this type will be more in demand.



Ford Almanac for ranch and home, 1967.



Farmer's Almanac published by the B.F. Goodrich makers of tires and farm supplies.

"Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

QUOTES

I have discovered to my great joy that it is life, not death, that has no limits.
Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Hurry, hurry, open every door, says my heart.
Mary Oliver

Age is not the enemy. Stagnation is the enemy. Complacency is the enemy.
Twyla Tharp

I'd rather regret the risks that didn't work out than chances I didn't take at all.
Simon Biles

Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable.
Mary Oliver

Celebrate endings - for they precede new beginnings.
Jonathan Lockwood Huie

Only put off till tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone.
Pablo Picasso

Quotes provided by Carol MacDougall

American History

November Anniversaries

November 5
150th Anniversary of American suffragist Susan B. Anthony voting for the first time, in defiance of the law (1872)

November 9
Mayflower arrives at Cape Cod, Mass. (1620)

November 10
Congress establishes U.S. Marine Corps (1775)

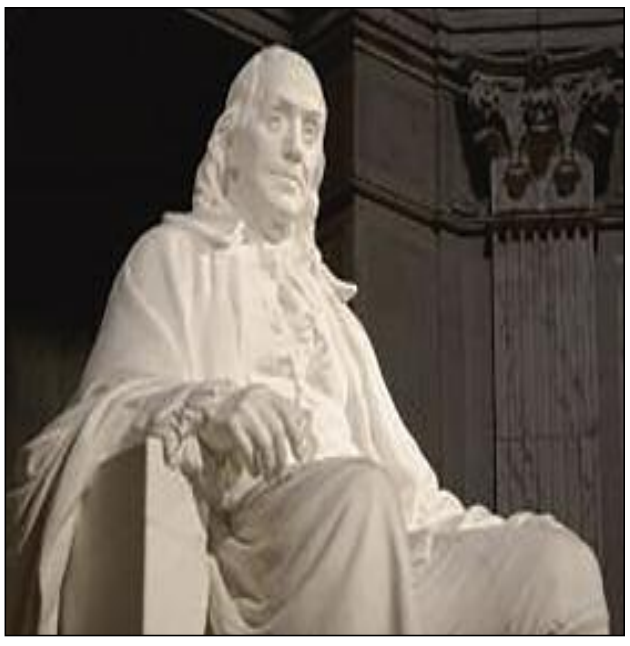
November 11
Veterans Day

November 17
Articles of Confederation submitted to states (1777)

November 21
100th Anniversary of Rebecca Felton of Georgia taking the oath of office, becoming the first female United States Senator (1922)

November 24
Thanksgiving Day

November 25
American Indian Heritage Day



The story that Franklin proposed the turkey as the national symbol began to circulate in American newspapers around the time of the country's centennial and are based on a January 26, 1784, letter in which he panned the eagle and extolled the virtues of the gobbler to his daughter, Sarah. In doing so, though, he was not delivering a critique of the Great Seal but a new medal issued by the Society of the Cincinnati, an association of Continental Army veterans. "For my own part I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country," he wrote. The Founding Father argued that the eagle was "a bird of bad moral character" that "does not get his living honestly" because it steals food from the fishing hawk and is "too lazy to fish for himself."

In contrast, Franklin called the turkey "a much more respectable bird" and "a true original native of America." While he considered the eagle "a rank coward," Franklin believed the turkey to be "a bird of courage" that "would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his farm yard with a red coat on." While the private letter was a spirited promotion of the turkey over the eagle, Franklin never made his views public, and when the chance had been given to him to officially propose a symbol for the United States eight years earlier, his idea was biblical, not avian.

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?

Pine

Georgetown

HOTEL DE PARIS MUSEUM

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.

Their Mission:

To collect, preserve, and share history associated with Louis Dupuy's Hotel De Paris, and serve as a catalyst for heritage tourism in Georgetown, Colorado.

Castle Rock

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 Peg DeStefano at **303-910-2604** or email us at spreepub@mac.com

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Military Playsets Produced by the Louis Marx Co.

By Robert Reed

Over a period of approximately 15 years, from the late 1940s into the 1970s, military playsets were one of the nation's most popular and prolific toys.

Scores and scores of the sets were produced by the Louis Marx Company which was the leader in playset manufacturing and marketing. Military sets in particular probably outdistanced their space, farm and prehistoric sets in sales during that period.

Hallmarks of the numerous Marx military playsets were the enduring plastic soldiers and their accompanying metal buildings.

"As with cowboy-and-Indian figures, miniature soldier figures would be just about the closest boys ever got to playing with dolls," observe Gil Asakawa and Leland Rucker, co-authors of The Toy Book. "Thanks to the mass-produced capabilities of injection-molded plastic, entire armies of green soldiers, or gray and black knights, or red and blue Revolutionary War figures were available in stores or through comic-book mail order."

But it wasn't just the colors that made these military playsets appeal so strongly to youngsters, it was the vastness of their numbers. "Marx's early sets weren't particularly inspiring as to subject," notes toy historian Richard O'Brien author of The Story of American Toys, "but their quality and the quantity of their components made them catch on quickly. A single Marx set contained more toys and accessories than most of the kids of the 1920s and 1930s had owned throughout the duration of their childhood."

As a "stunning" example O'Brien cites the U.S. Army Training Set first issued in 1951, "for $5.95 one got 145 pieces including 100 plastic soldiers. During the deepest days of the Depression, 100 soldiers alone would have cost $5."

The fabled set also included a metal headquarters building, machine guns, tents, stacked rifles, bazookas, flags, trees, rocks, scout car, army half-track, 16 sections of fencing, a desk, swivel chair, switchboard, rifle rack, crate, side chairs, map table, bench, a file cabinet and even a wastebasket.

Other early military playsets included Battleground which was advertised in the Montgomery Ward catalog, the Authorized Gallant Men, Iwo Jima, and the previously mentioned Revolutionary War Set.

The Battleground set was somewhat more unique than many of the others in that it also offered German troops along with American troops. Other sets which also provided 'enemy' soldiers included D-Day Army Set, Desert Patrol, Beachhead Landing, Tank Battle, and the World War II playset. The WWII set sold by Sears also included French, British, and Russian troops.

During the early 1960s, Ideal Toy Company also got into military playsets, including one specialty series. "Ideal produced nine different diorama playsets with working features and called the series Battle Action," according to Bill Bruegman in Toys of the Sixties. "Each set came with three inch soldiers, although these were also sold separately."

Individual set include Fighter Jet Strip, Sniper Post, Check Point, War Field and Fighting Men, Twin Howitzers, Mined Bridge, Booby Trap Road, Machine Gun Nest, and Road Block. These sets were also relatively intricate and detailed. Road Block, for example, featured a spring-activated falling tree and a machine gun which produced sounds, plus three soldiers and a jeep.

Bruegman also points out that the Battle Action Playsets came in large window display boxes featuring a single set. Later larger boxes with fold-open lids contained two or more sets.

Ideal also issued a big plastic truck and cannon in the 1960s. "It's big, it's unbreakable, it's polyethylene," Ideal proclaimed in marketing the Army Truck and Cannon. The truck had a removable canopy and the cannon fired cannon balls. The outfit was slightly bigger than most of the other playset models but still sometimes workable with the others.

Technically, some of the G.I. issues also qualified as playsets. The G.I. Joe Super Adventure sold by Sears in the latter 1960s $12.95 included "all the accessories needed to take G.I. Joe on three exciting adventures." And there was the G.I. Adventure Headquarters for $13.99 which included a three- room building, telegraph key, map, and other accessories.

Comic books also offered a steady supply of mail-order military playsets during the 1960s, but of considerably lesser quality. Lucky Products offered Toys Soldiers in a Foot Locker for about one dollar. The plastic soldiers were two inches tall and the footlocker was a cardboard box. Similar advertisements offered up to 100 pieces in the sets including tanks, jeeps, and even waves and wacs.

In 1962 Remco issued the Whirlybird Helicopter set which included a battery-operated helicopter, and a 25-member attack force complete with jeep, tank and truck. They followed that in 1964 with three different World War I playsets. One, Doughboy and Air Aces, came with biplanes and several soldiers.

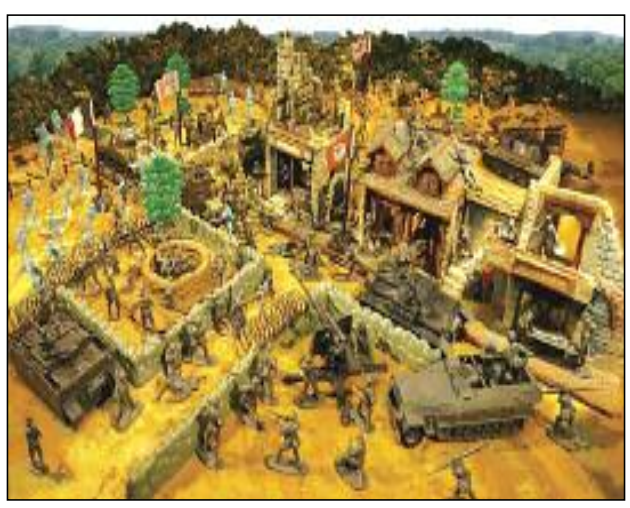
Still the vast majority of the better military playsets came from Marx. The company made numerous versions of the U.S. Army Training Center some of which included a Post Exchange, flag pole, and Company C supply building.

Other sets marketed in multiple versions included Marine Beachhead, Military Academy, American Patrol, Army Barracks, Navarone Mountain Battleground, and the Battle of the Blue and Gray.

Marx also offered the Battleground Convoy Set, the D.E.W. Defense Line Artic Satellite Base, Giant Battleground, and Strategic Air Command which was often combinations of various previously issued sets.

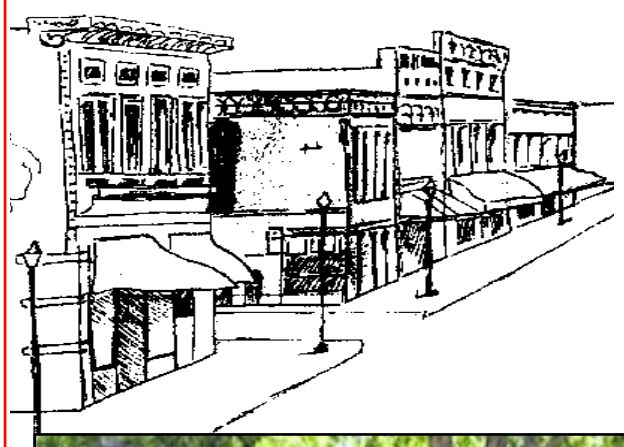
"The Louis Marx Toy Company was the leading producer of this type of toy and was responsible for most of the higher valued sets in this category," concludes Rick in the book, Garage Sale Gold.

While "Multi-Products and several other toy companies produced similar figures even by the pound," adds Koch, "none have measured up to the most valuable (Marx) sets."

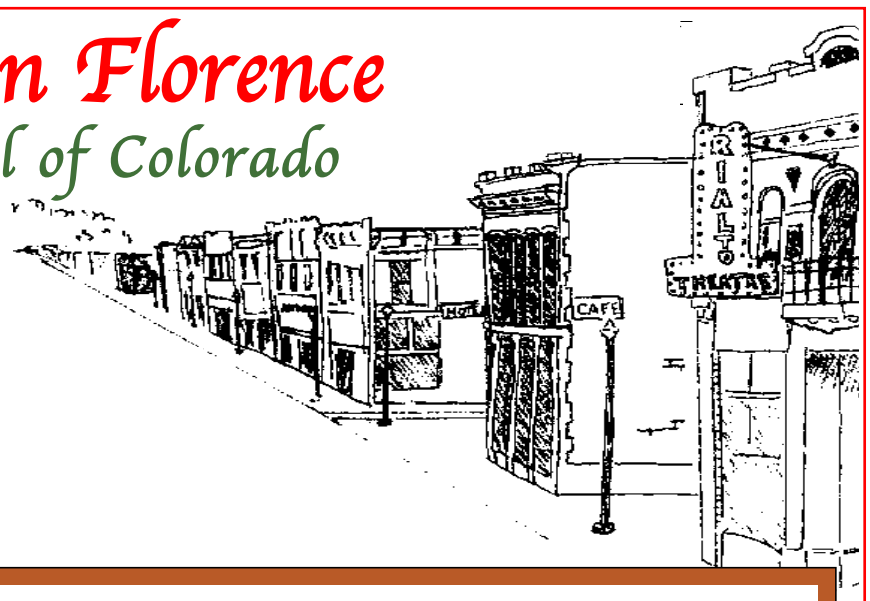


Find It All in Florence

Antique Capital of Colorado



We take great pride in being a "great little town" where you're a stranger only once!



Florence: 1870 - 1970

By Sandy Dale

As I sip my morning coffee, I am perusing my new book, Florence: 1870's - 1970's*. The low morning sun blazes through the window on this, the first day of fall. It's chilly in my study, crisp and beautiful outside.

Looking at the collection of old photos** is like looking at a family album. I wasn't born in Florence or even in Colorado, but I feel at home here.

The people smiling out at me from the photos are much like a family. They worked hard to nurture their little community. To build it into a thriving, healthy city. Of course, there were ups and downs. Local, national, and world-wide. Like any family, they mourned the losses and celebrated the successes. Family albums reflect this in abundance as does this book.

As a young girl, I was bored to tears by the study of history. I was not one of the lucky ones whose teacher brought history to life in the classroom. The memorization of the dates of historical events or the events themselves meant nothing to me. Now, I can't get enough of it. Especially if there are old photos and descriptions of the characters involved. I now understand that history is not about dates and arbitrary borders on maps, but about people; their curiosity, courage, quests, loyalty, greed, struggles for power or freedom or wealth. Rarely do history books treat the land as a character in the stories. Definitely in the case of Florence, the land itself plays a leading role. In this little book, the beginning chapter makes it very clear.

I could go on and on, but come meet Florence for yourself. Stop in at the Pioneer Museum and Research Center, Pikes Peak & Front St., 100 E. Front St., and pick up your own copy of Florence: 1870's - 1970's. As we say here, "Find It in Florence."

*Written by Dennis Lancaster and published by Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, S.C., 2022.

**These photos from Florence: 1870's - 1970's are in the collection of the Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center along with many others from private collections. Upper right, James A. McCandless Mercantile Company 1894. Left, Cement Delivery. Lower right, John Camerlo, 1922.

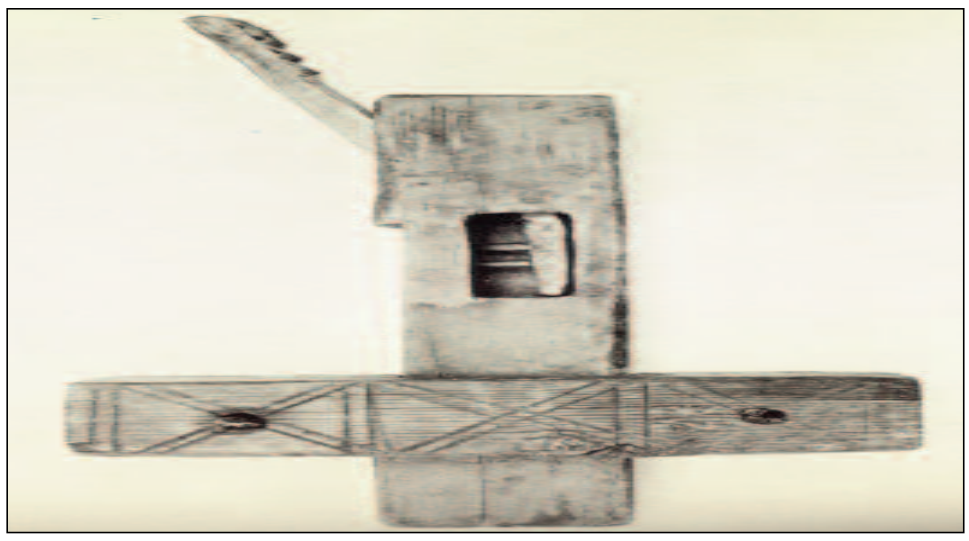
October's What Is It?

No one correctly identified the October's What Is It. It was provided by Sue Connelly of Longmont, Colorado. Sue is an avid collector. This item is called a cannonball sizer.

During the American Civil War, cannon balls were huge spheres of iron and steel ~ at least that is what seems apparent when we view the conical stack of eight to ten-inch diameter cannonballs. The assumption that all the cannon, and cannon balls, were large is not true. The fact of the matter was that smaller bore cannon ~ with bores ranging from 3 to 6-inches ~ were far more common during that conflict. And although stacks of cannon balls from the American Revolutionary War are not commonly found anywhere, let alone near the county court house entrance, it will be found that they were most often small, too.

The size-name of the projectile (e.g. 3- pounder or 12-pounder) was signified by the size of the bore diameter of the cannon's barrel. That size was noted as the caliber in inches. The caliber size, in only a few cases, matched the weight of the solid iron ball shot. (In other words, a cannon with a bore diameter of 3 inches would shoot a slightly smaller iron ball that weighed between 3 and 4 pounds, but a cannon with a bore diameter of 5.29 inches would shoot a ball that weighed 18 pounds.) The size of the cannon came to be referred to in terms of the average weight of the solid ball shot they could fire. A cannon that shot a 3-pound ball was called a 3-pounder, one that shot a 6-pound ball cannon balls positioned beside the bronze statue of the Civil War soldier in the park or beside the front entrance to the county court house. The largest piece of ordnance

November's What Is It?



Send your answers to the What Is It contest, postmarked by November 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.***

fabricated during the War Between The States, the Rodman Gun, fired a 450-pound solid ball from the 15-inch bore of its thirteen-feet, nine-inch long barrel. That was called a 6-pounder, and so on. Nearly thirteen different calibers were employed in the guns at the time of the American Revolutionary War.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We did have one more correct guess for our Sept.'s What Is It. Sadly, we didn't see it before the paper had to go to press. We wanted to be sure to give credit to Terry Cook of Ft. Morgan, Colorado. She identified the Sept. What Is It as a wrought iron spiral courting candlestick. "It was used to time the amount of time allowed to a visiting suitor." Congratulations, Terry, you have won a year's subscription to ***the Mountain States Collector****. And, thank you for entering our contest.*

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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