



# the mountain states collector

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

51ST ANNIVERSARY — ESTABLISHED IN 1972

Volume 51, Number 11 NOVEMBER 2023



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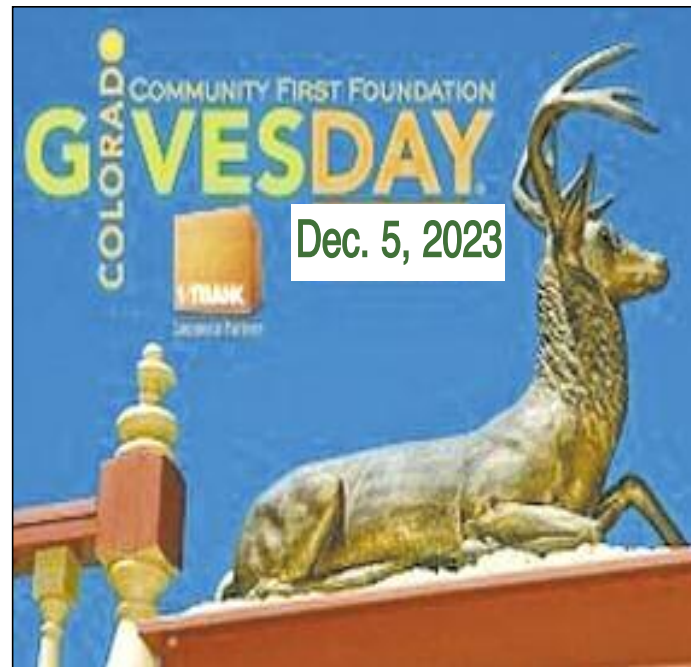
## The Whole Community Wins With Colorado Gives Day

By Melanie Ulle

You know what makes our state so rad? I mean, besides the sun, the big giant sky, the music, the culture, the food, the people, the entrepreneurialism, the endless adventures, and our general awesomeness. You guessed it. Colorado Gives Day! I knew you'd get it. Our state raised over \$53 million last year on Colorado Gives Day. Did you read that correctly? Yes, \$53 million in U.S. dollars for the local organizations we know and love in one day. These are the agencies that feed, house, treat, educate, and support us. The whole community wins when we have a successful Colorado Gives Day. But who is the mad genius behind this very special event?

Enter Colorado Gives Foundation, the brilliant team who started this crazy adventure in philanthropy. A community foundation with a hardworking, committed staff working statewide to help donors fulfill their charitable interests through donor advised funds, they also make grants to nonprofits serving Jeffco and in a big twist, they also run Colorado Gives 365, which connects donors to nonprofits across the state of Colorado and manages—you guessed it, again—Colorado Gives Day.

I'm a bit of a fan girl of our front range community foundations, so I get mushy anytime I'm given the opportunity to hype one up. Under the strong leadership of Kelly Dunkin, Colorado Gives Foundation has grown in leaps and bounds. In 2022, Colorado Gives Day raised a boatload of cash, helped 101,000 individual donors contribute, (with an average gift size of \$103), all in service to our wonderful community. Specifically, 3,340 nonprofit organizations benefited from this riptide of generosity on that one special day through over 251,000 donations. 'Tis the season to start preparing for this year's Colorado Gives Day, which will be December 5th. How can you make 2023 your best one yet? I recommend identifying which organizations



you wish to support early. Giving opens on November 1st and this allows plenty of time to share your faves with friends, family and colleagues through social media and emails. And even a few passive aggressive texts to those who ignored you the first time.

All donations received between November 1st and December 5th qualify for additional dollars from a competitive incentive fund. This incentive fund is sponsored by generous community leaders and participating nonprofits receive a percentage of the fund equal to the percentage they raise for Colorado Gives Day.

I also recommend taking advantage of Colorado Gives Foundation's "gift of giving." Purchase giving cards in any amount so your loved ones can support the organization/s of their choosing. Unlike any other holiday gift, when this card is purchased, it's fully tax-deductible for the purchaser.

We live in a state known for being spectacularly beautiful. Now, we can help bolster its rep as also being spectacularly generous. Learn more about Colorado Gives Day and the fantastic Colorado Gives Foundation at Colorado-Gives.org.

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Bailey, CO 80421  
Permit #45

Mountain States Collector  
Spruce Enterprises, Inc.  
Box 1003  
Bailey, CO 80421-1003



When we think of the veterans we want to honor on November 11, those who served in the "big" wars come to mind, including the World Wars, Korea, and Vietnam. Since Vietnam, however, the U.S. has been involved in many wars and campaigns. Only during one period from 1984 to 1989 have no Americans fought on foreign lands.

Memorial gestures usually take place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I when the fighting ended at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day." It then became known as Veterans Day.

Since the holiday is on Saturday this year, Veterans Day will be observed on Friday, Nov. 10, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Here is something you can tell a veteran:

You are very much honored and very much appreciated for all that you have done. Thank you for your courage and for putting your country first. Thank you for protecting our country, for your bravery, and for all that you do to make this country safe.

Wishing you a happy Veteran's day!



• C • O • L • O • R • A • D • O •  
**ANTIQUE GALLERY**

coloradoantiquegallery.com  
 5501 S. Broadway • Littleton, CO 80121

# Begin the Holidays!

Holiday shopping is a wonderful experience at the Gallery! Come in and wander through 285 booths stocked with fabulous holiday merchandise. From elegant and opulent, to shabby and chic, we have something for every taste and budget...and we've got a great LAY-AWAY plan too!

Host the holidays with style! Find crystal, china, silver, linens, barware, unique serving pieces, table decorations in our *Miles of Aisles*. Plus furniture from every era, for every room, to spruce up before the holidays!

Wishing you the best during the holidays.



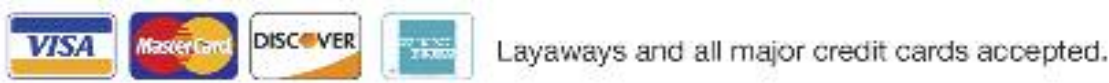
**HOLIDAY SALE  
 STARTS  
 NOVEMBER 24!**



*Don't know what to give?*  
 Give a Colorado Antique Gallery Gift Card and let them choose from thousands of unique items.



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**Spend Thanksgiving with Family,  
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Storewide Sale — 15% to 75% OFF**

**CLOSED THANKSGIVING**



## Old Crows' Antiques Road Show

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

*Limit 1 item per person*

**Saturday, Nov. 4**

12 - 3 p.m. (First Saturday Every Month)

**Saturday, Nov. 11**

12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

## LITTLETON CAR SHOW

**"Be There or Be Square"**

**Saturday, November 18**

Live at the Crows: featuring Warren Floyd performing in the Root Beer Bar, 2-5 p.m.

**Saturday, November 25**

## Celebrate the Arts

Numerous Demonstrations with Local Artists and Craftsmen

## Colorado's Best Antique Destination

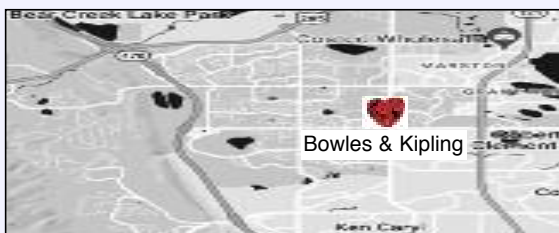
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9am-6pm  
Fri.-Sat. 9am-7pm Sun. 12pm-6pm

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Best  
of Arvada  
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in Arvada

# Show Calendar November - December '23

NOV. 4: **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

NOV. 10: **LADIES NIGHT at the VINTAGE MARKETPLACE**, 6520 S. College Ave., Ft. Collins, Colorado, More info, [vintagemarketplaceftc.com](http://vintagemarketplaceftc.com)

NOV. 11: **LITTLETON CAR SHOW** 3 to 6 p.m., weather permitting, at Old Crows Antique Mall, 10081 West Bowles Avenue, Littleton. Featuring vintage and collectible vehicles. An event that is fun for the whole family. 303-973-8648.

NOV 18: **LIVE AT THE CROWS** at the Old Crows Antique Mall & Root Beer Bar, live performance by Warren Floyd, 2-5 p.m., 303-973-8648.

NOV. 25: **CELEBRATE THE ARTS at Old Crows Antiques Mall**, special prices on all artwork. Demonstrations by numerous local artists and craftsmen. Call 303-973-6648 for more information.

DEC. 2 & 3 & DEC. 9 & 10: **HOTEL de PARIS, Georgetown** See Hotel de Paris Museum™ decked in festive Victorian style decorations December 2-3 and 9-10 during Historic Georgetown, Incorporated's annual outdoor European Christmas Market. Self-guided tours of the museum run continuously from 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Allow 30 minutes (however, you can take as much time as you like). Take holiday photos in front of our themed Christmas trees, which reflect the history of Louis Dupuy's



Hotel de Paris. Shop for antiques and collectibles during our museum shop sale. Enjoy complimentary refreshments (while supplies last) in our charming kitchen. You'll like Georgetown, Colorado and Hotel de Paris, "The Showplace of the Rockies." Admission \$10. Discounts available. For more information, go to [www.hoteldeparismuseum.org](http://www.hoteldeparismuseum.org) or call 303-569-2311.

## Hamill House Museum Welcomes You

In addition to the Hotel de Paris in Georgetown, there is another great historic place to visit. The Hamill House Museum also gives homage to one of Georgetown's first residents. At the museum you can explore the meticulously preserved home once belonging to the Silver Baron, William Arthur Hamill. (Construction Date: 1867-1879 by Joseph Watson, brother-in-law to William Arthur Hamill.)

The Hamill House Museum is the cornerstone of Historic Georgetown's comprehensive residential interpretation of the Georgetown-Silver Plume National Historic Landmark District (designated 1966) within the context of the Rocky Mountain Mining West.

The Hamill House Museum interprets 19th century residential living in Georgetown, Colorado: including architecture, furnishing, Victorian plants, landscaping, social and cultural lifestyles. The home includes features such as a conservatory, gaslighting, bay windows, walnut woodwork, central heating, and exquisite interior decorating. Additional buildings on the Hamill House Museum grounds include a carriage house, office building, a laundry/summer kitchen, as well as a spacious six-seater privy.

The Christmas season brings unique experiences to the Hamill House Museum with special readings of "The Night Before Christmas" along with Victorian holiday traditions such as

lighting of the Christmas Tree, Yule log festivities, caroling, delicious food and Wassail toasts.

The Hamill House Museum is located at 305 Argentine Street in Georgetown. Please call (303) 569-2840 or email [preservation@historicgeorgetown.org](mailto:preservation@historicgeorgetown.org) for more information.



### Christmas at the Hamill House

Saturday, December 9th, 2023 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Saturday, December 16th, 2023 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Historic Georgetown, Inc. invites you to an evening of Victorian holiday traditions at the historic Hamill House, home of Georgetown's silver baron, William Arthur Hamill. Celebrate the Yule time with your hosts and friends. Your evening admission includes hearty food, wassail, caroling with the Silver Plume Singers, and the traditional lighting of the Christmas tree. Cash bar available throughout the evening.



**HOLIDAY SALE  
STARTS  
NOVEMBER 24!**



**COLORADO  
ANTIQUARY GALLERY**

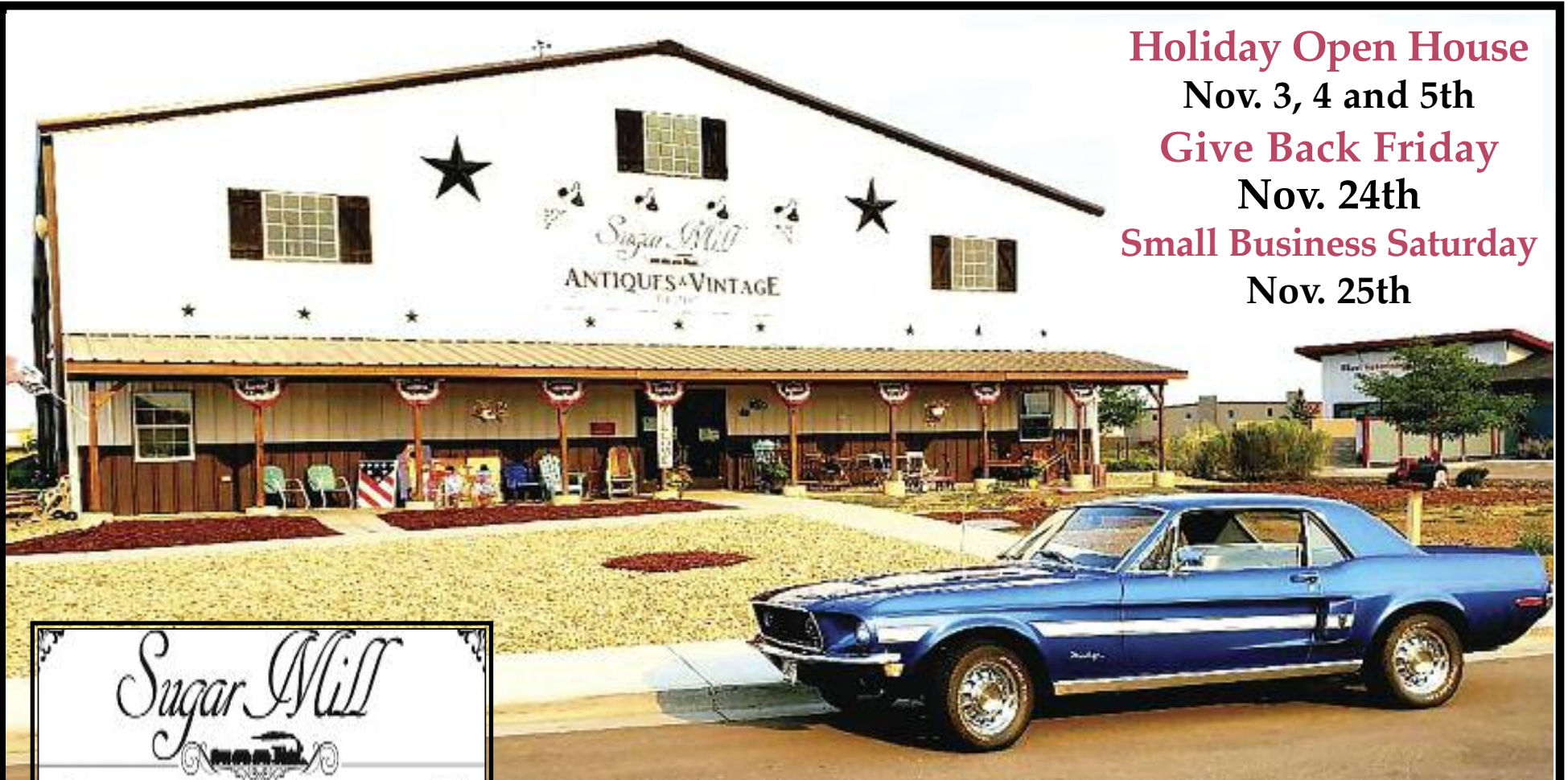
[coloradoantiquegallery.com](http://coloradoantiquegallery.com)  
5501 S. Broadway • Littleton, CO 80121

Every December, the sleepy town of Georgetown, Colorado transforms into a sparkling Christmas wonderland. For two weekends Georgetown hosts their annual Christmas Market, now in its 63rd year. USA Today recently named it as part of its 10 Best Holiday Markets in the country.

It's a bustling time of year in Georgetown, host to old-time holiday traditions. Roasted chestnuts, festive shopping, and horse-drawn wagon rides all in historic Georgetown.

Shop traveling artisans and food purveyors in an outdoor marketplaces in Strousse Park, 6th & Rose Streets, and the Rue de Noel, 6th & Taos Streets, which features an Alpine Biergarten.





**Holiday Open House**  
**Nov. 3, 4 and 5th**  
**Give Back Friday**  
**Nov. 24th**  
**Small Business Saturday**  
**Nov. 25th**



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**Buy More Vintage**

www.sugarmillmead.com  
 Follow us on Facebook & Instagram  
 @Sugarmillmead for our latest arrivals and upcoming events.



**Holiday Open House**  
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**Small Business Saturday**  
**Nov. 25th**



# The Paper Memories of Thanksgiving

By Robert Reed

The grand holiday of Thanksgiving has been celebrated in many ways over the decades, and a surprising amount of it remains in memories of paper.

Trade cards, holiday postcards, magazine covers, menus, and colorful decorations have all faithfully carried the enduring Thanksgiving theme nationwide.

Historians have long noted that President George Washington delivered an address proclaiming the first official Thanksgiving Day in November 1789. The event reportedly was already an established occurrence in much of New England. Published accounts say it was a copy of that Washington proclamation which prompted President Abraham Lincoln to renew observation of the event during the Civil War. The paper copy was said to have been sent to Lincoln by Sara Josepha Hale of Philadelphia.

Short decades later merchant's lithographed trade cards were occasionally paying tribute to the all-American holiday. The Singer Sewing Machine company wished customers a "Happy Thanksgiving" with printed cards bearing embossed images of fruits and vegetables. While Christmas was a much more dominate theme for such trade cards, there were a few Thanksgiving choices including Singer, and Acme Stove Company during the 1880s and 1890s.

Thanksgiving was richly represented in the wave of holiday postcards which were introduced early in the 20th century. Enamored by the vivid images and the ease of mailing, Americans flooded the postal service with such cards. The turkey was an obvious symbol, as were Pilgrims, and the scene of the dinner table. Additionally many of the Thanksgiving postcards included patriotic motifs involving the U.S. flag, Uncle Sam, and spangled banners. Major artists of such postcards included Ellen Clapsaddle, Frances Brundage, Bernardt Wall, and H. B. Griggs whose works often included their name. However the major of Thanksgiving postcards were not signed.

By the 1920s the public moved on to folded greeting cards complete with their own envelope for marking holidays. Such greeting cards were certainly more expensive than earlier postcards but were considered



more stylish for the decades that followed.

During the 1920s and 1930s there were entire catalogs filled with Thanksgiving and other holiday decorations made almost entirely of paper. In 1924 one wholesale company offered dozens of Thanksgiving place cards, tally cards, paper napkins, and table covers. All were described as "nicely lithographed" and many came with appropriate amounts of crepe paper for further decorating. One of the company's most popular table decorations was the Jack Homer Pie that included a large pumpkin and a large turkey. Other 12 to 14 inch alternatives included the Haywagon Pie, and the Horn of Plenty Pie. Other decorations came with celluloid kewpie dolls including Kewpie Thanksgiving Chef wearing a cook's apron and cook's hat.

"Thanksgiving assortments are given our special attention," noted the vintage catalog, "and we are sure they will prove most satisfactory."

A major force in the production of holiday-related paper goods in the early 20th century was the Dennison Company. The firm manufactured an enormous variety of paper tableware. They also offered numerous booklets and other publications with instructions for paper decorating inside the home. Even more imaginative was the Beistle Company which produced clever cardboard and honeycombed paper combinations of turkeys, Pilgrims, pumpkins, and similar seasonal items. Beistle marketed a remarkable selection of centerpieces and wall decorations throughout the 20th century.

National magazines often featured Thanksgiving themes as seasonal covers during the first half of the 20th century. Initially the covers were illustrated with the basic elements of the holiday including the pumpkin, turkey, and harvest basket. Gradually such magazine covers became more elegant with the distinguished works of artists such as J.C. Leyendecker and

Norman Rockwell.

Generally it was Leyendecker's work which was more dominant in the 1930s, especially on the richly illustrated covers of the Saturday Evening Post. Meanwhile in the midst of the Great Depression of that same era, Collier's magazine used a Thanksgiving cover by Emmett Watson.

That 1931 holiday issue also included a Thanksgiving editorial. Collier's told readers:

"If we have jobs and earnings let's give thanks and share what we have with those less fortunate. If we are without surplus or resource we can take some comfort in the knowledge that our plight is understood and that our friends and neighbors are sensitive to human need and eager to relieve it."

Ironically one of the most unique forms of Thanksgiving paper collectibles came from the Civilian Conservation Corps which were formed to provide work for the jobless during the latter 1930s. Various CCC often celebrated the holiday when their own program or menu for the special event and typically they were based on the efforts of an untrained camp artist.

In 1935 The Giant Thanksgiving Book appeared in the market. Written by Lenore Hetrick the volume contained, "recitations, songs, readings, pantomimes, drills, novelties, pageants, and plays...all ages." The 284 page book was published by Paine Publishing Company of Dayton, Ohio.

Norman Rockwell's Thanksgiving covers were probably more dominate on national magazine covers in the 1940s. They were especially popular during the years of World War II and often related to those in military service as the holiday was observed. Rockwell was also responsible for the Four Freedom posters issued in 1943. Among the four, which were printed in three different sizes, was Freedom From Want which featured Mom and Pop serving a traditional turkey dinner.

During that same decade Life magazine published one of their few Thanksgiving issues, and the First Thanksgiving Book written by Lois Lenski Barksdale was published by the Knopf company. Thanksgiving was also one of several holidays featured on street car and bus line pass/tickets for American cities including Washington, D.C. in that era.

In the decades that followed Thanksgiving was still a steady theme for magazine covers but probably without lavish artistry of before.

Jack and Jill, the children's publication, continued to feature Thanksgiving on the front of their November issues during the 1950s and 1960s. In 1966 the cover also made mention of Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade in New York City. Two years later the New York Daily Newspaper carried a full page advertisement for still enormously popular holiday parade.

According to the original advertisement itself the parade promised appearances by:

"Superman balloon, Smokey the Bear, Shirley Jones, Jack Cassidy, William Shatner, Jerry Vale, Bullwinkle, Johnny Whittaker, Bobby Vinton, Snoopy, Donald Duck, and Mickey Mouse." Today even the newspaper advertisement of 1968 merits interest among collectors who search for paper memories of Thanksgiving.

## CALENDAR LISTINGS

### Calendar Listing Information

Promoters: send us your calendar information. We will publish it free (and in bold-face 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.

Dates of Show: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Show or Event: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hours: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Info: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Send information about advertising.

For more information,  
 call 720-276-2777.

Mail coupon and check to: **Spree Enterprises, Inc.,**  
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 Deadline: The 20th of the month before the next issue.

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

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

### SUBSCRIBE TO THE COLLECTOR

1 year (12 issues)	\$18.00
2 years (24 issues)	\$32.00
3 years (36 issues)	\$45.00

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# Vintage Marketplace

6520 S. COLLEGE AVE. FT. COLLINS, CO

Boutique style market located along Fort Collin's Antique Alley. Explore a collection of over 85 vendors featuring vintage finds, furniture, clothing, home decor, gifts, and artisan creations.

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*Special event*

**LADIES NIGHT  
Nov. 10th**

4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Whole store sale, giveaways and refreshments.

*Drinks and treats provided.*



Vintage Antique Appraisals  
- Sunday November 12th -  
noon-4 - Limit 2 items.

**After Thanksgiving Sale -  
24th, 25th and 26th.**





# Ferrotypes – tin types – Political Photography

By Barb Azczek,  
American Political Items Collectors

Photos featuring political candidates have been very popular since 1860. Ferrotypes, also known as tintypes, were one of the earliest forms of photography. They are pictures on tin or iron in a decorative frame and were first used in the 1860 election. Since four candidates, including Abraham Lincoln ran in the 1860 race, ferrotypes became very collectible. That first campaign produced hundreds of different varieties of ferrotypes. The images are sensitive to light, so collectors need to be careful in displaying them. Yet ferrotypes are otherwise indestructible.

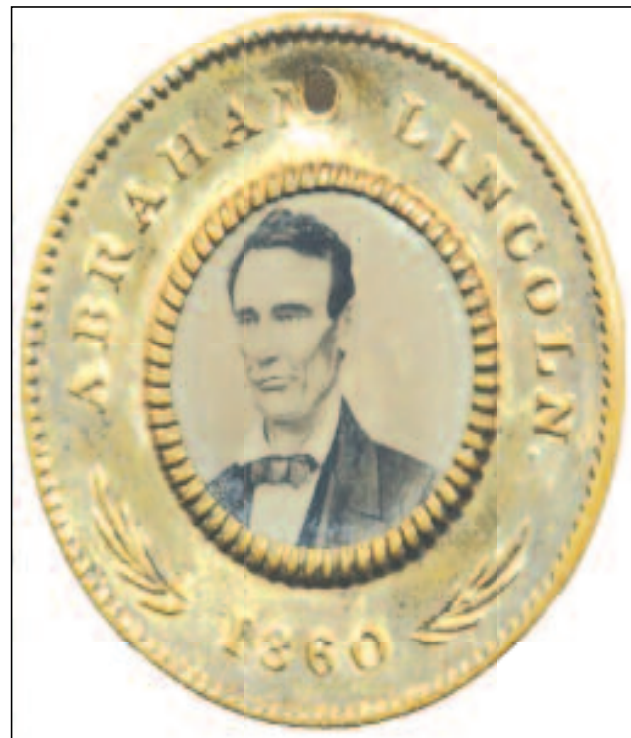
Most ferrotypes picture the Presidential Candidate on the obverse and the Vice-Presidential Candidate on the reverse. The most valuable ferrotypes are those few that picture both the Presidential and the Vice-Presidential Candidates on the front of the piece. This is especially so in the 1860 campaign, where collectors strive to acquire a Lincoln-Hamlin, a Breckinridge-Lane, a Douglas-Johnson and a Bell-Everett.

Ferrotypes in the 1864 campaign are highly prized as well. In fact, Lincoln-Johnson ferrotypes are typically more valuable than Lincoln-Hamlin ferrotypes. McClellan and Pendleton were the Democrats opposing the Lincoln ticket. Also Fremont and Cochrane entered the fray briefly as standard bearers of the Radical Democracy Party.

In 1868 and in 1872 Civil War Hero General Ulysses S. Grant ran for President as a Republican, winning both elections. His ferrotypes with Colfax and Wilson, respectively are not as valuable as those made for the previous two elections. This lesser value is probably due to the greater number of ferrotypes produced for Grant's two campaigns. Horatio Seymour, Grant's 1868 opponent, also produced a large number of ferrotypes. Consequently his material is not as valuable as many other candidates. Horace Greeley, who ran as both a Liberal Republican and as a Democrat in 1872 against Grant produced ferrotypes that are highly prized. This is due to shorter supply and the unusual photographs of Greeley, featuring his strange whiskers or his characteristic black hat, or both.

Ferrotypes were produced for the memorable 1876 Centennial election, where the House of Representatives had to decide this extremely close election in favor of Rutherford B. Hayes over Samuel J. Tilden. The ferrotypes for this election are quite valuable, especially those picturing Hayes-Wheeler or Tilden-Hendricks on the front.

Ferrotypes were used in the 1880 election pitting James A. Garfield against former Civil War General Winfield Scott Hancock. Garfield won the election, but Hancock's ferrotypes are more highly prized. There is a very valuable Hancock rebus piece, which consists of a brass hand holding a cock above a photograph of Hancock. Ferrotypes were made for Cleve-



land and Harrison, but this type of artifact was hardly used beyond the Nineteenth Century. It was replaced by the more colorful celluloid button.

Celluloid buttons are certainly more widely collected by political collectors than ferrotypes, yet a great number of advanced political collectors pursue the ferrotypes. The fact that one of the most popular and one of the most collectible Presidents, Abraham Lincoln, graced the face of many ferrotypes in the first campaign in which they were used is a big reason for the allure of ferrotypes to political collectors.

## DENVER



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# Dept. 56 Village Inventory for SALE

Dept. 56 Village Inventory					
ITEM	PRICE PAID	YEAR ISSUED	YEAR SERIES	RETIRED	ITEM NUMBER
Apple Valley School House	35	1996	2008	New England Village Series	56.56172
Christmas Bazaar Homemade Quilts (set of 2)	25	1996	1999	New England Village Series	56.56594
Christmas Pudding Costermonger (set of 3)	32.50	1997	2001	Dicken's Village Accessories	56.58408
Dursley Manor	50	1995	1999	Dicken's Village	56.58329
East Indies Trading Company	65	1997	1998	Dicken's Village	56.58302
Gingerbread Vendor	22.5	1996	2001	Dicken's Village	56.58402
Hather Harness	48	1994	1997	Dicken's Village	56.58238
King's Road set of 2					
C. H. Watt Physician	36	1990	1996	Dicken's Village	56.55689
Tutbury Printer	36	1990	1996	Dicken's Village	56.55689
Leacock Poulterer	48	1997	1999	Dicken's Village	56.58303
Over the River and Through the Woods	35	1994	1998	Heritage Village	56.56545
Quilly's Antiques	46	1996	1999	Dicken's Village	56.58348
Seton Morris Spice Merchant (set of 10)	65	1998	1998	Dicken's Village	
Seton Morris Spice Merchant					
Christmas Apples Accessory (set of 3)					
cobblestone road					
4 sisal trees					
The Christmas Carol Cottage w/smoking chimney and Magic Smoke liquid	60	1996	2000	Dicken's Village	56.58339
The Spirit of Giving (Dickens' Village Start A Tradition (Set of 13)	100	1997	1998	Dicken's Village	56.58322
Sudbury Church					
Old East Rectory					
11 Accessories (only 9 - not included 1 bag plastic snow, 1 cobblestone road)					
3 figurines - mother, father, daughter					
6 sisal evergreens (1 lg, 1 med, 4 sm)					
Village Frosted Bare Branch Tree (*see below)	18				56.52426
Village Jack Pines (set of 3; 9", 12", 15")	18				56.52622
Village Jack Pines (set of 3; 9", 12", 15")	18				56.52622
Village Wrought Iron Park Bench	5	1993	current	General Village Accessories	56.52302
Wrenbury Shops (set of 3)					
Wrenbury Baker	35	1995	1999	Dicken's Village	56.58331
The Chop Shop	35	1995	1999	Dicken's Village	56.58331
T. Puddlewick Spectacle Shop	35	1995	1999	Dicken's Village	56.58331
Ye Olde Lamplighter Dickens Village Sign		1995	2001	Dicken's Village	56.58393
TOTAL ORIGINALLY PAID	868.00				



## Department 56 Collectors:

I would like to sell the Dept. 56 inventory (see to the left) ideally as a single lot. I am only asking the original price I paid. All items are in their original boxes and sleeves.

While the boxes show some wear since I have owned them for 25-30 years, the porcelain houses and figures are in prime condition and I have been the only owner.

Interested dealers or readers may contact Fran at 720-448-3939. Please be sure to leave your name and number as I do not answer unknown callers and I will return your call.



## NORTHGLENN



# Old Wagon Antique Mall

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# Thanksgiving Cards — Sending A Message Since 1880s

By Robert Reed

Happy Thanksgiving! A Thanksgiving wish and a great big Hi! For one who's nicer than Punkin Pie. -1946 greeting card message

Neatly folded greetings cards have been extending warm messages of Thanksgiving thoughts since the 1880s in the America.

For a time early in the 20th century they were overshadowed by the holiday postcard, but they regained the country's affection decades later and enjoyed a 'golden era' of design and exchange from the 1920s through the 1940s.

Most sources credit the legendary Louis Prang with marketing the first folded Thanksgiving greeting cards complete with their own envelope. Prang, a German immigrant, began printing greeting cards in the 1870s in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

Initially Prang's efforts centered on Christmas greeting cards which had been highly successful ten years earlier in England. To Prang's credit every effort was made to transform the artist's rendering onto a quality greeting card.

By the 1880s the majority of Prang's works still centered on Christmas, but he also had the wisdom of providing greeting cards for other holidays including New Year's and Thanksgiving. One particular Thanksgiving card came folded like a square-shaped booklet and tied with tassels. It offered a line of verse from a popular poet at the time, John Greenleaf Whittier:

"God gives us with rugged soil the power to make Eden fair. And richer fruits to crown our toil. Than summer islands bear."

Prang's greeting cards at that time were elaborate and expensive. Using numerous printing plates and a wide selections of inks, his costly manufacturing methods sometimes pushed the retail price of a single card to a dollar or more, a staggering price in the latter 19th century.

By the 1890s other printers had taken up the cause and less elaborate and therefore less expensive greeting cards were available in the marketplace. The problem for American printers was that a vast majority of the finer and less costly greeting cards were being produced and printed in Germany.

Early in the 1900s the economy of the single postcard dealt a major blow to the greeting card business. Americans could purchase a brightly colored and keenly lithographed postcard and mail Thanksgiving greetings for mere penny.



Certainly there were Thanksgiving greeting cards braving the flood of postcards even as early as 1908. One example from that year was described as depicting a Thanksgiving turkey on the front and having an orange ribbon through its crisply folded center. The inside of the card was blank, allowing for a personal, hand-written message.

Emerging from what could only be described as a greeting card lull, were champions of the process including Rust Craft Greeting, Gibson Art Company, Hallmark, and the hand-painted efforts by the Hall Brothers.

The archives of the Hallmark company, some of the most noted facilities in the country, suggest that despite the efforts of many companies Thanksgiving greeting cards were not used extensively in the 20th century until the end of World War I around 1918. Hallmark itself did not begin marketing of such Thanksgiving greeting cards until the early 1920s.

In 1924 Hallmark offered a card bearing a white ribbon bow and "a Thanksgiving thought for Mother." It depicted a blue-roofed cottage surrounded by trees and other foliage. Hallmark and Rust were leaders during the 1920s in developing specialized Thanksgiving greets which were specifically addressed to Mother or others in the immediate family.

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s card makers chose basic symbols for their Thanksgiving efforts including the turkey, the pumpkin, vegetables and fruits of the harvest, images of home, and on occasion a Pilgrim in costume.

Thanksgiving cards stretched to include a little humor during the war-tom days of the 1940s. A Hallmark example in 1945, was a dog perched next to the

'Fridge' and "getting down to cold turkey." For the most part however they ranged from the fully somber to the folksy use of a word or two to complete a simple rhyme.

Many were richly colored depictions of the horn-of-plenty (cornucopia), or of a pleasant looking turkey surrounded by pumpkins and autumn leaves. Lot of them managed to include a farm or a comfortable house. The idea of home at Thanksgiving had strong appeal to those who purchased cards. Later research by Hallmark indicated it was indeed a family-related holiday celebrated at home or in the home of other family or friends by 90 percent of Americans.

There were innovations in design during that 1940s era which added to the cheerful appeal of such cards. Printing had improved, additionally there were "novelty trims", cut-out effects, and gleaming foil under lays. Sears, Roebuck and Company advertised such greeting card features in the 1940s catalogs, plus the fact that "each card has its own matching envelope."

As early as the 1950s there was some written suggestions about collecting greeting cards of the past.

Despite the American custom of saving greeting cards, noted William Bricker in the 1951 book *The Complete Book of Collecting Hobbies*, "eventually for lack of space they are thrown away." Bricker went on however to offer that collectors could mount them in albums, "the same as snapshots or postcards," or put them in a filing box.

"Some shops carry old time greeting cards," he added, "but your best bet is to read advertisements in one of the collector's magazines."

Interest in Thanksgiving greeting cards continued to grow during the second half of the 20th century. Hallmark, and others, steadily increased their variety and the number of family relationships. Eventually Thanksgiving greetings were specifically directed to granddaughters, grandfather, and even niece and nephew. Further research by Hallmark revealed that 80 percent of Thanksgiving cards were actually mailed, the highest percentage of any holiday.

And collecting them continues to gain interest. "Children's Thanksgiving cards are a bit more difficult to find," notes Linda McPherson author of the newly published book, *Collecting Vintage Children's Greeting Cards (Collector Books)*.

"That card with the big Tom Turkey can bring back memories of going to grandmother's for Thanksgiving dinner," McPherson adds. Or "the one with the pilgrim children may remind you of the part you played in your third grade Thanksgiving play."

## Turkey Trivia

1. What is the weight of the heaviest dressed turkey recorded in 1989 (in pounds)? a) 65, b) 86, c) 95, d) 71
2. In 1941, which president signed the bill establishing the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day? a) Franklin D. Roosevelt, b) Herbert C. Hoover, c) Harry S. Truman, d) Calvin Coolidge
3. About how many pounds of turkey does the average person in the U.S consume? a) 35, b) 12, c) 25, d) 18.

4. Every year the U.S. President pardons a turkey. Where does the turkey live for the remainder of its life? a) Washington, D.C., b) Herndon, Virginia, c) Houston, Texas, d) Springfield, Illinois
5. Where is a turkey's "wattle" located? a) fleshy growth on forehead b) fleshy growth under the throat, c) fleshy part on its feet, d) growth on top of head
6. How many days does it take a turkey egg to hatch? a) 28, b) 16, c) 45, d) 32
7. About how many turkeys are eaten at Thanksgiving? a) 8 million, b) 75 million, c) 45 million, d) 25 million

Answers: 1-b; 2-a; 3-d; 4-b; 5-b; 6-a; 7-c.

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# AMERICAN HISTORY

## November Anniversaries



**November 7**  
Election Day

**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 23**  
Thanksgiving Day

**November 24**  
American Indian Heritage Day

**November 28**  
Giving Day



# Voting Has Always Been Important

## It's Your Civic Duty

Here's a little history about voting:

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.

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.

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.

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. Other proposals to boost voter turnout included having elections take place over several days or allowing voting to take place by mail or computers.



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# Tablecloth Gave Birth to G.I. Bill of Rights

## The Unusual Marks of Men

By Grover Brinkman

Since civilization was first accredited, man has made his mark, turning a symbol, logo or caricature into a statistic. Our first Americans, the Indian, scrawled his pictographs on cliff walls; our first explorers, the breed of trappers called Mountain Men, scrawled names and dates on stone or wood, attesting he had been here. The American hobo of the Depression era was never without a piece of chalk in his pocket to mark individual homes or towns as good or bad; Western ranchers had their individual brands to prove ownership of their cattle on the open range.

And Eugene Field, the children's poet of St. Louis, Missouri, who often visited in southern Illinois, "made his mark" on the starched cuff of his white dress shirt. When the idea for a poem dawned, he immediately jotted down notes on his shirt cuff before he forgot, despite the lament of the woman who did his laundry. For some reason, he never carried a notebook.

The late Herman A. Kretchmar of Okaw-



This is a picture of Eugene Field's Denver home. One of the branches of the Denver Public Library near his home is named after him, as is an apartment building in Denver's Poet's Row. Field first started publishing poetry in 1879, when his poem "Christmas Treasures" appeared in *A Little Book of Western Verse*. Over a dozen volumes of poetry followed and he became well known for his light-hearted poems for children, among the most famous of which are "Wynken, Blynken, and Nod" and "The Duel" (which is perhaps better known as "The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat").

ville, close friend of Field, stated that he saw this "cuff marking" many times. When an idea popped into Fields' head, out came the pencil, and the cuff of his shirt was the slate. Field will always be remembered for his poem, "Little Boy Blue," known worldwide.

And if you concede these statements are odd, here's one even more unique: the G.I. Bill of Rights was first conceived in a hotel at Salem, Illinois, when the premiere notes for the bill were jotted down on a tablecloth.

When a group of men, all of executive level, lingered over coffee in the dining room of the American Legion Home at Salem, they jotted down the basic notes of a treatise that later developed into the G.I. Bill of Rights, using a large white tablecloth as their notepad.

Today the G.I. Bill of Rights is law, but what became of the famous tablecloth is a mystery. Wherever it is, its value as a collectible should be high.

This famous bill benefits all people in the military service today. On a downtown building in Salem today is a bronze plaque, showing where the famous bill was born. Here, in brief, is the intriguing story of its birth.

According to the local media, it was routine to hold an annual dinner at the Salem Legion Post, commemorating the fact that the post had a 100% membership, an enviable record among Legion posts.

Following this dinner, held on Nov. 4, 1943, several men lingered, seated at a round table, reminiscing. One of the men was the former Governor of Illinois, John Stelle of McLeansboro.

Stelle mentioned that in a letter from his son, then servicing overseas, the boy had mentioned that most of the men serving in his regiment were sorely concerned about their lifestyle when they returned home. For one thing, would they have a job?

Stelle, with seven other men, all World War I veterans, lingered after the others had left, talking about veteran rehabilitation, college costs, and other subsistence the returning vets would need upon returning home.

Stelle started jotting down notes the other men made. No one had a notebook at the moment, so the best alternative was the white linen



Signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on June 22, 1944, the act, also known as the G.I. Bill, provided World War II veterans with funds for college education, unemployment insurance, and housing. It put higher education within the reach of millions of veterans of WWII and later military conflicts.

tablecloth atop the round banquet table.

Long hours later, when the men were ready to disburse, it was suggested that Stelle take the tablecloth home, and decipher their notes. It was also suggested that he formulate the notes into a plan, and present it at the coming American Legion National Executive Meeting, soon to be held in Indianapolis.

It was from these same notes, scribbled on the tablecloth, that the present G.I. Bill of Rights evolved. There were many setbacks, but eventually came victory.

Incidentally, all of the eight who helped former Governor Stelle in his "tablecloth odyssey" were signally honored by the Illinois Legion. All have now passed on. The bronze plaque on the wall of the Salem Legion building is a sidewalk reminder that the G. I. Bill of Rights had its birth on Salem's main street.

What happened to the tablecloth with its many notes? One source contends it is in the possession of the John Stelle heirs. And that's where it should be. Its value today as a piece of rare Americana might amaze you.

It is presumed that the St. Louis poet, Eugene Field, and John Stelle, late Governor of Illinois, had never met personally. Yet they had one thing in common—scribbling.

Eugene Field's residence in St. Louis is now a museum, and no doubt some of his wardrobe is on display there.

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For those who never saw any of the Burma Shave signs, here is a quick lesson in our history of the 1930's, '40's and '50's. Before there were inter-states, when everyone drove the old 2 lane roads, Burma Shave signs would be posted all over the countryside in farmers' fields.

They were small red signs with white letters. Five signs, about 100 feet apart, each containing 1 line of a 4 line couplet..... and the obligatory 5th sign advertising Burma Shave, a popular shaving cream.

Here are more of the actual signs:

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BY MISTAKE  
SHE THOUGHT IT WAS  
HER HUSBAND JAKE  
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TO GAIN A MINUTE  
YOU NEED YOUR HEAD  
YOUR BRAINS ARE IN IT  
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CAUTIOUS RIDER  
TO HER RECKLESS DEAR  
LET'S HAVE LESS BULL  
AND A LITTLE  
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SPEED WAS HIGH  
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TOO LONG  
DRIVER  
SNOOZING  
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
NEXT  
IS NOT  
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LET'S RE-  
HEARSE  
ALL TO-  
GETHER  
GOOD  
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A CAR WIDE OPEN  
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THE ONE WHO DRIVES  
WHEN HE'S BEEN DRINKING  
DEPENDS ON YOU  
TO DO HIS THINKING  
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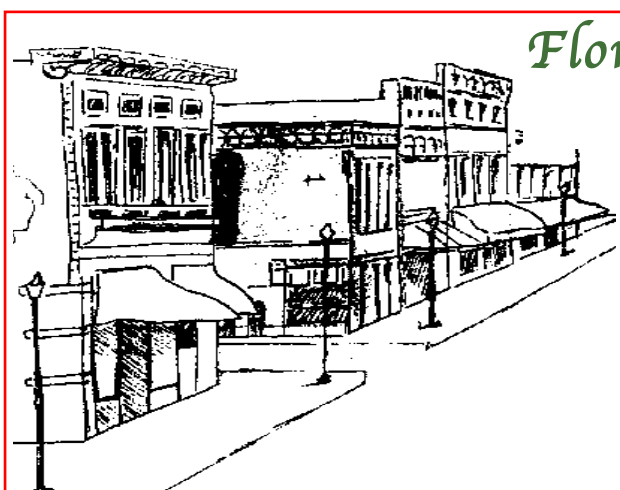
CAR IN DITCH  
DRIVER IN TREE  
THE MOON WAS FULL  
AND SO WAS HE.  
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PASSING SCHOOL ZONE  
TAKE IT SLOW  
LET OUR LITTLE  
SHAVERS GROW  
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Do these bring back any old memories?

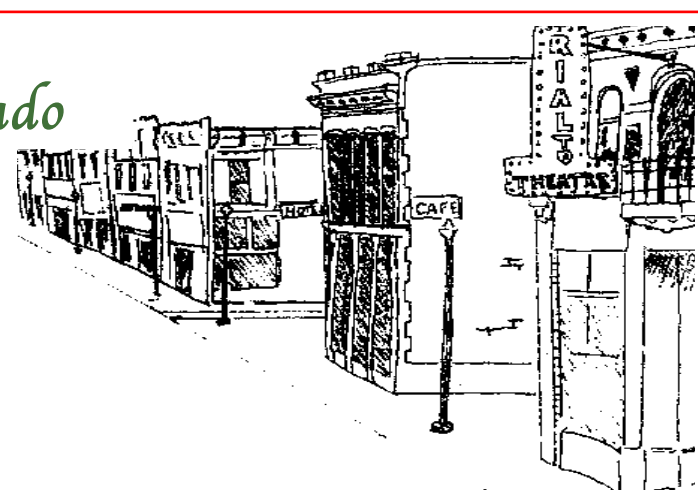
If not, you're merely a child.  
If they do - then you're old as dirt...

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## Thanksgiving Tips

By Sandy Dale

I don't believe any of us can take a walk on one of these gorgeous, golden fall days in Colorado and not be filled with gratitude for the beauty of it. I'm of the opinion that who or what you are thanking is not as important as the overwhelming feeling of warmth you feel in your heart. It's even been stated by scientists that feelings of gratitude are actually good for your heart.

A sure cure for seasonal sadness, boredom, or whatever might be weighing down your spirit. Pick an item, any item - food, tools, clothes, anything made by the hands of man or woman. Now, start listing the hands that have been involved in bringing you this item. If it is food, you must start with the tilling of the soil, the farming or tending of the animal, the shipping, the preparation for market, packing, driving and shipping again, stocking of shelves, checkers, cooks, etc. (Oh, did you remember to count the hands involved in the

manufacture of the car you went shopping in?) Even if you grow your own food, of course, you must thank yourself, but also those that made your hoe, shovel, etc. that you have used. If it is clothing, you must think of all those involved in the manufacture of the fibers the item is woven from be it made by beast (oops, don't forget the hands that raised the cattle or the sheep) or made by man. Then, there are the weavers, pattern makers, cutters, stitchers, buyers, shippers, drivers, stockers, retailers. (I guess we must thank the advertisers or we wouldn't know what was for sale, where it was for sale, or if there was a sale going on). Personally, I have to thank people who take their partially loved items to thrift stores to be recycled. Many of my clothes are treasured finds and my most creative art pieces are made from recycled items. As you can see, this exercise can take a very long time as we use hundreds of items a day.

I'd like to give special thanks to the merchants and retailers here in Florence. They make shopping here a delight. They remind you to shop locally for those unique and special gifts...for the people who make you grateful. Come enjoy the holiday windows, great dining, and stressless shopping. You can find all this in Florence.



Rena Pryor

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**CONTEST**

**October's What Is It?**



Our correct guesses for our October's What Is It include one from Christine Green of Westminster, Colorado. She writes, "My guess is it's a foot stool and has a fur foot warmer to put your feet in to warm them. Back in those days it wasn't very warm in the houses. Thank you and I so enjoy your paper." Annette Glaess of Westminster guessed that it is a fuzzy fur-lined foot warmer bootstool.

Thank you for your guesses. You are both correct. You have won a year's subscription to the Mountain States Collector.

**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.

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