



the mountain states collector

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

52ST ANNIVERSARY — ESTABLISHED IN 1972

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Inside this Issue



**SHOW CALENDAR
JANUARY '24
PAGE 5**



**HAPPY JACK CREEK, ALASKA
POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW
PAGE 7**



**STOCK MARKET HISTORY
AND COLLECTIBLES
PAGE 9**



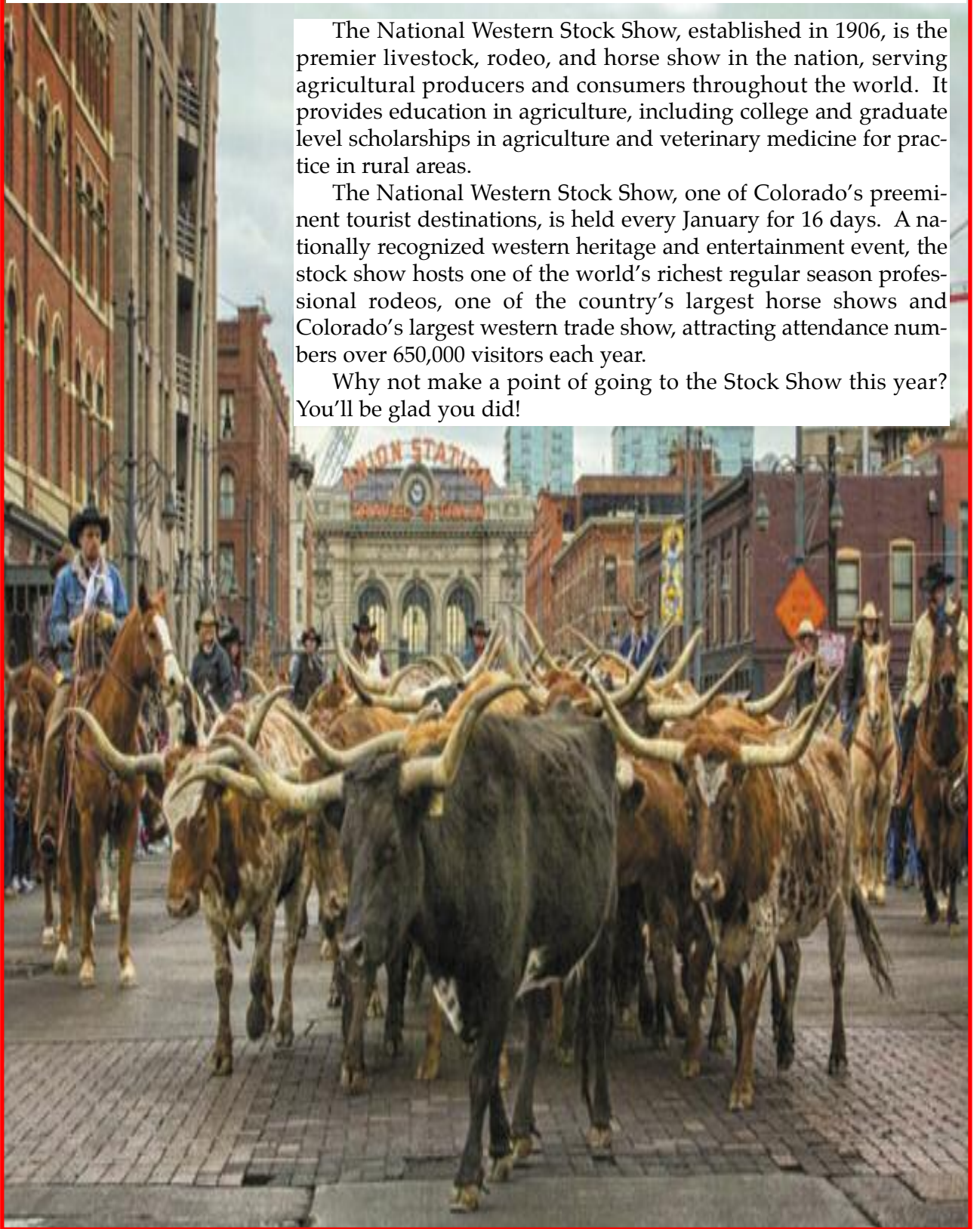
**INSURANCE - THE VENERABLE
LLOYDS OF LONDON
PAGE 10**

Stock Show Reigns in 2024 Don't Miss the Fun Jan. 6-21

The National Western Stock Show, established in 1906, is the premier livestock, rodeo, and horse show in the nation, serving agricultural producers and consumers throughout the world. It provides education in agriculture, including college and graduate level scholarships in agriculture and veterinary medicine for practice in rural areas.

The National Western Stock Show, one of Colorado's preeminent tourist destinations, is held every January for 16 days. A nationally recognized western heritage and entertainment event, the stock show hosts one of the world's richest regular season professional rodeos, one of the country's largest horse shows and Colorado's largest western trade show, attracting attendance numbers over 650,000 visitors each year.

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Fri-Sat January 19-20, 2024
 Friday 11am-6pm, Saturday 9:30am-4pm
General Admission \$5
Early-bird Admission \$20 Friday 10am
Holiday Inn Lakewood, CO
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www.denverpostcardshow.com



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

Limit 1 item per person

Saturday, Jan. 6

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



Saturday, Jan. 13

12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

LITTLETON CAR SHOW

"Be There or Be Square"

Saturday, January 20

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Saturday, January 27

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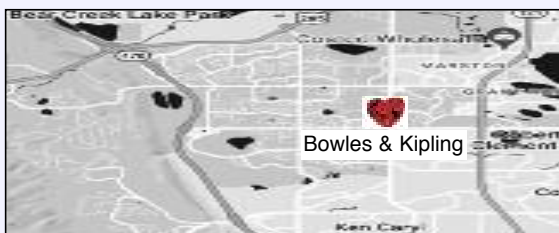
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Show Calendar 2024

JAN. 1: **BRASS ARMADILLO** event: **COOKIE TOSS DAY** 11301 W. Frontage Rd., Wheat Ridge, Colorado, For more info, call 303-403-1677

JAN. 6: **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

JAN. 12 - 14: **42ND ANNUAL COLORADO INDIAN MARKET & SOUTHWEST ART FEST**, Colorado Convention Center, Adults \$16, kids under 12 FREE This colorful celebration of Native American, Southwestern and Western arts features 150 top quality juried artists and craftsmen alongside tribal dances, award winning entertainers, culinary booths and interactive special attractions, easily accessible by Denver's Light Rail System.

JAN. 13: **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.

JAN. 20: **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.

JAN. 27: **CELEBRATE THE ARTS** at **Old Crows Antiques Mall**, special prices on all artwork. Demonstrations by numerous local artists and craftsmen. Call 303-973-8648 for more information.

JAN. 19 & 20: **DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW**, Fri., 11 am-6pm and Sat. 9:30 am-4pm. General Admission \$5, Holiday Inn, Lakewood, CO, 7390 W. Hampden Ave., Lakewood, Colorado More info www.denverpostcardshow.com

JAN. 19 - 21: **NORTHERN COLORADO HOME SHOW** at the Ranch Events Complex, Loveland.

MAY 17 & 18: **JUNKTIQUE ANTIQUE SHOW AND FLEA MARKET**, Florence, Colorado more info, call 719- 784-3544 or go to finditinflorence.com

JULY 13-14: **ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANTIQUE FESTIVAL**, Loveland, Colorado, presented by Heritage Event Company. at the Ranch Events Complex Larimer County Fairgrounds. FREE PARKING, Adults \$6., Children 11 and Under: FREE. More info, go to www.heritageeventcompany or contact Gail Kinney (918) 619-2875.



The National Western Stock Show & Rodeo, Jan. 6-21, 2024, celebrates Denver's rich cowtown roots and is a cherished Colorado tradition since 1906



The sight of over 30 Longhorn cattle walking through the streets of downtown Denver can only mean one thing...it's Stock Show time.

The National Western Stock Show Kick-off Parade, presented by Arrow Electronics, is a sight to see. On this one afternoon in January, the streets of downtown Denver are lined with boots, chaps, and cowboy hats to celebrate Colorado's western traditions and the iconic National Western Stock Show. Kids, families, businessmen and women get to step back in time and see a true western cattle drive with horses, cowboys, cowgirls, tractors, marching bands, and floats. The parade starts at Union Station at noon on Jan 6, 2024, and continues on 17th Street ending at 17th & Glenarm Place.

To learn about the many events scheduled for the 2024 (Jan. 6 - Jan. 21) stock show, give them a call. Their address is National Western Stock Show, 4655 Humboldt Street, Denver, CO 80216

Their numbers are:
P: 303-296-NWSS (6977)
F: 303-292-1708
Tickets: 1-888-551-5004





Howdy Stock Men & Women!

If you need a break from a hectic schedule, point your boots to the Colorado Antique Gallery.

**JUST 15 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN —
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Don't know what to give?
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\$1.00 off admission with this ad

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General Admission \$5
Early-bird Admission \$20 Friday 10am
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at the Sugar Mill. Your friends
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Happy Jack Creek, Alaska 1899

By Carol Mobley

I recently purchased a mounted photo for my snowshoeing collection. I paid more than I usually would but the image was so sharp and I hadn't purchased anything of merit for this collection in some time. It was online so I had to rely on the description provided. Most of the time this arrangement doesn't work out as I expect. This time, however, I was more than surprised with my acquisition.

The photo arrived about 2 weeks after my purchase. I dug right in with eager anticipation. The image was more than I expected, almost in mint condition, the man in arctic gear standing in the middle of a snow field in his rather long snowshoes. Beautiful!

Then I turned the photo over to see the back. Sometimes professional photographers use mounting boards that have advertisements on the back for their photography studios. Some of them are quite elaborate. No indication of photographer but the fellow in the photo had written a personal note on the back. "Photo taken February 1899, at Beaver City, Alaska, on Happy Jack Creek (tributary of Alatna or Allencocket) tributary of Koyukuk River of Yukon River, 120 miles above the Arctic Circle. Compliments of your Friend Chas. S. Young."

Wow! A research project!

Who was Chas. S. Young and why was he in the Arctic Circle? Gold! Mr. Young was one of twenty-one men who formed a company, Galesburg-Alaska Mining & Development Co, who went in search of gold in the Alaska wilderness. Along with the group was a talented outdoorsman and amateur photographer, Jasper N. Wyman.

The group left Seattle in May of 1898 to St. Michael at the mouth of the Yukon River thus avoiding the difficult Chilkoot Pass. Of

course, by 1898 this group of men were behind the 'rush'. But with spirits undashed, proceeded onward.

The crew of men built a steamship named the 'Illinois.' Instead of heading up the Yukon River for the Klondike, the group decided to try the Koyukuk River. Not as many Stampeders made it up the Koyukuk River. The route was more difficult and almost impossible to get enough supplies through. By August 8, 1898, the group had reached the mouth of the Koyukuk River. Instead of heading further up the Koyukuk River, they decided to try the nearby Alatna River, also known as the Allencaket (Allencocket in his note). After 4 months of upstream travel, sometimes at just a crawl, the group set up a mining camp. Other groups arrived and soon there were enough men that two separate camps were established, Beaver City and Rapid City. Today this location is just south of the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

The group managed to survive the arctic winter in several 6'x6' cabins constructed of logs. Mining was not yielding results and by February 1899, the group was anxious to leave for home. As soon as the Koyukuk River released its frozen grip on their steamer 'Illinois' in May many of the men were headed home with nothing but memories. A few others decided to stay on with other mining operations.

All this from a simple message on the back of a simple photo of a man in snowshoes. Amazing what history can be found just by looking. There is a full article online about the men and their photographer



along with other great photographs.
<https://www.nps.gov/gaar/learn/historyculture/stampede-to-koyukuk-country.htm#:~:text=In%201897%2C%20when%20the%20world,way%20to%20the%20gold%20fields.>


If you are interested in finding your own piece of history, come out to the Denver Postcard & Paper Show on January 19-20, 2024 at the Holiday Inn Lakewood. Hours are Friday from 11am-6pm and Saturday from 9:30am-4pm. Admission is \$5.00 with \$1.00 off with this article. Early bird buy-in is Friday at 10am for \$20.00. We have the venue full of dealers who will have postcards, photographs, posters, ephemera and much more. Hope to see you there!



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Stock Market Collectibles Can Be Assembled with Patient Searching

By Barry Krause

In five short years the 100th anniversary of the devastating crash of the stock market in New York will be remembered. Thinking of this tragedy reminds me of the many nice items in stock market memorabilia that we can collect and study.

The stock market crash plunged America into perhaps the worst economic depression in our history. In October 1929, stock prices on the New York stock Exchange dropped so much that many investors saw their life savings wiped out.

An interesting collection of materials related to the New York stock Exchange itself could be assembled with patient searching for what we can find and afford. Old photos and art work of the stock Exchange buildings over the years, original letters and documents to or from stock Exchange employees, and newspaper or magazine accounts of stock Exchange activities come to mind.

A lot of the early memorabilia is already in museums, but it pays to know what to look for in case we happen to stumble upon vintage stock Exchange items that are, or aren't, properly identified and priced for sale.

In 1792, a group of New York City stock traders got together under a buttonwood tree and agreed to direct business to each other. They formed a formal organization called the New York stock and Exchange Board in 1817, which changed its name to the New York stock Exchange in 1863 in the depths of the Civil War when a large amount of anti-Lincoln Southern sympathy ran rampant through the streets of New York City. It was forward thinking optimism that kept the stock Exchange going.

There were market crashes and national economic depressions before, but the one begun in late October, 1929 was the worst in its effects on the whole country, in the opinion of some historians. I like any object related to the 1929 crash either directly such as dated ticker tape of stock price drops, diaries of business people or plain citizens who were

ruined by the crash, obsolete stock certificates of companies that went bankrupt during the Great Depression of the 1930s, or indirectly such as books later written by eyewitnesses of Depression era daily life, local municipal "script" or metallic tokens issued by city governments to pay workers or citizens served when cash was short, "Depression glass" or other commercial products produced during those hard times, and political campaign memorabilia referring to the weakened stock markets.

"Depression art" is a vast collectible field in itself, and amazing pieces can sometimes be found that show an artist's concept of poverty-stricken residents trying to survive day-to-day, bankers leaping out of office building windows after their vaults went broke, "fun and games" enjoyed by broke people then, such as card games played for matchsticks or teenage dances with radio music and no refreshments visible. There are collectors in New York City and elsewhere who specialize in financial institution memorabilia, and we must compete with them when bidding for such items at advertised public auctions. That's why seemingly cheap stockbroker signs and old stock Exchange identification badges bring such high prices these days.

Early 20th century photos and picture postcards of the New York stock Exchange or of investor activities are often reasonably priced now, and I show a couple of examples here that I recently bought for a couple of dollars each.

Memorabilia from famous financiers who dabbled successfully in stocks can round out our collection.

Bernard Baruch, the Wall Street Wizard, was once asked how he made so much money in the stock market. He replied that his investment philosophy was to buy when others are selling, and sell when others are buying. Unfortunately few people have the nerve to use this "contrarian" strategy consistently and stand alone by going against the trend of a changing market.

"Ticker" machines are wonderful collectibles

if we can find original ones in nice condition. These once state-of-the-art devices are telegraphic instruments which automatically printed out stock prices and market reports on white "ticker tape." The celebrated "ticker tape parades" in New York City involved business firms dropping used ticker tapes out of their office building windows to shower down on the parade participants in the streets below. Now they use confetti from a party supply store.

If you get a chance to visit New York, stop in to see the retail showroom of R.M. Smythe & Co. in lower Manhattan. Established in 1880, they specialize in buying, selling and appraising rare financial paper such as antique stock and bond certificates, U.S. and foreign paper money, Confederate currency and documents, and related books and autographs. They research obsolete stocks and bonds for a fee, but they will offer a quick opinion on whether or not a particular item is worth investigating.

While you're there, you can visit the New York Stock Exchange nearby if they allow tourists to enter due to a low level security alert, but their admission rules can change at the last minute these days. Expect to be questioned by security guards or New York police if you take long videos of the exterior of the building, or "loiter" around the entrance in a suspicious manner.



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The Venerable Lloyds of London

By Henry J. Pratt

To top things off for the famous and exotic, Lloyd's of London insured the shapely legs of Marlene Dietrich, the velvet eyes of Elizabeth Taylor, and even the sensitive nose of a perfume sniffer worth his weight in gold.

More than 80 years ago, Lloyd's reputation as a sound, reliable insurance operation was solidly demonstrated to Americans after San Francisco's disastrous earthquake in 1906. Lloyd's was one of the few catastrophe insurers who gave the quake victims or their survivors fully-responsive and prompt claims service.

When you talk about large, interesting and world-wide insurance operations, you can't help thinking first of Lloyd's of London. The respected name in British marine insurance history recently opened its doors for public viewing.

You can now visit Lloyd's new, modernistic headquarters on a free public tour. A glassed-in elevator whisks tourists to the visitor gallery, where you can learn all about the fascinating history of Lloyd's, which dates back to 1688.

Established by Edward Lloyd, the original headquarters was a coffeehouse close to the docks and waterfront shipping operations in London. The coffeehouse was used frequently by financiers, shippers and other marine businessmen.

Right away, Lloyd practiced getting reliable shipping information direct from the "horse's mouth." He regularly sent his dependable messengers down to the ships to bring back accurate and current reports on various shipping events.

Over a cup of joe at Lloyd's, it wasn't surprising to find house regulars discussing ship schedules, cargo loadings and unloadings, marine trends, sales techniques and related information. It wasn't long until Lloyd's coffeehouse gained a reputation as a place for one to keep reliably informed.

This marine information was valuable to those Lloyd's customers involved in underwriting insurance for the shipping trade. At that time, Edward Lloyd was not concerned specifically with insurance underwriting, but through his Lloyd's News he assisted others who were. His publication provided readers with shipping and general news during the 1690s.

The News didn't survive very long, but a second publication started by successors of Edward Lloyd did. Still being published today, Lloyd's List was founded in 1734.

During its history of more than 300 years, Lloyd's has occupied eight different sites in London. A sky-scraper on Lime Street is the current site, and it includes a uniquely-designed visitors' area. Public displays trace the history of Lloyd's, while they also explain what, for many, is the mysterious business of underwriting insurance—especially the kind that insures against fires, earthquakes, environmental oil spills, athletes' arms, and the eyes and legs of Hollywood stars.

Lloyd's second building location years ago included dining tables that doubled for use as insurance underwriter desks. The site had a rostrum used for making major announcements, like the "Now hear this" first word about a disastrous fire, earthquake or other major catastrophe somewhere in the world.



A historical illustration of the interior of Lloyd's coffeehouse, showing a large room with many tables and chairs, and a central area with a large, ornate chandelier hanging from the ceiling.

The marine insurance field by the mid-1700s had become more specialized and controlled than ever before. In response to the South Sea Bubble fraud in which investors lost a fortune, the British Parliament set up restrictions and tight controls over who could henceforth become an insurance underwriter.

It wasn't long after that a group of underwriters founded their own center—their own prestigious society, as it were. This new center marked the creation of the famous Lloyd's of London as it is

known today.

In order to join the society, individual insurance underwriters had to be willing to put their entire fortunes on the line to meet claim demands on the policies they issued.

One can apply to Lloyd's for practically anykind of insurance. Who knows but the athletes, owners and families themselves just how many football quarterbacks, baseball pitchers and boxers have had their golden arms insured by Lloyd's.

The firm's fame and fortunes have grown beyond marine and shipping insurance, and now includes fire, property and other disasters. In fact, about the only kind of insurance that you can't get today through Lloyd's of London is long-term life insurance.

One estimate shows Lloyd's generates a yearly income of one billion pounds. In a single day alone, more than 20 million pounds in premiums are apt to be generated. In the syndicated insurance system that Lloyd's pioneered, there are now over 30,000 underwriters in more than 70 countries with the London firm.

One of the Lloyd's visitor center's most dazzling exhibits, the Nelson Collection of Silver, harks back to the years when England was achieving world supremacy as a naval and trading power. Numerous gleaming bowls, platters and other interesting trophies were presented by Lloyd's of London to Navy officers who successfully protected merchant vessels insured by Lloyd's underwriters.

Visitors to Lloyd's can also see the multi-level offices occupied by the working underwriters. You can see flickering computer screens, copiers working overtime, messengers on the run, and insurance underwriters talking and writing fast and furious.

Now hear this: Lloyd's of London is hectic these days, but you, too, will find it one heck of an interesting place to visit if you ever get to England.



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New Year's Past – On Paper

By Robert Reed

New Year's Day has a distinguished past which has left behind a treasure trove of paper collectibles. They range from trade cards and early postcards to magazine covers and party programs.

Granted there was precious little paper in 46 BC when Julius Caesar finalized the Roman calendar. The 'New Year' has begun on the first day of January ever since. The month, by the way, was named for the Roman god Janus who was usually shown as having two heads. One head looked back at the past year and one head looked forward to the New Year.

Additionally the Roman festival of celebration was known as Calends, which was later derived the word for calendar. And calendars ultimately became a timely gift welcoming the New Year.

In 1752 the British adopted the Gregorian calendar for their county and the American colonies thus clearing up confusion and re-establishing January first as the official start of the new year. It took nearly another century before the event was celebrated to any great degree. In 1857 the Illustrated News of London featured a wood cut engraving of a large New Year's event. The grand affair had reportedly filled a London ballroom where adults and children feasted on an elegant dinner. A detailed account with the illustration also made mention of similar events in the country and in the colonies.



Tournament of Roses program. New Year's Day 1915, Pasadena, California

Victorians distributed fashionable calling cards as early as the 1870s in the United States. Depending on the season of the year, some of the embossed cards bore a scripted Happy New Year on a folded corner. The small, white rectangular card itself usually included a bouquet of flowers or a lovely Victorian dressed woman, sometimes both.

By the 1880s there was lots of evidence on paper that New Year's was being fully observed in the United States.

There were beautifully lithographed trade cards distributed by merchants to eager customers who marveled at their dramatic display of color and often collected them in boxes or albums. Typically the cards advertised a product or a local merchant, or sometimes both. New Year's trade cards were not as numerous as Christmas or Easter holiday trade cards, but they were certainly in significant use. In 1884 the Bromwell Manufacturing Company opted to distribute full-sized New Year's Greeting cards to friends and merchants in Cincinnati, Ohio. The gray cards used geometric bordering to surround the relatively stark greeting.

In preparation for greeting that same 1884 year invitations for a gala New Year's party in New York City were sent out to the fortunate on the list. Their message in part asked "the pleasure of yourself and ladies...at the New Year Party at Waffle Hall." Music was to be provided by Yordon's Orchestra, and the evening's entire cost "including supper" was \$1.75.

Meanwhile the Illustrated News of London continued its coverage of such gala affairs during the 1880s. One such story was headlined, "New Year's Greetings by Telephone" and included an illustration of guests

enjoying the "novelty" of a phone conversation. Party attendees were formally dressed in tuxedos and full-length gowns as they sat at elegant dining tables, one man clutched a telephone with an ear piece in each ear.

An American New Year's tradition began in 1887 with the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. Reportedly a zoologist had seen a similar event in France and had suggest to the Valley Hunt Club that they sponsor "an artistic celebration of the ripening of oranges" at the beginning of the year. The great parade, which produced some stunning pictorial programs, was not always just the prelude to a football game. As late as early 1900s the "midwinter floral pageant" on New Year's Day included roman chariot races.

Holiday postcards were a major craze early in the 20th century, and a large number of them extended New Year's greetings in various ways. Popular topics were a baby or toddler that represented the birth of a New Year and Father Time with perhaps a grandfather clock in the background. Other symbols on the New Year postcards included pigs, which at the time were a mark of prosperity, and horseshoes.

Despite the fact that holiday postcards pretty much dominated the greetings business during the first dozen years of that era, some folding cards were available for well wishers. In a 1912 a resident of California sent such a version complete with a small blue-green envelope to a friend in Illinois. On the front were two brightly shining candles. Inside was a simple verse:

It's been a happy old year
Because you are my friend.
The New Year – may it bring
you success clear
to its end.

Ironically 1912 was the very same year that the legendary Hallmark Company actually went beyond holiday postcards to add folding greeting cards to their line. During the 1920s the company, and similar companies, found some success with flat greeting cards. Such non-folding New Year's greetings often offered contrasting bright colors on rather dark cardboard issues.

The 1920s also saw a whole industry of paper toys, favors, and decorations for bringing in the New Year. One company offered 200 different styles of paper hats for that particular holiday celebration. Among them were pointed hats with comic figures, skull caps, chefs hats, chauffeurs' hats with goggles, hats with feathers, and some that simply said, Kiss Me. Such hats could have tinsel trimming, and came in lithographed colors of red or blue with a paper plume.

Additionally catalogs of that decade also offered paper shakers, paper clowns, crepe paper flowers, paper lanterns, paper tubes filled with assorted confetti, and cardboard horns with decorations of fringe.

In 1929 McCall's magazine offered hints for decorating the home while hosting a New Year's Party. They suggested invitations be written on oblong cards highlighted with tiny calendars, sketches of hour-glasses, and "the little New Year, or Janus." The magazine also

Continued on page 14



Trade card from 1880s offering Happy New Year

CALENDAR LISTINGS

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AMERICAN HISTORY

January Anniversaries

January 4

76th Anniversary of Burma gaining independence from UK

January 6

102nd Anniversary of the signing of the Washington Naval Treaty in Memorial Continental Hall (1922)

January 6-21

National Western Stock Show, Denver

January 7

81 years since the passing of famed scientist and inventor Nikola Tesla

January 14

Continental Congress ratifies Treaty of Paris (1784)

January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Day (Observed)

January 17

251 years since Captain James Cook and his crew became the first Europeans to venture south of the Antarctic Circle.

January 27

51st Anniversary of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ending with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords (1973)

January 28

Congress establishes U.S. Coast Guard



Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

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New Year's Day is Special for Whole World

By Bobbie Sweeney

New Year's Day is a special day for everyone in the world. All countries, except the United States, have observed the first day of the year as an important day for thousands of years. Although customs vary from nation to nation, and the time of year varies for different reasons, the meaning is the same to all. The beginning of a new year is a time for a fresh start.

People of the Christian faith celebrate the Feast of the Circumcision, and Catholics respect the day as a holy day of obligation. People of the Jewish faith celebrate the Day of Atonement, and the 10 holiest days of the year occur for them between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Muslims celebrate the new year as the coming of the Prophet Mohammed, hundreds of years before.

In most countries, there is much preparation given to the arrival of the new year. The night before, New Year's Eve, is always a gay, festive time for families and friends. But at the stroke of 12, the first day of the new year becomes a solemn, prayerful occasion. Visiting and exchanging small gifts is universal among all nations.

The new year for many people of the world occurs on the 1st of January, in accordance with the Gregorian calendar. Those who celebrate at a different time use the solar calendar.

The Chinese used the ancient lunar calendar for thousands of years, until China adopted the Gregorian calendar. When the lunar calendar was in effect, the new year was celebrated at the time of the second new moon following the winter solstice. The winter solstice, in the Northern Hemisphere, is when the sun is farthest south of the equator. Then the new year started in late January or early February.

It is the Chinese custom to decorate with flowers that have special meaning. The white narcissus brings good fortune, the pink blossoms of the peach or plum trees mean long life, and peonies assure them of wealth and honor in the coming year. Any red flower is appropriate, because the Chinese believe red to be the color of good luck and happiness.

The Chinese celebrate everyone's birthday on New Year's Day. No matter when the real birthday occurred, a person is considered to be one year older on the first day of the year.

Whether they live in Israel or in other countries, the Jewish people celebrate the new year in the autumn of each year, September or October. The day is called Rosh Hashanah, and it commemorates the traditional date for the creation of the world. It is a serious and solemn time for the Jewish people, unlike their other festivals, which are holidays and are celebrated with fun and frolic.

The Christians in Egypt celebrate the new year on the 1st of January, but the Muslims celebrate at a different time of the year, the middle of July. The Muslim New Year is a holy day. The day is determined by the appearance of the new moon according to the old Arab calendar, which has been in use for over a thousand years.

In South America, the people in Brazil and Bolivia celebrate on Jan. 1, much the same as North America. Brazil has a tradition of serving lentil soup or lentils with rice at the first meal of the new year, because lentils signify wealth.

The Indians in Bolivia do not celebrate in the modern fashion as the Spaniards do. They observe the new year at planting time. After the day's planting is done, families gather at one of the fields and hold a solemn ceremony in honor of Mother Earth, who they believe to be the goddess of the fields and crops.

In Austria and Belgium, the first day of the year is recognized as a time for looking into the future; while in Germany, it is a day when they attempt to live as they would like to live the next 12 months of the year.

New Year's Day in Iran is celebrated in the springtime. The first day of spring is March 21, according to the ancient Persian solar calendar, which they have used for thousands of years. Everyone enjoys the outdoors on that day. It is considered bad luck if anyone stays in the house.

When spring comes to Ethiopia in September, the new year begins. The Julian calendar has been followed by these people for hundreds of years. The new year arrives after the rainy season, when the grass is green and the yellow daffodils are in full bloom.

People living in the British Isles believe the manner in which they behave on this day is an example of how the rest of the days of the year will be spent. They make new year's resolutions too, and fully expect them to be broken the next day or so.

The Scotch and Irish consider New Year's Day an important holiday of the year. But to the English and Welsh, it is not that im-



portant, and they go about their work as usual.

The Scots have a superstition that the "first foot" to enter the home on New Year's Day determines their luck for the rest of the year. If the foot belongs to a dark-haired man, they will have good luck. If the man has red hair, they will have bad luck. The foot must never be that of a woman to enter first, or they will have very bad luck.

The Irish let their imagination run rampant, and claim that fairies are active the night before the new year, and they advise all good people to stay indoors, so that no mischief will befall them.

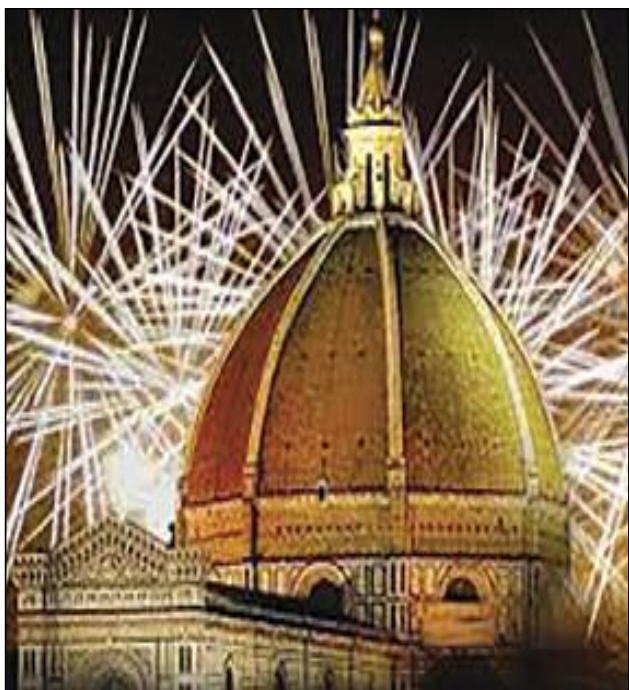
In the United States, we look forward to the celebration of New Year's Eve. Families and friends gather together for parties in the home or in some night spot. At the stroke of 12, everyone toasts the new year with champagne and wish all a happy new year. Since television has come into our homes, and the fact that time changes across the nation, we can watch the first celebration in New York, and follow across the country for three hours to watch the celebration on the West Coast in California. New Year's Day is a time for visiting friends and relatives, and wishing them luck and happiness in the coming year.

It was not always a gala affair in America. The Pilgrims refused to celebrate this day, because they thought of it as a pagan custom. But when other people came to live here, things changed. The Dutch, who settled in New York, continued to enjoy the celebrations they had enjoyed as children in their homeland.

The Swedish colonists introduced the custom of dressing in fancy costumes and parading through the streets with masked faces. The English colonists introduced the actors known as "mummers," who dressed in fancy clothing and went about acting in pantomime or silent plays. A combination of these two customs resulted in the famous Mummers' Parade, which is held on New Year's Day in Philadelphia.

It is a custom in the United States today to watch TV with friends while eating and drinking, and enjoying the gorgeous parades from California to New York and the seemingly endless parade of football games.

However the first day of the year is celebrated in any part of the world, the same greeting is imparted to all: a sincere wish for a happy and prosperous new year.



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New Year on Paper

Continued from page 11

called for a Gate of Years archway where Janus lets through only those in costume. Further, the house would be decorated with greens, and with bells hung from every available place. They also recommended that "an hour-glass, a scythe, and a Kewpie New Year (figure) occupy conspicuous places."

And if a party at home was not planned there was always the option of a night out at a night club or movie theater. In 1929 Twentieth Century Fox released to the silver screen New Year's Eve. Featuring the glamour and excitement of high society's New Year reveling it starred Mary Astor and Charles Morton. Today posters and lobby cards from that uniquely named film are prized collectibles.

New Years greeting cards were in fairly frequent use despite the Great Depression of the 1930s and war-torn years in the early 1940s. During the patriotic times of World War II some New Year's cards were issued bearing images of the flags of the United States and China. They were designed to call attention to the alliance of the two nations during the worldwide conflict and sometimes extended greetings in both English and Chinese.

The famed children's magazine Jack and Jill featured a New Year's cover in 1947, which included a baby blowing a trumpet over a village of people. The villagers were in turn celebrating as the town's clock tower reached midnight

That same issue also included a song called Little Happy New Year. Written by Mary Peacock it read in part:

Little Happy New Year's come at last.
He slipped right in when the Old Year passed.
Let the merry bells ring loud and long,
For Little Happy New Year likes a jolly song.

During the 1950s New Year's party celebrations became more widespread in this country producing a variety of invitations, programs, menus, and related paper materials with holiday flavors.

Even Communist countries apparently gave some regard to the New Year in the 1950s. Recently auctioned as a 1958 Communist party greeting sent out to mark the New Year in Bulgaria. Reportedly the two-sided folding cards of red and green were sent out by the Party Committee (parti Komitet) to party elite. The example sold at auction came from the estate of General Ivan Kapriolov and Mrs. Kapriolov of the Bulgarian Central Committee.

FLORENCE

Put Out the Old and Enjoy the New

By Sandy Dale

T'was the month after Christmas and all through our town
Merchants had a great season so there wasn't a frown.
They cleaned out their windows and packed up the stuff.
Though they'd had lots of fun, they'd had quite enough.

They eyed one another and tried to decide
To replace what they'd had; something to excite.

The antique dealers, they put out the old,
The Bake Shop new cook's stuff, Earth Dreams great new clothes.

When out in the street there arose a kerfuffle,
There stood a large pigeon with his feathers all ruffled.

He wore a top hat and carried a cane.

In the din of those gath'ring, not one heard his name,

But he spoke to the crowd

Loud as a bird can be loud,

"May your upcoming year, be the best ever.

In 2024, may there be no sickness (or hardly never.)

May there be no sorrow or crippling fear,

Just peace and joy through the coming New Year."

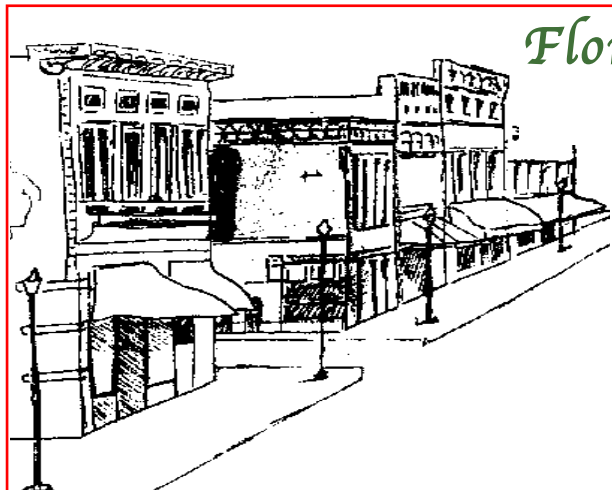
He flew up in the air and tipped his hat,

He waved his cane and that was that.

Florence Merchants and I, too, wish the best to you!

Come find it in Florence in 2024.

(My apologies to Clement Clarke Moore, author of "The Night Before Christmas.")



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December's What Is It?



Tricia Myers of Berwyn Heights, Maryland and Carolyn Kundel of Roland, Iowa both identified the What Is it as a letter opener. William McLaren of Anchorage, Alaska also tells us the object is a letter opener. He added, "The What Is It for December 2023 is a vintage bronze letter opener. The Buddha design on the handle suggests that it was probably made in Thailand (formerly Siam) in the 1950's."

In Carolyn Kundel's letter she tells us that, "When I visit Colorado again I will visit several of the places that you have ads in your paper.

I read your newspaper from cover to cover. I especially enjoyed the articles in the recent issue on:

Historic toys of Hubley (my mother had a metal toy);
Enduring and Charming Murano Glass (I have a Murano glass necklace);
and American History December Anniversaries. (We need to remember our history.)

Thanks for your monthly paper!"

And, thank you, Carolyn, for encouraging us. We love doing the paper and are always gratified when someone tells us they appreciate what we are doing. You are the best!

Thank you, everyone who ventured a guess. The winners will receive a year's subscription to *the Mountain States Collector*.

January's What Is It?



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

They Called Him 'Slow'

By Mel Tharp

He was born in what is now South Dakota. As a boy he was known as Hunkensi, which means slow. After showing great bravery in a battle against the Crow Indians, however, he received the name Sitting Bull. His father chose to call him by that name.

Historians believe Sitting Bull was born around 1834, although there is no documentation to substantiate that date. He became a famous medicine man and leader of the Hunkpapa Sioux Indians.

Many people mistakenly think that Sitting Bull was the leader of the Indians at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where on June 25, 1876, General George Custer lost his life. Actually, Sitting Bull acted only as the leading medicine man in the preparations for the battle.

The year before, he had received a vision that all his enemies would be delivered into his hands. In the spring of 1876, he led a Sun Dance at which he told the Indians to change their way of fighting. Instead of showing off to prove their bravery, they should fight to kill or they would lose all their lands to the white people. This new tactic led to the annihilation of Custer and his men.

After the Battle of Little Bighorn, Sitting Bull and his followers were driven into Canada. He returned to the United States in 1881. After two years in confinement at Fort Randall in South Dakota, he lived on the Standing Rock Reservation in that state.

There, in 1890, he helped start the Ghost Dance. The government thought this was an attempt to renew the Indian wars and sent Indian policemen to arrest Sitting Bull. In the process, he and his son were killed.

Several American military men, including General George S. Patton, studied and adapted Sitting Bull's light cavalry tactics of rapid deployment and swift flanking movements.



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