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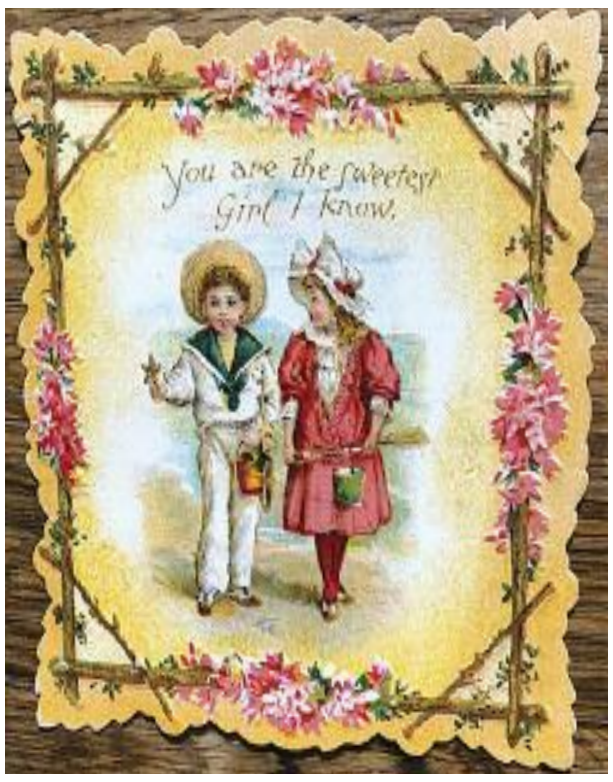
Inside this Issue

Valentine's Day Gives Sweethearts a Great Day to Give Small Tokens of Love

By Robert Reed



Valentines are not as old as love, or even the romantic holiday itself, but they have been around for a long time.

Quite a number of authorities and historians consider Valentines to be one of the world's oldest greeting cards, if not actually the first of their kind.

One old English custom called for the drawing of lots for lovers each Feb. 14. One person whose name was drawn was given a present and a brief written message. Eventually the drawing was expanded to include other friends and children, but the idea of written affection remained.

English author Samuel Pepys confirmed parts of the practice with his diary entry for St. Valentine's Day of 1667: "This morning came up to my wife's bedside (I being up dressing myself) little Will Mercer to be her Valentine, and he brought her name written upon blue paper in gold letters, done by himself, very pretty; and we were both well pleased with it. I am also this year my wife's Valentine, and it will cost me...."

From the time of Pepys into the 18th century, most Valentines were like that offered by little Will, sometimes elegant and attractive but always homemade.

The idea of extending Valentine greetings was well accepted by American colonists, who adopted it from the British. However, by the 1730s, booklets were available in the Colonies and in England to assist the writer in preparing the proper message or verse. These "writers," like The Young Man's Valentine Writer issued in 1797, offered quite an array of poetic prose to accompany the homemade Valentine.

By the 1750s those with romance in their hearts could also find standard-sized, gilt-edged letter paper in the marketplace. This fine paper could then be painted, pin-pricked, cut out, and folded after the prepared message was written in.

Possibly the most finely-detailed Valentines arrived with immigrants from Germany at the start of the 19th century. With them they brought the art of cutting paper Valentines with scissors, scherenschnitte, which remained popular in parts of Pennsylvania for 100 years. Such precisely-cut Valentines are considered folk art today, and displayed in many parts of the country, including the Cincinnati Art Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio.

A few commercial Valentines were available from 1800 to the late 1830s, but the major market for manufactured greetings did not appear until 1840 when the Uniform Penny Postage Act was introduced in England. At last Valentines could be sent through the mails at a single uniform low rate, even including matching elaborate envelopes. Such a change created an even stronger demand for the cards, and thus an opportunity for profitable production.

By the 1850s lovers and well-wishers could buy "mechanical" Valentines which would move with the pulling of a tab. Others were folded to "pop-out" with a three-dimensional flare as they were opened.

Makers were also mass-producing both romantic and comicial hand-colored lithographic greetings and wood-block prints for expressing Valentine sentiments.

Surprisingly enough, both the kindly and the dastardly cards did well with the Victorian public in England and the U.S. One especially-successful maker of Valentines in the U.S. was Ester Howland

Continued on page 5

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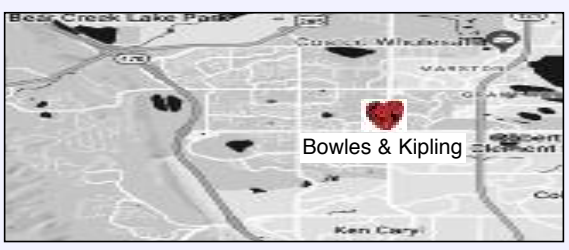

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Show Calendar February — July, 2024

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FEB. 3—MAY 3: **SPACE EXPLORERS: The INFINITE** — Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St., Aurora, After having fascinated 300,000 visitors, Space Explorers: The Infinite lands in Denver featuring new content captured in space promising an otherworldly adventure!

FEB. 10: **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.

FEB. 14: **BRASS ARMADILLO** HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY Double Points Day FEB. 19 PRESIDENT'S DAY 20% Off Everything FEB. 29 DOUBLE DIPPING ON REDEMPTON POINTS all day, More info 303-403-1677.

FEB. 16: **GEORGETOWN's HOTEL De PARIS Devil's Gate Series**, begins with talk by Kevin Kuharic's about Louis Dupuy's Cooking, 7 p.m. at the Community Center in Georgetown. Tours of the Museum also begin in February. Go to their Website to make a reservation - (hoteldeparismuseum.org (http://hoteldeparismuseum.org/)) or call the Museum - 303-569-2311.

FEB. 17: **LIVE AT THE CROWS** at the Old Crows Antique Mall & Root Beer Bar, live performance by Joe Wren, 2-5 p.m., 303-973-8648.

FEB. 24: **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.

FEB. 24—MAR. 3: **COLORADO GARDEN & HOME SHOW**, Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th St., 303- 228-8000.

MAR. 30: **TIMBER DAN SPRING TOY SHOW & SALE of Collectible, Vintage and Antique Toys**, Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the First National Bank Exhibition Building, Enter at North or South Halls of "The Ranch" Larimer County Fairgrounds, 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland CO, 250+ Tables with 90+ Dealers from 10 states. Contact Sherlyn Sampson at 970-663-9392 or go to website www.lovelandlionsclub.com for more information.

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, Aults $6., Children 11 and Under: FREE. More info, go to www.heritageeventcompany or contact Gail Kinney (918) 619-2875.

Valentine's Day Gives Sweethearts a Great Day to Give Small Tokens of Love

Continued from page 1

of Massachusetts. From humble beginnings in the 1850s, the operation became known worldwide. Now her cards, signed with the letter H in a red heart, are highly prized by collectors.

Yet with all printing and producing innovations, the need for the personal touch persisted through the entire Victorian era. "Some of the cards (of the latter 19th century) were purchased in the form of their various components and actually assembled by their senders," notes Judith Holder, author of Sweethearts and Valentines. "Thus, one might purchase a blank card, a paper-lace frame, a picture or pictures, and a verse or motto, then glue all these together to produce one's own specially-designed Valentine."

Victorian Valentines, whether store-bought or store-bought and home-assembled, finally evolved into "elaborate products for an elaborate era," observes Demaris Smith in Preserving Your Paper Collectibles. "Lace paper, machine-woven tapestries, satin pillows, parchment and many other fancies were incorporated into the designs."

By the 1890s, mechancial cards and three-dimensional ones were fully available on the American market, although most of them were produced in Europe. "I have seen some (three-dimensional) with as many as seven levels when fully opened, and they are truly beautiful," writes Joseph Raymond LeFontaine in the book Turning Paper to Gold. "They are difficult to find in good condition, and some will bring prices in the hundreds of dollars."

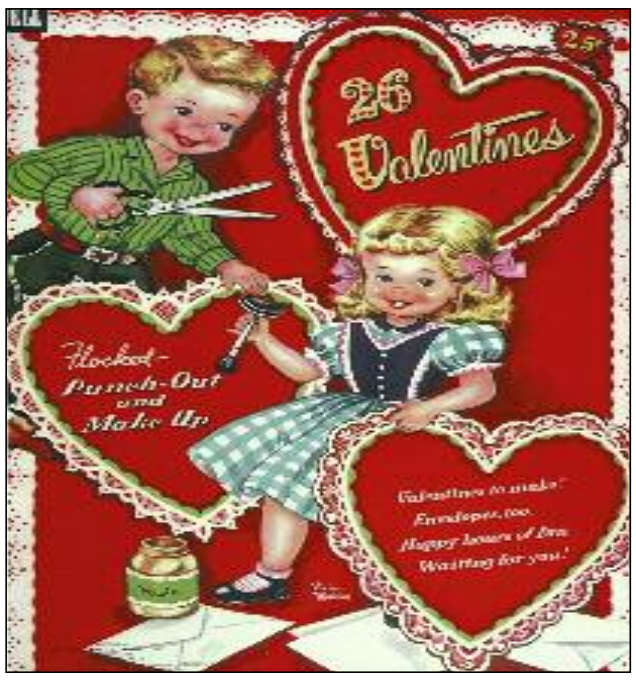
The dawn of the 20th century saw the boom of dazzling new postcards printed by the millions in Germany with their ever-advancing chromolithography. Naturally that led to a corresponding "boom" in Valentine postcards. Arrival of the brightly-colored Valentine postcards on the marketplace meant mellow hearts could now dispatch both comical and sentimental greetings much easier and less expensively than ever before.

Such postcards also added to the growing public feeling that Valentines not just limited to lovers, but could be sent to mothers, grandchildren, neices, and old friends. This expanding nature of Valentine-giving led at least in part to the frequent depiction of Cupid and children on such postcards.

"Most common were depictions of childlike Cupids busily mailing, sealing or delivering valentines, bandaging broken hearts, or just shooting cannons," notes Judith Endelman, librarian and curator of special collections at Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. Moreover, "Children appeared with great regularity on Valentine postcards—shyly kissing, winsomely dressed in foreign costume, delivering flowers or playing with Cupids."

Of course, standard Valentines were still being produced in an assortment of styles by such commercial greats as Louis Prang, Elton and Company, and the George Whitney firm with manufactured layered, embossed, and lace cards right through the postcard craze from 1900 to World War I.

But Americans were generally attracted to the postcards. Most of them continued to be die-cut from Germany, although the work of Raphael Tuck and Sons in England was welcomed, as were the illustrations of Frances Brundage and Charles Dana Gibson.

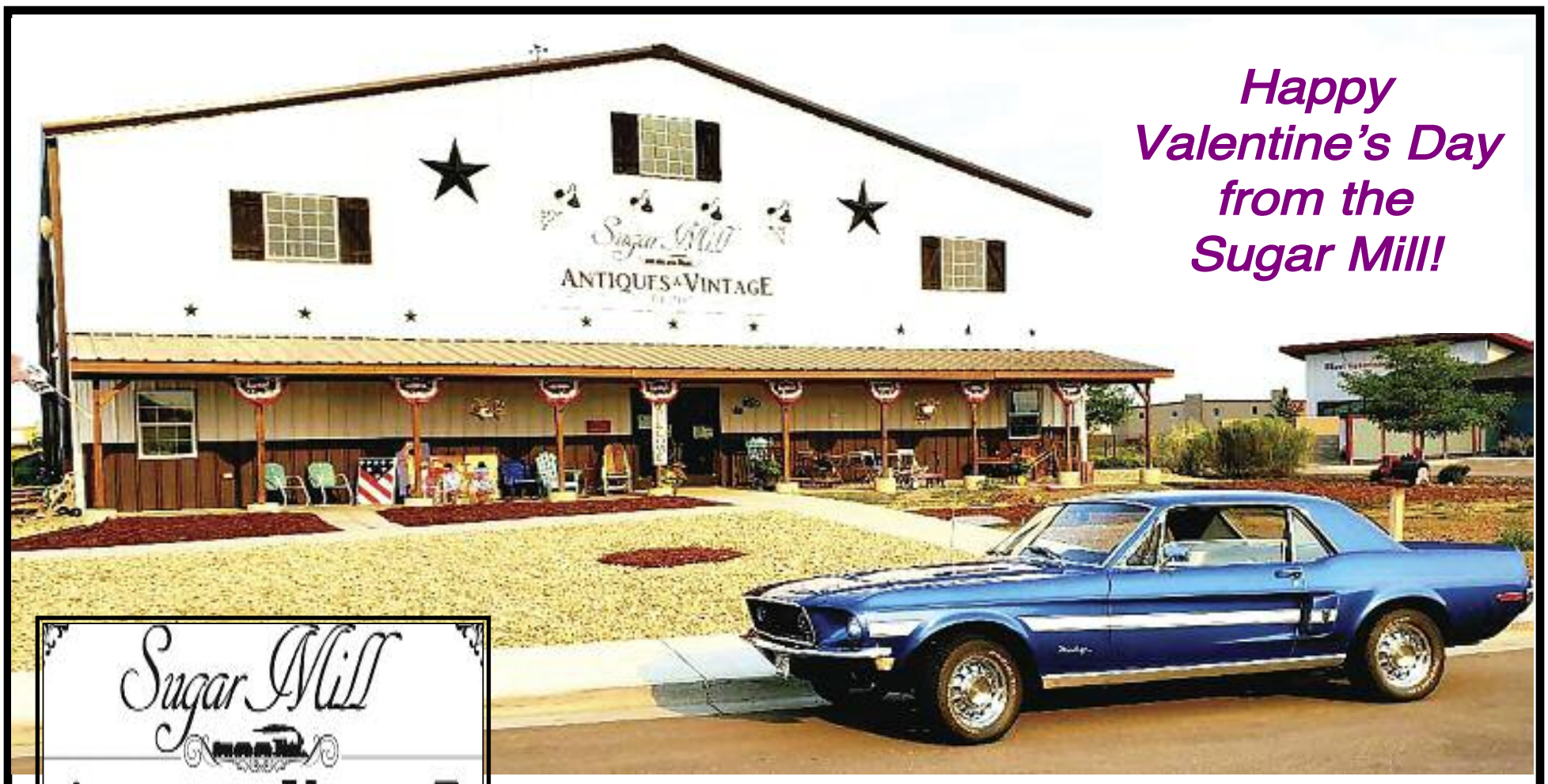


"United States Valentines coveted by collectors mostly also fall into the period between 1900 and 1920," according to Collectibles by Marian Klamkin. It was the time when "German cards were at thier most elaborate and a few American companies were still making beauties to celebrate the holiday for lovers."

The market changed again in the 1920s when postcards gradually lost their luster with the public and the trend toward Valentines with their own envelopes resumed.

Various shapes and sizes from heart-shaped to full sheets have abounded ever since, and so has collecting them.

"Today's collectors often specialize," according to Schroeder's Antiques Price Guide. "Comics, postcards, mechanicals, Victorian, Kewpies, Kate Greenaway characters, or those signed by a specific artists are among the many well-established categories."



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Frederick Douglass, Once Enslaved, Became an Abolitionist Leader

Frederick Douglass was a formerly enslaved man who became a prominent activist, author and public speaker. He became a leader in the abolitionist movement, which sought to end the practice of slavery, before and during the Civil War. After that conflict and the Emancipation Proclamation of 1862, he continued to push for equality and human rights until his death in 1895.

Douglass' 1845 autobiography, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, described his time as an enslaved worker in Maryland. It was one of five autobiographies he penned, along with dozens of noteworthy speeches, despite receiving minimal formal education.

An advocate for women's rights, and specifically the right of women to vote, Douglass' legacy as an author and leader lives on. His work served as an inspiration to the civil rights movement of the 1960s and beyond.

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery in or around 1818 in Talbot County, Maryland. Douglass himself was never sure of his exact birth date.

His mother was an enslaved Black women and his father was white and of European descent. He was actually born Frederick Bailey (his mother's name), and took the name Douglass only after he escaped. His full name at birth was "Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey."

After he was separated from his mother as an infant, Douglass lived for a time with his maternal grandmother, Betty Bailey. However, at the age of six, he was moved away from her to live and work on the Wye House plantation in Maryland.

From there, Douglass was "given" to Lucretia Auld, whose husband, Thomas, sent him to work with his brother Hugh in Baltimore. Douglass credits Hugh's wife Sophia with first teaching him the alphabet. With that foundation, Douglass then taught himself to read and write. By the time he was hired out to work under William Freeland, he was teaching other enslaved people to read using the Bible.

As word spread of his efforts to educate fellow enslaved people, Thomas Auld took him back and transferred him to Edward Covey, a farmer who was known for his brutal treatment of the enslaved people in his charge. Roughly 16 at this time, Douglass was regularly whipped by Covey.

After several failed attempts at escape, Douglass finally left Covey's farm in 1838, first boarding a train to Havre de Grace, Maryland. From there he traveled through Delaware, another slave state, before arriving in New York and the safe house of abolitionist David Ruggles.

Once settled in New York, he sent for Anna Murray, a free Black woman from Baltimore he met while in captivity with the Aulds. She joined him, and the two were married in September 1838. They had five children together.

After their marriage, the young couple moved to New Bedford, Massachusetts, where they met Nathan and Mary Johnson, a married couple who were born "free persons of color." It was the Johnsons who inspired the couple to take the surname Douglass, after the character in the Sir Walter Scott poem, "The Lady of the Lake."

In New Bedford, Douglass began attending meetings of the abolitionist movement. During these meetings, he was exposed to the writings of abolitionist and journalist William Lloyd Garrison.

The two men eventually met when both were asked to speak at an abolitionist meeting, during which Douglass shared his story of slavery and escape. It was Garrison who encouraged Douglass to become a speaker and leader in the abolitionist movement.

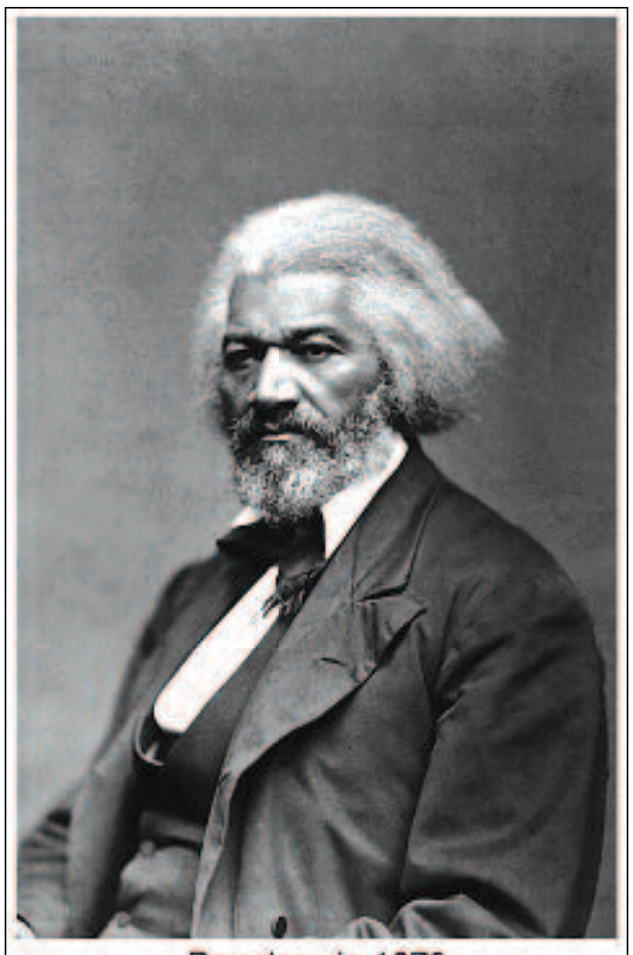
By 1843, Douglass had become part of the American Anti-Slavery Society's "Hundred Conventions" project, a six-month tour through the United States. Douglass was physically assaulted several times during the tour by those opposed to the abolitionist movement.

In one particularly brutal attack, in Pendleton, Indiana, Douglass' hand was broken. The injuries never fully healed, and he never regained full use of his hand.

In 1858, radical abolitionist John Brown stayed with Frederick Douglass in Rochester, New York, as he planned his raid on the U.S. military arsenal at Harper's Ferry, part of his attempt to establish a stronghold of formerly enslaved people in the mountains of Maryland and Virginia. Brown was caught and hanged for masterminding the attack, offering the following prophetic words as his final statement: "I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood."

Two years later, Douglass published the first and most famous of his autobiographies, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave. (He also authored My Bondage and My Freedom and Life and Times of Frederick Douglass).

In it Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, he wrote: "From my earliest recollection, I date the entertainment of a deep conviction that slavery would not always be able to hold me within its foul embrace; and in the darkest hours of my career in slavery, this living word of faith and spirit of hope departed not from me, but remained like ministering angels to cheer me through the gloom."



Douglass in 1879

He also noted, "Thus is slavery the enemy of both the slave and the slaveholder."

Later that same year, Douglass would travel to Ireland and Great Britain. At the time, the former country was just entering the early stages of the Irish Potato Famine, or the Great Hunger.

While overseas, he was impressed by the relative freedom he had as a man of color, compared to what he had experienced in the United States. During his time in Ireland, he met the Irish nationalist Daniel O'Connell, who became an inspiration for his later work.

In England, Douglass also delivered what would later be viewed as one of his most famous speeches, the so-called "London Reception Speech."

In the speech, he said, "What is to be thought of a nation boasting of its liberty, boasting of its humanity, boasting of its Christianity, boasting of its love of justice and purity, and yet having within its own borders three millions of persons denied by law the right of marriage?… I need not lift up the veil by

Continued on page 9

Frederick Douglass, c. 1840s, in his 20s

1863 broadside *Men of Color to Arms!*, written by Douglass

Anna Murray Douglass
Douglass' wife for 44 years, portrait c. 1860

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Frederick Douglass, An Abolitionist Hero

Continued from page 7

giving you any experience of my own. Every one that can put two ideas together, must see the most fearful results from such a state of things…"

When he returned to the United States in 1847, Douglass began publishing his own abolitionist newsletter, the North Star. He also became involved in the movement for women's rights.

He was the only African American to attend the Seneca Falls Convention, a gathering of women's rights activists in New York, in 1848.

He spoke forcefully during the meeting and said, "In this denial of the right to participate in government, not merely the degradation of woman and the perpetuation of a great injustice happens, but the maiming and repudiation of one-half of the moral and intellectual power of the government of the world."

He later included coverage of women's rights issues in the pages of the North Star. The newsletter's name was changed to Frederick Douglass' Paper in 1851, and was published until 1860, just before the start of the Civil War.

In 1852, he delivered another of his more famous speeches, one that later came to be called "What to a slave is the 4th of July?"

In one section of the speech, Douglass noted, "What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciations of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade, and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy—a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages."

For the 24th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, in 1886, Douglass delivered a rousing address in Washington, D.C., during which he said, "where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe."

During the brutal conflict that divided the still-young United States, Douglass continued to speak and worked tirelessly for the end of slavery and the right of newly freed Black Americans to vote.

Although he supported President Abraham Lincoln in the early years of the Civil War, Douglass fell into disagreement with the politician after the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, which effectively ended the practice of slavery. Douglass was disappointed that Lincoln didn't use the proclamation to grant formerly enslaved people the right to vote, particularly after they had fought bravely alongside soldiers for the Union army.

It is said, though, that Douglass and Lincoln later reconciled and, following Lincoln's assassination in 1865, and the passage of the 13th amendment, 14th amendment, and 15th amendment to the U.S. Constitution (which, respectively, outlawed slavery, granted formerly enslaved people citizenship and equal protection under the law, and protected all citizens from racial discrimination in voting), Douglass was asked to speak at the dedication of the Emancipation Memorial in Washington, D.C.'s Lincoln Park in 1876.

He kept America focused on hard truths because he believed it necessary to a strong democracy.

Historians, in fact, suggest that Lincoln's widow, Mary Todd Lincoln, bequeathed the late-president's favorite walking stick to Douglass after that speech.

In the post-war Reconstruction era, Douglass served in many official positions in government, including as an ambassador to the Dominican Republic, thereby becoming the first Black man to hold high office. He also continued speaking and advocating for African American and women's rights.

In the 1868 presidential election, he supported the candidacy of former Union General Ulysses S. Grant, who promised to take a hard line against white supremacist-led insurgencies in the post-war South. Grant notably also oversaw passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1871, which was designed to suppress the growing Ku Klux Klan movement.

In 1877, Douglass met with Thomas Auld, the man who once "owned" him, and the two reportedly reconciled.

Douglass' wife Anna died in 1882, and he married white activist Helen Pitts in 1884.

In 1888, he became the first African American to receive a vote for President of the United States, during the Republican National Convention. Ultimately, though, Benjamin Harrison received the party nomination.

Douglass remained an active speaker, writer and activist until his death in 1895. He died after suffering a heart attack at home after arriving back from a meeting of the National Council of Women, a women's rights group still in its infancy at the time, in Washington, D.C.

His life's work still serves as an inspiration to those who seek equality and a more just society.

Thank you to history.com for providing this article.

Lakewood

Denver

Fabulous Dolls of the 50s

By Robert Reed

Growing up the 1950s had to be a grand experience.

A new decade of expansion and prosperity had replaced the years of economic depression and world war.

Incomes were up as the nation entered the 1950s, and the sheer number of American families was on the increase. When Dwight Eisenhower was elected president in 1952 a delighted Pennsylvania told Time magazine, "It's like America came home."

And home was also where the most fabulous dolls were.

Some of the greatest of the American doll manufacturers were ready to make their best even better. Madam Alexander, American Character Doll Company, Effanbee, E.I. Horsman, Ideal, Vogue, and many others would turn the 50s into virtually a golden age of dolls for little girls.

Right from the beginning small, life-like baby dolls were-to pardon a pun—a very big item.

Effanbee's original Dy-Dee Doll was on the market by 1950. "She drinks, wets, sleeps, blows bubbles with her bubble pipe and even cries when you put the special pacifier in her mouth and squeeze her," said the advertisements.

When ordered from the Montgomery Ward catalog, Dy-Dee came with her bubble pipe, spoon, nursing bottle, and even a supply of Q-tips for cleaning her soft rubber ear.

Not to be outdone, E.I. Horsman soon offered their own newborn baby type in all-vinyl Tynie Baby. Horsman also produced a similar but slightly larger Sleepy which wore Hanes sleepwear.

At one point early in the 1950s, Ideal Toy Company may have taken the 'real baby' theme to the maximum with their legendary Betsy Wetsy dolls. The hard-plastic Betsy could drink, cry, wet, and—believe it or not—even had a runny nose. Boxed Betsy Wetsy outfits usually included a baby bottle, diaper, and diaper pins but the packages varied.

Alice in Wonderland doll of the 1950s from Madam Alexander, 13 inches. (McMasters Doll Auction).

Sweet Sue bride doll, 1952, American Character Doll Co.

Madam Alexander greeted the new decade with a line of high quality plastic dolls. The two most popular models were Maggie and Margaret. Later the appealing Maggie face was used for the company's spirited Alice in Wonderland and other issues. Possibly the most well received personality dolls of the early 1950s was Madam Alexander's rendition of world champion ice skater Sonja Henie. Allied Grand Doll meanwhile produced a fine personality doll in the image of Dodger baseball star Jackie Robinson.

In 1951 all little girls in the country were invited to become Miss Curity based on "the famous doll muse you see in drug stores all over America." The doll itself had been a major seller for the Ideal Toy Company and an instant promotion for Bauer and Black first-aid products. Parents were invited to "send a snapshot of your little girl to find a model for Miss Curity. "

Ideal also had a big commercial hit early in the 1950s with their Miss Toni doll that put great emphasis on related hair care products.

At about the same time, the EJ. Horsman Company met the hair-care doll competition more or less 'head on' with their adorable all-plastic Bright Star little girl dolls. Since the doll came with innovative Saran hair, her hair could readily be combed, curled and waved.

In 1953 Niresk Industries of Chicago used massive magazine advertising to market Baby Blue Eyes. At 20 inches she was billed as "big as a baby with mystic skin and silk embroidered dress."

Baby Blue Eyes was hard to resist because "she coos happily, like a real baby, when you hold her tight" She came with long braided hair which could be washed and waved because it too was Saran hair.

And soon Ideal was conducting a major advertising campaign for, what else, a wonderful doll with workable Saran hair. Ideal's best effort turned out to be the immensely popular Saucy Walker.

"I walk, I flirt, I turn my head from side to side," said Saucy, "I sit, I stand, I sleep, and I have Saran hair."

By the middle 1950s Ideal had extended the concept of hair-care for dolls to include face-care for dolls.

Ideal launched the Harriet Hubbard Ayer doll in connection with a leading cosmetic company. With a lovely wig on her vinyl head, the doll came with curlers and cosmetics. Not only could her hair be styled, but also Ayer cosmetics could be applied to her dainty face. The Ayer doll was available in a wide variety of sizes from 14 to 21 inches, and each model included a beauty instruction booklet.

In 1957 one of the finest dolls produced in America was the Cissy bride doll from Madam Alexander. Cissy had long been a favorite and bride dolls were likewise enduring. Together they were tremendous.

The Cissy bride doll of that year had a hard plastic head and pierced ears. She wore a stunning white wedding gown with full headdress. Besides the bridal dress, various ball gowns were available at times for Cissy along with a complete Queen Elizabeth outfit.

And if Madam Alexander had Cissy, Vogue had the irresistible Ginny doll. In a word the reason for the overwhelming success of the Ginny doll in the 1950s was clothing. Ginny had, what one source described, a whole lifetime of costumes and even a Little Red Riding Hood outfit. Beyond that there was clothing and gear for ice skating, roller skating, and skiing down the slopes of where ever.

At the height of her popularity, Vogue produced an advertising brochure featuring the doll "Hi, I'm Ginny" it read. "What shall I wear today?" The answer, of course, was that Ginny could wear just about anything.

The American Character Doll Company's answer to the whole mix, at least for a time, was Sweet Sue.

Sweet Sue was a remarkable doll that probably looked her best in a full and fluffy bridal outfit. Typically the doll was molded in hard plastic and wore mohair wigs. She had a wide variety of costumes, but her wardrobe was probably not as varied as that of the Ginny doll.

Interestingly, around 1957 the makers at American Character decided to alter the traditional Sweet Sue somewhat. "In order to compete with Ideal's Miss Revlon and Alexander's Cissy," notes Dian Ziller author of the highly comprehensive volume, Dolls and Accessories, of the 1950s, "the doll was changed to a full figure fashion doll." The change was not a particularly good one as Sweet Sue never equaled the popularity of the previous years.

Miss Revlon on the other hand continued to set new sales records. The brightly colored Miss Revlon boxes contained interesting and varied outfits. At one point in the latter 1950s the manufacturers even dared to include a Formfit bra and girdle for the ever progressive Miss Revlon.

When it came to infant type dolls, the American Character answer to Ideal's memorable Betsy Wetsy was their own memorable Tiny Tears. Both became best-sellers for many years during the 1950s. Horsman's earlier Tynie Baby and their Perma Nurser Bottle Baby were basically the same thing as Betsy and Tiny Tears, but never ever achieved the degree of fame as the other two. Madam Alexander had their own 'infant' offerings including Little Genius with a fantastic five-piece baby body.

Ideal finally wrapped up the golden decade in 1958 with a major re-issue of their famous Shirley Temple doll. The packaging was excellent including a suitcase-like TV Wardrobe box. Outfits varied but often included such accessories as a purse and matching shoes. What was somewhat different however were the packages which included eyeglasses for Shirley Temple.

Cissy, Sweet Sue, Ginny, Toni, Shirley, Saucy, Harriett, Betsy, Baby Blue -Eyes...By the time the 1950s had concluded the roll call of wondrous dolls has swelled to a chorus of unforgettable names and equally engaging images. The decade remains today unsurpassed in the quality or variety of fabulous dolls.

Discovering Space Exploration Collectibles

By Robert Reed

From Apollo mission patches to chunks of rocket ships collectors are increasingly discovering the out-of-the-world appeal of space collectibles.

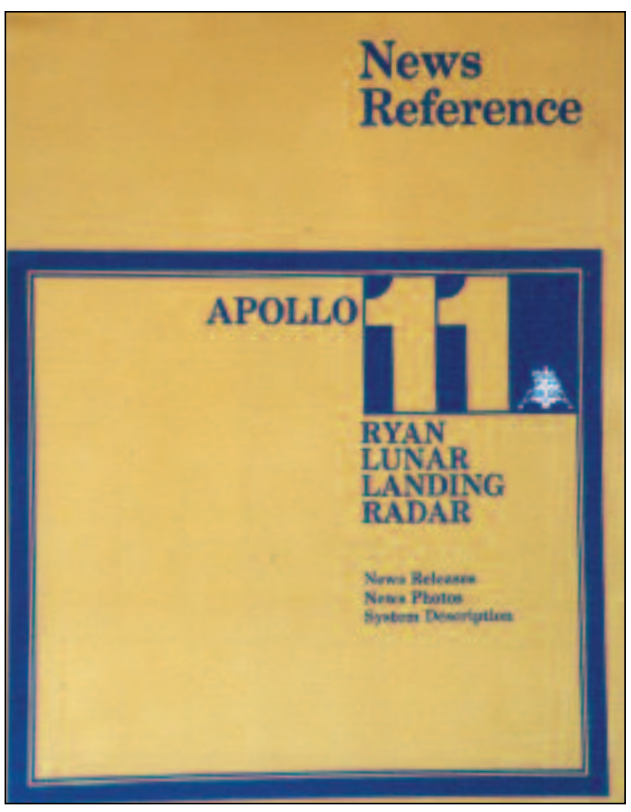
Space-related things from vintage postcards to signed photographs are attracting followers.

The second edition of Today's Hottest Collectibles lists space collectibles as one of the more potential fields currently. Included are promotional booklets, media kits, pinback buttons, and training manuals.

In historic terms space exploration and its accompanying memorabilia is not that old. It is generally considered as beginning in the 1950s and highlighted by the launching of Russia's satellite Sputnik in October of 1957. The decade of the 1960s, considered by some to be the golden period of space launchings, was dominated by American efforts to land a man on the moon.

The United States actually made six lunar landings from the late 1960s into the early 1970s. The first was the Apollo 11 mission and included Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. Charles Conrad and Alan Bean made it to the moon's surface in November of 1969. There were two more successful American landings in 1971, and two more in 1972.

Official press credential for Apollo 11 mission, Kennedy Space Center, 1969.



Ryan Lunar Landing Radar media kit, Aplllo 11 Mission, July 1969.

Thus far in all the world history of space exploration only 12 people have actually completed missions of stepping on the surface of the moon and returning to planet earth.

Both accomplishments and tragedies following space exploration throughout the 1970s and 1980s including the disaster of the Challenger in 1986. When the Challenger exploded and killed seven astronauts it became the world's worst space flight disaster. Elsewhere the United States continued massive efforts of unmanned space exploration including Mariner, Pioneer, Viking, and Voyager.

Perhaps the most comprehensive collection of moon mission efforts of the 1960s could be found in a dusty stack of Life magazines. Life was especially generous with is cover coverage of space exploits during that era. Making the coverage in 1962 were John Glenn's return from space orbit, astronaut Bob White and his son, and the Soviet space capsules.

Later Life magazine featured such events at a rocket liftoff by astronaut Charles Conrad in 1965, a Gemini 10 docking in 1966, and the achievements of astronaut Wally Schirra. Several issues of Life magazine paid tribute to Neil Armstrong and the Apollo 11 mission during the second half of 1969.

A number of other news magazines also gave considerable coverage to the 1960s race to the moon. Among them were Look, Time, and Newsweek. Other periodicals ranging from Aviation Week to TV Guide occasionally focused on space exploration and achievement during that period.

One of the most famous newspaper headlines of the 1960s was variations of Apollo 11's successful landing on the moon. Most of the surviving 1969 issues had striking banner (clear across the top page) headlines, and are considered significant souvenirs of that event. Also of interest are other newspapers and magazines which highlighted various other Apollo missions, and the activities of Russian astronauts.

During the summer of 1969 thousands of journalists assembled at Cape Kennedy in Florida for the 'moonshot' of Apollo 11. At the time scores of companies who had contributed to the effort distributed colorful media kits. Typically the kits were color illustrated on the front with an assortment of press releases, booklets, and illustrations inside. Very few of the media kits survived the years that followed, and today some distinguished examples are prized.

The gathering of journalists and a throng of tens of thousands of sightseers to the Florida site in July of that year also prompted a flow of maps, tourist guides, site postcards, and regional magazines which centered as well on the legendary moon voyage happening.

Felt pennants were available at both Cape Kennedy and the Johnson Space Center. Some bore the name of the facility, while others proclaimed various space mission accomplishments such as Gemini's Victory in Space or the Apollo-related America's Man On the Moon. Apollo mission cloth patches, brightly colored and distinctive, were authorized early on by NASA.

The Apollo missions in general, and the Apollo 11 manned moon landing in particular, generated a great deal of commercial merchandise including banks, books, pinback buttons, clocks, commemorative plates, and drinking glasses. There were also a number of phonograph records throughout the manned space program including America's First Man In Orbit (John Glenn) and Man On The Moon (Neil Armstrong).

"Collectors of space memorabilia collect a variety of items," notes Stuart Schneider, author of Collecting the Space Race one of the few books exclusively on the subject. "But many specialize and collect only a certain category."

Mission patch Apollo 11, cloth. One of a series.

Astronaut autographs is one of those special categories.

Collectors can choose from hundreds of American and foreign astronauts of the past and present although some can be quite difficult to obtain. Among astronauts of the past some of the most sought are of those who were victims of disasters such as the Apollo 1 crew (Gus Grissim, Roger Chaffee and Ed White) and the Challenger crew (including Mike Smith, Greg Jarvis and Christa McAuliffe).

The world's number one astronaut, Neil Armstrong, apparently did not hand out autographs. Mark Baker, author of the highly comprehensive Collector's Guide to Celebrity Autographs, 2nd edition, observes. According to the author Armstrong signed requests in the early days but apparently didn't continue the practice. Armstrong died August 25, 2012 in Cincinnati, Ohio at age 82.

Still there are lots of space-hero signatures out there according to Baker including clipped signatures, business cards, canceled checks, NASA photographs, books, commemorative envelopes, and posters.

"The options are endless and the rewards are often great," concludes Baker.

A certain group of space item collectors are ambitious enough to go for material that has actually flown in space. This unique category can be big enough to include parts of space craft as well as space suits and other specific equipment. There are also smaller "flown" items which can include commemorative envelopes, photographs, postcards, other documents, or even moon rocks.

Major auction houses including Sotheby's and Skinner's have sold major items of space memorabilia in recent years. A handwritten logbook kept by Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagari brought $320,000 at one such auction, and a group of small moon rocks fetched $400,000 at another auction.

Recommended reading: Collecting the Space Race by Stuart Schneider (Schiffer Publishing).

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American History
February Anniversaries

February 1
National Freedom Day (1865)

February 4
George Washington elected first President (1789)

February 4
Founding of the USO (1941)

February 11
51st Anniversary of the first American prisoners of war released from Vietnam (1973)

February 12
Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

February 14
Valentine's Day

February 20
President's Day

February 22
George Washington's Birthday

February 24
Rebecca Lee became the first black woman to receive an M.D. degree (1864)

February 27
Charlotte E. Ray becomes first black female lawyer (1872)

February
Black History Month
Theme for 2024 focuses on African Americans and the Arts. It highlights the art of resistance and the artists who used their crafts to uplift the race, speak truth

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.)

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Ship Figureheads Would Calm Neptune

By Rosemary McKittrick

And there's many a story that could be told
Of the fine figureheads that were chiseled of old
On the dreary sands they crumble today
From Terra del Fuego to Baffins Bay.
–19th century naval officer

The golden-haired figurehead in her white and green gown seems confident and casual about her ability to calm Neptune. Battling the wind she embodies the spirit of the sailing ship as she looks down over the waves. Soothing the sea gods, she makes sure the voyage will be safe.

Fair-maiden figureheads, mermaids, mariners, and even twin sisters imbued the bows of early sailing ships with an almost human personality. The ship's character and quirkiness were well known to the sailors who sailed them.

Often the maiden's arm in these guardian spirits was extended to carry a wand or a weapon. The other arm might rest upon her bosom holding a rose or bunch of flowers. Some figurehead carvings were amazingly inventive. Others came from pattern books. Quality varied.

Eyes sometimes glared. Arms, necks and chins might be simplistic. Carving could be delicate, crude or conventional. Changes in the design of ships also affected the size, shape, and position of a figurehead.

Almost always, figureheads outlived the massive oaken ships whose bows they graced. The ships may be long forgotten but the figureheads themselves live on in museums, private collections and antique shops. In many ways it's like trying to study the human body by only looking at the head. The biggest parts are missing.

The names of many of the self-trained, figurehead carvers are also long gone. Carvers saw themselves as artisans more than artists.

Used for thousands of years, bow ornaments have shown up on the earliest surviving Egyptian boats and rock drawings. Phoenician sailors also adorned the prows of their galleys with wooden likenesses.

Whether its ship's figureheads, carousal animals or tiny toy creatures, whittling has always eased man's anxiety and soothed his soul.

The golden period of sailing ships in the 19th century saw the height of bow decoration. Ships berthed at South Street, New York, in the 19th century picture giant hulls, rigging, and figurehead sculptures leaning over the wharf. Ships filled the harbor like cars filling a parking lot.

The German Kaboutemannekes

Sailors from Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Scandinavia believed that each ship had a resident sprite, fairy or brownie called a Kaboutemannekes. The spiritual creature lived in the ship's figurehead and watched over the sailors on the boat. Among the tasks of the Kaboutemannekes was to guide the ship around rocks, keep it steady during storms, and protect the men from sickness. When ships sunk, it was believed, the Kaboutemannekes escorted the souls of the dead sailors to the underworld.

The design of a wooden ship's bows determined whether the figurehead would be a full figure, half-length or only a bust. Sometimes only an ornament was used.

The figure might resemble the ship owner or his wife or children. Famous people like Davy Crockett and patriotic themes like the American eagle were also popular. Racial and gender stereotyping was plentiful.

Figureheads and other elaborate carvings adorned wooden sailing vessels until they disappeared with the slow but sure introduction of modern steam-powered steel ships.

Presidential Facts From Yesteryear

By Henry J. Pratt

On the third Monday in February every year, Americans pause and formally observe the birthdays of Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. On that single day, we can celebrate Washington's birthday, which occurred Feb. 22, and Lincoln's, Feb. 12.

But that holiday has recently been expanded. Governmental groups, labor organizations, presidential buffs and others currently label the third Monday in February as "Presidents' Day" to recognize and honor all former U.S. Chief Executives.

Folklore tells us just a little knowledge can be dan-gerous. But presidential trivia buffs can give you some obscure facts about our nation's leaders to make for live-ly conversations on Presidents' Day, or any other day throughout the year. So here goes:

Where were our Presidents born? The states providing the most of our Presidents are Virginia with eight, New York with four, Massachusetts with four, and Ohio with seven. Herbert Hoover from Iowa was our first President to be born west of the Mississippi.

Harvard was the undergraduate alma mater of five American Presidents: J. Adams, John Q. Adams, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. Yale has been the undergraduate university of two of our Presidents—William Howard Taft and George Bush.

President Theodore Roosevelt had two nicknames: "Rough Rider" from his Spanish-American war hero days; and "Teddy," the most common. Thirty of our 41 Presidents, including George Bush, served in the military at some time during their careers. Lincoln's service was only three months' militia duty, however.

Several Presidents rode into the White House based largely on gallant military service. They were George Washington, Zachary Tayor, Benjamin Harrison, Rutherford B. Hayes, William McKinley and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Abraham Lincoln's restored home in Springfield, Illinois, is the only home our 16th President and his family ever owned. Like many other presidential homes and birthplaces, the Lincoln Home is open for

Continued on page 15

The Lincoln Boys in the White House

By Dianne L. Beetler

When Abraham Lincoln became president of the United States, he brought two boys to the White House to live. They were his sons, 11-year-old Willie and 8-year-old Tad. The boys' older brother, Bob, was in col-lege and spent little time in Washington, D.C.

Because Washington was different from Springfield, Illinois, where the Lincolns had lived before the election, Willie and Tad eagerly began exploring their new home. President and Mrs. Lincoln liked to see their mischievous sons enjoying themselves and rarely punished them. Some people thought the Lincoln boys were spoiled and in need of discipline.

Willie and Tad found two new playmates, Bud and Holly Taft, who often stayed overnight at the White House. One day, the four boys held a circus in the White House attic and charged five cents admission.

Bud and Willie dressed in two of Mrs. Lincoln's dresses and sang "Home Sweet Home." Tad donned his father's glasses and joined another friend to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

One morning after breakfast, Tad and Holly disappeared. In those days, no Secret Service agents guarded the president or his family, and no one knew the boys' whereabouts. Not until evening did someone bring the boys to the White House. They had spent the day exploring the Capitol, and a stranger had bought them lunch because he knew Tad's father.

Of course Tad and Willie constantly heard talk about the Civil War. They built a fort on the White House roof and, with their friends, formed a military company called "Mrs. Lincoln's Zouaves." Tad even had his picture taken in a uniform.

Sometimes the Lincoln boys accompanied their father to military camps. They enjoyed taking food, fruit and books to the soldiers. Once President Lincoln left the boys at home, but Tad and Willie found transportation to the camp and surprised the president by appearing behind the parade of soldiers.

Tad, the younger brother, was more mischievous than Willie, who was often serious. When a family friend was killed in battle, Willie wrote a poem about him and sent it to a Washington newspaper.

The boys loved playing with their father, who told them exciting stories and sometimes wrestled on the floor with them.

In 1862, the pranks and good times in the White House halted when Willie became seriously ill and died. Tad could hardly be comforted.

After Willie's death, Tad became closer than ever to his father. Tad loved toy soldiers, and he and Preaident Lincoln often went to a toy shop to buy the soldiers Tad wanted for his collection.

A small room in the White House was converted to a theater for Tad. It included a stage with footlights, scenery and a stage curtain. Besides giving his own plays, Tad loved to attend theaters with his parents. Once when he went backstage during a play, the actors dressed him in old clothes and sent him on the stage. President Lincoln soon recognized his son and enjoyed watching him in the play.

Tad had a pony and other pets, including a dog named Jip, a turkey called Jack, and two goats, Nanny and Nanko. The turkey had been sent for the Lincoln's Christmas dinner, but Tad became so attached to Jack that the gobbler was not killed.

Once Tad hitched a goat to a chair and drove it into a meeting room filled with women.

After his father's assassination, Tad traveled with his mother in the United States and Europe. He died in 1871. Today he is most remembered for the tricks he and Willie played in the White House.

January's What Is It?

Marjorie McLaren of Anchorage Alaska tells us January's What Is It appears to be a vintage woven rattan and bamboo Chinese pillow basket, probably made in the mid 20th century. The basket has a woven rattan top and bottom surrounded by a red lacquered bamboo structure. The hardware is likely brass and appears to be missing a locking mechanism, which might have been a strip of metal with slits to fit over the two protruding metal circles or some sort of locking ring to fit through the two holes. The basket is called a pillow basket due to the rounded rectangular shape of the top and bottom that makes the basket look like a pillow when closed. It is hard to judge the size of the basket, but it is likely relatively small and could have been used for storing trinkets.

Loretta Lockett of Longmont, Colorado and Terry Cook of Fort Morgan, Colorado also suggested some good uses for this box.

The item is actually a Netsuke. These finger-sized carvings are Japanese. It is a small carved ornament, espeically of ivory or wood, worn as part of Japanese traditional dress as a toggle by which an article may be attached to go on the sash of a kimono. This netsuke is of woven cane and is a box perhaps intended for flower petals. Although made in the 19th Century it is still in fine condition.

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

CONTEST

February's What Is It?

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

Presidential Facts From Yesteryear

Continued from page 14

public interpretive tours by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

When Millard Fillmore became Chief Executive in 1850, there were no books in the White House—not even a Bible. But his wife Abigail converted one of the presidential rooms into a library and began stocking its shelves.

Many of our Presidents had a good sense of humor, including Lincoln, Wilson, John F. Kennedy, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Gerald Ford, Lyndon Johnson and Ronald Reagan. But Calvin Coolidge, nicknamed "Silent Cal," rarely spoke unless spoken to first.

Many of our Presidents used their good sense of humor to political advantage. Once when Lincoln was debating for public office, his opponent spoke first while Lincoln sat on the platform, listening intently. The opponent kept pointing at Lincoln and referring to him as a liar, a cheat, and a two-faced politician.

Lincoln never showed anger, but sat there calmly and listened courteously. When it was his turn to speak, he stepped up to the podium and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, if I were two-faced, would I be wearing this one?"

Ten of our Presidents showed their religions as Episcopalians. Six were Presbyterians, and before Biden there was only one Catholic—John F. Kennedy. The youngest President at the time he took office was Theodore Roosevelt at age 42, followed by John

F. Kennedy, age 43.

Our oldest President before Biden, when inaugurated, was Ronald Reagan at age 69. Of course, Biden now holds that distinction as he was 78 upon his inauguration. He is followed by William Henry Harrison, who was age 68 when he took office. However, Harrison caught pneumonia and died a month after his inauguration. He was our first President to die while in office.

When we review the resumes of Presidents, we find several of them were born to wealth. Others worked their way up from poverty. Many were lawyers when they entered politics leading them to the White House.

Presidential personalities varied from taciturn to talkative, brilliant to obtuse, and charming to lackluster. But in their own ways, each of our Presidents in the now "Faithful 46" dutifully answered the call to duty in our nation's highest office.

Indeed, each of our Chief Executives made a variety of contributions and impacts on the democratic way of life too many of us Americans now take for granted.

TRAVEL IS FATAL TO PREJUDICE, BIGOTRY, AND NARROW-MINDEDNESS, AND MANY OF OUR PEOPLE NEED IT SORELY ON THESE ACCOUNTS. BROAD, WHOLESOME, CHARITABLE VIEWS OF MEN AND THINGS CANNOT BE ACQUIRED BY VEGETATING IN ONE LITTLE CORNER OF THE EARTH ALL ONE'S LIFETIME.

Mark Twain

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