



the mountain states collector

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

52ND ANNIVERSARY — ESTABLISHED IN 1972

Volume 52, Number 5

MAY 2024



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Dealers Thriving

Old Crows Antique Mall Celebrates 4th Anniversary

By Jon DeStefano

Old Crows Antique Mall is celebrating their fourth anniversary throughout the month of May and it will be fantastic. Here is what is planned:

MAY 4: OLD CROWS' ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW 12-3 p.m. Get estimates on your favorite treasures. Talk to experts about your antiques, art, vintage and collectibles. Limit 1 item per person.

MAY 11: LITTLETON CAR SHOW 3 to 6 p.m., weather permitting, Featuring vintage and collectible vehicles. An event that is fun for the whole family.

MAY 12: MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION Bar-becued Hot Dogs, Chips, Root Beer and Flowers for Mothers.

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

MAY 19: THUNDERBIRD APPRECIATION DAY 12-3 p.m. Come buy and see an amazing display of classic Ford Thunderbirds.



play of classic Ford Thunderbirds.

MAY 23-May 27: MEMORIAL DAY SALE, 15% off storewide.

MAY 25: CELEBRATE THE ARTS at Old Crows Antiques Mall, special prices on all artwork. Demonstrations by numerous local artists and craftsmen.

When Old Crows began they faced a great challenge – COVID, but they didn't let it stop them. They faced the typical challenges of starting a new business, of transforming a 40,000 square foot empty space into a place customers and dealers would feel comfortable in, a place that gave 200+ dealers a space that was attractive and distinct. They also had to construct this and then meet the needs of the numerous inspectors to comply with all the county and state building codes and requirements.

Then they had to get their dealers. Sounds like a lot and it was.

By early March they were ready to open and sure enough in mid-March the COVID-19 pandemic

Continued on page 9



Sunday, May 19th - Noon to 3 p.m.

Go by Old Crows Antiques to see an amazing display of Ford Thunderbirds.



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The St. Vrain Historical Society Presents
The 32nd Annual

Strawberry Festival

Vintage & Antique Market

May 18-19, 2024

Saturday 10 am-5 pm & Sunday 11 am-4 pm

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

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

Admission: \$10.00 per person
(children under 12 free)

(303) 776-1870

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

www.stvrainhistory.org

FREE Admission

DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW

Fri-Sat May 24-25, 2024
Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 9:30am-4pm
Free Admission

Arapahoe County Fairgrounds
25690 E Quincy Ave. Aurora, CO 80016
www.denverpostcardshow.com

Held in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show



Shop the Gallery with blooming bargains all May long! Look for the red and white sale tags for great dealer markdowns.

Start your spring decorating with the incredible variety at the Colorado Antique Gallery. Our 285 dealers are adding antique and vintage items daily. Take advantage of the new merchandise to spruce up your home, garden or deck.

Explore our *Miles of Aisles of Fabulous Finds* to find that special gift for Mom. Or bring Mom in for a day of retail therapy. Hope to see you soon!



MEMORIAL DAY SALE

FRIDAY MAY 24
THRU
MONDAY, JUNE 3

UP TO 50% OFF!



Don't forget Mother's Day! Mom would love a Colorado Antique Gallery gift card!



Layaways and all major credit cards accepted.



303-794-8100



Mon-Sat
10am-6pm
Sunday
Noon-6pm

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



Happy Mother's Day!

Old Crows Antique Mall & Root Beer Bar

10081 West Bowles Avenue Littleton, Colorado

303-973-8648



World's Largest Root Beer Bar serving ice cream floats, coffee —
New Root Beers Weekly - We are continually expanding our variety!

The Antique Brothers, Timmy & Joseph Crawford, Welcome You
Veteran Discounts Every Day

Celebrate in May — Happy Mother's Day, Graduation, and Memorial Day.
Memorial Day Sale, May 23 - 27th (15% Off Storewide)

Barbecued Hot Dogs, Chips, Root Beer and Flowers for Mothers.



Old Crows' Antiques Road Show

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

Limit 1 item per person

Saturday, May 4

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



Saturday, May 11

12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

LITTLETON CAR SHOW

"Be There or Be Square"

Saturday, May 18

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



**Congratulations,
Hall of Famer
Randy Gradishar**

Thunderbird Appreciation Day,

**Sunday, May 19th,
noon to 3 p.m.**

Amazing display of Ford Thunderbirds



Saturday, May 25

Celebrate the Arts

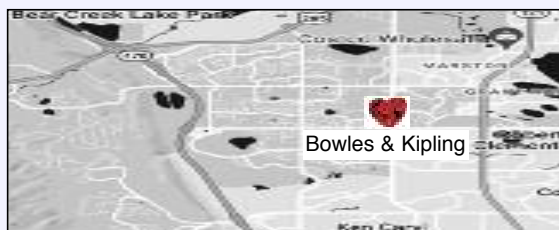
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Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9am-6pm
Fri.-Sat. 9am-7pm Sun. 12pm-6pm

Resales Welcome



www.OldCrowsAntiques.com



Happy Mother's Day! — Free Flowers for Mom

ARVADA



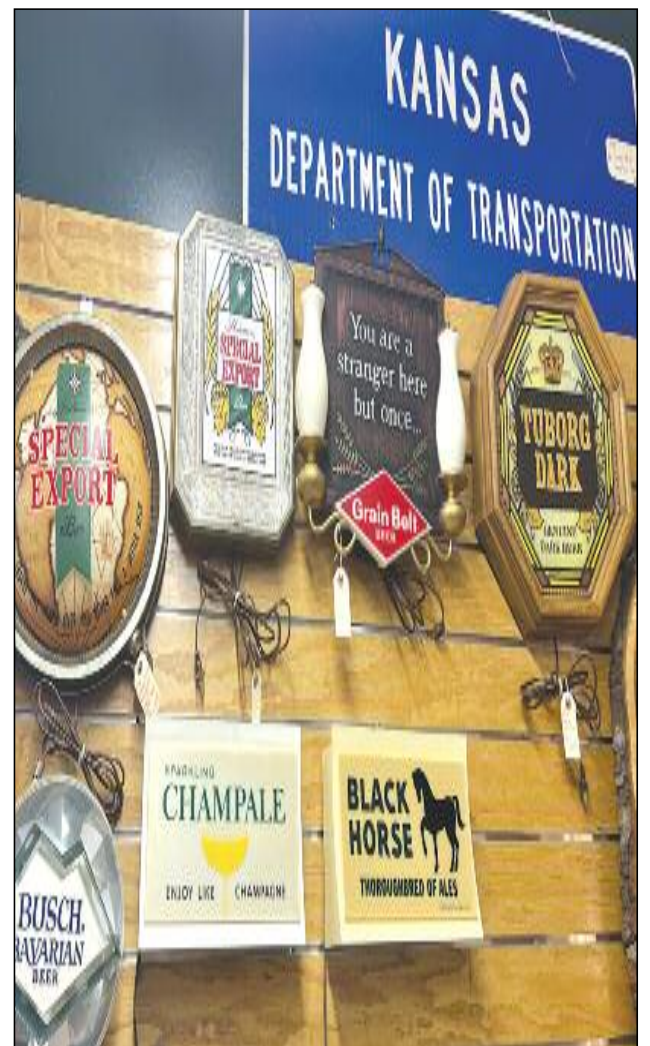
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Best Antique Mall
in Arvada

Show Calendar: May - September, 2024

MAY 4: OLD CROWS' ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW 12-3 p.m. (First Saturday of Every Month) 10081 West Bowles Avenue, Littleton. Get estimates on your favorite treasures. Talk to experts about your antiques, art, vintage and collectibles. Limit 1 item per person. Call 303-973-8648

MAY 9-11: DENVER COIN EXPO, National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt Street, Denver. The largest and oldest coin show in the Rocky Mountains, Thurs. and Fri. 10-6 p.m., Sat., 10-4 p.m. More information, call Neal at 720-773-1175 or go to denvercoinexpo@gmail.com or www.rockymtnexpos.com.

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

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

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

MAY 19: THUNDERBIRD APPRECIATION DAY noon - 3, at Old Crows Antique Mall.

MAY 18 & 19: 52nd ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL sponsored by The St. Vrain Historical Society to be held at the Boulder County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building, 9595 Nelson Rd., Longmont, Colorado, \$10 admission. Children under 12 free. More info, 303-776-1870. or go to www.stvrainhistory.org

MAY 24 & 25: DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW in conjunction with the **Rocky Mountain Stamp Show**, May 24-25, 2024, Arapahoe County Fairgrounds 15680 E Quincy Ave, Aurora, CO 80016 –more info at www.denverpostcardshow.com or email Carol at camobley@ephemeranet.com

MAY 24-JUNE 3: MEMORIAL DAY SALE at the Colorado Antique Gallery, 5501 S. Broadway, Littleton. More info, call 303-794-8100 or go to coloradoantiquegallery.com.

MAY 25: NEW RAYMER ESTATE AUCTION, 102 Shirley Avenue, sponsored by Bruhns Auction, 10 a.m. Bruhns Auction will be selling the Axford Estate, including a lifetime collection of antiques, clocks, furniture, artwork and garden furniture. At 1:00 the real estate sales including the house and property, will be sold. Also, they will be selling the church and property across the street at 107 Shirley Avenue. These properties are some of the original homestead properties in Weld County. Call 303-594-9196 or go to BruhnsAuction.com for more information. (See ad on page 11.)

MAY 25: 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.

JUNE 15: VINTAGE MARKETPLACE OUTDOOR MARKET, 6520 S. College Ave., Forth Collins, CO more info: www.VintagemarketplaceFC.com Upcoming Outdoor Markets on July 20th, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19 and Nov. 16.

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.

JULY 19 & 20: DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW, Holiday Inn Lakewood, 7390 W Hampden Ave, Lakewood, CO 80227 —more info at www.denverpostcardshow.com or email Carol at camobley@ephemeranet.com

AUGUST 17 & 18: ROCKY MOUNTAIN BOOK & PAPER FAIR, 2024, Douglas County Fairgrounds, 500 Fairgrounds Rd, Castle Rock, CO 80104 – more info at RMABA.org or email bookfair2024@rmaba.org

SEPT. 13 & 14: CHERRELYN STAMP SHOW, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, 15200 W 6th Ave, Golden, CO 80401 – for more information email Carol at camobley@ephemera.net.com



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The 52nd Annual
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ROCKY MOUNTAIN Stamp Show
CELEBRATING NATIVE PLANTS OF COLORADO
MAY 24 - 26, 2024
Arapahoe County Fairgrounds 25680 East Quincy Ave. Aurora, Colorado
GUEST SOCIETIES: IAPWS, IAPWS, IAPWS, IAPWS, IAPWS
HOSTING: GEORGE BRETT CUP
Special Guests: Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society
DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW FRI. and SAT. ONLY
Attractions for all 3 days: What's in Your Attic?, a free collection evaluation, Denver Stamp Camp Activities for youth and Young Adults, Also the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library's Silent Auction with 750+ lots



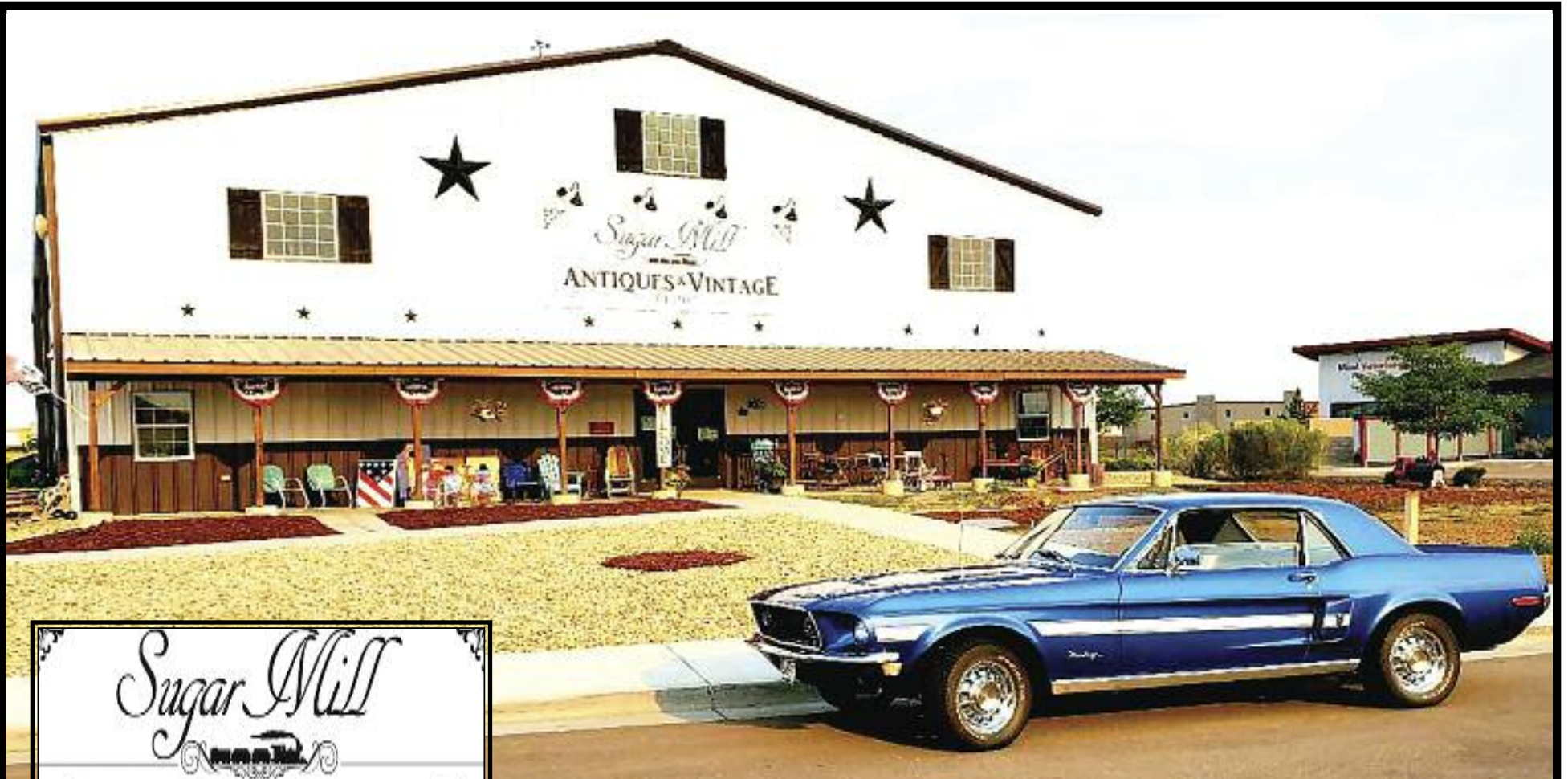
Blooming May Bargains!
Shop the Gallery with blooming bargains all May long! Look for the red and white sale tags for great dealer markdowns.
Start your spring decorating with the incredible variety at the Colorado Antique Gallery. Our 285 dealers are adding antique and vintage items daily. Take advantage of the new merchandise to spruce up your home, garden or deck.
Explore our Miles of Aisles of Fabulous Finds to find that special gift for Mom. Or bring Mom in for a day of retail therapy. Hope to see you soon!



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Free Admission
Arapahoe County Fairgrounds
25690 E Quincy Ave. Aurora, CO 80016
www.denverpostcardshow.com

FREE Admission

Held in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sponsored by the St. Vrain Historical Society

Strawberry Festival Antique Show May 18 and 19

The 2024 Strawberry Festival Antique Show—the 52nd since the St. Vrain Historical Society began to sponsor the annual spring show - will be held on Saturday, May 18th and Sunday, May 19th in the Exhibit Building at the Boulder County Fairgrounds, 9595 Nelson Road, Longmont, CO. Hours for the event are Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm. Admission to the antique show and sale is \$10, children under 12 admitted free, and parking is free. Proceeds will be used by the St. Vrain Historical Society for local historic preservation and education.

More than 80 antique dealers from Colorado

and eight other states will display and sell a wide assortment of antiques and collectibles, furniture, silver, glassware, china, pottery, quilts, vintage clothing and linens, jewelry, tools, postcards, books, dolls and toys.

A book table will be offering an assortment of publications about local history. The Society's cafe area will serve barbecue beef sandwiches, an assortment of beverages and, of course, the traditional strawberry shortcake with freshly whipped cream.

Longmont's original Strawberry Festival was held in June 1871 to celebrate the opening of Library Hall donated to the colony town by



benefactress Elizabeth Thompson of New York. In 1970, the St. Vrain Historical Society chose to commemorate this early community celebration in the name of its spring antique show. Over the last five decades, the event has become a modern community tradition, and thousands of people attend the antique show to browse, buy and enjoy the fresh strawberries.

For more information call the St. Vrain Historical Society (303) 776-1870 or go to www.stvrainhistoricalsociety.com.



Rocky Mountain Stamp Show May 24 - 26

The Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, the largest such show in the intermountain West, occurs again over Memorial Day weekend at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 East Quincy Ave., in Aurora. The Show hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton Denver-Aurora, 13696 E. Iliff Place, Aurora. There is a free shuttle service between the Hotel and the Fairgrounds. Show hours are 10 AM to 6 PM on Friday and Saturday, 10 AM to 3 PM on Sunday. Show admission is free.

The spring edition of the ever-popular Denver Postcard & Paper Show will be at the same venue on Friday and Saturday.

This year there will be 400 available frames of world class exhibits from the convening societies and the participants in the AAPE-sponsored George Brett Cup Competition. This competition is for the best exhibit of 20th Century US material, sponsored by American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. Another special event is the annual silent auction by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, featuring over 800 lots of fine philatelic material.

The Stamp Show theme for 2024 is Celebrating the Native Plants of Colorado. Special guest societies present will be the Colorado Native Plant Society and the Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society.

Philatelic guest societies include the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, APS Writers, Unit #30, Colorado Postal History Society, International Society for Portuguese Philately and United States Postal Stationary Society. All the philatelic societies will host seminars and/or video presentations.

Additionally, they will have their popular "What's In Your Attic?" booth where you can learn about an inherited accumulation or rekindle your interest in long-neglected collections. The CYPHER Stamp Club (Colorado Young Philatelic Explorers and Researchers) will have youth activities, including Stamp Collecting Merit Badge classes, scheduled throughout the show.

For more information, please visit the Show website www.rockymountainstampshow.com or www.denverpostcardshow.com.



Columbine Photo by Peggy DeStefano

Rocky Mountain Philatelic Exhibitions, Inc presents
73rd annual Rocky Mountain Stamp Show

Arapahoe County Fairgrounds
25690 E Quincy Ave.
Aurora, CO 80016
www.rockymountainstampshow.com

Show Hours
Friday May 24, 2024 10am-6pm
Saturday May 25, 2024 10am-6pm
Sunday May 26, 2024 10am-3pm

- **FREE Admission/Parking**
- **Youth Activities**
- **Food Service on site**
- **World Class Exhibits**
- **30 Dealers offering Stamps, Postal History, Postcards and much more**
- **In conjunction with the Denver**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN Stamp Show
CELEBRATING NATIVE PLANTS OF COLORADO
MAY 24 - 26, 2024
Arapahoe County Fairgrounds 25690 East Quincy Ave. Aurora, Colorado

GUEST SOCIETIES: APS, COLORADO, CACTUS & SUCULENT SOCIETY, DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW

HOSTING: **GEORGE BRETT CUP**
An AAPE Inaugural Competition

Special Guests: Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society, Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

Attractions for all 3 days:
What's in Your Attic, a free collection evaluation
Denver Stamp Camp Activities for youth and Young Adults
Also the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library's Silent Auction with 750+ lots

The Cradles of Time

By Robert Reed

Many years ago author Lester Margon described a pine and walnut cradle that had been made in Pennsylvania around 1750.

"Its design is a consummate delight," Margon wrote in *Masterpieces of American Furniture*. "What a joy it must have been to sit beside this cradle and rock the baby to sleep, sending the little one off to dreams."

That particular cradle of time had a "unique and attractive design" according to the author with ample size to hold a youngster several years if necessary.

Cradles of course have a long tradition in this country. One of the earliest items of joint construction known to exist in America is an oak-framed piece called the Pilgrim cradle, built between 1625 and 1675.

Early designs in Europe were box-like rectangular structure with metal or wooden carrying handles at the sides. These cradles were hung from the rafters in the various rooms and were often painted according to Constance King, author of *Country Pine Furniture*.

In Sweden households had several hooks around the rooms "so the cradle could be hung in the most convenient position --- near the parents' bed at night or in a cool breeze in the summer."

Both in Europe and America, various woods were sometimes used in the early cradles including expensive mahogany, but most were made of plentiful pine.

Swinging cradles were generally replaced in the 17th century by those mounted on wooden rockers. This basic design remained popular well into the 19th century. Rocker cradles were sometimes given flat or pointed hoods at one end that served to protect the infant from drafts common in households of the period.

Typically, across America, the cradles remained plain and were often the work of a family member or local carpenter. Most were dated and decorated simply with the child's initials. However some were more elaborate with panels and carving, and others were even covered with leather or velvet, or some armchair material.

At Colonial Williamsburg, the James Geddy House bedchamber contains a hooded rocker cradle from the 1720s. Beside it is a doll's cradle, almost identical in design but smaller in size. The hoods were often used for airing out the infant's bed linens as people went about their housekeeping chores.

"The importance of a cradle in the life of a baby at the time cannot be over-emphasized," notes Sally Kevill-Davis, author of *Yesterday's Children*. The book takes an extensive look at the evolution of the cradle.

"The child's whole pattern of waking and sleeping revolved around this one piece of furniture," the author adds.

It was basically the same around the country.

Writing of a religious sect in Iowa during the second half of the 19th century, Majorie Albers observes:

"When a Amana baby was born, a cradle was



Pine cradle with stenciled decorations. Harris auction photo.

added. This piece, which was often passed along to families as needed, and more elaborate in design than the simple lines so evident in much of their furniture.

"The book, *The Amana People and Their Furniture*, concludes "the rockers were removable so the cradle could be used later as a stationary baby bed."

Likewise the Mennonites of the late 19th early 20th centuries paid special attention to the construction of cradles.

R.K. Janzen and John Janzen document the group's splendid work well in the artful book, *Mennonite Furniture* (Good Books):

"Characteristic of Mennonite cradles was the simplicity of their construction. The tapered box had dovetail joints and applied bead molding strips which defined the horizontal form. Two small handcarved hooks, knobs or ceramic drawer pulls, fastened to each side of the cradle, these secured the ties which held the infant's blanket, as well as the child itself, in place."

During the 19th century the nearly box-shape of the cradle with straight lines was gradually replaced by slanting slides, which, according to Kevill-Davis, "gave a more fashionable shape."

Wicker cradles also enjoyed some popularity in the United States during the 19th century. They provided good ventilation during the summer weather, and as Kevill-Davis points out, "being light, portable and airy, they could be easily burnt and cheaply replaced in the case of an outbreak of infectious disease."

Native Americans also created some classic cradles, particularly during the 19th century.

One of the country's leading auction galleries, Skinner Inc., sold a Kiowa Plains Indian lattice cradle in 1992. "Plains Indians were nomadic and their objects reflected the mobility of their lifestyle," according to Linda Dyer, director of Skinner's Indian art and ethnographic department.

"The cradle was no exception," adds Dyer, "having being in constant use for the first two years of a child's life; this piece was surely a



Baby cradle made of pine, late 18th century New England. Skinner Inc.

treasured belonging, durably designed and beautifully decorated with beading in green, blue, rose and yellow." It sold for nearly \$40,000.

At the other end of the scale, the Thonet Bentwood & Other Furniture catalog of 1904 still offered two slightly different styles of cradle. The bentwood cradle, with decorative wooden loops, was a well-known import to the United States from Austria and Hungary during the latter 19th and early 20th centuries.

Other examples of cradles which have endured range from the distinguished Federal style of leading East coast furniture makers to the finely carved and painted works crafted by Midwestern folk artists.

Antique experts Judith and Martin Miller, authors of numerous books on the field, say generally that cradles have survived in original condition in greater numbers than their adult counterparts.

They add, "those which were often beautifully carved or painted to reflect a family's social position at the time, are now fashionable and in demand."

Writing in *Country Pine Furniture*, Constance King points out, "antique cradles have long attracted interior decorators, as they are small but attractive objects that look good in many settings. They can be piled high with logs by a fireplace or used as a small blanket chest with the contents tied, German fashion, with colored tapes or ribbons."

Antique cradles can also be used to hold small books and trinkets or even treasured dolls.

"These cradles have always sold quickly, as they make fine christening gifts and are also valued by collectors," adds King. "In the past, the cradle was moved room to room as required, and it now looks appropriate in almost any part of the house."



*The Cradle
by Berthe Morisot
Paris, 1872.*

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La Cache is staffed fully by volunteers.

Old Crows Antique Mall Celebrates 4th Anniversary

Continued from page 1

hit. They were shut down until May. The journey began four years ago when brothers Tim and Joe Crawford undertook a great challenge and decided to open a very special antique mall in a shopping center in Littleton, Colorado. Located at the Southwest corner of Bowles and Kipling the mall was finally underway.. The time was not wasted. They had transformed the space into a purposeful and efficient antique mall.

However, Tim and Joe Crawford wanted much more than that. Joe said, "Our goal was to create an antique and vintage wonderland where the variety of items is continuously being rotated and changed. A place where you can browse in comfort, enjoy a large and diverse selection, and enjoy a bottle of root beer, a fresh cup of coffee, or a snack while you take a break from your journey through time."

"Our greatest success has been our dealers," Joseph explains, "They are outstanding. We have been selective about the dealers who have joined us. They are great people, very involved Together we have really created something special here for our customers. The entire place is a welcoming environment. We are all having fun doing this together. We're more like a family."

Old Crows dealers are very excited about their beautiful and fascinating antique mall and they should be as they have indicated their businesses are really thriving here. Customers are equally excited.

"After forty years of owning my antiques shops, I'm thoroughly delighted to become a part of this exciting collection of dealers, at Old Crow's Antique Mall, in Littleton Colorado. The mall is amazing, the owner, management and staff are excited to serve, and our customers are thrilled with the quality and selection of styles represented.

I'm proud to have my new boutique shop in the mall, and to invite my longtime customers to peruse all the beautiful items in this delightful 40,000 square ft. mall. It's a fresh, pristine building, with a plethora of parking, and something for everyone.... including special weekend events, and their famous Root Beer Bar!!" - Joy Phelps

"The staff and management at Old Crows Antique mall are friendly, helpful, and knowledgeable. Also, the newly renovated building has been created into a modern, clean, and accessible antique mall. Filled with a variety of items from several dealers, it offers the customer a great shopping experience." - Lois Claggett

"Rare finds, fun events and frosty root beer floats; I'm proud to be one of the original Crows." - Justin Dartt

"One of the best things about being a dealer at Old Crows is the family friendly atmosphere. With the variety of ages and personalities it's always fun to watch the reaction of people to things that trigger fond memories or offer a learning experience. When a grandfather was showing an old payphone to his granddaughter, she was fascinated with the old technology and couldn't imagine standing in one spot while having a conversation. she studied the phone for several minutes and fell in love with it. I thought how wonderful it would be to sell all my cleverness and buy some bewilderment. Bring the kids -- You'll find lots of great things to provide an opportunity for a meaningful conversation." - John Howe

"Treasure hunting at Old Crows Antiques led to

me shopping for my place as a vendor. The staff is truly remarkable. Old Crows is a special place for fun finds!" - Lori Counterman

"At Old Crow we like that you can find items from days gone by that were made well and are still usable today! Also, the craftsmanship on repurposed pieces add a touch of charm to your modern home." - Kelly Payton

"I love Old Crows Antiques! It's a great place to shop for unusual items. From the minute you walk through the doors you are greeted with smiling, friendly faces. The spaces are filled with amazing one-of-a-kind treasures and beautifully displayed throughout. It's an easy and relaxing atmosphere to spend an hour (or two or three!)." - Linda Faller

Old Crows Antique Mall's first dealer was Ken Jones who passed not too long ago and the Mall has a touching tribute to his memory. Here's what Ken said about the mall, "...From the moment I walked in, multiple engaging elements at Old Crows Antique Mall captured my senses. Most immediately, the expansiveness (over 40,000 square feet). I could see a wonderful display of a broad range of antiques, collectables, and upscaled repurposed items. I knew that my shopping experience may take me more than a day. I was enthusiastically greeted as I entered by a helpful staff member who offered to direct me to any particular area of interest. Suffice it to say, I didn't want to miss a thing. My shopping experience rewarded me with a plethora of quality items at a great price. I have always felt that a quintessential day looking for my particular antique furniture pieces, accessories and collectables can only be met through a great selection and those fabulous prices. Old Crows Antique Mall did not disappoint."

Old Crows Antique Mall has over 40,000 square
Continued on page 15



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A Bullish Look At Bull Collectibles

By Robert Reed

Historians will tell you that the bull was a sign of good economic news even back in the 18th century. The unanswered question really is why it was so.

Dealers on the London Stock Exchange were called bulls if they thought the value of stocks and bonds would be rising. They believed stocks and bonds they had immediately acquired would eventually climb to a higher price in the future.

One theory is the bull was selected as a term for a positive market because of the typical upward tossing of its horns. Another thought was that the bull-represented strength and power moving forward seemingly unrestrained.

At any rate a fondness for the bull symbol soon spread to Colonial America. The familiar bull became a standard for trade and tavern signs during the latter part of the 18th century. While many potential customers were not educated enough to read, they certainly could understand the meaning of such signs.

The National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. has a tavern sign depicting a bull, which was likely, crafted in the 1790s. It marked the operation of Captain Aaron Bissell's friendly tavern. Gallery experts suggest the choice of a bull's head, "probably reflected his pride in the successful endeavors of the family through the years." Later a name was added when the place changed ownership.

Laws in much of Colonial America at the time required that establishments offering food and lodging to provide a public sign, and there are indications that the bull was used in a number of places.

At the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Center in Colonial Williamsburg there are carved wooden toys depicting bulls, cows, and other animals. The figures were likely crafted and painted by skilled but untrained folk artists around the 1850s and range from six to 10 inches in length. Later in the century a few folk artists, such as Wilhelm Scheme scratched out a meager living hand-carving animals from wood. Scheme mostly made birds and dogs, but on occasion he also crafted farm animals including cows and bulls which he sold in his wanderings for a few cents or traded them for food and drink.

Back in England potters of the latter 19th century sometimes fashion striking ceramic figures of bulls and applied delicate paints and completed the works with fine glazes. Today some of the works of Wedgwood potters and other British craftsmen of that period are highly prized.

From the 1870s through the 1890s and perhaps even longer, the bull became a major symbol on American weathervanes.

To those who may wonder why the popularity of a bull's image on the equally popular weathervane, an explanation is offered by William Ketchum, Jr. in the book All American Folk Arts and Crafts:

"A simple board swinging freely in the wind would have been sufficient, but few farmers were content with that. The farmer carved his weather-

vane from wood or shaped it from metal or purchased as an elaborate vane as he could afford. The shape of the weathervane the farmer made or bought was often related to the type of farm he ran. Most farm families had a few cows, and the cow, steer, or bull was a frequently seen type of weathervane."

Homemade weathervanes were typically made of wood or sheet iron and then painted in bright colors. As a rule they did not withstand the elements of harsh weather as well as the store-bought versions and were subject to frequent repairs.

Farmers could on the other hand, purchase factory made weathervanes depicting a cow or bull. The cost was \$20 to \$40, which was a very substantial sum down on the farm in the latter 19th century. More elaborate over-sized bull weathervanes – some up to four feet wide – made in the New York factories of J. W. Finke of E. G. Washburn with shining gilded metal trimmings might well sell for twice the regular amount.

From a commercial product standpoint the most famous bull of the 19th century was one that sold smoking tobacco to millions.

During the Civil War enterprising John Ruffin Green of Durham's Station, North Carolina began selling "bright tobacco" to soldiers and others. The product was packages in small cloth bags, and by 1868 the image of a bull became a part of the packaging and the tobacco's name fully became Bull Durham.

Dr. Gerald Petrone, author of the book Tobacco Advertising, The Great Seduction, suggests Green may have copied the idea from a British trademark for mustard. Others offer it was simply a masculine image designed to appeal to a rugged male market.

Regardless, "the popularity of the bull gave impetus to the growing national trend for smoking tobacco and using hand-rolled cigarettes," concludes Dr. Petrone.

By the 1880s Green's massive efforts at promotion and marketing had paid off. The workforce had grown from 10 in 1865 to more than 800 in 1885. Bull Durham, with its bull image on everything from posters to watch fobs, was the world's best-selling tobacco.

Bull Durham continued to be a popular selling product well into the 20th century. Today collectors remain fascinated with the wealth of advertising memorabilia once offered in the name of Bull Durham from trade cards to trolley signs.

Late in the 19th century and early in the 20th century the bull image was again a popular symbol of American farms, this time as a windmill weight. Firms like the Fairbury Windmill Weight Company and the Simpson Windmill and Machine Company, both located in Nebraska, made great numbers of bull-image cast-iron weights. Typically they were painted bright red or silver and mounted on a rectangular base. They often ranged in size from 18 to 24 inches, not counting the base.

The bull left the farm for the carnival midway in the years that followed.

Supply catalogs of the 1930s and 1940s offered the likes of chalkware and plush "jumbo comical



bulls" in bright colors. The plaster images could be standing or seated and be nine to 12 inches in length. Cloth stuff bulls were slightly larger, around 15 inches with black or orange colored bodies.

In 1949 the Heisey Glass Company issued a four-inch tall, seven-inch long crystal glass bull. Production of the glass bull continued over the next few years. The clear-looking glass item was marked underneath near the base. Elsewhere in the early 1950s, American Bisque produced a friendly looking bull cookie jar. The unmarked bull, in two different versions, was part of the company's Hands-in-the-Pocket series that included other animals as well.

Breyer Animal Creations began operations in the 1950s by producing and marketing toy versions of Western horses. Eventually the unique operation expanded to include dogs, cats, and farm animals such as the bull. Over the next few decades bull issues included the Black Angus, Polled Hereford, and the Texas Longhorn Bull.

Today many forms of bulls of the past remain attractive and collectible. That original Heisey Glass Company bull of the late 1940 and early 1950s may well command a price of more than \$2,000 presently. As noted in the comprehensive volume Glass Animals by Dick and Pat Spencer, a lavender ice colored version was issued by Heisey Collectors of America many years later as a limited edition tribute to the original piece.

Meanwhile original bull weathervanes that have survived the ages in proud condition can bring \$3,000 or more at leading auction houses today proving the bull is back with collectors. If indeed it was ever gone.

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AMERICAN HISTORY

May Anniversaries

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Day on May 12



May 5
Cinco de Mayo

May 10
227th Anniversary of the first ship of the United States Navy, the frigate USS United States, being commissioned (1797)

May 12
Mother's Day

May 18
Armed Forces Day

May 19
Nineteenth Amendment, to give women the right to vote,

proposed (1919)
Abraham Lincoln signs Homestead Act (1862)

May 27
Memorial Day

May 30
103 Anniversary of the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial (1922)



BOOK REVIEW

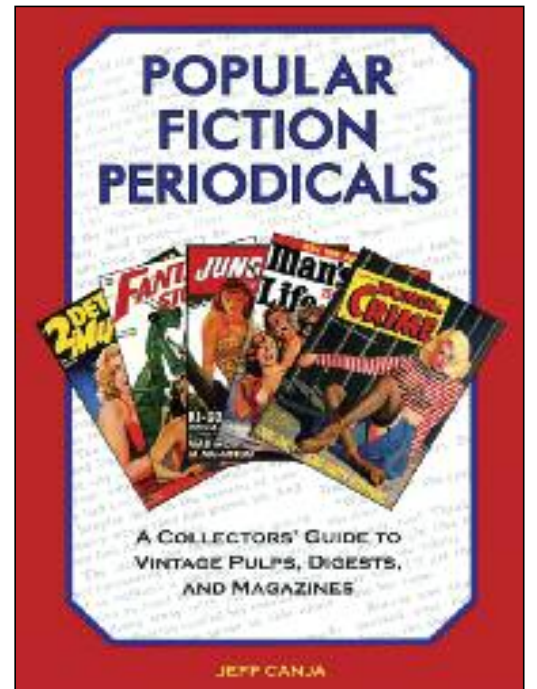
Old Pulp Fiction Magazines More Popular Than Ever

For much of the twentieth century, before television and paperback novels had become the pervasive presence they are today, popular fiction magazines were a primary source of diversion for millions of Americans.

For about a quarter, readers could buy a week's worth of escapist entertainment in the latest issue of *Amazing Stories*, *Popular Western*, *Real Detective*, *New Love*, *Escape to Adventure*, *Man's World*, or any of the hundreds of other similar newsstand offerings that catered to almost every taste.

By the mid-1960s these colorful publications had largely disappeared from the magazine rack, and most have long since been discarded, but copies can still be found in attics, basements, yard sales, and antique malls, and among collectors, demand for them has never been higher. Like comic books, these magazines have become sought-after popular culture memorabilia; however, most people still have little idea of what they can actually be worth. *Popular Fiction Periodicals: A Collectors' Guide to Vintage Pulp, Digests, and Magazines* by Jeff Canja is the only price guide and collector reference to cover this entire fascinating field and is available again in a new, completely revised second edition from Glenmoor Publishing.

A follow-up to *Collectable Paperback Books*, the author's highly regarded vintage paperback priceguide. *Popular Fiction Periodicals* covers pulp magazines and digests of all types, men's adventure magazines, true detective magazines, and other sensational newsstand publications. In ad-



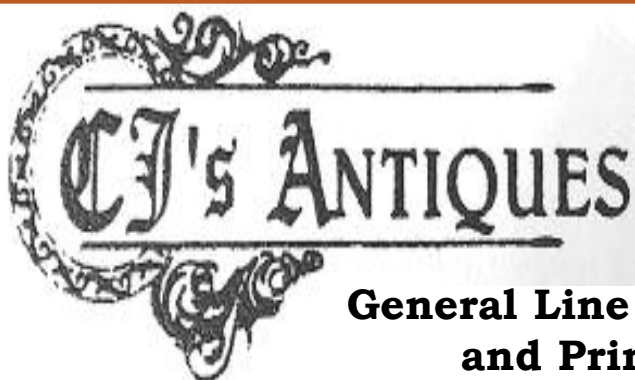
dition to an extensive listing of actual market prices, this informative and eye-opening 380 page book includes a history of American fiction magazines, tips for collectors, a cover art gallery highlighting the work of 125 leading magazine cover artists, and more—all illustrated with magazine cover reproductions, many in full color.

A must for collectors, dealers, Internet sellers, and flea market bargain hunters. *Popular Fiction Periodicals* will also be a valuable reference for anyone with an interest in American pulp fiction or illustration art of the twentieth century. Available at bookstores and on-line book sites, or directly from Glenmoor Publishing.



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(Opinions of the writers contained herein are not necessarily the opinions of the publishers.)

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May 25-27

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Though you realize that Monday, the 27th of May will be a solemn day of remembrance, the three-day break from work offers two days before Memorial Day when you can rest, organize your thoughts, or put them aside for a time. You can have a picnic or barbecue with family or friends and celebrate life as you honor the fallen.

The day is also known as Decoration Day because of the tradition of decorating the graves of service people, a custom that dates back to the time just after the Civil War.

Those who gave their lives in more recent wars are fresh in our memories. Though they died far from home, their sacrifice was made to protect our homeland from foreign intruders and to preserve democracy around the world.

Memorial Day honors all who gave their lives in past wars as well. Almost everyone has a family member who fell during the Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Viet Nam and in other foreign engagements. On this day, we remember them, tell stories about them, pray for them and honor them.

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Souvenirs of Baseball — Enjoyed by Collectors

By Robert Reed

Ever since baseball began there has been bit-by-bit collecting of it, and as the great American pastime has grown so have the bits and the numbers of collectors.

Fans seek out everything from key chains to bleacher seats, from buttons to Wheaties cereal boxes, from ticket stubs to Jim Bouton's book, *Ball Four*.

In 1988, for the first time in history, the glitzy New York City auction house Christie's conducted a gallery sale devoted entirely to sports memorabilia. Among other things, a 1969 New York Mets championship ring brought over \$8,000.

For the first hundred years or so of baseball's existence collecting memorabilia was a relatively modest affair. In 1979 a national magazine noted that former St. Louis Browns player Roy Sievers had been offered \$5,000 for his 1950s uniform. He declined, saying he still sometimes wore it to old-timers games.

In 1990, Mickey Mantle's playing jacket from the 1950s sold for several thousand dollars. A letter of authenticity with it noted that Mick had worn it during spring training with the New York Yankees in 1954. It was eventually given to his high school coach and later sold as part of his estate.

Things directly from the game, like uniforms, caps, and jackets are especially treasured in the field. "Hundreds of thousands of different baseball collectibles have been issued during the past century," says Dr. James Beckett author of *The Sport Americana Price Guide to Baseball Collectibles*. "Such increasing interest in such memorabilia is naturally reflected in the values of these items. As more collectors compete for available supplies, prices rise."

Balls, bats, gloves, spikes, and even uniform patches qualify. In recent years Guernsey's sporting auction in New York has sold George Selkirk's ca. 1936 New York Yankees cap for \$1,500, and a 1988 Keith Hernandez Mets home jersey, with a letter of authenticity, for \$500.

Leland's, another leading sports memorabilia mail auction, sold a wood-slatted stadium seat from Comiskey Park (Chicago). The seat dated to 1910 and was removed in the late 1940s and sent to the minor league Waterloo Diamonds. The seat sold with a letter from an official of the Waterloo baseball club.

It is always a good idea to have proof regarding 'from the game' baseball memorabilia. In *Collector's Guide to Baseball Memorabilia* author Don Raycraft relates a deal he made as a youngster in the early 1950s. He traded 385 Topps baseball cards from the 1953 season for a ball fouled off by Jim Rivera.

"When he came home from work that night," admits Raycraft, "my father pointed out to me that American League teams did not normally buy their baseballs at Montgomery Ward."

Much baseball memorabilia is simply down on paper. The Christie's auction of 1988 saw a handwritten letter



Table top punchboard, ca. 1938, featuring baseball greats from Alexander to Ruth, 15x13 display. (Leland's Auction photo)

by famed shortstop Honus Wagner. Today, instead of his playing, he is much more famous for one of his baseball cards which brought \$500,000.

Wagner's letter to one of his fans described a difficult play:

"Batter hits a low line hit to my right. I dove for the ball and caught it with my bare hand about three inches from the ground. My jump took me head first into the ground and I came up with the ball and made a double play."

The letter brought over \$1,000. At a similar auction a Hall of Fame postcard signed by Cy Young with his image on it brought \$750.

These Hall of Fame postcards with photographs of an individual player's plaque with yellow background have been available since 1964. They were issued by the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Earlier cards by Albortype and Artvue Company were issued in black and white.

Also on paper are stock certificates, one from the 1940s St. Louis Browns went for \$350; signed checks, one from Walter Johnson on a Germantown bank in Maryland dated 1942 brought \$800 at a Leland sale; programs, tickets, magazines



Reach advertising sign, tin in full color, 14x18. Official baseball patented 1909, lithographed art. (Leland's Auction photo)

with baseball-related covers and guide books issued as premiums by liquor companies.

During much of the 20th century a great deal of memorabilia connected to the game was sold right over the counter.


An attractive box from the 1930s that once packaged Babe Ruth's All-American Athletic Underwear complete with the great star's image on front would bring several hundred dollars today. Then there is a Joe Dimaggio advertising wall calendar from the 1950s, or the great Gillette Razor Company merchandise and premiums from the 1930s through the 1960s – including World Series specialty items.

During the 1950s and early 1960s the Hartland Plastic Company of Hartland, Wisconsin, issued 18 different statues of major league baseball stars. From 1958 to 1963 they sold at dime stores for \$2 to \$3 each. Now they are quite collectible.

Different baseball fans usually collect different things. But the field's most accomplished collector has a bit of everything these days. Barry Halper, a New Jersey businessman, at one time had 900 player uniforms, 3,000 autographed baseballs, every all-star game program, world series programs going back nearly 80 years, and even the autograph of the person many say invented the game itself at Cooperstown in 1839, Abner Doubleday.

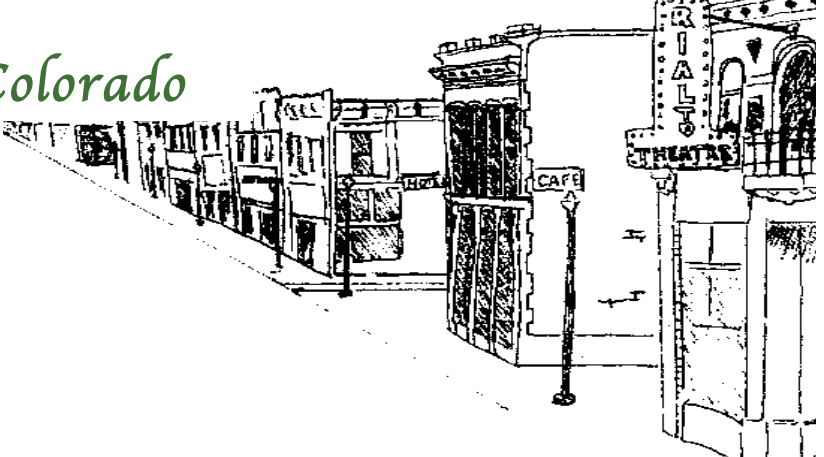
Most collectors of such things have far less of it but enjoy what they have tremendously.

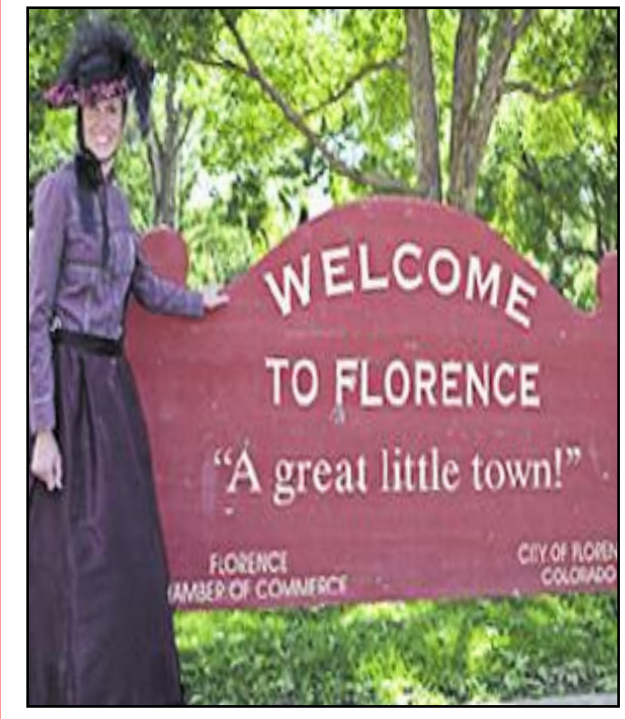
"In collecting baseball memorabilia," notes Stew Salowitz in his collector's guide co-authored with Raycraft, "people are surrounding themselves with history – with at bats, hits, runs, errors, diving catches, chewing tobacco, bubble gum and the illustrious characters who played the game for our enjoyment."



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CONTEST

April's What Is It?



We had several correct guesses for our April What Is It. William McLaren of Anchorage, Alaska; Jerome McLaren of Conifer, Colorado; and Robert Smith of Plainview, Nebraska all correctly identified the items pictured as keys. As William McLaren pointed out, "It is a group of ancient keys with rings, usually made of iron or bronze and most likely of Roman origin." Yes, these are ancient Roman keys. They were designed to be worn as finger rings. They were made of bronze or brass.

Congratulations of our winners. You have all won a year's subscription to *the Mountain States Collector*.

Old Crows Antique Mall Celebrates 4th Anniversary

Continued from page 9

feet of display space featuring a variety of merchandise including antiques, primitives, vintage, collectibles, mid-mod, upcycled, repurposed, rustic, farmhouse, and more. Old Crows Antiques features over 600 individual booths and cases. They are always near capacity.

THE ROOT BEER BAR at Old Crows features bottled a large selection of premium bottled root beers, beverages, pre-packaged snacks, hot dogs, nachos, pretzels, and candies. We also have soft serve ice cream in vanilla and root beer flavors. Come enjoy a root beer float!

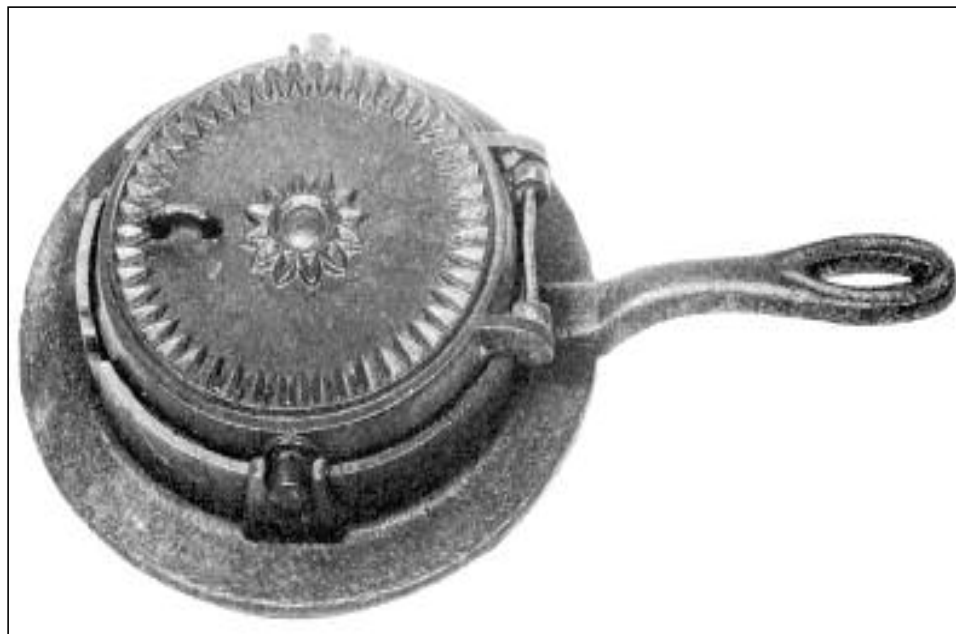


Focused on antiques, vintage, collectibles, mid-mod, farmhouse, upcycled and repurposed items, you'll find a large volume and variety to browse as you walk down memory lane and into a time gone by.

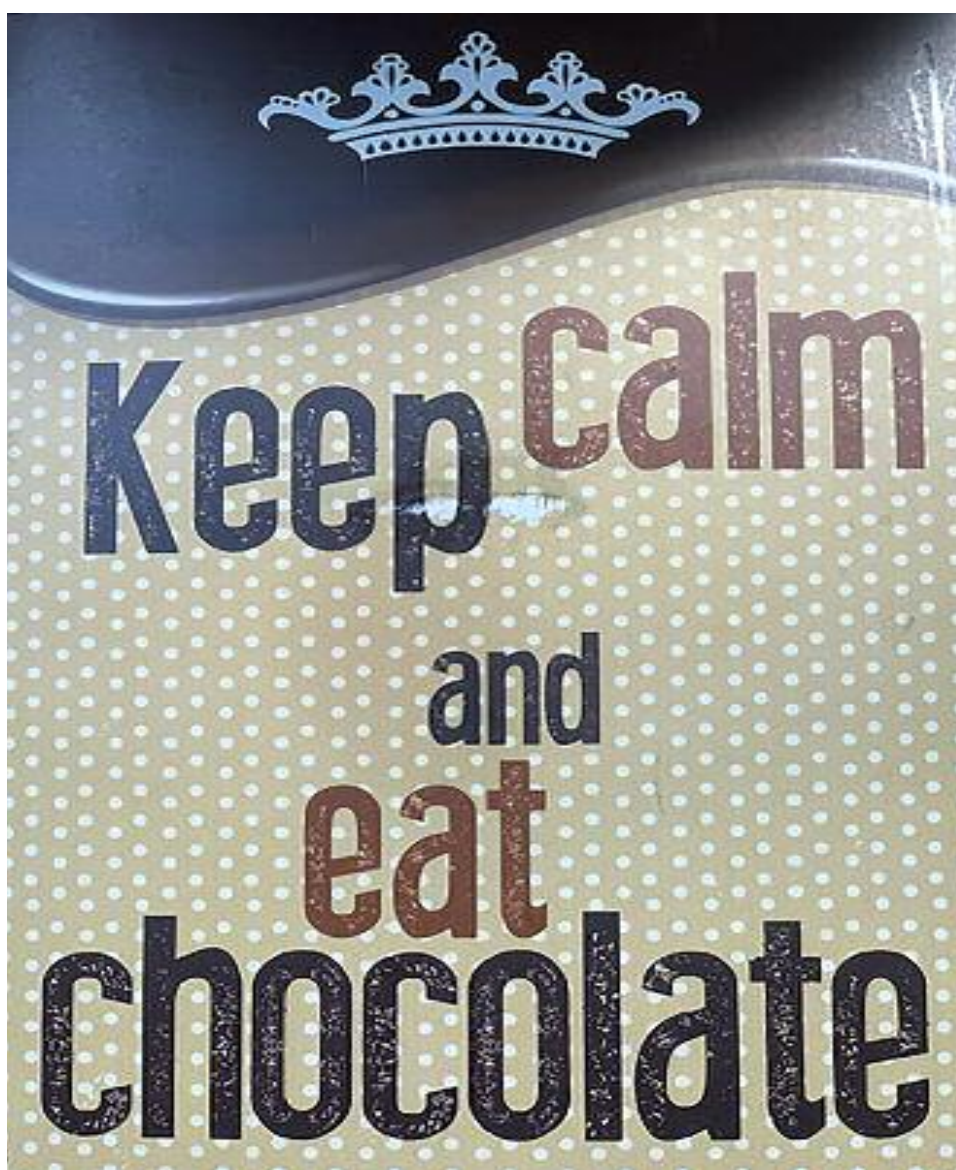
"Old Crows gets in your bones," says Lindsay with Schitt to Shine, "every aisle is filled with memories...even ones you forgot about but with a simple glance brings back every best part of your childhood! The people are rooted in bringing uncovered joy back to our lives. Every booth has a story you feel compelled to dive into. No booth is the same and isn't that just a grand experience for our eyes and our hearts! Old Crows is a must visit!"

OLD CROWS ANTIQUE MALL WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR FOURTH ANNIVERSARY THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MAY, refer to their website calendar, Instagram, and Facebook as they announce special events and giveaways.

May's What Is It?



Send your answers to the What Is It contest, postmarked by May 20, to *the Mountain States Collector*, P.O. Box 1003, Bailey, CO 80421. At least three winners will be drawn. Winners will receive a year's subscription to *the Mountain States Collector*.



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