



MATCH SAFES & BOOKS SEE PAGE 7

# the mountain states Collector

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AND HISTORY.

53RD ANNIVERSARY — ESTABLISHED IN 1972

Volume 54, Number 1

JANUARY 2026



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## Notorious Outlaw Soapy Smith

Considered one of the most notorious outlaws of his time, many people have never heard of "Soapy" Smith. Plus, he has a great Colorado history connection. Let's go exploring!

Jefferson R. Smith was born in Georgia in 1860, nephew of a prominent politician, and by the time he was killed in 1898 was well known for his dishonest ways throughout mining camps in Colorado and Alaska. He was called "Soapy" from one of his frequent scams and the name stuck with him the rest of his life.

His nickname came to him while he lived in Denver in the early 1880's. It was a shell game of sorts, something he had mastered years before. He would wrap a one-hundred-dollar bill around a small bar of soap while people watched, place it in a bag with other like bars of wrapped soap and then sell chances to pick out the bar of soap with the \$100 wrapped around it. By slight-of-hand, the \$100 bill never made it into the bag. As he improved his games, he took more chances at getting caught. He left Denver for Creede, Colorado — a booming mining town in southern Colorado at the time. While in Creede he did raise \$600 for the first church in Creede. But more in keeping with his lifestyle, he created and hid a "Mummy Man" made of cement and plaster of Paris. A prospector accidentally-on-purposed discovered the mummy and word of the find traveled around the world. Soapy began selling shares in his mummy, which continued until the day he died. It is now in the Ye Old Curiosity Shop in Seattle, WA and goes by the name of Sylvester.

Soapy moved back to Denver where he was well known and mixed with all the politicians. He was involved in almost every shooting or fight that happened in the lower part of Denver during the 1880's and 1890's. Many of the crimes he committed he managed to get discharged. In 1894, he was paid a check for \$29.00 but by the time he cashed the check it had been forged to \$1029.00. He soon left Colorado as the risk of truly getting caught was getting riskier.

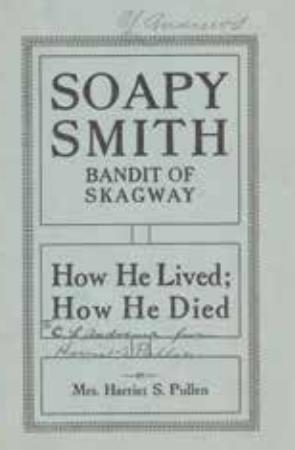
By 1897 he reappears in Skagway, Alaska,



just in time for the Klondike gold rush. He fit right in, opened a saloon in Skagway and began setting up gambling schemes and taking advantage of the unsuspecting miners coming in from around the globe. It didn't take long for his reputation as an outlaw to catch up with him. His strong-arm tactics alienated him from the community and they soon set up a vigilante committee to figure out how to get rid of him.

His demise came one day when the vigilante committee was scheduled to meet and Soapy got word of the meeting. He was confronted by Frank Reid at the wharf when both men shot at each other, July 8, 1898. Soapy was killed instantly with a bullet through the heart. Frank died 10 days later and was considered a town hero.

Information about Soapy Smith does show up from time to time. Come out to the Denver Postcard & Paper Show, January 16-17, 2026 where this type of information can be found. There will be dealers bringing their postcards, photographs, travel brochures, maps, posters, artwork and many other small collectibles. This year the show is at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Golden. Always looking for new dealers! [www.denverpostcardshow.com](http://www.denverpostcardshow.com) Carol Mobley 720-308-1516



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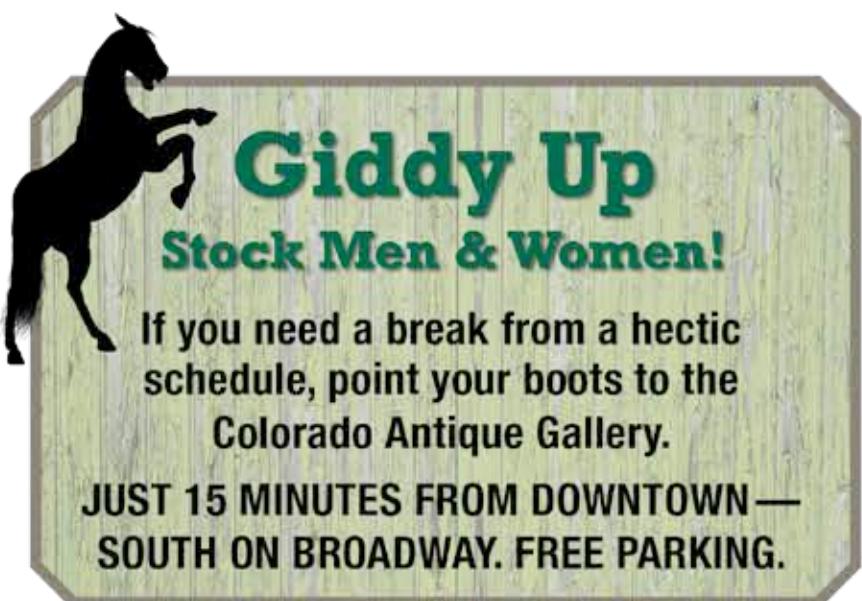
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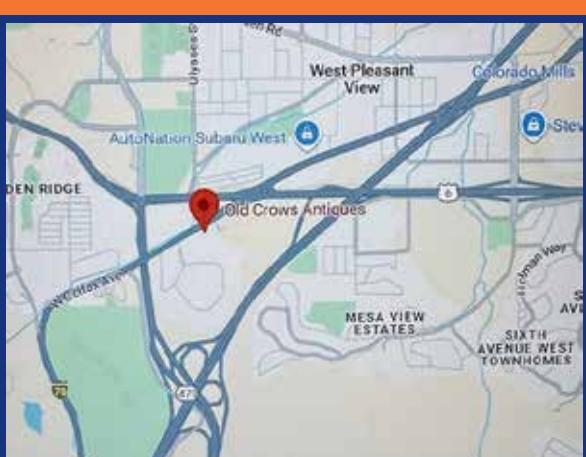
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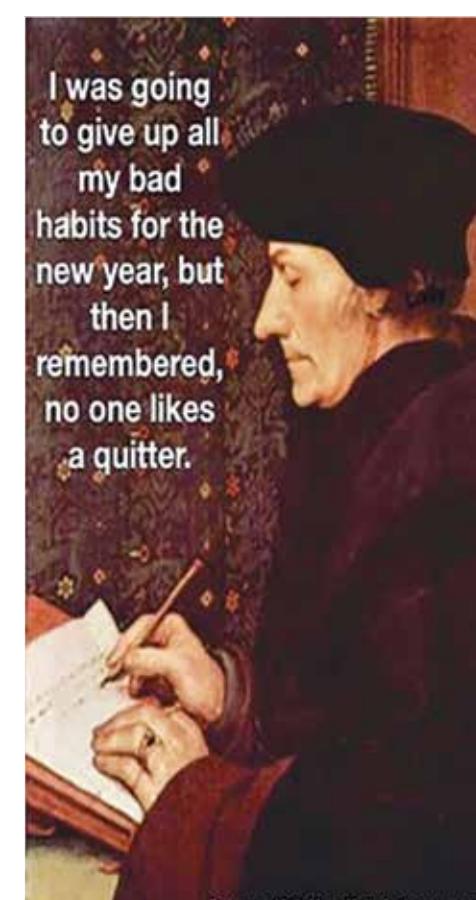
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**JULY 16 & 17: DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW**, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden, CO Friday 11am-6pm, Saturday 9:30-4pm. General admission \$5.00, \$1.00 off with this ad. Earlybird \$20.00 at 10am on Friday. [www.denverpostcardshow.com](http://www.denverpostcardshow.com) Carol Mobley 720-308-1516



# White House Sued by Historic Preservation Group Over Ballroom Plans

A nonprofit organization tasked by the US Congress with helping preserve historic sites has sued the White House to stop construction on President Donald Trump's new ballroom.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation filed the suit on Friday, arguing that the White House failed to seek necessary reviews before demolishing the historic East Wing in October.

"No president is legally allowed to tear down portions of the White House without any review whatsoever — not President Trump, not President Joe Biden, and not anyone else," the lawsuit says.

The White House has called the project a "much needed and exquisite addition".

The lawsuit represents the first major legal challenge to the ballroom project.

The organization is asking a federal court in Washington DC to halt construction on the addition until the White House "complies with the law by going through the legally mandated review processes", including a public comment public period, according to a statement.

"The White House is arguably the most evocative building in our country and a globally recognized symbol of our powerful American ideals," said Carol Quillen, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a nonprofit organization created in 1949 with a congressional charter.

The group said it was "compelled" to go to court after the White House ignored concerns it



raised in October.

In the lawsuit, the group argues that the White House broke the law by beginning construction without filing plans with the National Capital Planning Commission, by not seeking an environmental assessment of the project, and by declining to seek authorization from Congress.

It also alleges Trump is violating the US Constitution, "which reserves to Congress the right to dispose of and make all rules regarding property belonging to the United States".

The White House said in a statement responding to the lawsuit on Friday that "President Trump has full legal authority to modernize, renovate, and beautify the White House - just like all of his predecessors did."

The East Wing was demolished in October to make way for Trump's multi-million dollar ballroom, which he says is being paid for by private donors.

Since then, the proposed blueprint has expanded from a ballroom with a capacity of 500 people to a space that can fit 1,350 guests.

The White House had pledged previously that its construction plan would be assessed by the National Capital Planning Commission before building began, but the lawsuit claims that the site is already undergoing extensive construction.

The lawsuit describes the White House grounds as "a bustling construction site, with dozens of workers driving piles, stockpiling materials, and amassing heavy machinery.

"Just last week, a towering construction crane was erected on the White House grounds, and President Trump recounted that work on the Ballroom Project was audible all night."

Last week, the White House replaced the architect overseeing the project. The previous lead architect had reportedly clashed with Trump officials over the size and scope of the addition.

On Thursday night, Trump, a former real estate developer, promised that the ballroom would be built before he leaves office in 2028.

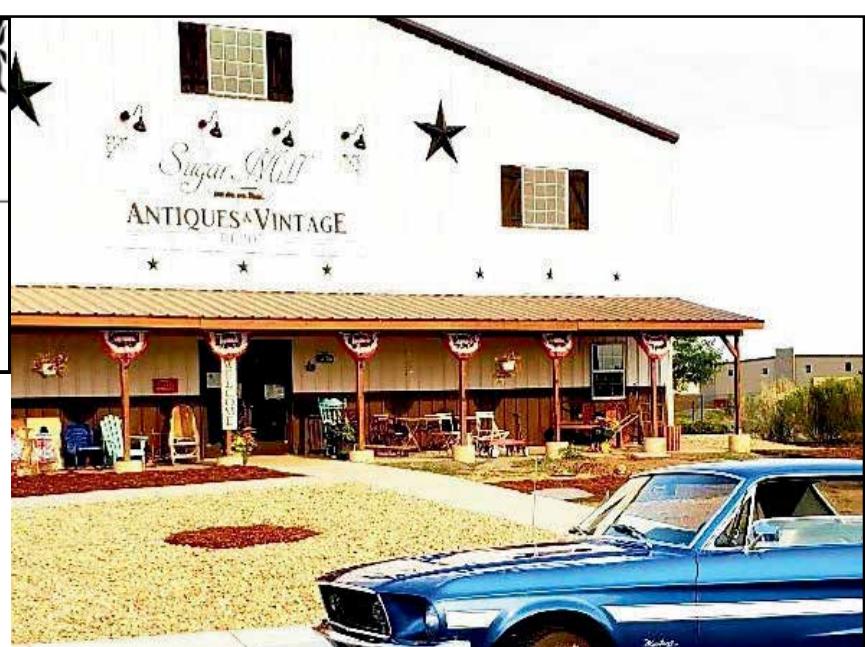
"You know, for 150 years, they've been trying to do a ballroom," Trump said at the Congressional Ball.

"They never got it up, but we got it off. In a very short period of time, like about a year and a half, you're going to have the best ballroom anywhere in the country."



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# Collecting Match Safes and Match Books

By Maureen Timm

In 1680 an Irishman named Robert Boyle discovered that if you rubbed phosphorus and sulphur together they would instantly burst into flames. He discovered the principle that was the precursor of the modern match.

The next discovery was by an Englishman. In 1827 a pharmacist called John Walker produced "Sulphuretted Peroxide Strikeables," which were a yard long and then developments followed reasonably quickly. John Walker's invention was copied by Samuel Jones of the Strand, and it was Jones who first sold it as a "Lucifer."

There was a rather dangerous match invented in 1828 called a Promethean. It had a small glass bulb with sulphuric acid and the bulb was coated with potassium chlorate, sugar and gum, wrapped in a paper spill. One would break the glass bulb with his teeth to "strike" this match.

In 1832 small phosphorus matches were manufactured in Germany and they were extremely hazardous. They could ignite with a series of explosions that scattered dangerous bits of fire over the carpet. They would also explode when trodden upon which increased the danger of having them around.

In 1836 a patent was registered in the United States by Alonzo D. Phillips for the manufacturing of friction matches called "Loco Focos." A Loco-Foco (supposed to mean "self-lighting") was originally a self-igniting cigar patented in New York in 1834 (and probably the original exploding cigar).

It then became applied to the Lucifer match. It was later applied to a political party, the Democrats, after an incident at a party meeting in 1835 at which opponents of the radical element within the party turned out the gas lights, but the radicals promptly produced candles which they lit with Loco-Focos. Protection was needed and the containers known as match safes were invented.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, craftsmen created lidded safes and open holders made from painted tin to platinum and gold. The most valuable of the pocket match safes are those created of precious metals and stones and signed by the foremost jewelers of the mid-19th and early 20th century. Tiffany & Co., Unger Brothers and Gorham Manufacturing Co. in the United States; Sampson Morden in London and Peter Carl Faberge of Imperial Russia. These early Faberge examples were selling for as much as \$10,000 each in the late 1970s.

Some match safes were celluloid covered advertisements and others were souvenirs such as the glass Liberty Bell that was sold to tourists visiting the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition.

Some match safes were made in the form of pigs, cockroaches, the man in the moon and even tombstones.

Among the rarest match cases are silver pocket safes with enameled pictures, most of which depict pretty girls or myth-



ological scenes such as St. George slaying the dragon and safes that have lids that flip up like those on modern cigarette lighters.

Larger safes and holders were made to hang on a wall or to rest on a table. Most of the ones that have survived are made of cast iron or painted tin. Those made of papier-mâché, glass or ceramic are rare and desirable.

The most sought after table safes are the mechanicals, designed to dispense just one match to a customer in hotels and cigar stores. These safes have moving parts that extract a single match from the container.

Some people use match safes for cigarettes and others use them as miniature wall-hung planters. Collectors may find other uses for the endless variety of cast iron, glass, china, and brass-match safes.

The small and compact match safes can be found at flea markets and garage sales or in old trunks in the attic. Wall safes are often sold with old kitchen equipment.

## Match Books

The earliest known commercial match book advertising was in 1895 and was distributed by the Mendelssohn Opera Company. The advertisement from the one surviving example advertising pursuit was "A cyclone of fun - powerful cast - pretty girls - handsome wardrobes - get seats early." On the front was a photo of the star of this comic organization by the name of Thomas Lowden, who was a trombonist. The opera purchased several boxes of blank match books (estimate of 100) from the Diamond Match Company and the cast members would sit up late at night while pasting photos and writing clever slogans and phrases on matchbooks. It was all done by hand. Each different cast member would design their own types of match books to advertise with.

In Barberton, Ohio, the first Diamond Matchbook Company factory was built. In 1895 the matchbooks production figure clearly exceeded 150,000 match books a day. The Diamond Match Book Company's objective was to produce a quality match book which would be sold to the public. Diamond soon turned the match book division over to a highly motivated young salesman named Henry C. Traute. Traute's marketing genius and interest in the industry propelled him to the top of his trade.



Traute began to target big business and started with the Pabst Brewery which ordered 10 million match books. His biggest order came when he ventured into Wrigley's chewing gum who placed an order of 1 billion match books.

Throughout the 1920s, match books quickly earned money for every industry and became the most popular form of advertising in America. Case after case, stories kept pouring in about how match books helped even the smallest stores to advertise their business. At that time a professionally printed case of 2500 match books would cost just under \$5.00. In October 1929, when advertising budgets began to dwindle down, the match book manufacturer's began to feel their business hurt with the decline of sales they were receiving. In 1932 Diamond Match Books decided to produce the first movie star set of match books for the American market. These matchbooks quickly began to sell at all local Five 'n Dimes as collectible sets. Once again Diamond pulled out of a hole. Diamond went on to also manufacture collectible sets with not only movie stars, but professional sport teams and athletes.

With new life back into the match industry and the need of popular patriotic and military advertising, the Office of Price Administration insisted that a free book of matches accompany every pack of cigarettes. Free match books became an instant mainstay.

Some match book collectors accept only the books without matches, but most collectors want complete books and will reject a book from which one match is missing if there is a full package obtainable.

One of the variants of match book collecting is the "feature match" in which the stems are in figural form, diecut into rows of chefs, bottles, bananas, hot dogs and thousands of other themes.

Collectors value matchbook covers of unusual shape, size or design; examples include the Jewelite which is shaped like an hourglass, and thin matchbooks that held only 10 or 12 matches instead of the standard 20. A number of collectors try to acquire the matchbooks that are provided by hotels or motels.

"VIP" covers which show or mention famous people, are desirable, along with "politics" which portray candidates. Collectors also try to acquire complete sets--for example, a series of 60 covers portraying ice-hockey players that was issued in the 1930s.

One collector of record has over twenty-five thousand packs of old wooden matches in original containers, still encased within the original wholesale package wrappings of 144 packages. There are wooden matches, wax stick matches, slivers, curls, flats, blocks, all dating from before 1870. These are considered antique matches. There were no strike-any-where or "Lucifer" matches of American make before 1835.

Many collectors started with 19th century match books and are now collecting 18th century antiques.

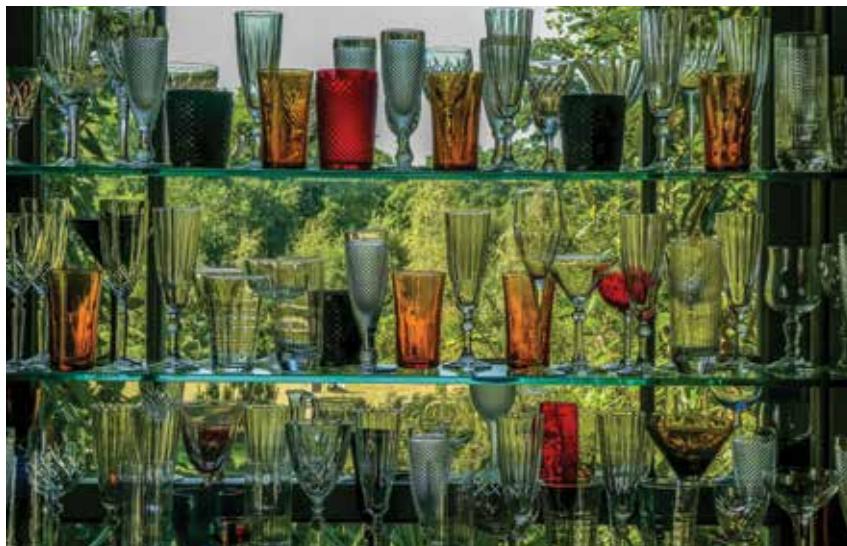
Current day match book advertising is just as popular as it was back when it first began. A case of match books can run about \$80 which is less than 2 cents per match book. You can see match books in almost every restaurant, hotel, candle shop, pool hall, gas stations and smoke shops all over the United States. Match books will continue to thrive in the advertising industry as one of the cheapest and most effective advertisements used.

# Prices Hold for Signed, Quality Cut Glass

By Anne Gilbert

Chances are your grand mother or great grand mother collected some form of cut glass. It was the pride and joy of collectors from 1876, when Brilliant cut glass was introduced at the Philadelphia Centennial. It became the status symbol of its day that lasted till around 1915 when new techniques became popular. Expensive when signed and made by the top American glass companies. These days, when a rare signed piece is offered for sale the price can be in the thousands of dollars. A good example is a brilliant cut glass bowl signed by T.G. Hawkes, offered by dealer M. S. Rau for \$1,750. Thomas Gibbons Hawkes was one of the many Irish and English glass makers who immigrated to America in the late 19th century.

The art of cutting glass had its origins in



Rome in the first century A.D. They created a clear glass they named "crystal", that was cut into shallow geometric motifs. By the late 17th century the Germans "rediscovered" the techniques of cutting glass that spread to the glass houses of Bohemia. By the end of the 17th century, English glass makers used a new metal to make glass. However, it wasn't till the late 18th and early 19th centuries that English and Irish cut and engraved flint glass. It became the new and important method for what came to be known as "brilliant" cut glass. Early designs used geometric motifs. Some of the finest examples combined several geometric figures. The cutting completely covered the surface of the glass.

Some unique forms were made that includ-

# LITTLETON



ed lamps, tobacco jars and even wig stands.

By 1906 rising production costs and the decline in popularity of the geometric designs resulted in what is known as the "flower Period." The daisy was an early motif and often combined with fans or hobstars.

**CLUES:** If you are a beginning collector, reproductions from Europe can be a problem that began in the 1970s. 20th century pieces that were pressed, then cut, are passed off as old and American. Baskets are the most commonly pressed-cut pieces. Carefully examine the edges. They should be sharp. They also lack the outstanding brilliance of the old cut pieces. When "twanged" they don't resound with a bell tone.

twanged" they don't resound with a bell tone. Do your research before spending too much. Learn to identify signatures.

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# New Year Traditions in America

In the U.S., New Year's Day is becoming a time to relax and recover from the previous holidays.

Morning hours can include watching the spectacular Rose Bowl Parade on television and later seeing the game.

Americans generally ignore the good-luck traditions that are popular in other countries. But a large percentage of us still think we can cook and eat our way to a prosperous new year.

Corned beef and cabbage is one lucky choice because cabbage leaves signify money in this and other cultures.

Many people think pork should be included in the New Year's meal. For hundreds of years, the hog has signified prosperity. Black-eyed peas, hog jowls or ham are lucky foods in some areas as is rice.

Making New Year's resolutions is an admirable New Year's Day activity. Many of us make a list of everything we would like to do better in the coming year. We feel happy if we are able to accomplish at least a few items on the list.

Perhaps you celebrated New Year's Eve



with Champagne. Here is a little history of this tradition and more about Champagne:

### Toasting with the bubbly:

It was about 1680 in a French monastery when Dom Perignon made a great discovery. He called to his fellow monks, "Come quickly! I am drinking stars!" No wonder Champagne's spirit of revelry has lasted over time. When someone offers to open a bottle of Champagne, you can never predict how many glasses you will get. The range of bottle sizes and their delightful names are not widely known, but to the connoisseur such knowledge is basic. Some of the bottle names and

sizes are:

**Piccolo:** Italian for "small," 1/4 bottle.

**Demi:** French for "half," half a bottle. **Standard:** At .75 liters, it fills about eight Champagne flute glasses.

**Fifth:** A fifth of a gallon, .757 liters.

**Magnum:** Latin for "great," it's twice the size of a Standard bottle, 1.5 liters, according to [champagne magic.com](http://champagnemagic.com).

**Jeroboam:** Named for a 10th century Israeli king, it means "May the people grow numerous" and holds 32 glasses.

To open a bottle without denting the ceiling, beaning a guest or wasting product, hold the cork and rotate the bottle (rather than the cork). Hold the bottle at a 45 degree angle. The opening should make a "loving whisper" rather than a loud pop. For great occasions, experienced swordsmen use a saber to open a Champagne bottle by breaking off the head.

Champagne is usually served in a Champagne flute. It has a long stem and a tall, narrow bowl, thin sides and an etched bottom. The ideal serving temperature is 43 to 48 degrees F.

## Dr. Martin Luther King day of service Jan. 19

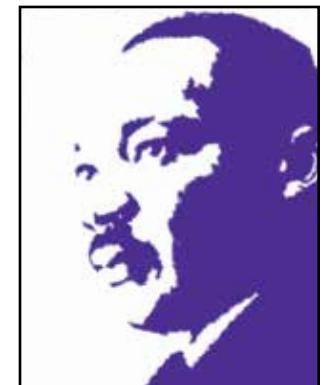
On January 15, we observe the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. King was the chief spokesman for nonviolent activism in the civil rights movement. He successfully protested discrimination in federal and state laws. He also recognized the power of service to strengthen communities and achieve common goals.

During the less than 13 years of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, from December, 1955 until April 4, 1968, African Americans achieved more genuine progress toward racial equality in America than the previous 350 years had produced. Dr. King is widely regarded as America's pre-eminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history.

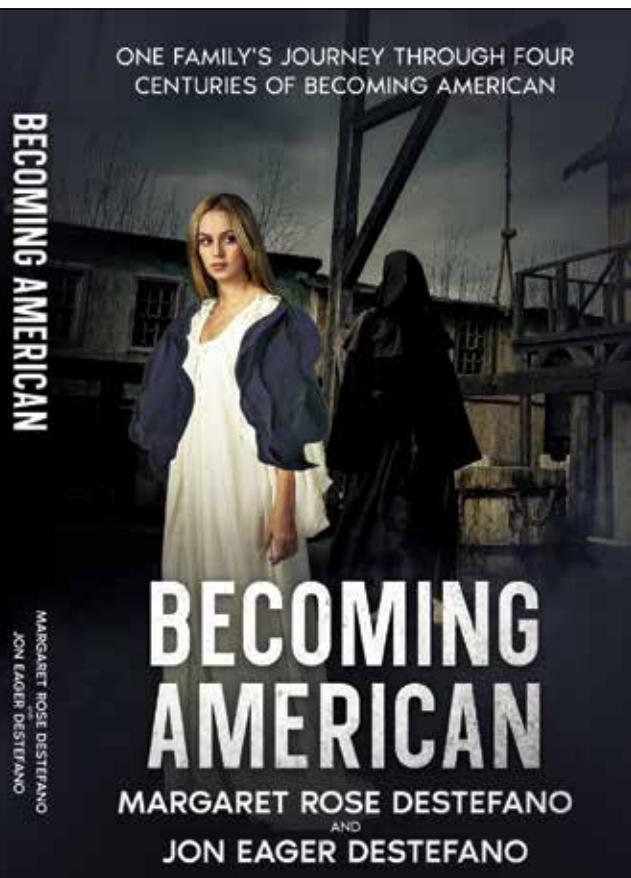
Drawing inspiration from both his Christian faith and the peaceful teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. King led a non-violent movement in the late 1950's and '60s to achieve legal equality for African-Americans in the United States. While others were advocating for freedom by "any means necessary," including violence, Martin Luther King, Jr. used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance, such as protests, grassroots organizing, and civil disobedience to achieve seemingly-impossible goals. He went on to lead similar campaigns against poverty and international conflict, always maintaining fidelity to his principles that men and women everywhere, regardless of color or creed, are equal members of the human family.

Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, Nobel Peace Prize lecture and "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" are among the most revered orations and writ-

ings in the English language. His accomplishments are now taught to American children of all races, and his teachings are studied by scholars and students worldwide. He is the only non-president to have a national holiday dedicated in his honor, and is the only non-president memorialized on the Great Mall in the nation's capitol. He is memorialized in hundreds of statues, parks, streets, squares, churches and other public facilities around the world as a leader whose teachings are increasingly-relevant to the progress of humankind.



## BECOMING AMERICAN NOW AVAILABLE



### Becoming American Is Now Available For Purchase

Peg and Jon DeStefano have recently completed their first book collaboration. *Becoming American* has been a labor of love for the couple as they wanted their children to know their ancestors. This book covers four centuries of the Knowles' family experience in America which began in the early 1600s. This side of the family stems from Peggy's maternal grandmother's side.

The book is based on the genealogical research that Peggy's sister Mary Sikora spent a lifetime recording. All the ancestors are real people. Their place in history helps bring to life America's path up to this time. The book is an historical novel that captures history in a three-dimensional way that old-time history books never could capture.

It is now available through Kindle as a paper back. The electronic version is now available.

# Cowboys and Cowgirls –

by Dede Horan

January is the month for cowboys and cowgirls, roping and riding, and showing of livestock. Yep, the much-loved National Western Stock Show is setting up in January. January is also the month of the much-awaited Denver Postcard & Paper Show. And if you're interested in western-themed memorabilia then you'll want to attend the postcard show.

In the early 1900s through the 1950s, many postcards were produced that depicted cowboy life, rodeo scenes, cowboy humor, and even cowgirls. In this article, we'll take a look at four western artists with distinctive styles each of whom has earned a place in the hearts of many collectors.

## Charles E. Morris

Many of the early western themed postcards were produced from images of photographer, Charles E. Morris, who favored western scenes of South Dakota, Wyoming and his home state of Montana.

Morris had his time wrangling horses and herding cattle and later used a camera to show the open range of Montana. In 1904, he entered a photograph of a cowboy high in the air, taming a bucking bronco. This photo earned him a prize at the Centennial Lewis and Clark Exposition in St. Louis.



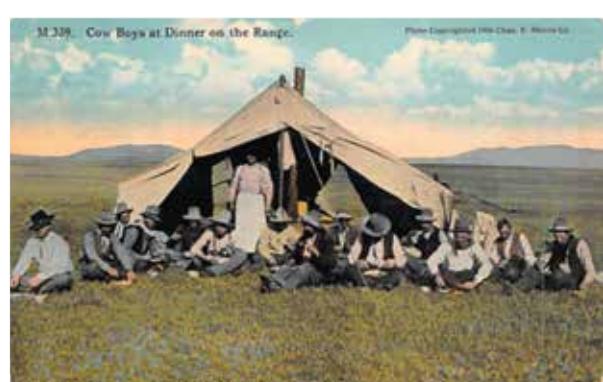
Some of Morris' best photographs were produced on postcards which he had colorized through lithography in Germany. His postcards were the biggest selling postcards in Montana at the time.

The 1906 card shown here of a "Cow Girl on a Bronco" was produced by Morris. The focus

is on the girl who is skillfully managing a rearing horse while a man watches. Nothing in the scenery distracts from the moment of action; although the scene is a staged one, it still captures the feeling of the times.

Two examples of photo-chrome cards are shown here. The cowboys gathered near the large cook's tent is from a 1906 photograph by Morris. The card itself was produced sometime between 1908 – 1915. Again, aside from the mountains on the distant horizon, there's nothing to distract from the gathering of men for a meal. Of course, there's some staging here, too, with all the men facing the camera and the cook standing with hands by his sides.

And here's a view with some real action – a "Cow Girl's Race." Can't you feel the excitement and hear the pounding of the hooves and the cheers from the crowd? There is no iden-



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# January Is Here!

tification as to location or who took the photograph but it could be one by Charles E. Morris.

Unfortunately, the source of the original photo is often unknown. This is a fairly common occurrence with postcards. Some collectors take it upon themselves to discover the story behind the cards.



## J. Richard Parry

Denver Artist J. Richard Parry did a series of cowboy and cowgirl prints between 1907 and 1910. His work attempts to capture unguarded moments in the life of a western rider. The advertisement shown here is from the July 1907 issue of See America First, a magazine for Americans. The postcard images were most likely taken from the larger format prints



produced by Parry. The postcards can usually be found on various auction websites ranging in price from \$5 to \$15 each. (Based on the prices in the advertisement, the original wholesale price was one penny per card. ... And all of the cards would have been in mint condition.

## Ralph Russell Doubleday

A number of rodeo postcards were made from the rodeo photographs of Ralph Russell Doubleday who began his career creating stereoviews for Underwood & Underwood. Doubleday started his own company when pictures of rodeos gained popularity. Shown here are two Doubleday real photo rodeo cards copyrighted in the early 1920s. In both examples, he's caught the performers in action. In one view, the booted showman jumps through his twirling rope, while in the second view, a stunt rider "stands" horizontal to his horse while working the rope. Difficult stunts and impressive photos!

Easier for the collector to find are cards Curt Teich made from Doubleday's photos. Over 30 million postcards of his work were produced, which earned him the name Rodeo Postcard King.

## Oren Arnold

Colorful cards from the 'linen' era (1930-1945) that have caught the eye of many collectors are the Post Card Storiettes. This series consisted of 18 different cards, each illustrated in colorful, magazine style art. The stories on the cards were said to be true and taken from regional lore, written by Oren Arnold in just 250 words.

Arnold, born in Texas in 1900, made his home in Phoenix, AZ in 1932 where he worked as an editor and free-lance writer. His first book was Superstition's Gold published in 1934. Currently there are 18 titles by Arnold listed on Goodreads.

Retailers saw the sales potential for these Post Card Storiettes and nearly 2,500,000 were ordered from the advance proofs. The cards were manufactured by Curt Teich. Lollesgard Specialty Co., of Tucson, AZ, one of the larger



independent publishers at the time had control over the cards. In today's market, these cards sell on average from \$3 to \$8 each depending on a dealer's price and region. It seems to be easier to acquire a complete set now than it was 10 or 15 years ago.

Morris. Parry. Doubleday. Arnold. These are only four of the hundreds of artists who created western-themed postcards. Come out to the Denver Postcard & Paper Show, January 16-17, 2026 where this type of information can be found. There will be dealers bringing their postcards, photographs, travel brochures, maps, posters, artwork and many other small collectibles. This year the show is at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Golden. Always looking for new dealers! [www.denverpostcardshow.com](http://www.denverpostcardshow.com) Carol Mobley 720-308-1516

So gather the cowpokes and mosey on over to the Denver Postcard and Paper Show. You'll have a romping good time.

If you'd like more information about the show or you have postcards to sell, visit the web site at [www.DenverPostcardShow.com](http://www.DenverPostcardShow.com).

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# AMERICAN HISTORY

## January Anniversaries

### January 1, 1863

The Emancipation Proclamation takes effect, freeing enslaved people in Confederate-held territory.

### January 1, 1892

Ellis Island opens to process immigrants in New York Harbor.

### January 1, 1934

Alcatraz Island, in San Francisco Bay, becomes a federal prison.

### January 1, 1983

ARPANET officially switches to Internet Protocol, forming the foundation of the modern internet.

### January 2, 1890

Alice Sanger becomes the first female White House staffer under President Harrison.

### January 8, 1790

President Washington delivers the first State of the Union address.

### January 8, 1815

The Battle of New Orleans concludes, solidifying American victory in the War of 1812.

### January 8, 1935

Birth of Elvis Presley, "The King."

### January 11, 1935

Amelia Earhart's flight from Hawaii to California.

### January 19, 1955

President Dwight D. Eisenhower gives the first televised presidential news conference.

### January 20, 1961

John F. Kennedy becomes the youngest person elected U.S. President.

### January 24, 1945

First canned beer went on sale in Virginia.

### January 31, 1950

President Truman announces the U.S. will develop a hydrogen bomb.



# January's Quote of Month

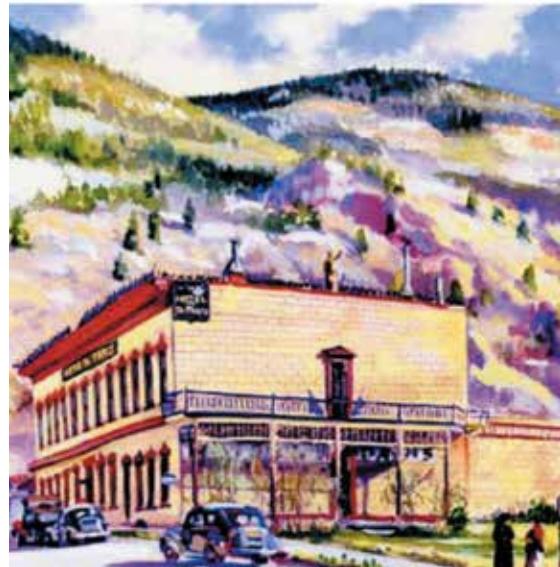
And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.

Rainer Maria Rilke



Blue Star Museums like Hotel de Paris in Georgetown, Colorado, give special discounts to veterans.

## GEORGETOWN



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

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# New Year's Day is Special for the Whole World

By Bobbie Sweeney

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

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

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

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

The Chinese used the ancient lunar calendar

for thousands of years, until China adopted the Gregorian calendar. When the lunar calendar was in effect, the new year was celebrated at the time of the second new moon following the winter solstice. The winter solstice, in the Northern Hemisphere, is when the



sun is farthest south of the equator. Then the new year started in late January or early February.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

When spring comes to Ethiopia in September, the new year begins. The Julian calendar has *continued to page 15*



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# The 120th Edition of the National Western Stock Show

Each January, Denver briefly transforms into the beating heart of the American West, and in 2026, the National Western Stock Show promises to do just that once again. Returning January 10–25, the 120th edition of the Stock Show arrives with new energy, familiar traditions, and a renewed focus on the people and stories that have long defined this iconic Colorado institution.

At the center of the 2026 celebration is George Eidsness, who has been named the National Western Stock Show's Citizen of the West. The honor recognizes individuals whose lives reflect the grit, leadership, and community-minded spirit of the West, and Eidsness' story fits squarely within that legacy. Raised on a North Dakota farm, he built a career rooted in agriculture and entrepreneurship, eventually growing Transwest Trucks into a leading Western enterprise. Beyond business, his commitment to philanthropy, youth agricultural programs, and long-term service to the National Western has left a lasting imprint. Eidsness will be formally honored during a gala dinner on January 12, with proceeds benefiting the National Western Scholarship Trust.

Kicking off the festivities, longtime Colo-



American Heritage Rodeo of Champions will take place January 19 at the Denver Coliseum, with the National Western Stock Show assuming production of the event. Long celebrated for honoring the often-overlooked contributions of Black cowboys and rodeo athletes, the rodeo remains a powerful expression of inclusion within Western culture. The transition signals a continued commitment to preserving the event's cultural importance while expanding its reach and visibility.

Together, these announcements reflect a broader evolution underway at the National Western Stock Show. Now in its second century, the organization continues to balance heritage with progress, honoring time-tested traditions while opening doors to new voices and experiences. Beyond the 16-day event, the Stock Show's impact is felt year-round through scholarships, education, agricultural advocacy, and community programming that support the future of the Western way of life.

As Denver prepares once again for the "Best 16 Days in January," the 2026 National Western Stock Show stands as a reminder that the West is not just something to be remembered, it is something still being shaped, celebrated, and shared.

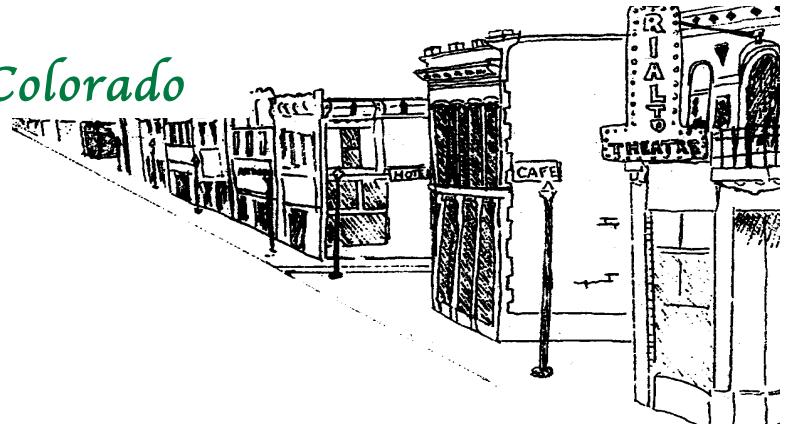
rado leader and philanthropist Pete Coors will serve as Grand Marshal of the Stock Show's famed Kick-Off Parade. Set for January 8, the parade will once again wind through downtown Denver, bringing horses, longhorns, wagons, and Western pageantry to the city streets. Coors' selection reflects his deep ties to the National Western and his leadership in shaping its future, including his role in advancing major capital improvements that have transformed the National Western Center campus.

The 2026 Stock Show also marks a new chapter for one of its most meaningful traditions. The Martin Luther King Jr. African

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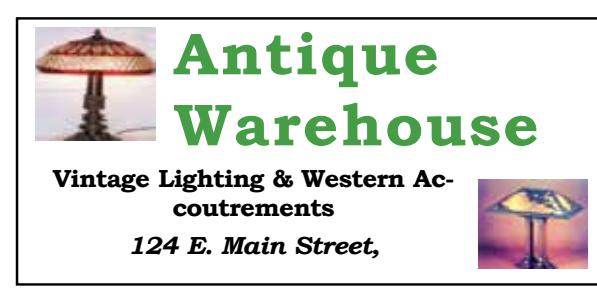
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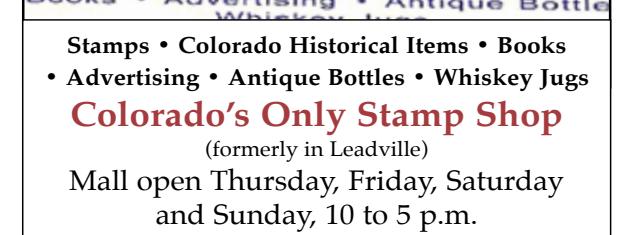
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## December's What Is It?



We had one correct answer for our December's What Is It. Norman Thompson of Louisville, Colorado correctly identified the object as an apple peeler or parer.

The object to the left is an apple parer. This particular one is a painted

Pennsylvania Dutch decorated 2-foot-long apple parer. It is meant to be straddled. It includes the name of Samuel Skann, who is probably the maker.

Congratulations, Norman. You have won a year's subscription to the Mountain States Collector.

## January's What Is It?



Send your answers to the What Is It contest, postmarked by January 20, to the Mountain States Collector, P.O. Box 1003, Bailey, CO 80421. At least three winners will be drawn. Winners will receive a one year electronic subscription to the Mountain States Collector. Be sure to include your email address to your guess.

## New Year's Day is Special for the Whole World continued . . .

*Continued from page 13*

been followed by these people for hundreds of years. The new year arrives after the rainy season, when the grass is green and the yellow daffodils are in full bloom.

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

The Scotch and Irish consider New Year's Day an important holiday of the year. But to the English and Welsh, it is not that important, and they go about their work as usual.

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

The Irish let their imagination run rampant, and claim that fairies are active the night before

the new year, and they advise all good people to stay indoors, so that no mischief will befall them.

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

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

The Swedish colonists introduced the cus-

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

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

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



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Krysti Jomei of Birdy magazine couldn't resist visiting the dinosaurs at the Brass Armadillo. Photo by Sean Forrester.

