



UNUSUAL POSTCARDS SEE PAGE 7

# the mountain states collector

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

54th ANNIVERSARY — ESTABLISHED IN 1972

Volume 54, Number 4

APRIL 2026



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## Souvenirs of Baseball

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.

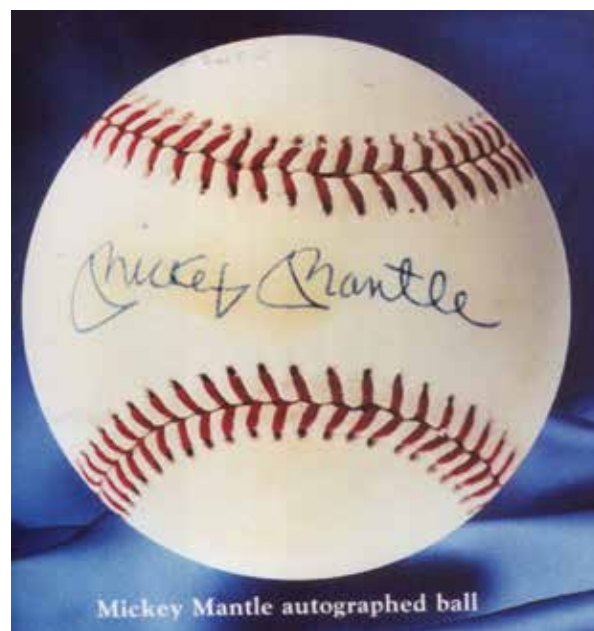
For the first hundred years or so of baseball's existence collecting memorabilia was a relatively modest affair. In 1979 a national magazine noted that former St. Louis Browns player Roy Sievers had been offered \$5,000 for his 1950s uniform. He declined, saying he still sometimes wore it to old-timers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

In 1990, Mickey Mantle's playing jacket from the 1950s sold for several thousand dollars. A letter of authenticity with it noted the 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 memora-



Mickey Mantle autographed ball

abilia 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 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

*Continued on page 15*

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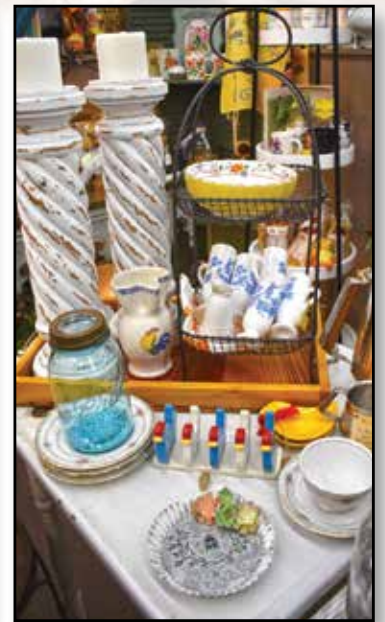
## Hello Spring!

Spring is finally here! Our dealers and staff invite you to peruse thousands of new items in our *Miles of Aisles*. Dealers have spring fever and have marked down many items to celebrate. Look for the red and white sale tags throughout our huge gallery.

Looking for furniture to spruce up your home? We have antiques, vintage and mid-mod — from small to large pieces that are sure to energize your living spaces.

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# Show Calendar: April 2026

**APRIL 4: OLD CROWS' ANTIQUES ROAD SHOW 12-3p.m. (First Saturday of Every Month)** 17120 W. Colfax Ave. Ste 106, Golden, CO. Get estimates on your favorite treasures. Talk to experts about your antiques, art, vintage and collectibles. Limit 1 item per person, 11 to 3. Call 303-973-8648 for more info.

**THRU APRIL: HELLO SPRING! at the COLORADO ANTIQUE GALLERY**, Dealers have spring fever and have marked down many items to celebrate! The Gallery is located at 5501 S. Broadway, Littleton, Colorado. Call 303-794-8100 for more Information.

**APRIL 18: LIVE AT THE CROWS at the Old Crows Antique Mall & Root Beer Bar**, live musical performance by Warren Floyd, '60s, '70s, and '80s music, 303-973-8648.

**APRIL 25: OLD CROWS SUPPORTS THE ARTS**, all day long Saturday. Call 303-973-8648 for more information.

**MAY 9: Mother's Day Tea: 250 Years of American Mothers** Celebrate Mother's Day in elegance with a three-course tea featuring scones, a selection of tea sandwiches, and an assortment of desserts. Includes a self-guided tour of Historic

Hoverhome and more. For questions contact The St. Vrain Historical Society (303) 776-1870 or office@stvrainhistoricalsociety.org.

**MAY 8-10: 75th ANNUAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW** at the Arapahoe County Fair Grounds, Call 720-459-2841 for more information.

**MAY 16 & 17: 54th ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL VINTAGE & ANTIQUE MARKET**, hosted by the St. Vrain Historical Society to be held at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont, Colorado. Over 80 antique dealers, Exhibit Building at the Fairgrounds, 9595 Nelson Road, Longmont, Colorado, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 11- 4 p.m. Admission \$11, Children under 12 FREE, (\$10 for cash) This fundraiser supports the St. Vrain Historical Society and highly anticipated event in the Longmont area.

**JUNE 19-21: THE 129 ANNUAL STRAWBERRY DAYS FESTIVAL** in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, the Glenwood Sprints Chamber invites you to be part of one of Colorado's oldest and most beloved festivals where tradition, art and community come together in a stunning mountain setting. General Park hours: Friday June 19, 1 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**JULY 16 & 17: DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW**, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden, Colorado, Friday 11 a.m. -6 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. More information, go to denverpostcardshow.com.

**OCT. 10 & 11: PUMPKIN PIE DAYS** sponsored by St. Vrain Historical Society, Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont, homemade pumpkin pies served.



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# Interesting and Unusual Postcards to Collect

By Dede Horan

Why do people collect postcards? There are probably about as many reasons for doing so as there are collectors. Some people are hooked by the nostalgia captured in these small pieces of paper. Others may have acquired cards from a relative and soon find themselves adding to their new collections. Some images are so eye-catching that they are worth framing. Those “eye catching” cards are often a bit more obscure or unusual and are what make postcard collecting interesting and fun.

For about every category imaginable, there are probably postcards to go with it, and there are people who collect them. Having been an avid collector for over fifty years and a dealer in antique/collectible cards since 1996, I've met a good many collectors along the way. It's always interesting to hear some of the topics



number of others!

Other collectors have asked for postcards that show rolling pins, corkscrews, hot dogs, lawnmowers, accordions, ladies wearing lockets, quilts as backdrops, and Tarpon fish, just to name a few. And hearing these requests sends me on a search to find those unusual cards.

The hunt is exciting because you never know what will turn up. Each dealer files cards by their own system so you may need the dealer's help to find what you're looking for. If you are a fairly new collector and haven't quite decided what to focus on, try shopping the “bargain” boxes. Searching through these boxes can turn up unexpected treasures. Several years ago, I found a wonderful miniature card in a bargain box. (It is pictured here.) To me, it is a delightful gem! It measures only 1 5/8 inches by 2 1/4 inches and actually survived the mail.

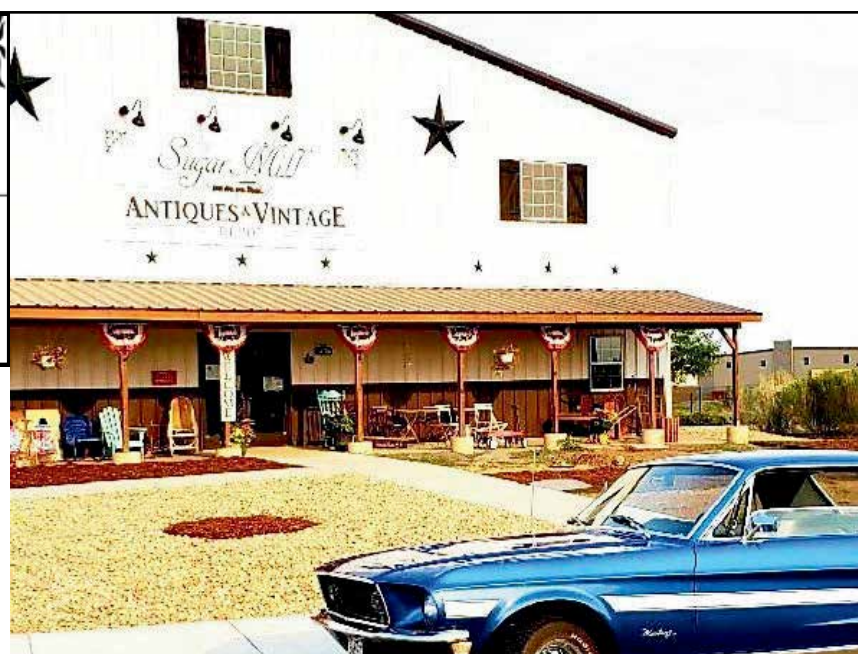


that people request at the shows.

One customer asked if I had cards showing people or animals on stilts. That caught me off guard. I couldn't put my hands on a 'stilt' card that day but several months later I came across one while sorting through my inventory ... and since then, I've come across a



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# The Appraiser's Diary: Spring Planning



Spring is here! The ice is melting. Whatever your resources, now is the time to unleash them. The warm sun urges you to come forward to take advantage of the good weather. Everything that has lain dormant in winter comes alive. In spring not only lovely flowers bloom abundantly, but antiques and collectibles crop up everywhere. If you have postponed or neglected your collecting business or pastime, spring is the time for you to revitalize yourself. Spring is a time when information is happily shared. Like birds singing melodiously in springtime, people communicate enthusiastically in the spring. Listen closely for opportunities, and you won't be disappointed.

Many people clean their houses in the spring. They supply the market with lost treasures and objets d'art. Dusty items are coming out of attics. Vintage objects and antiques are being taken out of homes and shops to make

room for renovations. There are copious deals to be made by savvy buyers with ready and willing sellers. This can be your chance to find the precious antique or valuable collectible that has escaped you for months, if not years. Check classified ads. Meet with dealers eager to be active, and visit shops having sales. Explore the whole collectible and antique landscape.

Success "marches" in step with spring (pun intended; spring began March 20th). Spring prompts social behavior. People readily come together in spring. It is a time of popular assembly and gatherings. Making new contacts sustains progress. Every spring review and renew your purpose. Get in contact with business leaders and relationships. Meeting like-minded people makes work enjoyable and rewarding. Even newcomers sometimes offer interesting tips that lead to valuable acquisitions or offer clues to trends, publicity, or correct pricing.

Information is knowledge that leads to opportunity and profit. Many experts agree that the word of mouth is often a critical element in sales. Get in touch with old friends. We especially trust the word of persons we know well. Resume your positive attitude about life. Don't drift apart from others. Don't let useful subscriptions expire. Renew your membership in associations and clubs. And remember to help others because even small favors are sometimes repaid in a wonderful way.

Spring is associated with love and beauty. The importance and popularity of spring

is demonstrated in the artifacts themselves that we buy and collect. The finest items sold often have a springtime motif. Jewelry, ceramics, glass, dolls, art, furniture, clocks, clothing, crafts, ornaments, knickknackery, and much more are exquisitely designed to depict springtime. One of the most iconic pieces of Spring is the Tiffany leaded glass panel from the Four Seasons window. At the 1900 Exposition Universelle in Paris, Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933) debuted a magnificent window depicting the four seasons. The Spring panel, its cluster of colorful tulips heralding the earth's renewal, is just one part of Tiffany's extraordinary representation of nature's cycle.

Spring offers many wonderful conditions to learn and innovate. Launch a new project; for example, start your own website to promote your inventory. Spring arouses passion, which is the driving force of creativity, achievement, and success. You can be a star this spring. This is the time to take a stand and spring forward.



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# Braithwaite and Company

When Corbin Braithwaite talks about Braithwaite and Company, his voice doesn't sound like a businessman pitching inventory. It sounds like a son keeping hope alive.

Before there was a storefront, there was a small antique booth his mother ran a simple space filled with old western ware, keepsakes, and little pieces of history. To some, it was just "stuff." To her, it was purpose. It gave her energy. It gave her something to wake up excited about. Then the store housing that booth closed, and just like that, the



place that lit her up disappeared. "I watched that joy get taken away," Braithwaite says. "And I couldn't just let that be the end of the story."

That feeling part heartbreak, part determination became the foundation for Braithwaite and Company. What he's building isn't just a collectibles and antiques marketplace. It's a second chance. A space where passion doesn't get evicted when a building changes hands. A place where people who love old things, handmade things, meaningful things can keep doing what makes them feel alive.

### Where Objects Carry Emotion

Walk through the aisles and you won't see rows of identical products. You'll see person-

ality. A vintage toy that sends someone straight back to Saturday mornings as a kid. A piece of jewelry made by someone who poured hours into getting it just right. A quirky oddity that makes a stranger laugh and start a conversation.

"These aren't just items," Braithwaite says. "They're memory triggers. Story starters. Little time machines."

Each vendor booth is run by someone with a passion collectors, artists, treasure hunters, people who find beauty in the overlooked. Instead of one big corporate voice, the store hums with dozens of individual ones.

### A Dream Bigger Than Retail

For Braithwaite, this project reaches beyond shelves and sales. It's about rebuilding something many towns have quietly lost: a place to wander, talk, and feel connected. A place where grandparents bring grandkids to show them "what we used to have," where neighbors bump into each other, where time slows down just a bit.

"This is about bringing heart back into shopping," he says. "About making a space that feels human."

### A Store With a Soul

In a time when so many storefronts feel the same, Braithwaite and Company is trying to feel different warmer, more personal, more real. It's built on the belief that the past still matters, that creativity deserves a stage, and that community is worth investing in.

"This place," Braithwaite says, "is proof that heart can still win."

Every person who walks in won't just be a customer. They'll be stepping into a story — one built from love, loss, memory, and the simple hope that a small shop can make people feel something big.



## BECOMING AMERICAN NOW AVAILABLE

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In 1661, Alice Lake is hanged as a witch in the Puritan colony of Massachusetts—a tragic death that sparks a centuries-long fight for justice and freedom.

In the early 1800s, Alice's descendants, the Knowles family, relocate to Ohio during the War of 1812, where they become deeply involved in the abolitionist movement. Braving danger and defying the law, they aid runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad. As the years pass, the Knowles women rise to the forefront of the suffrage movement, determined to secure a future of equality for all.

From Alice's execution to their battles for freedom and civil rights, *Becoming American* is a powerful, multi-generational tale of survival, courage, and the unyielding pursuit of justice. Through the Knowles family's eyes, we witness the heart of America's struggle to live up to its ideals.

This biographical historical fiction novel explores how one family's fight for justice shaped the nation's destiny—and how the past continues to echo in our pursuit of a better future.



Margaret (Peggy) and Jon DeStefano have been in the publishing field since 1972. They produced over 20 publications each month for various local, state and national organizations. They have published many articles, short stories and poetry during this time. They publish and own the *Mountain States Collector*, a monthly tabloid devoted to antiques, collectibles and American history. Peggy belongs to several historical societies (Colonial Dames, D.A.R. and Daughters of 1812 to name a few). She and her family have been researching their history for over 50 years. *Becoming American* is Jon and Peggy's first book collaboration. They live in the mountains in Colorado. They have four children and 13 grandchildren.

ONE FAMILY'S JOURNEY THROUGH FOUR CENTURIES OF BECOMING AMERICAN

BECOMING AMERICAN

MARGARET ROSE DESTEFANO  
AND  
JON EAGER DESTEFANO

BECOMING AMERICAN

MARGARET ROSE DESTEFANO  
AND  
JON EAGER DESTEFANO

## *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 paperback. The electronic version is now available.

# A Celebration of –

By Tom Cotter

“Red,” I write, “is the color of life. It’s blood, passion, rage... Red is the color of love. Beating hearts and hungry lips. Roses, Valentines, cherries. Red is the color of shame. Crimson cheeks and spilled blood. Broken hearts, opened veins.” — Mary Hogan, *Pretty Face*. Whether called Ruby, one of the most prized gems in the world, Carmine, Crimson, Rose, or Scarlet, red evokes personal responses like no other color. So it is not hard to imagine that one of the favorite colors of glass is red. Imagine a white table cloth and napkins, bone china, and vibrant red stemware. Or a vase of scarlet filled with red roses. Nothing else can cause our hearts to



beat faster or attract our eyes quicker than something in glorious red. The Rocky Mountain Depression Glass Society celebrates its 40th Ruby Anniversary Array of Color Show and Sale on April 26th and 27th with a special

ing” the glass. The use of more controllable cooling ovens, or lehrs, powered by natural gas, allowed easier reheating of glass to produce red. But there were other issues. While the romantic in us might hold that someone dropped a gold ring into a pot of molten “metal” to make the first ruby glass product, in truth, red glass had been around since Roman times, and thoroughly documented in the 17th century. Gold had to be mixed with aqua regia, or “Royal Water.” No problem; aqua regia sounds like after shave, right? Only it is highly concentrated and corrosive nitro-hydrochloric acid, used to dissolve the gold into solution. And fingers... The expense of even a small amount of gold, the extreme care, and that it had to be reheated to change to red kept “Ruby Gold” glass from being made extensively. Some U.S. companies in the latter 1800s used a mixture

display of members’ red glass to showcase the event.

To obtain red glass, regardless of chemicals used, the object must be reheated to over 1,000 degrees. This process is called “strik-

with gold to make Cranberry and Ruby flint, or leaded, glass. Dorflinger and New England Glass made some of the most outstanding flashed (coated), cut-to-clear glass. Also, early Amberina and Rubena Verde glass used

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# Red and Ruby Glass

the gold and reheating process to create multiple colors in a single piece.

By 1850 German/Bohemian flashed glass, created by dipping a clear piece of hot glass with a copper-based layer of glass, became popular in the U.S., and at a cheaper price. Companies began to experiment with other

ways to make red glass. Rather than add a red glass coating, U.S. companies found a way to add a silver-based mixture with some reheating in the cooling oven (lehr) that left a ruby stain on the glass. This became a major decoration in the Early American Pattern Glass period of the late 1800s and early 1900s.

While the French patented selenium red glass formulae in the 1800s, Frederick Carder of Steuben Glass often receives credit in the U.S. for glass with selenium and poisonous cadmium sulfide to produce red in a variety of shades, including opaque Rouge Flambe and transparent Selenium Red. Companies like Cambridge, Duncan & Miller, Fenton, Fostoria, Heisey, New Martinsville, Paden City, and others soon followed suit. Styles, forms and decorations abounded!

Extension of the a expensive copper-based red formula allowed companies like Anchor Hocking to produce machine-made wares. Although the early Hocking red pieces did contain some gold early on, the formula was limited to a copper and tin formula by 1950. Manhattan, Provincial (Bubble), Roly Poly, and Swirl are among a vast array of Royal Ruby, Anchor Hocking's vivid red.



The hardest to make glass has been one of the most popular colors for the last several hundred years. Whether Red, Ruby, Selenium, Carmen, Pigeon Blood, or any other label, the various shades and companies pieces are always in demand.



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# AMERICAN HISTORY

## April Anniversaries

**April 7**  
77th Anniversary of the World Health Organization being established by the United Nations (1948)

**April 13**  
Thomas Jefferson's Birthday (1743)

103th Anniversary of the State of Massachusetts opening all public offices to women (1922)

**April 15**  
Congress ratifies peace with Great Britain (1783)

**April 17**  
53rd Anniversary of the first Boston Marathon in which women are officially allowed to compete (1972)

**April 18**  
Patriot's Day

83rd Anniversary of the Doolittle Raid on Japan (1942)

**April 19**  
American Revolution begins (1775)

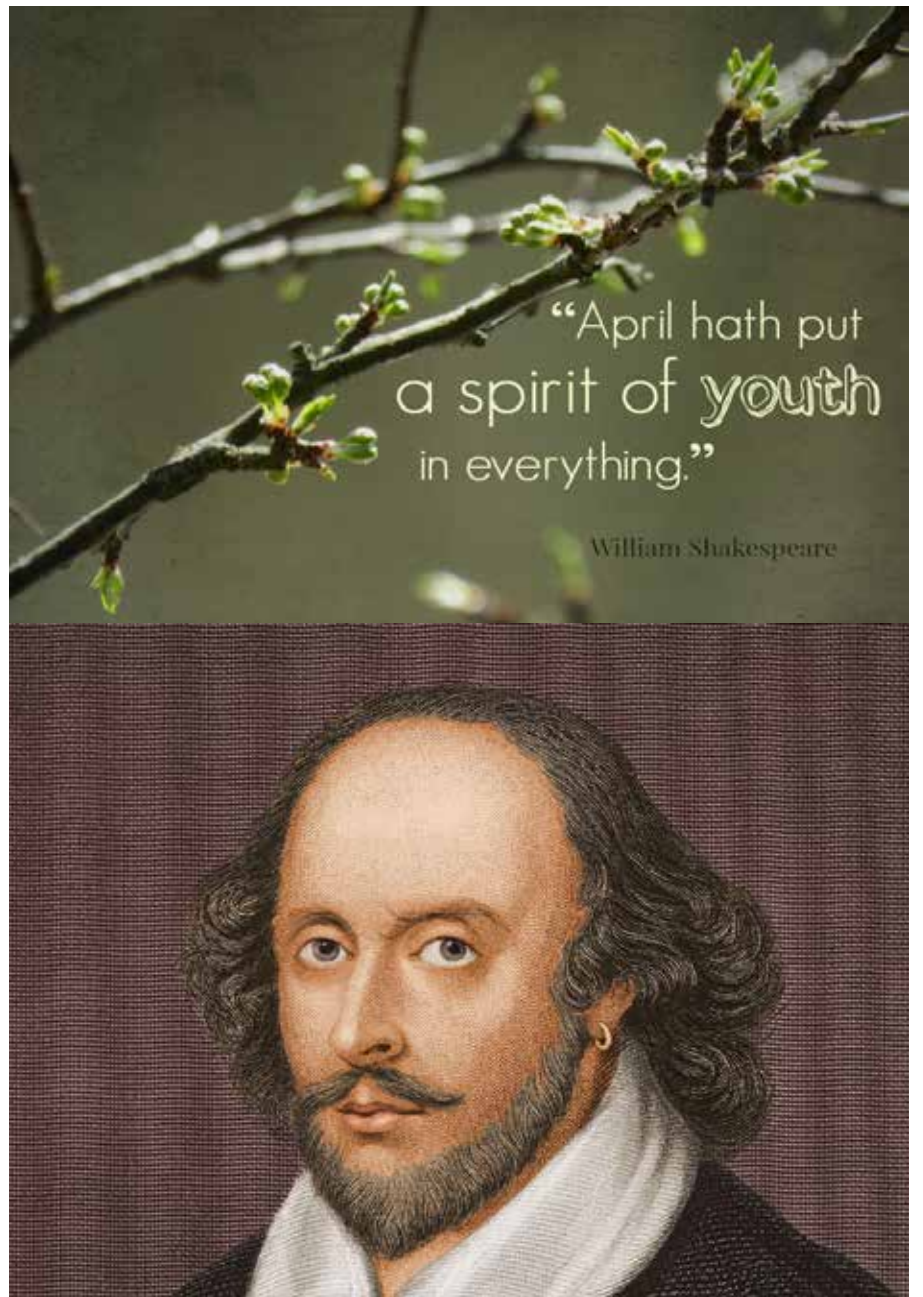
**April 22**  
Earth Day

**April 24**  
Arbor Day



## INSPIRATION

# April's Quote of Month



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

## GEORGETOWN

**HOTEL DE PARIS.**  
MUSEUM  
Georgetown, Colorado

The Hotel De Paris Museum™, a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is owned and operated by The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Colorado. The Museum is located in Georgetown, Colorado, just west of Denver off Interstate 70.

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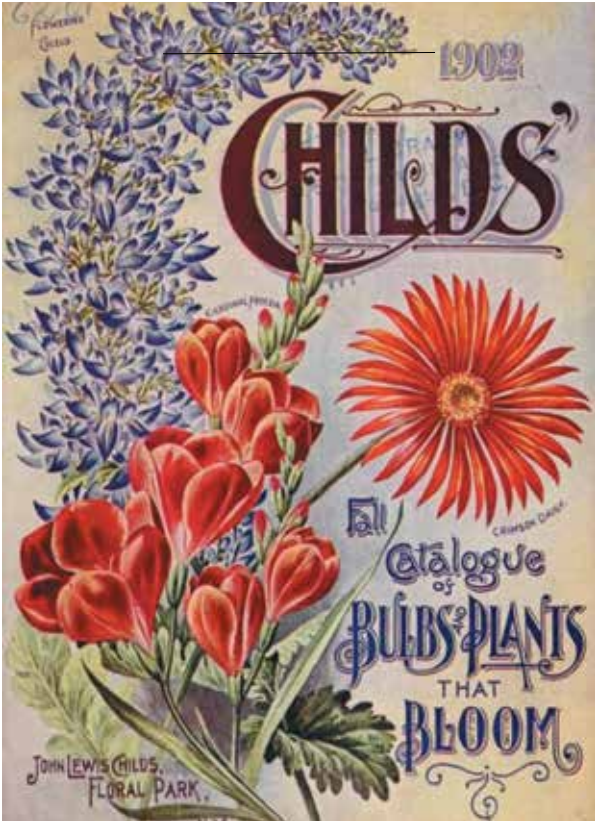
**OPEN: Friday, Saturday and Sunday**

**The Mountain States Collector**, a tabloid newspaper dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of antiquing and collecting in the Rocky Mountain region, is distributed the first weekend of every month through shops, auctions, flea markets and antique shows, and is mailed to subscribers. (Opinions of the writers contained herein are not necessarily the opinions of the publishers.)

Advertising information: call or text Jon DeStefano at **720-276-2777** or for any other information, call Peg DeStefano at **303-910-2604** or email us at [spreepub@mac.com](mailto:spreepub@mac.com)

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# Garden History Depicted in Old Seed Catalogs



By Anne Gilbert

As interest in the environment grows this includes collecting old garden catalogs. Colorful and informative they give a glimpse into the past of what were the popular foods of the past. The early catalog drawings are consid-

ered works of art, also illustrated on seed boxes and tin containers.

Pages from 19th century garden catalogs were not only hand drawn but often hand colored. Equally colorful were the fruit labels on wooden crates. Framed and hung on a kitchen wall they have become a decorative art accessory.

However, for the serious collectors of old garden catalogs, such a destruction of a total catalog is a sacrilege. As they see it, it's like cutting up a rare book and framing the pictures. Literally destroying a piece of American garden history.

Many reflect the foods and plants in the regions in which they originated. For example, the farm county publications used rustic, "homey" words to describe the plants. The city-produced catalogs rely on more "hard-sell."

Among the earliest see companies were Burpees Seeds(1876) and D.M. Ferry(1880s.) For their hundred year anniversary in 1976, Burpees issued Centennial place mats featuring color reproductions from their historic, lithographed catalog pages. These days they are considered collectibles.

Among the rarest and most valuable spin-offs for collectors would be books ( written by and illustrated ) in the early 19th century as guides for explorers. Often they contained hand colored illustrations detailing the dis-

coveries of exotic and unusual jungle area plants. Who can forget the mission of the ship Bounty to bring back breadfruit trees.

CLUES: Not everybody appreciates garden collectibles. There's still a chance to make discoveries at bargain prices. Fruit crate labels were once throw aways. Once collectors got wise they were reproduced in the 1970s.

Garage sales and flea markets are still a good place to find catalogs and old fruit crates.

The good news is there are still 1877, Burpees catalogs, with its fifty pages intact. Only 10,000 were printed. Those that survived are rarities worth over \$100.



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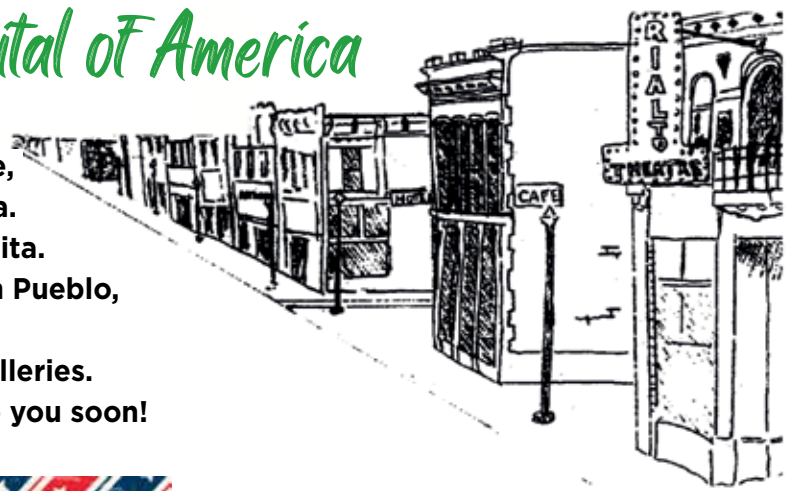
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## March's What Is It?

It is so interesting to know that so many readers know what these items are.

Yes, they are ocarinas. These pictured include a bass (top), a tenor (right), a red alto and a soprano. The rare bass, probably russian-made, is valuable.

Ceramic ocarinas have been around more than 12,000 years. Ancient examples have been cited—small whistles shaped like birds or other animals and made of terracotta were in India for 6,000 years. China has a very long history of music—songs and dance had already appeared as early as five thousand years ago. Europeans and native American makers of the ocarina existed for hundreds of years. Native Americans of North and South America often used the instrument as they danced.



Ocarinas remained a popular toy for more than 340 years until 1878 when 17 year old musician-baker Giuseppe Donati of Budrio, Italy, transformed them from a toy which only played a few notes, into a real instrument which could play more than an octave accurately.

## April's What Is It?



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

## Souvenirs of Baseball Continued . . .



*Continued from page 1*

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 the front 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 Albertype 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 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 au-

tographed 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 bats, hits, runs, errors, diving catches, chewing tobacco, bubble gum and the illustrious characters who played the game for our enjoyment."



Venezuela stuns Team USA baseball to win first WBC title after Bryce Harper's late heroics

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

