



COLLETTIBLES OF LABOR DAY SEE PAGE 10

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Volume 54, Number 8

AUGUST 2026



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Beekeeping Depictions Date to 4,500 Years Ago

Editor's Note:

Hard to believe but life is teeming around us. The latest excitement regards the bees. We knew we had bees going in and out of our house near the garage, we just didn't know how many we had. We called a beekeeper who was more than happy to help re-locate the creatures. It turns out we had between 12,000 and 15,000 bees who have been working hard for over two years to build over 16 combs full of honey. Our beekeeper Chris started at about 8 a.m. in the morning and finished at about 8 p.m. in the evening. Once he had the queen, he felt he could move on. We are sad to see the bees go. We have so many wild flowers on our property probably because of their industriousness. We only hope the remainder of the bees, find a new queen and start a new hive nearby. We are totally fascinated with honey bees and thought you would be, too. Besides being an ancient occupation, collectors should be happy to know there are countless collectibles related to beekeeping.

At some point humans began to attempt to domesticate wild bees in artificial hives made from hollow logs, wooden boxes, pottery vessels, and woven straw baskets or "skeps." Honeybees were kept in Egypt from antiquity. On the walls of the sun temple of Nyuserre Ini from the Fifth Dynasty, before 2422 BC, workers are depicted blowing smoke into hives as they are re-moving honeycombs. Inscriptions detailing the production of honey are found on the tomb of Pabasa from the Twenty-sixth Dynasty (c. 650 BCE), depicting pouring honey in jars and cylindrical hives. Sealed pots of honey were found in the grave goods of pharaohs such as Tutankhamun.

There was an unsuccessful attempt to introduce bees to Mesopotamia in the 8th century BCE by Shamash-resu-ur, the governor of Mari and Suhi. His ambitious plans were detailed in a stele of 760 BC.



Beekeeping, tacuinum sanitatis casanatensis (14th century) Depictions of humans collecting honey from wild bees date to 15,000 years ago; efforts to domesticate them are shown in Egyptian art around 4,500 years ago. Simple hives and smoke were used and honey was stored in jars, some of which were found in the tombs of pharaohs such as Tutankhamun. It wasn't until the 18th century that European understanding of the colonies and biology of bees allowed the construction of the moveable comb hive so that honey could be harvested without destroying the entire colony.

In prehistoric Greece (Crete and Mycenae), there existed a system of high-status apiculture, as can be concluded from the finds of hives, smoking pots, honey extractors and other beekeeping paraphernalia in Knossos. Beekeeping was considered a highly valued industry controlled by beekeeping overseers—owners of gold rings depicting apiculture scenes rather than religious ones as they have been reinterpreted recently, contra Sir Arthur Evans.

Archaeological finds relating to beekeeping have been discovered at Rehov, a Bronze and Iron Age

Continued on page 9

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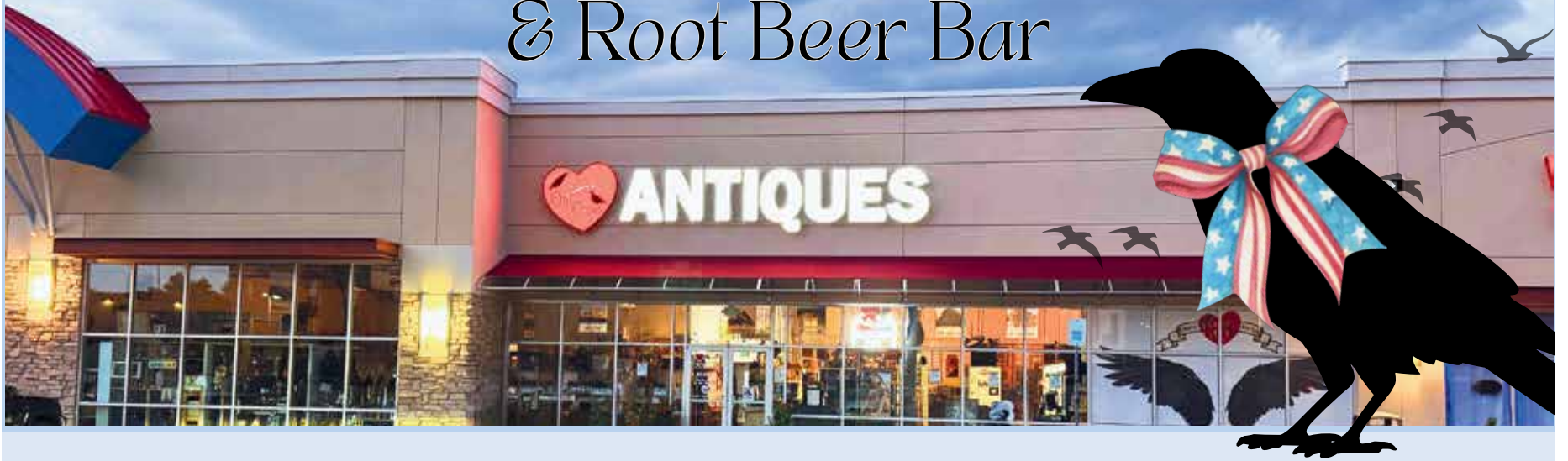
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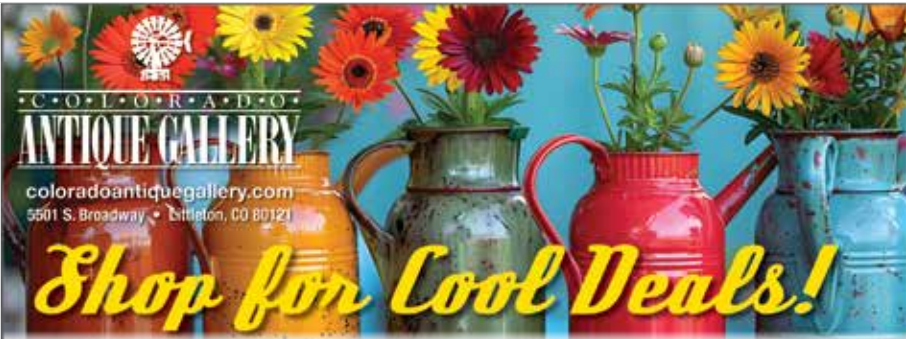
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trict On Santa Fe First Friday Art Walk. Open late until 9:30pm. Call 720-772-6577 for more info.

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Who Was Toby Fillpot?

By Maureen Timm

There are many theories in regard to how Toby Fillpot was brought into the world as a character. The name “Toby” was used originally to describe jugs which were made in the form of a seated male figure in a tricornered hat. He usually held a beer jug on his knee and sometimes held a pipe or glass in his hand. The hat was made so that each corner formed a convenient spout.

Toby was dressed in the style of the 1700s, which consisted of a full length coat with low set pockets, waistcoat, cravat, knee breeches, stockings and buckled shoes. An interesting feature of the early jugs is the hollow cap which fitted into the top of the hat and was used as a cup.

He has been associated with the fat boisterous Sir Toby Belch in Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night,” and “My Uncle Toby” from Laurence Sterne’s “Tristram Shandy.” This book did appear about the same time as the earliest Tobies, around 1700.

Other characters who may have helped bring Toby into existence include Harry Elwes, a Yorkshireman who is alleged to have drunk two thousand gallons of strong ale from a brown jug, and who bore the nickname of Toby Fillpot. He died in 1761.

Another character was Paul Parnell, also a Yorkshireman. His obituary was in Gentleman’s Magazine dated December 1910.



“At the Ewes Farmhouse, Yorkshire, aged 76, Mr. Paul Parnell, fanner, grazier and malts-er, who during his lifetime drank out of one silver pint cup upwards of 2,000 pounds sterling worth of Yorkshire stingo, being remarkably at-tached to stingo tipples of the home brewed best quality. This calculation is taken at 2 pence per cupful. He was the bon vivant whom O’Keefe celebrated in more than one of his Bacchanalian songs, under the appellation of Toby Fillpot.”

The name Toby Fillpot occurred, proba-bly for the first time in print in the song “The Brown Jug,” published in 1761 in a volume of “Original Poems and Translations” by the Reverend Francis Fawkes.

Although entirely original in conception, Toby was the descendant of a long line of jugs in hu-

man form fashioned by potters in earlier years.

Since the dawn of history, long before man began to record his ideas and life ex-periences in writing, potters have made images of living beings. Some may have been used in religious rituals and some were created for fun

Ancient Greece provides numerous ex-amples of jugs, cups, perfume pots and wine vessels made in the likeness of hu-man beings, satyrs, sphinxes and other mythical creatures.

It is interesting to note that a Roman potter in Staffordshire was making fa-ceurns some fifteen hundred years before Toby made his first appearance.

In the early eighteenth century some small earthenware figures and jugs were made in Staffordshire, England. They depicted midshipmen, soldiers, musicians and other characters of that century.

These were probably made by several dif-ferent potters living in and around Stoke, En-gland. These figures appear to have been the immediate forerunners of the Toby Jug. Some of them have tricornered hats pinched out in the front to facilitate pouring and hollow seat-ed figures are holding jugs, pipes and beakers. They were rather crudely modeled and glazed with black blobs for eyes and buttons. Howev-er, the potters were learning to depict the ev-eryday humor of life in rural England.

Around the 1770s an entirely new creation

Continued on page 9

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Antique Detective Q & A: Inkwells to Side Chairs

By Anne Gilbert



Q. I found this ugly metal and glass inkwell while cleaning out a desk drawer in an old office building. The building was going to be demolished and this had been my late fathers office for many years.

I had planned to throw it away but decided to find out if it was anything special. The bottom of the pressed glass inkwell shows “PS& W Co.” Pat. Date Dec. 11,77. Top of metal part shows stork and places for four pens. Any value?
T.G. - Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

A. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. What a find! Your desk inkstand was made in 1877 by Peck, Stow Wilcox Co., Connecticut. At that time many such desk inkwells were of cast iron in a variety of designs. Silver, as well as other materials, were popular. The fancier ones were status symbols. A good examples would be inkstands and entire desk stands made by Tiffany & Co.

A collector might pay \$400 or more for yours.

Q. I retrieved this cabinet from an 1800s

farm house and have had it for several years. I’ve asked people what they thought about it and they had no answers.

It is 42” wide, 44”high and 22” deep with a glass see-through top, double glass doors and a bottom drawer. The sides are padded horse hair canvas as is the back. What is it? What was it used for, how old and any value?

B.G.S.- Goshen, Indiana



ue. However, a collector of Empire furniture might pay \$800 or more.

Q. According to our family history this beautiful side chair belonged to our great grandmother and sat in her parlor. That would have been sometime in the mid 19th century. It was supposedly brought from England when she came to America around 1860. It now belongs to me.

It is in perfect condition and a friend told me it is made of papier-mâché with a lacquer finish. It has mother-of-pearl inlays. On the bottom is a worn stamp that looks like “Jennens and Bettridge.

What can you tell me about it and what could it be worth.

A.G.S. Kansas City, KS

A. You have a piece of English furniture making history. Aaron Jennens and T.H. Bettridge, in Birmingham, England, began around 1815 creating Oriental style, papier-mâché furniture and decorative objects very fashionable at the time. They pioneered a process combining mother-of-pearl inlays, gilding and hand painting.

It all began when the Japanese began trade with Europe and America in the 1850s and when Japanese pieces were exhibited at the London International Exhibition in 1862. Jennens and Bettridge exhibited their pieces and won awards.

Your chair could have a current auction value of \$700 in America, much more in England.



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Who is Toby Fillpot? Continued . . .



Continued from page 7

appeared. This was a figure jug depicting plain-faced, squat bodied Toby Fillpot. The modeling and coloring far surpassed the previous earthenware figures.

The first Toby Jug was probably made between 1760 and 1770. In 1750 there were many small thatched potworks in the district of North

Staffordshire which is known all over the world as "The Potteries."

Ralph Wood I and his son, Ralph Wood II, both made figures and Toby Jugs in their factory in Burslem, the mothertown of the Staffordshire potteries. They were among the first English potters to use their names, or a rebusmark of trees (i.e. wood) to identify their pottery.

The beautiful effect of the early Ralph Wood Tobies was due to the painting of colors with translucent glazes. The colors shone clear and luminous from the opaque white ground. This process was superseded by painting enamels over the glaze in opaque colors, which, though brilliant were not as delicate as the older technique.

Enoch Wood produced many figures and figure jugs from existing models including standing Tobies.

By the end of the 18th century there were many makers of Toby Jugs. Some were good, some were bad and some of indifferent quality. The art of making these jugs was introduced into the United States, probably by potters from Stoke, England who emigrated in the late 18th century.

The earliest Toby Jugs were not marked with the potter's name and there are no written records. One potter often copied the designs of another. Because of this it is impossible to find the exact truth as to Toby's "onlie begetter." To this day the Toby legend remains a never ending story.

Some of the famous names associated with the early development of Toby Jugs are as follows: John Astbury, Ralph Wood, Josiah Wedgwood, Enoch Wood, Thomas Whieldon, Aaron Wood and Ralph Wood.

Beekeeping Always Recognized As Vital Continued . . .

Continued from page 1

archaeological site in the Jordan Valley, Israel.

Thirty intact hives, made of straw and unbaked clay, were discovered by archaeologist Amihai Mazar of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in the ruins of the city, dating from about 900 BC. The hives were found in orderly rows, three high, in a manner that could have accommodated around 100 hives, held more than 1 million bees and had a potential annual yield of 500 kilograms of honey and 70 kilograms of beeswax, according to Mazar, and are evidence that

an advanced honey industry existed in ancient Israel 3,000 years ago.

In ancient Greece, aspects of the lives of bees and beekeeping are discussed at length by Aristotle. Beekeeping was also documented by the Roman writers Virgil, Gaius Julius Hyginus, Varro, and Columella.

Beekeeping has also been practiced in ancient China since antiquity. In the book "Golden Rules of Business Success" written by Fan Li (or Tao Zhu Gong) during the Spring and Autumn Period there are sections describing the art of beekeeping, stress-

ing the importance of the quality of the wooden box used and how this can affect the quality of the honey.

The ancient Maya domesticated a separate species of stingless bee.

There are more than 20,000 species of wild bees. Many species are solitary e.g., mason bees, leafcutter bees (Megachilidae), carpenter bees and other ground-nesting bees). Many others rear their young in burrows and small colonies (e.g., bumblebees and stingless bees). Some honey bees are wild e.g. the

Continued on page 15

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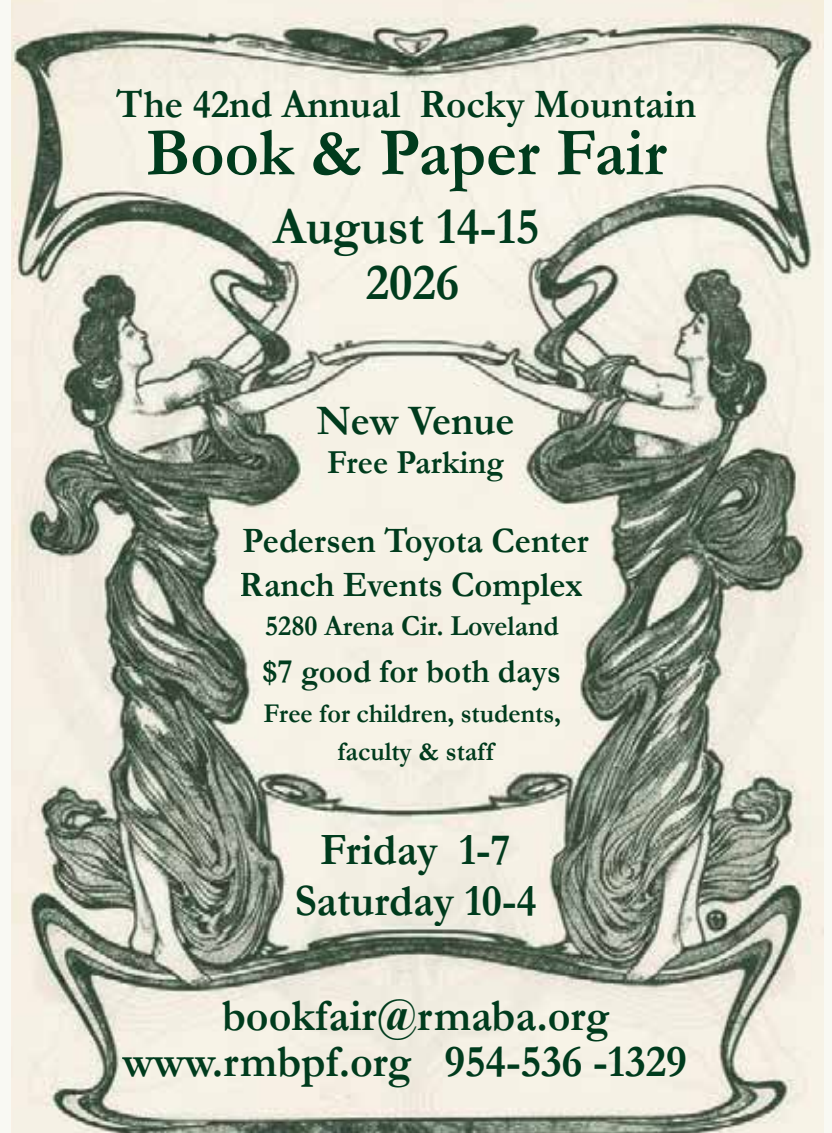
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The Collectibles –

By Robert Reed

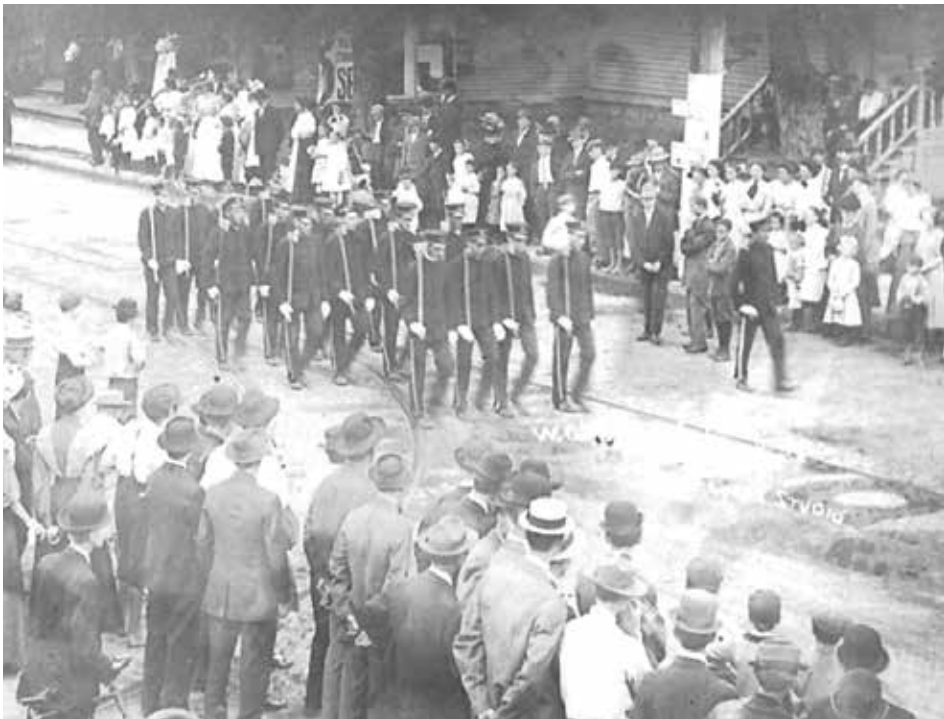
Then hail to labor! everywhere,
Honor to those who do their share.

Labor Day poem
by Clara Denton, 1928

Long unnoticed, the collectibles of the Labor Day holiday are gradually gaining in recognition. After all it is an event that has been celebrated nationally since the latter part of the 19th century.

Some true treasures of the American labor movement actually predate the establishment of Labor Day itself. In the Marion Carson Collection of the Library of Congress is a hat ribbon worn for a labor organization parade in the 1820s. The parade was staged in Philadelphia by the Brotherly Union Society. During that decade the journeymen house-carpenters of that city made the first attempt to get the hours of work reduced to ten a day. The effort was unsuccessful.

Historians generally agree that the first actual Labor Day parade was held in New York City's Union Square on September 5, 1882. Interestingly while the holiday has traditionally been thought of as always being observed on a Monday, the first parade was actually on a



Tuesday according to records of the United States Department of Labor. It was held under the direction of the Central Labor Union in that city.

Possibly one of the first Labor Day parade collectibles appeared just one week later in the form of the news magazine Frank Leslie's Illustrated. The September 16, 1882 issue featured drawings of the event. Marchers were depicted in the artist's rendering as carrying banners and signs with such slogans as "Vote for the Labor Ticket," "Labor Creates All Wealth," and "8 Hours Constitute a Day's Work."

Published images of American worker in the 1880s, according to a study done by the Smithsonian Institution a century later was a "stereotype of a lone, white, male craftsman in a mechanic's paper hat, carrying dinner pail." Such characterizations appeared in magazines and on product labels.

In the years that immediately followed the first parade, labor organization moved the event to a Monday thus providing one of the 19th century's first three-day weekends for workers. The "working men's holiday" idea also spread to other major cities where unionization was fairly well established.

Some accounts say the first Monday in September was favored because it came at the "most pleasant season of the year" midway between the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving, and thus would fill a gap in the chronology of legal holidays. Most research indicates that the general idea in New York, Philadelphia, and other industrial centers was to provide for parade to show strength and solidarity, to be followed by a festive family picnic.

Little by little such labor union related events spread to other cities and came to the attention of individual state legislatures. States such as Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey,

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of Labor Day

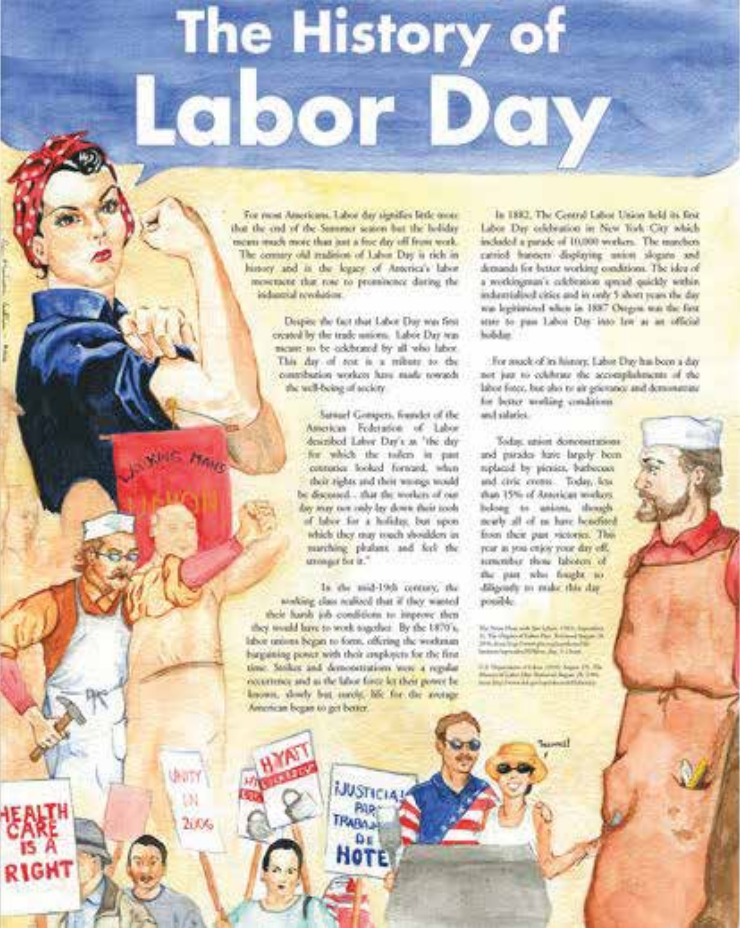
New York, Nebraska and Pennsylvania jointed the ‘parade’ by establishing Labor Day as an official holiday.

Eventually the American Federation of Labor forecast “it shall be as uncommon for a man to work on that day (Labor Day) as on Independence Day.” That prediction became a reality in 1894 when the U.S. Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and all U.S. territories.

As the 19th century came to a close Labor Day celebrations, especially parades and similar outings, became widespread. Likewise there were numerous decorative items produced to be wore on such occasions. Striking multi-color celluloid pinback buttons were manufactured by the Whitehead & Hoag Company and others. Typically they included a slogan, ie. “The Union Is Strength”, and symbol of patriotism including the U.S. flag or an eagle along with a symbol of unity such as a handshake. There were multi-colored ribbons too which could be attached to the lapel of a jacket or the front of a shirt. The wording on the ribbons might be as basic as simply the words Labor Day or elabo-

rate enough to show a worker with the America flag and a hammer---all in red, white and blue.

Early in the 20th century, in addition to pinback buttons, lapel ribbons and various badges, citizens could also celebrate the holiday with postcards. Nash Publishing Company produced a set of two embossed fully illustrated Labor Day Souvenir postcards. One proclaimed, “labor shall refresh itself with hope,” while second declared, “Labor Conquers Everything.” (Indeed the image of the laborer on postcard number two was much as image Smithsonian had earlier described, “a lone, white, male craftsman in a mechanic’s hat...” Lounsbury Publishing did a set of four Labor Day postcards similar in style to those by Nash. The Lounsbury titles included Makers of Prosperity, Man in Overalls, Labor Taking a Day Off, and Our Lat-est Holiday.



According to Susan Nicholson author of The Encyclopedia of Antique Postcards, the Lounsbury set was published in more limited numbers. The fourth card of the series, Our Latest Holiday, featuring a Labor Day parade which also included Santa and Uncle Sam is the most highly sought of the four. Meanwhile numerous other publishers also issued postcards of actual Labor Days parades during the early 1900s including one in Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

Labor Day buttons and ribbons had taken decidedly more patriotic tone by 1917 and 1918 within the shadow of World War One red, white and blue Labor Day ribbon dated 1918 proclaimed, “We’re Behind the Man Behind the Gun.” It bore the illustration of a worker rolling up his shirt sleeves with factory smoke stacks in the background.

Later Labor Day parades and events also produced memorabilia ranging from photographs of parade

floats to booklets and programs. In 1945 Victory Labor Day Rally celebrated both the efforts of organized labor and efforts of U.S. troops in World War II. Noted the multi-paged program issued by the Baltimore, Maryland Congress of Industrial Unions:

“One this day, labor’s traditional holiday, we salute our fellow trade unionists in the armed forces and merchant marine who, scattered over the four corners of the earth, cannot be here to share in the celebration of Labor Day.”

In 1982 Carolrhoda Books Inc. published one of the few books devoted entirely to this particular holiday. Labor Day by Geoffery Scott, was illustrated by Cherie Wyman and described the origins of Labor Day including a “monster labor festival” held in New York City a century earlier.

While still a major American holiday, observance of Labor Day has changed from earlier decades according to the U.S. Department of Labor, and elaborate displays and massive parades are no longer as prevalent as they were in the heart of the 20th century.

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AMERICAN HISTORY

August Anniversaries

- August 3

Washington Assumes Command of the Continental Army (1775)
- August 5

Abraham Lincoln imposes the first federal income tax (1861)
- August 7

George Washington creates the Purple Heart (1782)
- August 10

76th Anniversary of the Department of War, renamed the Department of Defense (1949)
- August 14

Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd President of the U.S., signs the Social Security Act (1935)
- August 15

201st Anniversary of the vis-
- it of the Marquis de Lafayette to the U.S., which begins at Staten Island, New York (1824)
- August 21

251st year anniversary of the siege of Fort St. Jean launched he American invasion of Canada (1775)
- August 24

251st Anniversary of King George III refusing to consider the Olive Branch Petition issued the Proclamation of Rebellion against the American colonies (1775)
- August 24

British Troops set fire to the White House (1814)
- August 26

Women’s Equality Day

INSPIRATION

August’s

Quote of Month

“THIS MORNING, THE SUN ENDURES PAST DAWN. I REALISE THAT IT IS AUGUST: THE SUMMER’S LAST STAND.”

— SARA BAUME

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The Mountain States Collector, a tabloid newspaper dedicated to promoting the enjoyment of antiquing and collecting in the Rocky Mountain region, is distributed the first weekend of every month through shops, auctions, flea markets and antique shows, and is mailed to subscribers.

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

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Publisher	Spree Enterprises, Inc. P.O. Box 1003 Bailey, CO 80421 spreepub@mac.com	Webmaster	Sam DeStefano sam@mbrealestatepros.com Shaleen Moore, Shaleen @blackbirdmediainc.com
Executive Director	Jon DeStefano	Production	Spree Enterprises, Inc. Peg DeStefano Jon Patrick DeStefano Sam DeStefano
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Collectibles for Golfers Abound

By Anne Gilbert

There’s nothing new about collecting golf memorabilia. However, it wasn’t until 1970 that two ardent golfers, Robert Kuntz and Joseph S.F. Murdoch decided it was time to get serious about collecting golf history. The result was “The Golf Collectors’ Society,” an international organization that connects and educates golfers about collecting.

Golf originated in Scotland around the East Coast in the area of St. Andrews in the 18th century. People of all walks of life played the game. Clubs and a ball were all it took for the game and it had specific rules at that time. Players included Mary Queen of Scots.

When one of the earliest recorded wood-en-headed golf clubs, c. 1759 came to a Sotheby’s auction, over a decade ago, it was estimated to sell for as much as \$140,00.00. Unlike today’s clubs it had an additional lead weight, held in place by a hand-made square nail. It also had its original ash shaft and part of the listing grip.

Golfing as social status began in 1813 when William IV granted royal patronage to the Perth Golfing Society. After that it was known as the Royal Perth Golfing Society and Country and City Club. During the early 20th century it had snob appeal tied in with the country club set. These days it is enjoyed

by anyone with a set of golf clubs.

CLUES: Golf memorabilia was created as early as the 18th century from trophies to engraved silver golf clubs engraved with tournament winners names. By the 19th century golf balls were made of a variety of materials that collectors look for. Some were feather-filled, others were hand-hammered gutta percha. 1930s to 50s balls are collectible and still turn up these days.

Many collectors specialize in one category such as paper items. Autographs on programs, photos and plaques are expensive. An exception would be a rarity like a Life Magazine cover, with Ben Hogan, August 1955,

autographed. It could sell for several hundred dollars.

Golf clubs, even from the 1950s, wood with steel shafts, are going up in value. Currently, an 1865-70, dark stained Beach long nose play club with J. Anderson, engraved on the head is up for sale for \$2,350.

Now would be a good time for beginning collectors to invest in items relating to famous contemporary golfers.

PHOTO CAPTION: 1865-70 J. Anderson golf club.

PHOTO CREDIT: chuckfurjani@hotmail.com



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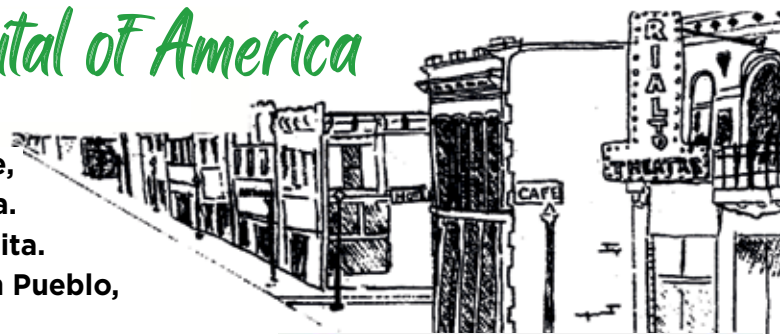
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July's What Is It?

Jack T. Briggs of Denver, Colorado correctly identified the vehicle as a Dodge Power Wagon used by the Waco Fire Department. Congratulations!

The Dodge M37 314-ton 4x4 truck (G741) was Dodge's follow-up to their successful WC Series from WWil. Introduced in 1951 it was used extensively by the United States armed forces during the Korean war. During the 1970s, they were replaced by the commercial truck based 1 1/4-ton M715 and M880 series.

It was not the most glamorous military vehicle, but it served an important job of transporting troops and supplies. It was the unsung hero of the Korean war. More recent-ly it



was used as a municipal brush fire-fighter truck. This one is from Waco, Texas.

The new owner Tim Gregg plans to use it as his barbecue kitchen from which he will sell some of the best barbecue meals in the mountain town of Bailey, Colorado. He is naming it The Smiling Pig. If you see this truck in Bailey, stop by. You can be assured you are in for a real treat.

August's What Is It?

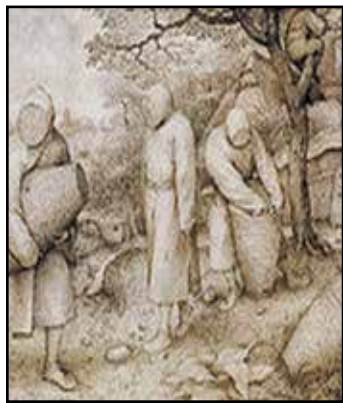


Send your answers to the What Is It contest, postmarked by August 20, to the Mountain States Collector, P.O. Box 1003, Bailey, CO 80421. At least three winners will be drawn. Winners will receive a one year electronic subscription to the Mountain States Collector. Be sure to include your email address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

Beekeeping Always Recognized As Vital Continued . . .

Continued from page 9

little honeybee (*Apis florea*), giant honeybee (*Apis dorsata*) and rock bee (*Apis labo-riosa*). Beekeeping, or apiculture, is concerned with the practical man-



agement of the social species of honey bees, which live in large colonies of up to 100,000 individuals. In Europe and America the species universally managed by beekeepers is the Western honey bee (*Apis mellifera*). This species has several

sub-species or regional varieties, such as the Italian bee (*Apis mellifera ligustica*), European dark bee (*Apis mellifera mellifera*), and the Carniolan honey bee (*Apis mellifera carnica*). In the tropics, other species of social bees are managed for honey production, including the Asiatic honey bee (*Apis cerana*). All of the *Apis mellifera* sub-species are capable of inter-breeding and hybridizing. Collecting honey from wild bee colonies is one of the most ancient human activities and is still practiced by aboriginal societies in parts of Africa, Asia, Australia, and South America.

The 19th century saw this revolution in beekeep-

ing practice completed through the perfection of the movable comb hive by the American Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth. Langstroth was the first person to make practical use of Huber's earlier discovery that there was a specific spatial measurement between the wax combs, later called the bee space, which bees do not block with wax, but keep as a free passage. Having determined this bee space (between 5 and 8 mm, or 1/4 to 3/8"), Langstroth then designed a series of wooden frames within a rectangular hive box, carefully maintain-ing the correct space between succes-sive frames, and found that the bees would build parallel honeycombs in the box without bonding them to each other or to the hive walls. This en-ables the bee-keeper to slide any frame out of the hive for inspection, without harm-ing the bees or the comb, protecting the eggs, larvae and pupae contained within the cells. It also meant that combs containing honey could be gently removed and the honey extracted without destroying the comb. The emptied honey combs could then be returned to the bees intact for re-filling.

More facts about beekeeping: Smoke calms bees; it initiates a feeding response in anticipation of possible hive abandonment due to fire. Smoke also masks alarm pheromones released by guard bees or when bees are squashed in an inspection. The en-suing confusion creates an opportunity for the beekeeper to open the hive and work without triggering a defensive reaction. In addition, when a bee consumes

honey the bee's abdomen distends, supposedly making it difficult to make the necessary flexes to sting, though this has not been test-ed scientifically.

Some beekeepers believe that the more stings a bee-keeper receives, the less irritation each causes, and they consider it important for safety of the bee-keeper to be stung a few times a season. Beekeepers have high levels of antibodies (mainly IgG) reacting to the major antigen of bee venom, phospholipase.

The natural beekeeping movement believes that modern beekeeping and agricultural practices, such as crop spraying, hive movement, frequent hive inspections, arti-ficial insemination of queens, routine medication, and sugar water feeding, weaken bee hives.

We must protect the bees. Without them humankind and the earth will perish. Recent headlines indicate tht 42% of honeybee hives in the U.S. died in the past year. According to Dennis vanEngelsdorp of the University of Maryland, "a combination of mites, poor nutrition and pesticides are to blame for the bee deaths."

Some solutions to this dilemma include regulating the offensive pesticides and designat-ing areas across the country for bee-keeping.



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

