

Old Stuff

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Antiques, Collectibles, History and Nostalgia for the Pacific Northwest

By Rusty Rae
Old Stuff Associate Editor

Vintage, antique and collectable shops of Old Stuff nation survived both the COVID-19 closure and a devastating mid-February winter storm that left many sans power for up to a week. With the winter weather behind us and COVID-19 vaccinations ramping up in the Pacific Northwest, many are preparing for an improved business climate over the next three months.

There have been a few changes in addresses over the last three months. **Nielsen's Antiques**, a classic red barn in Amity for many years, has moved to new digs in Sutherlin, Oregon. Dale Nielsen sold the property to his next door neighbor who will use the barn for their farming activities. Nielsen said the operation in Sutherlin isn't quite ready for prime time as of April. "We've moved everything out of the main barn but still have some items in other buildings. We're kind of waiting to finish up our COVID shots and see how things go," he said.

In Auburn, Washington, Carly Willis reports the opening of **Antique Marketplace** has been a strong success. She said the store has done steady business since opening with 90 vendors. She said they were looking forward to their first promotional event, a March Madness sale, and once they saw how it did, they were considering another event in July. The store is located in the old JOANN Fabrics store on

Howard Road in Auburn.

Notes of the demise of the **Purple Pelican** in Florence are premature. Though the previous owner was set to shutter the shop and had sold the cases and shelving, the building owner, Russ Luker, decided to try his hand at the business and it remains open. Previous owner Mike Ault said the mall was nearly 7,000 square feet in two buildings, but it's currently down to one building and about 4,000 square feet. "We've got a few items in a booth



so we'll keep doing our own thing, Auld said.

Melonie Rolling, the senior manager of the store, said that while the store went to restricted hours during street construction in Florence and the COVID lockdown, they've established normal hours of 11-5 pm and are looking to be open seven days a week by April. She reports they have 26 vendors and are looking forward to a strong spring.

Like many in Oregon, Joy Basl of **JJ's Ranch Shop** notes they played dodg'em with Oak trees on the property in Scio. Fortunately

no major damage to structures, but she notes, "We had a number of trees that had various limbs come down in the storm in February. We've been working hard to get the place back in shape." Basl noted she hasn't been doing a great deal of shopping for new product during the first quarter of 2021, but with good weather on the way is looking forward to a "big spring sale."

On the flip side of the weather coin, Tracy Bennett of the **Farmer's Co-op Antiques** in Redmond,

her, partly due to road construction in the area, partly due to the pandemic, and partly due to a lack of energy on her part. "I'm 78 and I never know when I'm feeling up to opening the store," she said. She said the signs are out, so if you're in the Aloha-Hillsboro-Beaverton area, stop by and brighten her day.

We love talking with wisenheimers like Dan Borge of **Wild River Antiques** in Brookings, Oregon. When asked how the first quarter had been going for him, he answered, "A total disaster!" Then after a suitable pause added, "I'm just joking. We've really had a great first quarter and have actually seen a rise in sales."

The secret to Borge's success is his entrepreneurial spirit and the ability to think a little out of the box.

"First, I read the regulations very carefully and since we sell dishes, silverware, and pots and pans – admittedly vintage – but they're still usable – I was able to stay open since could prove we were a store that met the rules for exceptions," he said.

"Of course, we did sanitizer and masking. We didn't have a rush of people, but we did have some awesome days," he said.

Borge delivered other good news – there are two or three new vintage and collectable shops opening in his area. He said they're not quite ready to open, but added, "Pacific Treasures, Antiques, and Collectables should open in the Brookings area in the very near future."

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Old Stuff magazine wants to know more about what's happening in the Northwest antiques and collectibles world. Send press releases or news items of interest to oldstuffnews@gmail.com. Want to contribute or have a story idea? Email us; we'd love to chat about it. See story on pages five and 15 that came to us from South End Antiques in Aurora, Oregon and the Purple Pelican in Florence.

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'OFF THE WALL' FUNK ARTIST REMEMBERED

By Ossie Bladine

A recent edition of Terry and Kim Kovel's syndicated collectibles column recently sparked a personal response from a reader when it ran in Old Stuff sibling publication, the News-Register, the community newspaper for Yamhill County.

"Sometimes modern art is hard to understand, and often it is meant to be a joke," started the column highlighting the work of David Gilhooly, known a founder and father of The Funk Cermic Movement of the Bay Area in the 1960s. "Almost all his sculptures were fantasies, meant to be funny or have a satirical message. He sculpted frogs in salads, wedding cakes, pizzas, frying pans and with hats."

Gilhooly (I find it amusing that his name sounds like a satirical take on Chihuly), died in 2013 while living in Newport, Oregon. As two readers noted, he lived about 15 years in the Dayton / McMinnville, Oregon area.

"Looking back he was probably the most open and accepting person I had ever met, just being around him made you look at things differently," wrote Terry and Jody Lucich. "He was smart, funny, kind, generous and totally off the wall."

The News-Register did a short story on Gilhooly when he was exhibiting his work at the nearby Linfield College art gallery. When our reporter asked what people should expect from the show, he quipped, "I don't even like to talk about it. It's impossible to describe. ... You'll never see anything like it. And you'll never forget it - unless you just don't care about it."

The artist described his pieces as narratives meant to poke fun at the world -- his world. And

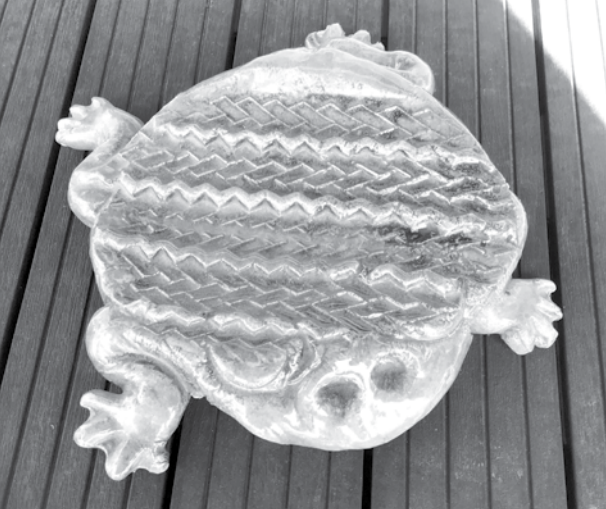
it's easy to see why his work remains popular, and therefore collectible. His creations were crafted with doses of whimsy and hints of unsettledness. And they are utterly unique.

Most of his sculptures shown on the online art marketplace invaluable.com are estimated in the \$1,000 to \$2,000 range. Although a 34-inch tall totem made of ceramic hotdogs and hamburgers is estimated at \$10,000 to \$15,000.

For the Lucichs of Dayton, the value of one Gilhooly piece can't be measured in dollars.

"One day he asked Terry if he could borrow a tire, didn't matter which one," they wrote, "so Terry took one over to him and a few days later David was laughing as he handed me the cherished piece of art pictured here. ... He loved selling his art or giving it to people he found entertaining."

Sounds like one of a kind.



ON THE COVER: A side table from the Aurora Colony with its distinctive legs shows off the craftsmanship of members of the Colony who ultimately were required to make everything the residents needed to survive. On the table is one of the distinctive Aurora Colony baskets. The background of this composite is a photo of the Colony back in the late 1800s. Photo and composite by Old Stuff Associate Editor Rusty Rae.

COLONY CRAFTSMEN FURNITURE NOT AS WELL KNOWN AS SHAKER, BUT STILL CONSIDERED TOP DRAWER WORK

By Old Stuff staff

Though not as well known as Shaker movables, furniture from the Aurora Colony provides insight into the colony craftsmen who produced a variety of handmade items including cabinets, wardrobes and chest crates, benches, and chests. In addition to the woodworking, the colony men were also known for their creative woven baskets. There are many relics remaining today, which for some have become collecting treasures.

There were actually a number of artisans who produced a wide range of products the community needed for everyday life. From blacksmiths producing a wide range of steel products, to quilters

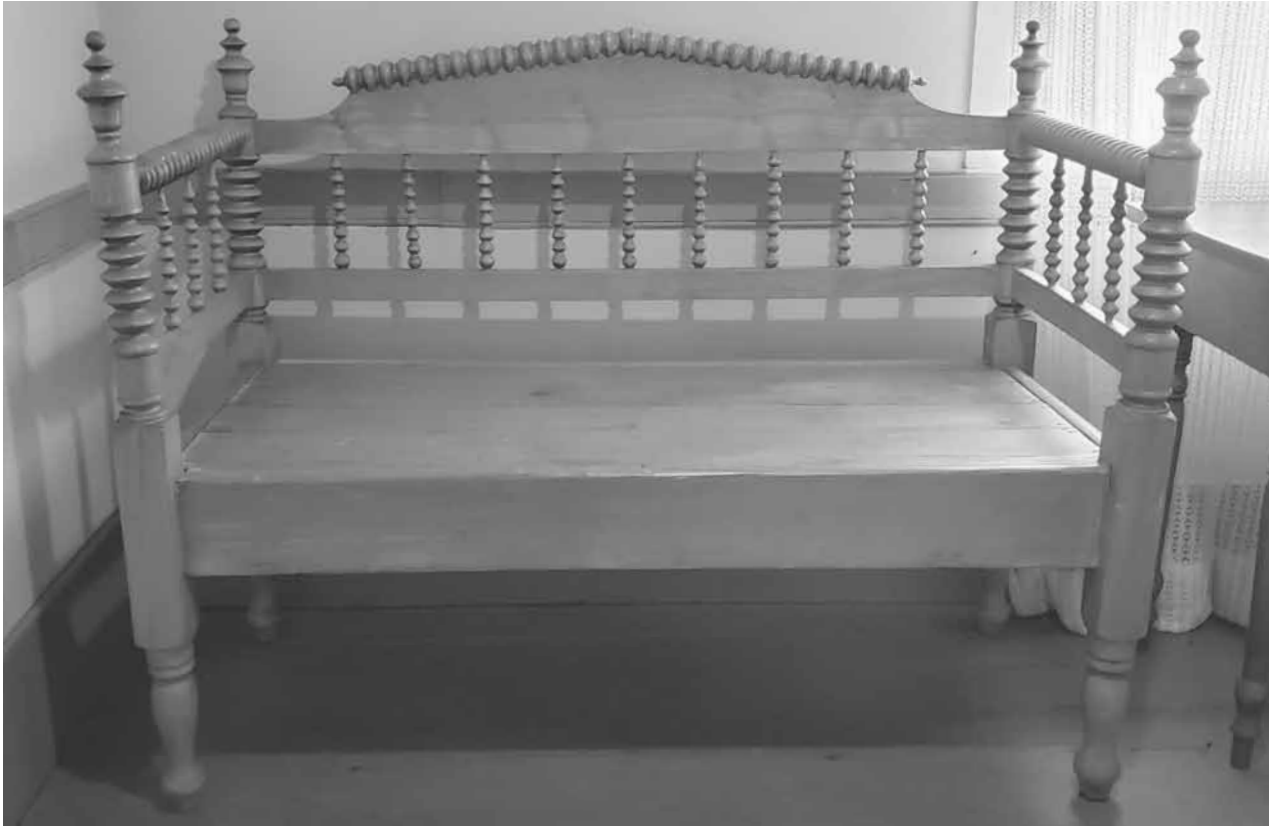


PHOTO JENNIFER BURNS, AURORA COLONY MUSEUM

A sample of the multi-faceted work that went into Aurora Colony furniture shows both the pediment that topped the back and the turned spindles.

who made exquisite blankets, to other craftsmen who built spinning wheels and looms allowing for production of their own fabric. Each, in their own way, helped

to make the Aurora Colony a successful commune.

Aurora Colony furniture is known for its simple, straight lines embellished by the pediments

that topped cabinets, wardrobes and chests. Magnificent turned spindles decorate many of the items as well and are a telltale sign of Aurora Colony craftsmanship.

The Colony's seven or eight furniture craftsmen had their own workshop overlooking the community on a nearby hill. Their woodworking was only part-time, because farming and other tasks took priority. And although individual craftsmen didn't always leave their mark on their pieces, the Colony style was distinctive.

Commenting on the craftsmanship that went into making cradles, George McNamee noted, "If you look closely where the knots were, they split the wood

and put a wedge through it, so the knot portion would not fall out when the wood dried. They wedged them in – if you look at the edges here where they mitered the corners, they were so tight they didn't use glue. They were so tight, they were fitted in by hand, so tight that I couldn't take it apart – so I took the rockers off, and the rockers were flat on the bottom, the rocker has a little curl on the end where they used to put their foot when they sat up at night."

The Colonists constructed a variety of tools and machines to assist their furniture making. These included a large lathe for turning and carving posts, a shaving bench used as a clamp for shaving shingles or tree limbs, and a wide variety of wood planes, augers,

and clamps.

The importance of baskets to the Colony can be seen in the number and variety of surviving baskets. While basket weaving was not considered a primary job among Colony members, it appears to have been a regular daily activity as these items were made as needed.

Baskets were crafted for gathering fruits and vegetables, carrying laundry, raising dough and other similar tasks. They are well-made and are reminiscent of other German styles that occur in eastern American communities.

Oral tradition indicates that Aurora's many baskets were primarily crafted by men and that John Ehlen (1799-1882) was the leader of the crew. Ehlen is always listed as a farmer in the census, an occupation that would allow time during the off season to work on baskets.

Even though Aurora baskets have a wide variety of rims and bindings they are usually quite easy to spot and have a distinctive style. A rim was either single wrapped with splint or double wrapped for additional strength. This double wrapping is quite common and is known as an X binding. The larger baskets often feature an open weave because it allowed any moisture or water to run off and air to circulate within the basket.



A chair with basket, both made by Colony craftsmen, and a loom, displayed at the Aurora Colony Museum.



'PUTZING' AROUND PUTZ HOUSES

Story and photos by Virginia Warren
South End Antiques

Putz houses have been around since about 1928 and continued to be popular well past WWII. These are tiny houses full of glitter but made from sturdy paper. The name "Putz" is derived from the German word "Putzen" which means to "decorate or adorn."

The tradition of creating these little Putz villages began in central Europe. People would save little bits and pieces of items they could use to decorate and construct these little houses.

It is amazing to me that they last as long as they do! I am familiar with Christmas putz houses but, I found these darling Easter houses just in time for spring.

I am sure these little Easter or spring pieces are contemporary so am sure they are still being made today.



A selection of Putz Houses set up at South End Antiques in Aurora, Oregon.

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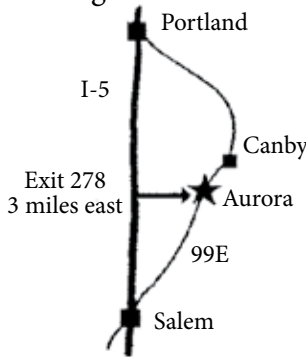
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Aurora has made the TOP TEN of Best Antiquing Towns in the US by four online sources, MSN.com, the TravelChannel.com, HouseBeautiful.com and CountryLiving.com.

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ONLINE BIDDING DRIVES UP PRICES OF VINTAGE SIGNS

By Terry and Kim Kovel



Unusual advertising pieces are considered folk art or "interesting" and "decorative," although in the 1950s ads were only used in kitchens, playrooms or lavatories. Today they are featured as art, which is why this sign sold for over \$1,000.

Vintage advertising signs, figures, toys, printed textiles, food tins and labeled bottles are all selling at higher and higher prices. Large signs with pictures of flags, Lady Liberty, figural packages, tins, toys and almost anything with a famous company logo that is in great condition is selling over-estimate at auctions.

Online bidding has made it possible to offer advertising pieces to an international market with many bidders.

This tin black and white sign in a wooden frame was used to advertise a man who repaired phonographs

and sewing machines in the early 1900s. A decorator or collector could hang this vintage sign in a living room or kitchen. The eye-catching, 30-by-21-inch sign auctioned for \$1,080 in Massachusetts at Eldred's Auctioneers.

I'm looking for the value of Royal Albert Old Country Roses dinnerware. I have a complete set and can't find any information about it. Can you help?

The Albert Works was established in Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, in 1846. The pottery was granted a Royal Warrant from Queen Victoria in 1897 and the name of

the company became Royal Albert in 1904. Old Country Roses was introduced in 1962. The company claims it's the best-selling pattern in the world. Over 150 million pieces have been sold. The pattern is still being made. A five-piece place setting, previously used, sells on online for \$40 to \$50.

I have a complete set of Uncle Wiggily books by Howard R. Garis. There are nine books, 10 stories in each one, copyright 1943 by John Sherman Bragg. They're in good condition. Do they have any value?

Howard R. Garis (1873-1962), a reporter and writer for the Newark Evening News, began writing stories about a rabbit named Uncle Wiggily Longears in January 1910. A new story was published in the newspaper every day except Sunday until 1947, when Garis retired. He wrote more than 15,000 stories for the newspaper. The stories were first published in a book in 1913. Seventy-nine books of Uncle Wiggily stories were published. Uncle Wiggily books with 10 stories sell for about \$5 to \$10 each. The price depends on condition and how early it was published.



Taking a break from their rounds of visiting the many antique and collectible shops in Aurora, Lauran Vandereems of St. Louis, Missouri, and her granddaughter, Etta, use one of the blue benches that are a part of the Emma's Walk for their rest.

Destination: Aurora

Where collectors find variety is the spice of life

Story and photos by Rusty Rae

If, as poet William Cowper wrote, "Variety is the spice of life," then Aurora, Oregon, represents a zestful opportunity for vintage collectors of all flavors.

Located midway between Portland and Salem, a short drive off I-5, the city brings together a slice of Oregon state history and an eclectic group of classic collectible stores which many antique collectors find is a slice of antique heaven.

Originally known as the Aurora Colony, or Aurora Mills, it was one of the most successful religious

communes west of the Rockies. Founded in 1856 on the Pudding River by Wilhelmina Keil, a German immigrant, the Aurora Colony at one time was home to more than 600 souls who followed the basic Christian ideals of Kiel that were driven by the Christian Reformation that swept the country at the time.

Named after Keil's daughter (who died as the result of a smallpox epidemic in 1862), Aurora became known for its music, orchards, textiles, orchards, furniture, food, and its communal lifestyle with its German traditions.

With the death of Keil's only remaining daughter



One of the major sites to see when visiting Aurora, the Aurora Colony Museum offers a glimpse of communal life in the colony.

ter in 1870, Keil, who had purchased the land on which the Aurora Colony was built, began transfer of the land to a group of trustees. In 1877 Keil died suddenly before he

Aurora incorporated with many of the colony descendants continuing to reside in the area.

The city of Aurora is now more than 125 years old, and continues to thrive. To many it's a shining jewel for vintage collectors and history buffs alike. While both the variety and number of vintage enterprises is enough to draw those looking for that special item, Aurora offers the opportunity for a day — or more — searching for that special item, and at the same time offers a variety of other activities to keep the entire family happy.

There's more to the vintage haven than meets the



Aurora Mills Architecture Salvage is housed in the former grain and seed mill complex just as you arrive at Aurora.

eye. It's a community that appears to have been infused by the DNA from the original commune. Store owners and staff are customer-focused and go out of their way to help patrons find what they're looking, even if it means sending them to a store up the street.

While everyone so far has met the pandemic challenge creatively, Jan Peel notes there is plenty of open space between stores and many of the stores are large enough to easily allow safe shopping. And yes, masks are required per state regulations.

Peel adds, "We've been listed in several magazines (House Beautiful for one) as one of the top 10 towns in the United States for vintage and antique shopping."

With more than 20 vintage shops to choose from, space doesn't allow us to write about everyone — but here's a thumbnail on several we visited one weekend.

At Home Again Antiques, Peel, with 25 years of experience in the business, said her shop offers authentic American Country Furniture along with East Coast baskets, stoneware, folk art and country primitive items.

Peel sees the community diversifying with new shops being added to the mix on a regular basis. She notes, "We all specialize in something slightly different so we can work together for the good of the

customer and the community."

One of the first stores you'll run into as you come from the Donald/I-5 exit is Aurora Mills Architecture Salvage, located in a 19th century grain and seed mill complex, which was part of the original Aurora Mills colony.

Walking into this proud old building transports one back more than a 100 years in time. Contained within its walls are a variety of what Katybeth Allen calls the best old stuff on the West Coast.

By old stuff she means the largest inventory of antique salvage materials perfect for restorations or that impeccable period piece for a man cave or rec room.

You'll find everything from vintage doors and door knobs to lumber and everything in-between. But,

Allen notes, "It's really an immersive experience. Maybe you don't buy anything — and that's okay — we embrace all who are interested in the preservation of architectural history."

If you're looking for an antique lamp, another great old and massive building is proprietor Les Lingsheit's Aurora Lampworks and Antiques. You'll not only find general antique items, but a passel of to-die-for lamps and antique lamp parts.

The building is the former Aurora train depot. Take a breath and close your eyes and you might hear the steam engine-powered train pull into the station.

Not only that, but if you're patient, Les will likely fill you in on the latest news of the day and give you a great story about his days in racing — be sure to ask him about



Located in the former Aurora train depot, Aurora Lampworks and Antiques offer a wide range of antique lamps and parts for refurbishment among its many items, such as the lamps shown below.

the time he thought he'd become a water-ski racer.

New to the area, but not necessarily to the vintage collection business, is Connie Lafarge at Main Street Mercantile. Lafarge dabbled in the business for many years and was a vendor at one of the antique parlors in McMinnville, Oregon.

She took over the shop in January, 2021, after 30 years working as a paralegal. "I visited the shop when there was a retirement sale going on and one thing led to another and here I am.

"I've always loved the hunting process and finding that special item. So this is a natural progression," she said.

Of the business she notes, "This is an iconic business in Aurora that's been here for decades. We cater to all the gener-



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You'll find many unusual items among the standard salvage items at Architectural Salvage, like these metal drawers -- with no extra charge for the classic rust pattern.

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Found at South End Antiques, this blue plate special is one of many sets found there.

ations with a wide variety of items," she said.

One booth at the Main Street Mercantile that caught our attention was a bookseller. The booth had a wide variety of books for all ages and genres at prices that are better than an eBay deal.

Today she has 30 vendors and adds, "I'm always looking for more."

A bit away from the

main conglomerate of stores is South End Antiques where Teresa Nootenboom says she has a mix of antique furniture and a wide range of other collectible items in the 18,000-square-foot building.

In her 17th year in the shop, she calls the items shabby chic and says there are 30 vendors who bring a great range of items to the store.

"We pride ourselves on having large booths that people can walk through easily without worrying about knocking something over," she said.

And when it comes to diversity of choice, look no further than Tin and Paisley and The Blue Alley Salon and Gift Shop. There you can explore a broad range of items and schedule an appointment a salon appointment for many hair treatments. Where else but Aurora.

Tin and Paisley owner Angela Walker offers a wide range of clothing along with her salon. Walker notes that she sees the area diversifying and broadening in its appeal to those looking to get away for an easy day trip.

Three new faces to Aurora, mom April and her two daughters Kayla and Mackenzie Marcell,



The Three Daisies -- Mom, April Marcell in the center, flanked by daughters Kayla and Mackenzie -- their shop offers everything from hipster to farmhouse chic. It's a happy place for them and customers.



Karen Townsend's (above) Time After Time offers a wide range of items including antique silverware and dishes as well as soaps and lotions

opened Three Daisies Vintage in June of 2020. Though new to Aurora, the three are no strangers to the vintage and collectible business.

Moving from Arizona, April said she came from a family of antique dealers and had her own shop there for seven years previously. "Both daughters worked in antique malls during their college days," she said.

April and her other two daisies find Aurora a welcoming environment and they appreciate the sense of community developed there.

She describes the Three Daisies Vintage shop as offering everything from hipster to farmhouse chic to collectibles. The store has 10 vendors and there's sense of peacefulness upon entering.

"It's definitely our happy place and we hope it's that way for others. Of course for



If you're looking for that special vintage lamp -- like this Moss Lamp, you'll find many to choose from at Timeless Antiques.

me, personally, it's really wonderful to work alongside my daughters," she said.

At Time After Time, Karen Townsend

offers a broad range of gift shop items that includes soaps and lotions along with a selection of antiques which comprise of



At Gloria Tanner's Aurora Antiques you'll find a fabulous collection of jewelry and many other antique items. Pictures Gloria with a George Jensen silver team set.



If you decide to take Emma's Walk, watch for these blue benches -- reproductions of Colony styles. Back in the day the benches were painted many bright colors, but this Prussian blue was often the choice for painted furniture by Colony craftsmen.

dishes and furniture items.

If you're looking for classic vintage jewelry Aurora Antiques will entice you with a broad selection. Owner Gloria Tanner said, "I just love jewelry. I fell in love with white gold filigree diamond rings and that's what started it all."

The shop also features mid-century modern furniture and

you'll also see a great selection of Depression glass and other vintage glassware.

One of her prize items in the store on consignment is a George Jensen Sterling Silver tea service.

Adding a dose of art history to the mix is Historic Art & Services. Sean Moen brings to life more than 100 pieces of vintage and historical artwork including



Sean Moen in the gallery with some of his favorites.

paintings and photographs that cover a wide range of genres and styles. It's like getting admittance to art museum, only Sean will give you a detailed history of every piece in the shop if you so desire.

Moen also offers appraisals for art work -- if you've found an old painting in the attic during your pandemic downtime cleaning party and want to know what it might be worth, Moen

can assist with pricing. He also provides framing and restoration services.

Art History students take note: if you're looking for an extra credit project, this is the place to go to find the unique image to write about.

Not far from Moen's is a popular stop that has little to do with collectibles or antiques -- Pacific Hazelnut Candy Factory where you can find many assort-

ments of hazelnuts. They've taken the simple hazelnut to the next level -- my favorite is the chocolate-covered hazelnuts.

No tour of Aurora would complete without a stop at the Pheasant Run Tasting Room, housed in the Aurora Bank Building which was originally built for the 1905 Portland World's Fair (also known as the Lewis & Clark Centennial Exposition).

The building has been restored and is a great place for a glass wine or just to visit. Don't worry, you won't be locked in the vault.

Additionally, as you jump off the freeway and head to Aurora, don't miss Aurora Colony Vineyards & Winery. You can stop on the way in, if you're fashionably late, or on the way home. It features a great tast-



Carl McKnight with the bank vault in the background serves up their label to thirsty Aurora patrons.

MILLER'S ANTIQUES

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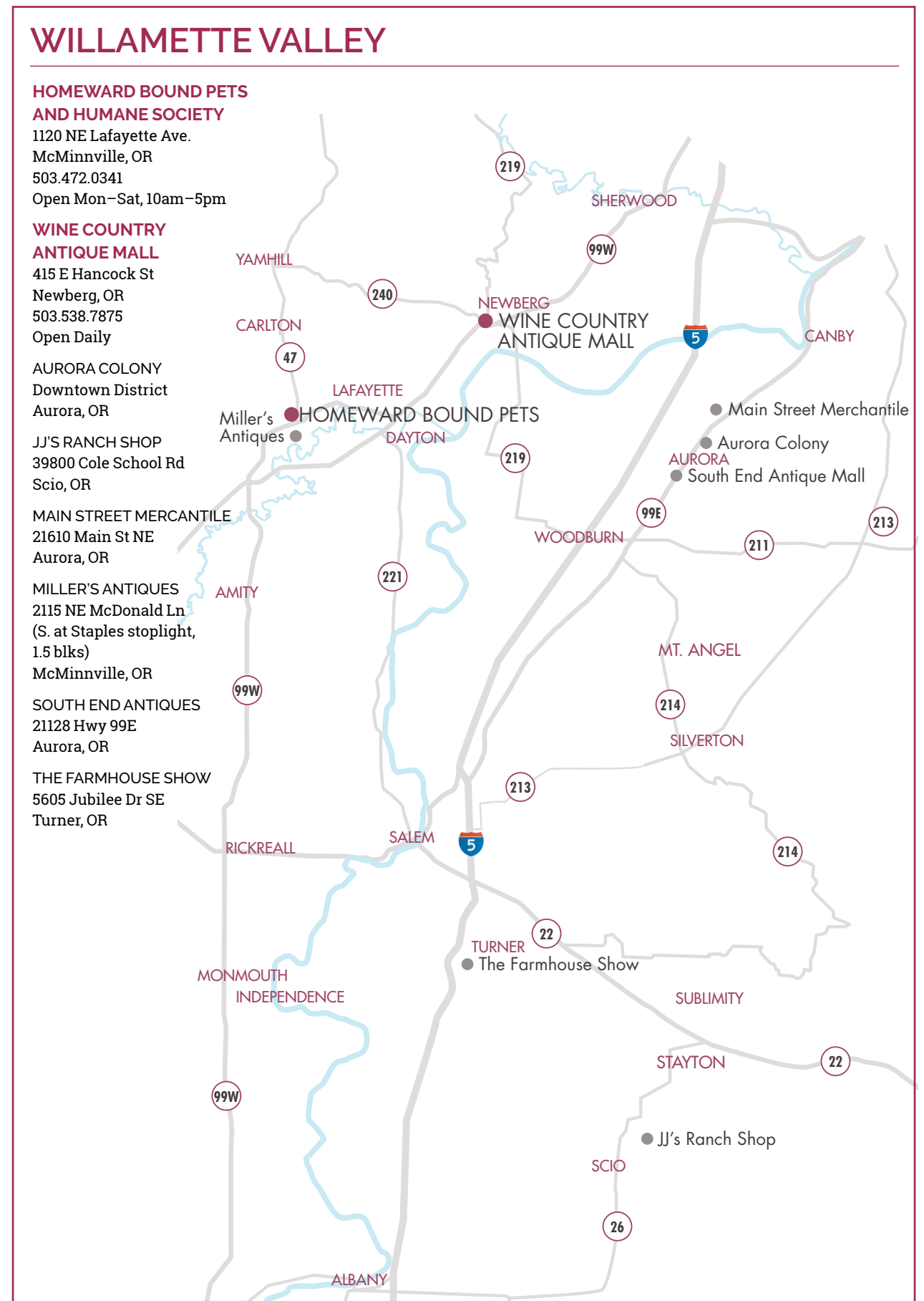
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Filberts Farmhouse Kitchen offers a trip back in time both with respect to the ambiance and cuisine. The dining room, bar, and kitchen were built on the back of Moher House, which was erected in 1865. For an on the go treat try the White Rabbit below (left and right) where staff bakes a variety of sweets, such as these chocolate cupcakes. **Bottom right:** For a family picnic Fir Point Farms offers great sandwiches and lunches, an outdoor area and a petting zoo.



ing room and open spaces outside for a worry free tasting experience. If you've become hungry during your hike through the

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which features delicious pastries as well as an assortment of filling sandwiches, all prepared on home-made bread. At the Aurora Colony Pub there's a broad fare – that begins with breakfast if you show up early and includes a full lunch and dinner menu. And as a pub, you obviously can order your favorite barley pop. It's a classic Aurora eatery. If you're looking to savor a bit more history with your meal, try Filbert's Farmhouse Kitchen, which was constructed as an addition to the original Mohler farmhouse, built in 1865. The new building was designed to emulate the historic colonial architecture of the original house. The

sic American comfort food executed with culinary expertise and farmhouse flavor. At its core the menu focuses on fresh products from the local area such as made from scratch meat-loaf, pork chops, and cornbread. If you're really ready to dive into the history of the Aurora Colony, then a stop at the Aurora Colony Museum is a must (see adjacent story.) The Museum gives insight into the colony and settler life in the mid-1800s. While you're visting the museum, or at any of the shops you might be visiting, be sure to get a copy of Walk with Emma. It's a guided trip through the history of the Aurora Colony through visitations to the many buildings from the colony still standing today, many which are today's emporiums of collectibles. Emma Geisy was one of the original settlers who made the 2,000-mile trek west with the first group of settlers looking for a new place for the colony. The guided walk gives additional insight to the way of life in the Aurora Colony. And if that's not enough, within the city of Aurora there is a great city park with a nice playground and disc golf course where the family can go to relax or for the kids to run off a little pent-up energy. Finally, for the kids –



Aurora has become on the leading communities for antique and vintage collectors. Many of the businesses are located in former buildings from the Aurora Colony for a true walk through history while finding heirloom or relic for your collection.

AURORA COLONY MUSEUM A MUST-SEE STOP

By Rusty Rae
Old Stuff Associate Editor

No trip to Aurora is complete without a visit to the Old Aurora Colony museum. The museum, housed in buildings from the commune, gives insight into the daily life of Aurora Colonists and is an example of larger settlement experience in Oregon. Museum Director Jennifer Burns, who succeeded long time director Patrick Harry, who passed away a year ago April as the result of a stroke, year, took the helm of the organization at the first year and has weathered both the pandemic and the February winter storm that left the area without power for more than a week. Burns brings a wealth of experience in the area

of museum management and said she's always loved museums. One area of expertise and interest is developing exhibits that engage the public and help to interpret history. "Patrick did so much important research – I really wish I could have had a mind meld with him," she added. In addition, Burns said she's interested in further developing the preservation and research center located at another site the museum owns. The museum features several exhibits which tell the story of the colony and the rough and tumble days of pre-Oregon statehood. One popular exhibit is the colony's musical instrument collection. Included in the

display are unique instruments of the day not commonly seen. There's also a great exhibit quilts that are featured from the museum's collection of more than 100. Also on display is Aurora founder Dr. Wilhelmina Kiel's bible and a great story about Willy Keil, Dr. Keil's son who was embalmed using colony whiskey and whose body was then carried on the Oregon trail from Bethel, Missouri to Aurora. Those who visit the museum also have the opportunity to view a video on the colony and its history as well as walk the museum grounds which offer the opportunity for a picnic as well as seeing some of the classic artifacts of the colony



Jennifer Burns, who assumed the executive director's role in January poses with one the artifacts of the Aurora Colony. She brings significant experience to an already robust volunteer staff. Behind her is one of exhibits of the Colony's well-known band. **At right:** A close-up of one of the famed instruments from the band.

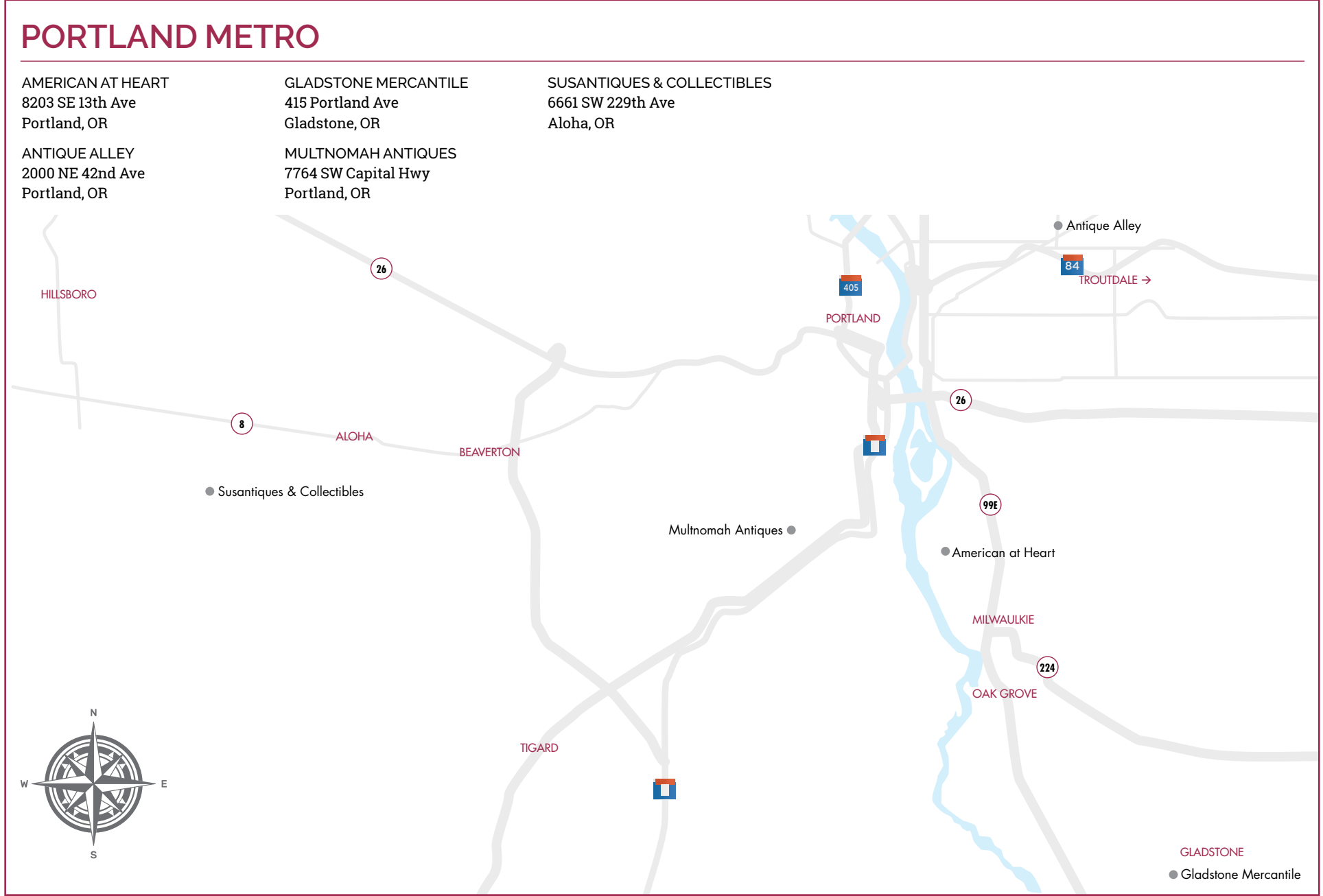


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METEORITES AND MOON ROCK BRING HEAVENLY PRICES

BY ANNE GILBERT

What would you pay for a piece of a mineral fragment from the moon? While minerals have been collected as decorative objects beginning in antiquity a new spin includes meteorite minerals. They are chunks of metal and stone that come in all shapes and sizes. In rare cases meteorites can contain material older than the solar system that experts say formed 4.6 billion years ago. Sure, they may be ugly compared to such minerals as jade and crystal, but small versions are still displayed as art. When meteorites sell at auction prices can be over a million dollars depending on their size and history.

What turns a meteorite buyer on? One thing is the thrill of owning something possibly older than the solar system, which formed 4.6 billion years ago. Others love the crystalline, jewelry-look and turn them into everything from jewelry to sculptures.

A Christies auction in London offered the 5th largest piece of the moon, weighing 29 pounds. It sold for 37,500 British pounds (\$51,421.87 American dollars.) At the same auction a two inch by one inch moon fragment fetched \$30,000. More proof there is a developing

collector market for metal and stone objects from outer space. According to James Hyslop, head of the science and natural history department at Christies, London auction Gallery, interest in meteorites rose dramatically after the 1933 movie "Jurassic Park, which created a demand for dinosaur fossils and other ancient collectibles.

"Moon rock is among the rarest substances on earth, with less than A650 kg. of lunar meteorites known to exist," Hyslop noted. "Lunar meteorites arrived on earth after

having been blasted off the lunar surface by the collision with an asteroid or comet. All of the moons large craters were created by such impacts.

Earlier in August, at a Heritage Auction in Dallas, a 5-pound chunk of Mars fetched \$162,500.

The Chinese have been using such minerals as jade and carnelian as carved decorative, functional and ceremonial objects for centuries. Artisans have been creating jewelry, sculptures and petrified wood into

works of art ever since. In Victorian times there were mother-of-pearl calling card cases, malachite boxes and marble specimen vases.

In the 1960s craftsmen were polishing slabs of petrified wood and agate and mounting them as sculptures. Petrified wood specimens were imbedded into table tops. Mineral and fossil specimens were turned into lamp bases.

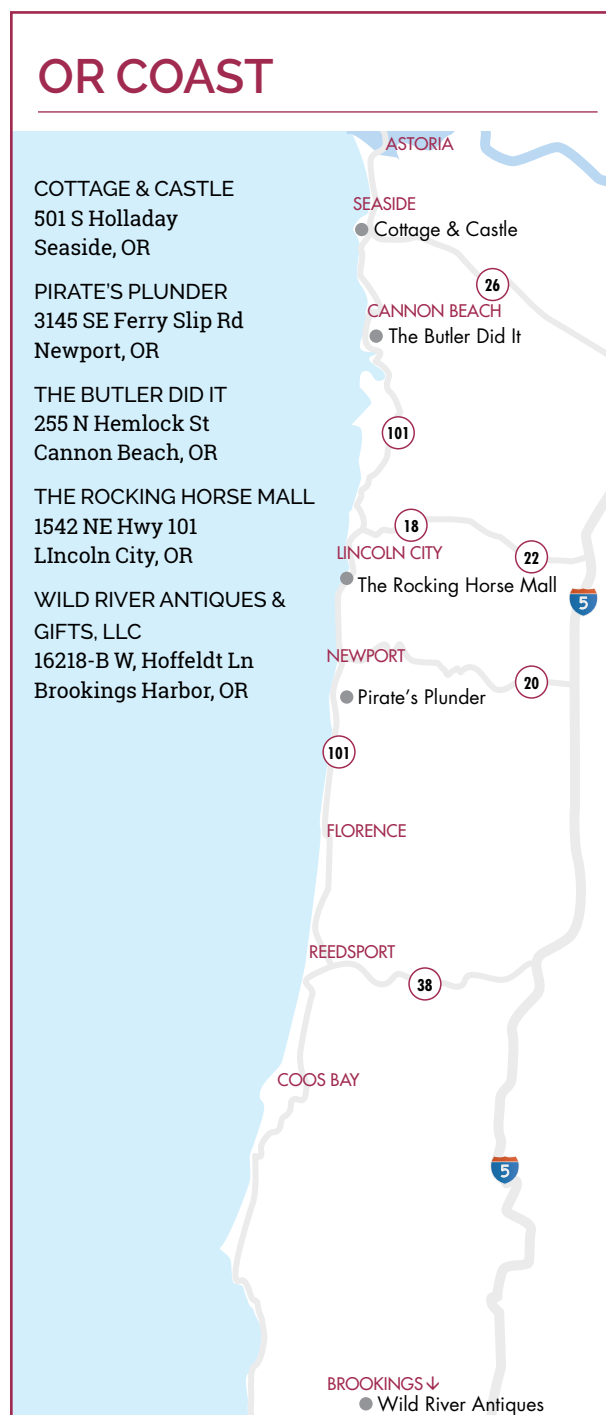
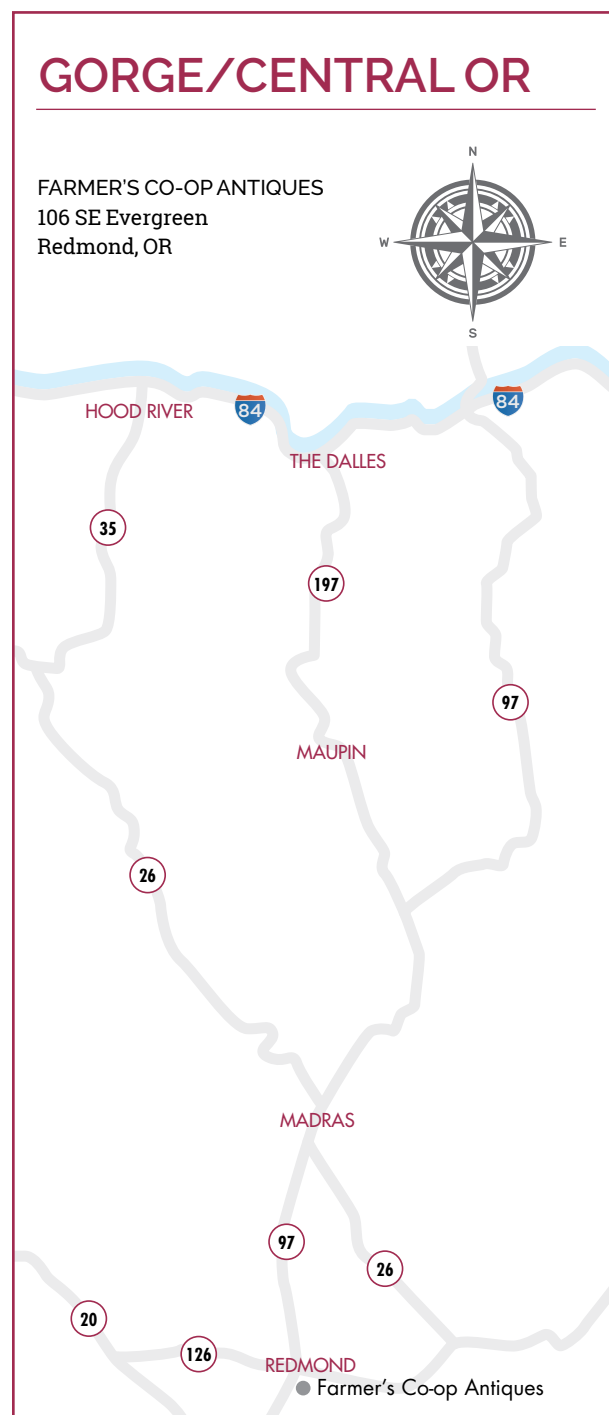
Minerals were used in 19th century jewelry, but not in their raw form. Using them in their natural form, jagged edges and all became popular in the 1970s; pieces were created for Princess Margaret by Andrew Grima, an English designer specializing in minerals. Many of the pieces mixed minerals with precious metals. An example is a Cartier fish brooch, Paris c. 1900 combining gold, tourmaline and aquamarine.

In the mid-20th century lapidary decorative accessories were created as part of the studio art movement.

CLUES: There are many different types of objects in this category to collect made from minerals. Among them perfume bottles, seashells, boxes, agate slices, boxes, sculptures and raw specimens. You never know when a meteorite will turn up in your back yard.



A petrified wood coffee table is a popular item; **Right bottom:** a meteorite which has been turned into a nifty table sculpture. **Right Top:** A jade sculpture.



20 MULE TEAM BORAX BEGAN LIFE ON OREGON'S ALVORD DESERT

The name "Twenty Mule Team Borax" was familiar to every home maker in the 1920s and 1930s. It originated in Eastern Oregon's high desert country, and it ushered in one of the Northwest's most colorful mining operations.

From 1898 to 1907 borax was commercially mined on the Alvord Desert in Southeast Oregon. In an area of hot springs and Hot Lake, the borax formed naturally on the hot surface of the desert.

When an enterprising railroad employee heard about the alkali deposits in the Alvord Valley, he went to investigate.

With another fellow who had been mining borax in Nevada, the pair purchased 3,000 acres of desert for a reported sale price of \$7,000 and began operations.

Mining began under the name "Twenty Mule Team Borax Company." Unfortunately, the partners did not register the name, and California borax company that did register it later won the litigation over the right to use the name.

After this, the Oregon company was known as the Rose Valley Borax Company. probably because of the wild roses which grew around the hot springs.

During their best years. the Oregon company produced as much as 10,000 pounds of borax a day. This was obtained through a boiling process to reduce the borax to crystals.

About 30 Chinese laborers were brought in and two steel tanks were installed alongside Hot Lake. These tanks were filled with



Twenty-Mule Team Boraxo was born on the Alvord Desert near the turn of the 20th century. Those mule teams that hauled the soap out of the desert became a famous icon, today a collectible item.

the 97-degree water from the lake and then further heated with sagebrush fires while the mixture was stirred.

The laborers tended the fires, did the stirring and poured the

galvanized crystal-lizing tanks. It took about six days for the boric acid to crystallize on the sides of the tank.

It was then collected, rinsed, and placed in piles on the ground to

After this it was bagged in 90-pound sacks, and loaded on to wagons.

From 20 to 24 mules were required to pull the heavy wagons to the nearest railway at Winemucca. It was

from these "jerk-linemule teams" that the original name of the company and the colorful muleskinner tales came.

Old record indicate the laborers were paid \$1.50 per day for

their labors, and were provided with living quarters in the sod houses on the property. They worked seven days a week, but were given time off to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

The company was sold in 1902 and continued to operate until 1907.

A long-running anthology series of true tales from the Old West was sponsored by the 20-mule team Borax from 1952-70. Former president Ronald Reagan served as host, along with many other famous stars over the show's 18-year run.

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PRESIDENTIAL ITEMS TELL ELECTION STORY, COUNTRY'S INNAUGURAL HISTORY

BY ANNE GILBERT

In this Presidential election year you can bet that thousands of items related to the candidates will be made. It's been that way since George Washington was inaugurated. Amazingly, hundreds of early presidential objects have survived. Everybody knows about the mass produced campaign buttons, cartoons and novelties. But, what about other categories such as pipes made in presidential images? Or, elegant White House dinner china and paperweights? My research turned up some surprising results.

While clay pipes were made in America in Philadelphia as early as 1690, their manufacture spread across the country. They were made of red and white clay, wherever clay deposits were found. By the 19th century face

pipes of Presidents were made, beginning with President George Washington from 1850-1855, not in America, but in Germany, France and Holland. They were sent to states around the U.S. When a rare example is up for sale, the price can be high. Recently a clay face pipe of President Abraham Lincoln that originally sold for pennies, sold on eBay for \$800.00, dealer priced.

Oregon archeologist Elizabeth Thompson's research turned up discoveries in Oregon. The earliest discovered at sites there include George Washington. Other Presidents uncovered were Taylor and Fillmore.

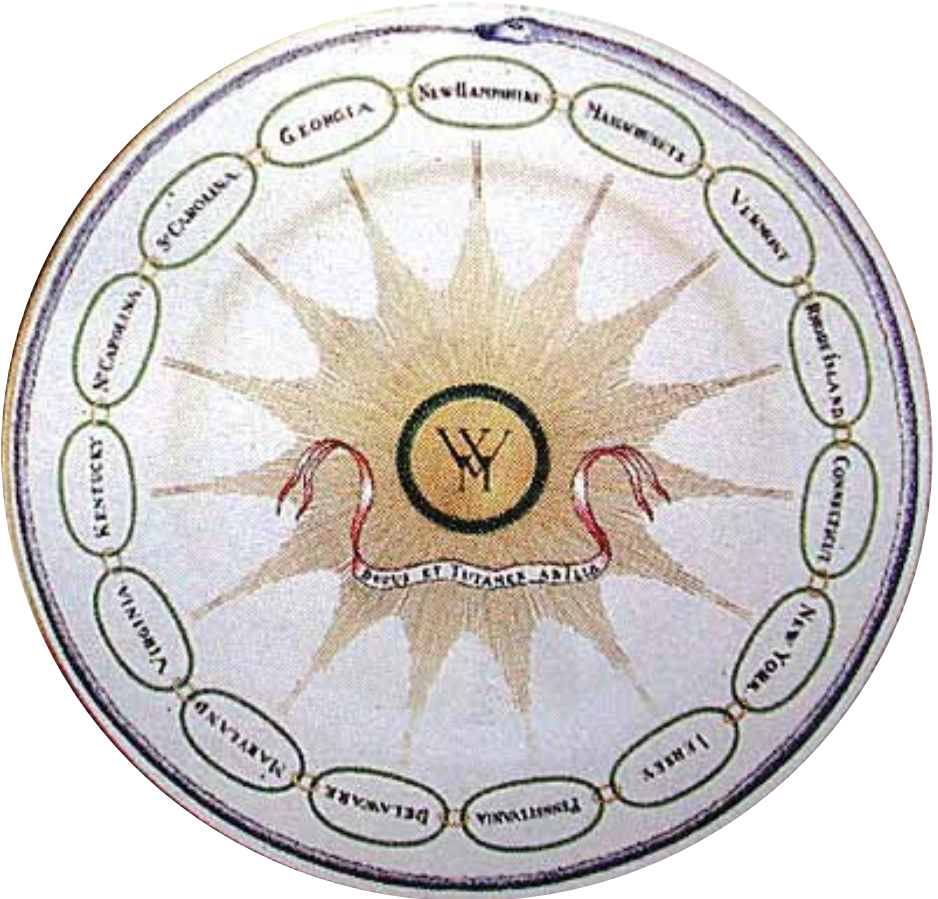
They are often discovered on the site of long gone cigar stores. Many are found by bottle collector diggings. They also turn up at pottery site

excavations. Condition can be surprisingly good.

Max Bell, antique bottle collector and bottle show promoter has discovered some of these pipes when digging on bottle site excavations. That led to his research on the subject.

According to Bell, "by the mid 19th century there were many clay pipe makers in America reproducing the European presidential face pipes. They are not considered of the same quality as the European pipes. None the less they are popular collectibles when they show up. Some have makers' initials, which helps date and identify them. They may also refer to Presidential initials."

Presidential face pipes were also made in other materials and of more recent Presidents. A 1960 Meerschau portrait pipe of President John



Top: A presidential dinner plate, probably for George Washington. Above: President Ulysses S. Grant. Clay facepipe

were usually made of inexpensive materials, such as brass. Most costly these days would be 19th century brass figurals, such as the log cabin. Also scarce and costly are small, brass, hand painted portraits under glass and the log cabin.

The early portraits can sell for several thousand dollars.

Most unusual and collectible are mechanical lapel devices. They were popular from 1892 to around 1900. They were brass or silvered brass shell badges that used a tiny spring allowing the object to move when it was released. An example would be a President McKinley/Hobart brass eagle with flapping wings. It is 1/4" in size. It could sell for over \$700.00.

How about setting a dinner table with Abraham Lincoln's presidential china or at least a reproduction of it? Or, pick a favorite president and choose a pattern from his administration. What is interesting is how the dinner service numbers and prices grew over the decades.

Historically, White House porcelain dinner services began

OLD BITTER BOTTLES GIVE BOTTLE COLLECTORS OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE NUMBERS

Old bitter bottles are one area of specializing for bottle collectors. Bitters is the name given to that class of compounds which could magically cure anything, from acne to constipation to heart disease.

A bitters formula contained a high percentage of alcohol, which undoubtedly was what made the user feel better for a brief period of time; spices for flavoring, and bitter herbs and tree barks.

The most commonly used bitters were plants such as angostura, cascarilla, gentium, quassia, cinchona and wild cherry. Some mixtures would contain more than a dozen varieties of these barks and or herbs.

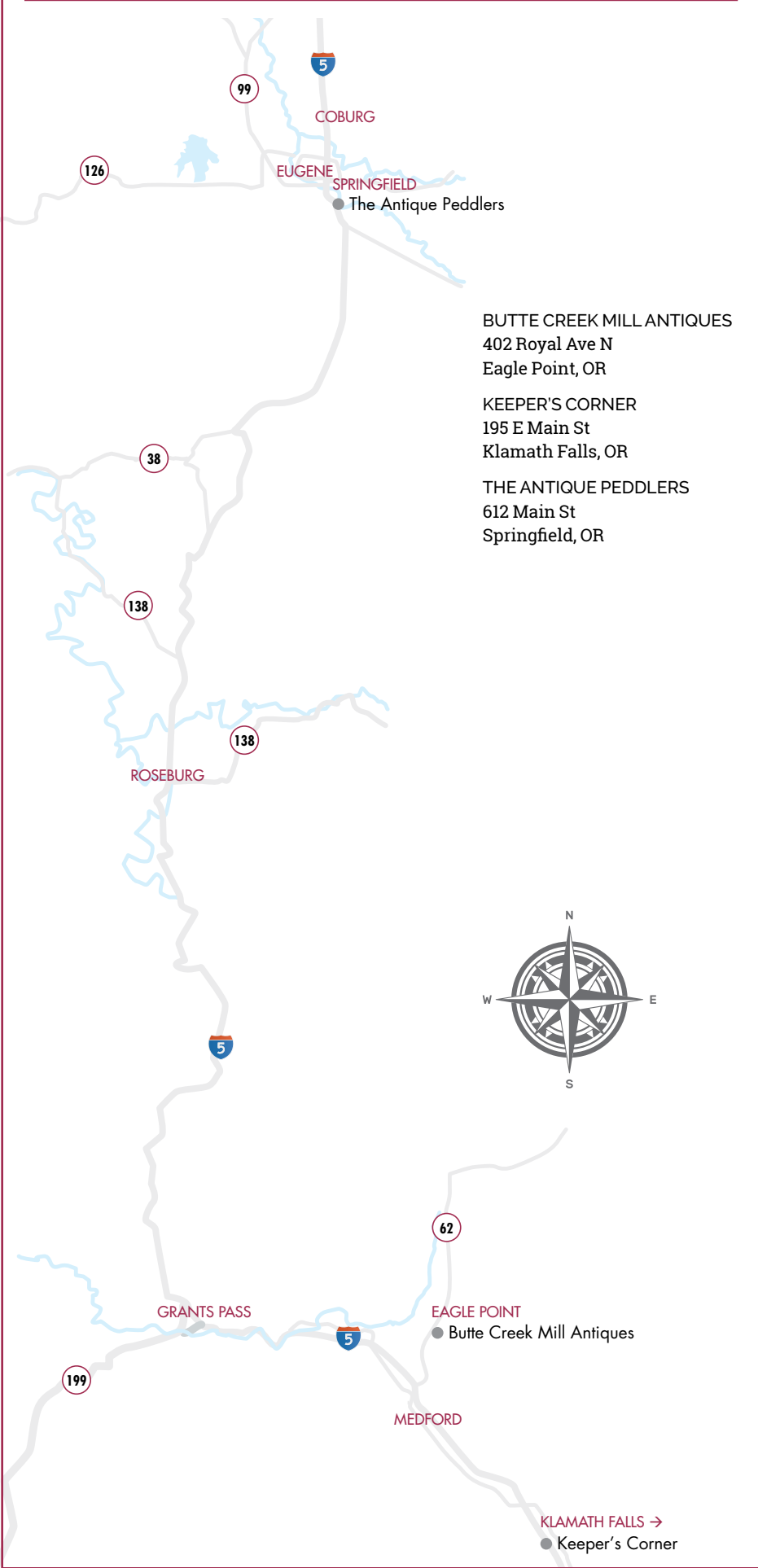
The earliest sellers of bitters used eight ounce bottles. Later, as the



popularity and sales increased, Bitter bottles came in a variety of shapes and colors and allow a collector to develop an area of specialization.

hundreds of different sizes and shapes were used. This gives collectors an opportunity to amass a sizeable collection of different bottles.

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Located at Wild River Antiques in Brookings, Oregon, this Waterford Crystal Globe was given as an award for a World Forestry Center event.

This Waterford Crystal Globe supported by a hand was an award given by the World Forestry Center in Portland. Growing out of the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial American Pacific Exposition and Oriental Fair, its mission is mission is to "educate and inform people about the world's forests and trees, and their importance to all life, in order to promote a balanced and sustainable future."

This award is given in the name of Harry Merlo, once the CEO of Louisiana Pacific and a major benefactor to the forestry center. The award is dated 1997 and is found in Dan Borge's Wild River Antiques in Brookings, Oregon.

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VALUING YOUR ANTIQUES FOR PROFIT

By Mark A. Roeder

The most accurate and concise statement about the value of antiques was made by my Great Uncle Jack, who sold just about anything one would care to buy. If anyone in the countryside needed a particular tool, they went to Jack's and most likely he'd have one in his barn. Jack went to every auction around and usually came back with at least one truck-load. Jack dealt in antiques and everything else for decades, so there is much wisdom behind his words. He summed up the value of antiques (and everything else) simply—"It's worth what someone is willing to pay for it."

Countless words are written about the value of antiques, but these ten words are the bottom line. In fact, if you want, you can stop reading right here because, in a way, that's all you need to know, but if you'd like a few specifics keep reading. In this column we'll examine a few of the factors affecting the values of antiques and collectibles. Keep these factors in mind when determining the value of your antiques, but never forget the words of my Great Uncle Jack.

ORIGINAL PAINT:
Original paint (and original finishes) increases the value of many antiques and collectibles.

Furniture and toys are notable examples. Country furniture in original paint is especially valued and, unfortunately for collectors, the supply is low. Most pieces have been painted over at one time or another or have had all their paint

For this reason, it is very unusual to find collectibles in their original packages, particularly older collectibles. Those few collectibles still in their original packages are highly sought after by collectors and therefore have a higher value.



It matters little what the item, keep in mind Uncle Jac's rule of pricing -- "Any item is worth what someone will pay for it. For some this model car might bring back memories and be worth whatever price the seller deems; for others, the price has to be perceived as a deal before a sale can be made."

This is true, not only of toys, but of glassware, knives, watches, and numerous other collectibles.

Why would anyone want the original package? Each collector has his or her own reasons, but nostalgia is the answer for many. The package makes the collectible more like it was when it was first produced. It makes it

special. Without the package something is lost. Many toy collectors think of a toy without the package in the same way a glass collector thinks about a cookie jar without the lid. The original package adds to the appeal of many collectibles and sets them above similar collectibles that lack the original packaging.

DURABILITY:
Another factor that affects value is durability. A pine dresser can be much more valuable than one made out of walnut or cherry. Why? The answer is durability. Obviously walnut and cherry are both more desirable than pine to most collectors, but pine often carries a higher value because of its rarity. When the old pieces were exiled to the barn, the pine pieces usually fell apart in the space of a few years. Walnut, cherry, and other hardwood pieces were more durable and withstood the test of time. Therefore, pine is much rarer today than the hardwoods. The demand for walnut and cherry is much greater than that for pine, but pine is so rare that the supply cannot meet what demand there is for it and pine demands a higher price.

Any antique or collectible that was constructed

of a material that is not very durable tends to be scarce. As a result, these pieces gain a higher value than more durable pieces. The durability, or lack thereof in this case, makes them rare and therefore valuable.

Vintage clothing is a good example of a collectible that is expensive because it is not very durable. Most pieces of clothing were used until they were simply worn out. If a shirt or pair of pants survived being passed down from person to person it was probably cut up for quilt pieces or rags. This alone would diminish the supply of vintage clothing, but lack of durability makes it even more scarce. Clothing that survived intact still had to face the dangers of time. Many fabrics become fragile as they age. Even those that do not are still subject to moths, mold, and water damage. Vintage clothing is often rather expensive because not much of it survived. Many of the pieces that have survived are in very poor condition, making any piece in good condition especially valuable. If cloth were more durable there would be a much greater supply of vintage clothing and the values would be considerably lower.

AGE:
While it is true that antiques are valuable because they are old, there are numerous other factors to consider. Age alone does not create value. For an antique to be valuable it must be: desirable, in reasonably good condition, and reasonably rare. Just because something is old does not mean it's valuable. For example, at an auction about thirty years ago, I purchased an old religious book printed in Latin. It was very old, dating back to 1608, and in good condition. I paid \$15 for it. Did I get a bargain? Did I make thousands of dollars when I sold it? The answer is no. While the book did increase in value over the years, I sold it for under \$100. The volume was certainly old and rare, but this particular book simply wasn't interesting enough to bring a high price. After all, few people read Latin today. Just because something is old doesn't make it valuable. Someone must want the antique or it isn't really worth anything. Keep this and all the other factors in mind when determining the value of your antiques. Of course, the true value of any antique lies in how much you enjoy it.

RARITY:
Rarity is important, but it's easily mis-judged. There are some antiques that are not nearly so rare as the general public believes. Old Bibles are the prime example. At every auction I attend that includes an old Bible, I overhear numerous people remarking how amazed they are that such a rare item has turned up. Usually the

Bible will realize quite a high price. Actually, most old Bibles aren't very rare at all. Why not? Just think for a moment. If a family in the 18th or 19th century owned only one book, what was that book likely to be? A Bible, of course. Books were extremely expensive until the 20th century and few families could afford them. They would naturally purchase only the most necessary of books, a Bible. Keep in mind also that more Bibles have been printed than any other book in history. There is yet another factor that keeps TBibles from being rare. If an old copy of Tom Sawyer is falling apart few of us would have any reservations about dumping it in the trash. But what about a Bible? Few are thrown away.

Prices for Bibles are artificially high. The demand is quite high, but then so is the supply. The only thing that makes Bibles demand such high prices is the belief that they are rare. In effect this creates a self-fulfilling prophecy. Collectors believe old Bibles are rare and are therefore willing to pay a high price to get them. Although this belief is based on a false premise, it actually makes the Bibles valuable. Remember, I said old Bibles are not as rare as one thinks, not old Bibles are not as valuable as one thinks. So, don't worry if you have just purchased a 19th century Bible at the going price. Chances are the value will hold up. The belief that old Bibles are rare actually makes them valuable.

Beware the term "rare" in eBay listings. It's so overused that it has become meaningless. While some items described as rare on eBay truly are rare, many are not. I've actually seen items that I can go out and buy in just about any store described as rare! Use your own judgment on the rarity of items sold on eBay. Remember, the term "rare" is greatly overused.

PRICE GUIDES:
Price guides are an invaluable resource for collectors. They are wonderful sources of information and guides to the approximate value of any number of items. Many are so beautifully illustrated that they become collectibles themselves, but many collectors use them incorrectly.

The key word in the term price guide is *guide*. Do not for a moment believe the values are chiseled in stone. Price guides can be misleading if not used properly. Many antiques and collectibles are commonly found for much more or much less than their listed value. The value of many antiques varies greatly with the region where they are found. Keep in mind Uncle Jack's first rule.

Also keep in mind that the values listed are usually for pieces in excellent condition. If a piece is damaged it is worth less. Remember,

too, that an outdated guide is of limited use. The values may well have gone up or down since the guide was published.

WILL MY ANTIQUES DROP IN VALUE?
The answer to this question is "possibly, but probably not." Most antiques hold their value very well. When the value does go down on a particular piece the drop is usually small and temporary. If there is a slight drop in value just be patient and the value will most likely come back up within a short period of time, but there are exceptions. There are fads in antiques as in every other area. What is popular today may not be so popular tomorrow. Use extreme caution when buying the "latest" collectible. Momentary interest on the part of many collectors may send the prices soaring. When that interest drops off the values can decrease dramatically.

Reproductions can also cause values to decrease. If an antique is reproduced in such a way that the reproduction can not be distinguished from the original, the price of the original will drop. Generally, reproductions are not a serious problem for experienced collectors. Most have some characteristic that gives them away.

When the new pieces can be readily distinguished from the old, the prices of the originals are largely unaffected. When the reproductions are exceptionally well done the trouble begins.

It is the exception and not the rule, but the value of your antiques can decrease. Keep this point in mind when making a purchase. Nothing is a sure thing. Every antique purchase carries with it the risk of loss. Even if the values do go down, the collectibles you own will still be as beautiful and enjoyable as they ever were. This happy fact will take away much of the sting if your antiques do decrease in value.

As stated at the beginning of this column, an antique, like anything else, is ultimately worth what someone is willing to pay for it. We have all seen egg baskets, mid-century modern furniture, or some other antique go for twice their listed value at auction. We constantly bear witness to collectors paying far above what we would consider paying on any number of items. There are many variables that determine value, but my Great Uncle Jack summed it all up long ago—an antique is worth what someone is willing to pay for it.

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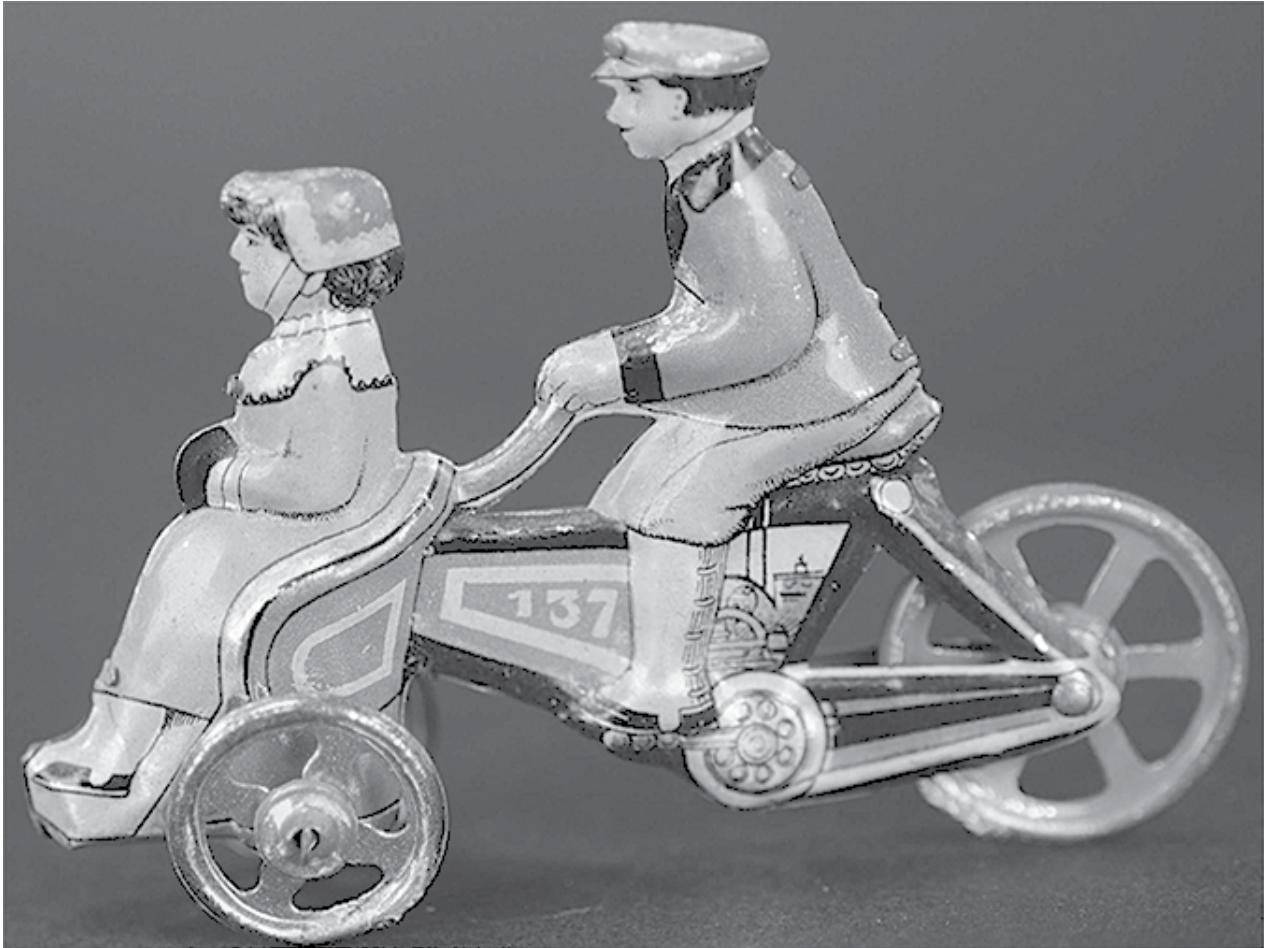
PENNY TOYS NO LONGER A PENNY, BRING BIG DOLLARS AT AUCTION

BY Terry and Kim Kovel

Children's toys are valuable records of what life was like in the past. From about 1880 to 1914, inexpensive, mechanical lithographed tin toys known as "penny toys" were popular and affordable in America.

A toy rickshaw with a driver and a lady in a small cart was made by George Fischer of Nuremberg, Germany in the early 1900s. The company made many different penny toys, all based on the life of the times. His trademark on most toys was "G.F." in capital letters. But was there really a rickshaw powered by a man riding a bicycle?

Yes. It is thought that the first rickshaw was invented about 1869 by an American missionary to Japan who used it to transport his invalid wife. The idea became popular, and by 1872 there were about 40,000 rickshaws in use in Japan. There



Penny toys are becoming harder to find, but at an appropriate auction of an old collection, they rarely sell for less than \$50.

are many styles and names like bike taxi, pedicab, tricycle taxi and even modern electric models. Men pushed or pedaled the rickshaw because they were less expensive to hire than a horse. The driver and passenger of the

Fischer rickshaw pictured here are wearing 1910 clothes, so the toy may have been made then. The price for this toy is no longer a penny; it sold for \$5,400 at a Bertoia auction.

Q: I have a J.H. Cutter bottle

similar to a bottle pictured on your website that sold for over \$300 a few years ago. Mine isn't a clear amber color like the one pictured on your site, unless it's held up to the light. It has an iridescent color down one side with

shades of blue-green and orange, maybe from something that was stored in it. I found it near the Boston seaport. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

A: The color of a bottle affects the price. Bottles

in rare or desirable colors sell for more than those in other colors. "Amber" can include honey amber, olive amber, orange amber, deep tobacco amber and other shades. Sun turns glass lavender or dirty brownish beige. Iridescence on the outside can come from being in water; on the inside it might be from contact with food. It takes an expert to tell the difference and determine the value of the bottle.

CURRENT PRICES

Birdcage, green base, shell door, hoop shaped stand, 66 inches, \$25.

Popeye game, dexterity puzzle, Popeye the Juggler, painted metal frame, metal balls, Whimpy and Olive Oyl, Bar Zim Toys, 1920s, \$195.

OLD WEST SADDLES BRING COLLECTOR INTEREST

by Old Stuff Staff
Collectibles dealing with the Old West have continued to be a popular and values have continued their upward spiral. The field includes a wide range of items from hats and boots to guns and knives. For the collector with a wealth of space saddles are also a high value item. The eventual working saddle of the cowboys of the West went through an evolutionary process, adopt-

ing the best parts of several different styles. The cowboy who could afford it would have his saddle custom made to provide the features that would be the most comfortable for him. It was usually his most important possession. It might cost him from one half to a full year's pay. In the early days of the Old West, a variety of types of saddles were used. A heavy Mexican style saddle had a

large horn and was built somewhat like a rocking chair. These were quite comfortable saddles and appreciated by those who had to spend most of the day sitting on one. The lighter weight Indian saddle s were adopted in California by vaqueros. Elsewhere, saddles such as the Mother Hubbard, a large-saddle with a low horn and removable leather covering of the entire saddle came into use.

The big Plains saddle with its square skirts, became popular in the 1880s. Cowboys who couldn't afford to buy anything better made use of old army saddles, but the style of these, with a low saddle horn, were not particularly comfortable. By the end of the century, all these styles had begun to merge. It is these saddles from the last decades of the 19 century that have become popular with collectors.

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Trading cards, long a staple of collectors, and a favorite of fans of all ages, need to be checked for authenticity. Become a card maven to ensure the veracity of your card.

MANY REASONS TO COLLECT MEMORABILIA; A FEW GUIDELINES FOR SAFE COLLECTING

We all have our favorite teams, favorite players, favorite actors and favorite politicians.

For any number of reasons we want to continue to savor those winning moments and that's bred the collection of memorabilia.

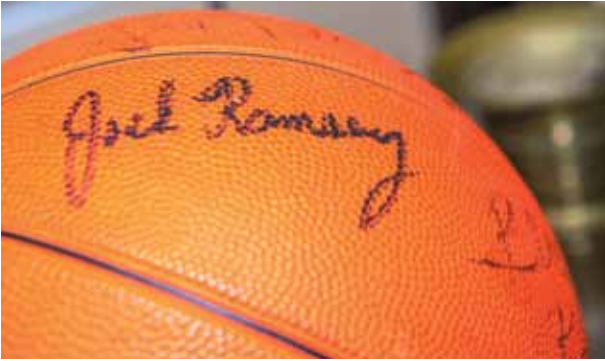
From trading cards, to signed jerseys, balls of photographs the memorabilia industry today is estimated at \$15 Billion a year according the Charlotte-based collector Howard Epstein.

But its also rife with pitfalls. To stay safe, follow these simple rules.

1. Choose an area of expertise. Rather than willy-nilly buying items all over the field, become an expert on one specific focus. If you're able to find an item to build a collection around -- say if you're a northwest football fan, a signed Russell Wilson jersey from the Super Bowl.

2. Go with the classics: While you maybe reluctant to pay a little more a recognized name, keep in mind the classics never go out of style.

A signed Ayrton Senna (deceased Formuluar One champion) print will always hold its value. Particularly if you're making a buy as an



Though the signature says Portland Trailblazer coach Jack Ramsay -- get a certificate of authentication from a reputable dealer to be sure.

investment, the classic pay off in the end. 3. Research, research, research: You'll need to determine what athlete, movie star, or politician have built a great legacy. A movie star in an Oscar-winning role, a football player winning the SuperBowl, or a politician who either wins the highest office, or perhaps loses it.

4. Buy the most pristine item you can afford: We're all on a budget, a particularly when you're starting out you may be tempted to buy a piece that is a little ragged because the price is right. Being penny wise



If you like golf -- antique clubs are relatively easy to find -- but check for damage to the shaft before purchasing.

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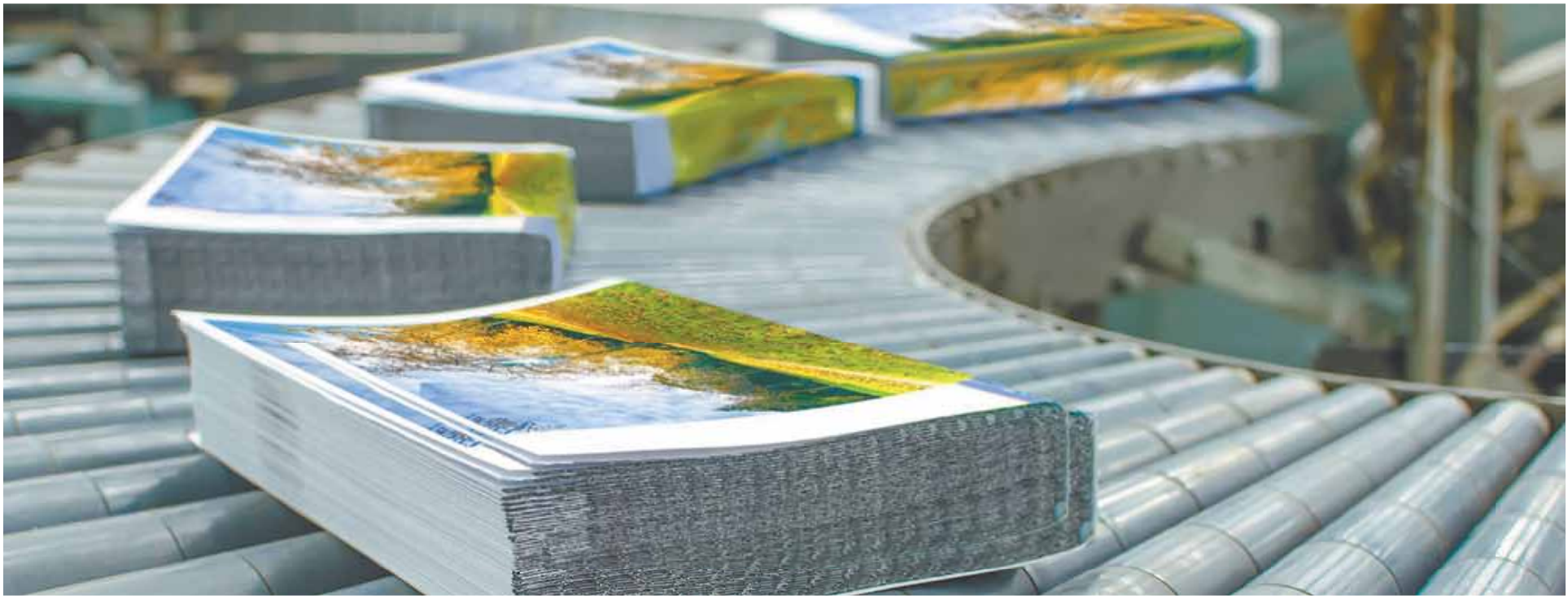
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