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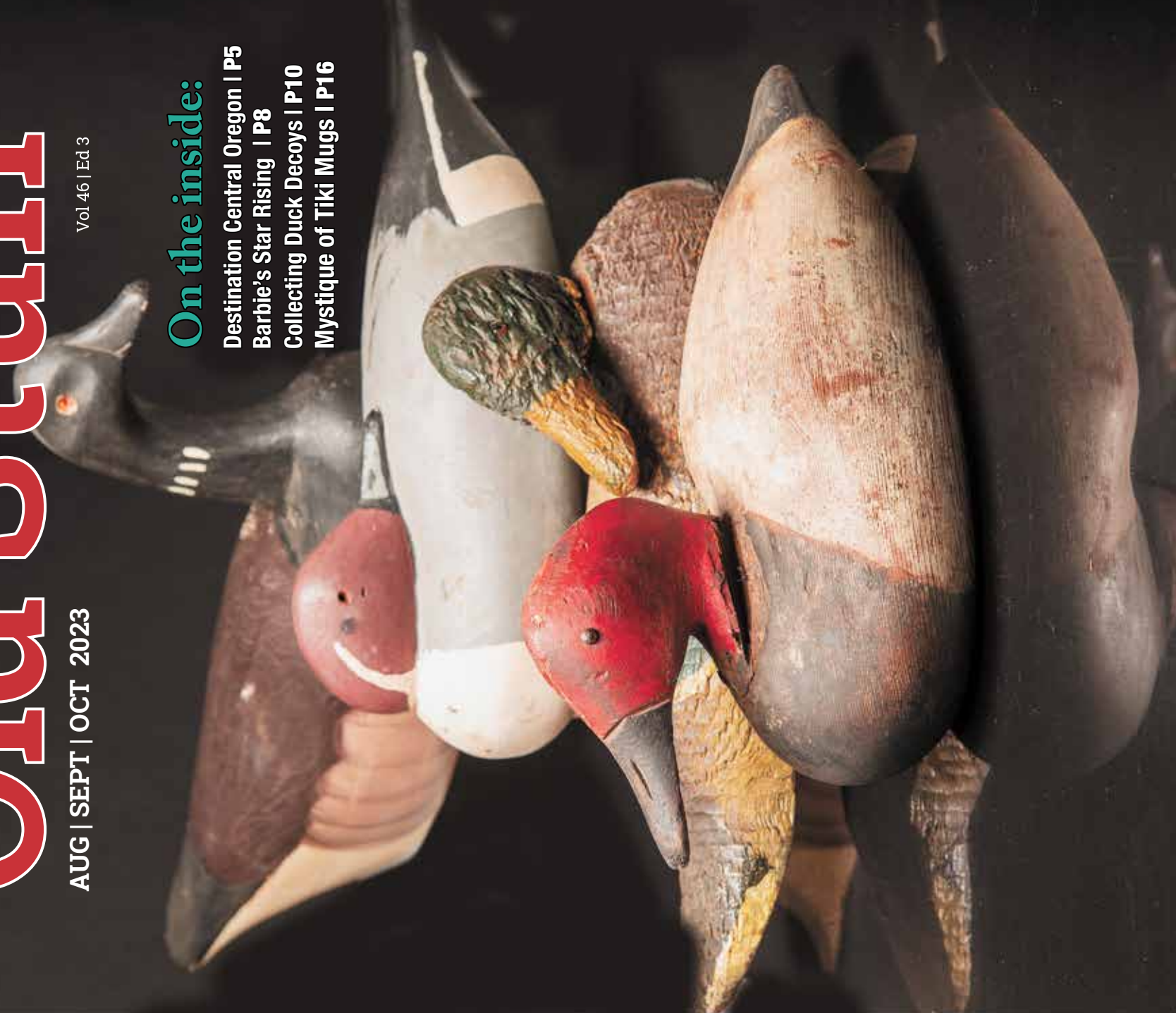
Old Stuff

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ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, HISTORY AND NOSTALGIA FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

BY RUSTY
RAE
Old Stuff
Associate Editor

I hope all our loyal readers were able to enjoy some sunshine while out and about over the summer months.

As you'll read in other pages in this issue of *OLD STUFF*, our destination article focuses on Central Oregon. All of the shops there are sensational in their level of quality antiques, collectibles and vintage items.

Several outtakes from the short trip to Redmond, Bend and Sisters follow and simply give you an idea of the wonderful folks who own and operate these stores.

Ike Abbas from the *Farmer's Coop* in Redmond has been collecting for a good portion of his life. Like many of us, Abbas has a collection mentality — for better or worse. He says, “I kinda wish I had a little will power. I buy items, but you know, I don't know that I need them.” Thankfully, for collectors, many of those items wind up in his store.

Eddie Swisher at the *Iron Horse* in Bend mentioned one of his favorite items for which local police asked him to find a new home. “It was a really great antique. It was a skeleton of a Chinese worker in a coffin. Normally, these were sent back to China for their final resting place.

But, it was on display for a while. When someone opened the coffin it gave them quite a startle — so now that piece is located elsewhere.”

Swisher said he and his staff



Ike Abbas
The Farmer's Coop

work hard to bring good value to the store. “A fast nickel beats a slow dime,” he quipped. “Rather than hold out for the last dollar, I'd rather move the merchandise.” Clever and true when it comes to cash flow (which is king). But perhaps not as clever as comedienne Tina Fey who cracked, “Whenever you see me, I'm on antique quaaludes.”

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Redmond's sister city in the State of Washington, Cashmere. Ok, you got me. Cashmere isn't really the sister city of Redmond, Oregon, but it is located just about 250 miles due north between Leavenworth and Wenatchee. It's also the home to the *Apple Annie Antique Gallery*, a 70,000-square-foot emporium of antiques and vintage items. *Apple Annie* will be holding its annual fall Flea Market Sept. 16, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. Thirty or more vendors are expected to show for the parking lot event.

There are a passel of other flea market events coming up. You can find additional info spread through these pages; but here's the highlights.

Junk Refunk's next event is at the Oakland City Park in Oakland, Oregon, August 26. It will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. While you're there, be sure to stop in at the Oakland Flour Mills Antique store.

Over at the Spokane Fair and Expo Center, Jim Custer's *48th Antique Collectors Sale* will be held September 30 thru October 1.

The Southwest Washington Fairgrounds in Centralia, Washington, will be the site the *Country Chicks Market* on September 29th.

October 13 to 15 at the fairgrounds in McMinnville, Oregon,



Victorian Draft Lamps from the 1890s at Airport Antiques and the Furniture Lady.



we will see the Mac Flea Market takes place.

October 21 and 22 the *Rose City Vintage Market* will be held at the Portland Expo Center.

Out in Eastern Oregon, Becky J. Dunlap at Pendleton's Airport Antiques & The Furniture Lady had a pair of splendid Victorian Central Draft oil lamps come

into her shop. They're from the late 1880s and were with one family in Eastern Oregon for more than three generations.

“What's really unusual is that there is a pair of them,” she said. And now they're looking for a new home. Give Becky a call if you're interested.

And keep in mind this quote from author H. Jackson Brown, Jr: “Remember that the most valuable antiques are dear old friends.”

We're all in this together.

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THE START OF A TOKEN COLLECTION

BY OSSIE BLADINE
Editor/Associate Publisher, Old Stuff

In the ongoing battle to declutter my garage — one at which I'm am constantly losing — I was picking through items to send off to local charity when I came across a small stash of coins of my grandparents, which my father gave me a couple years ago. They are all from their travels around the world. Or so I thought. I never inspected them too closely since acquiring them, so decided to take a look, and quickly realized a few of these were not like the others:

Five brass tokens, about nine centimeters in diameter; four of which marketed certain services to the likes of Kitty Kat House, El Paso; The China Doll and Long Branch Saloon, Dodge City; and Silver Dollar Hotel, Denver.

I'd never heard of “fantasy brothel tokens,” before. Upon investigation, I learned these were used back in the day more as novelty items or business cards, as opposed to actual tokens with seedy intrinsic value.

“10¢ Lookie 25¢ Feelie 50¢ Dooie” is written on the one for The China Doll. The Kitty Kat House token advertises “special services to wagon trains / stogie screw rock gut whiskey check,” along with an etched image of a covered wagon.

My curiosity of what exactly the story is here, and, of course, if these are valuable, led me on a winding crash course of such tokens. Along the way, I learned a new word: “exonumia,” describing something that resembles money but does not circulate as money. Such were these brothel tokens.

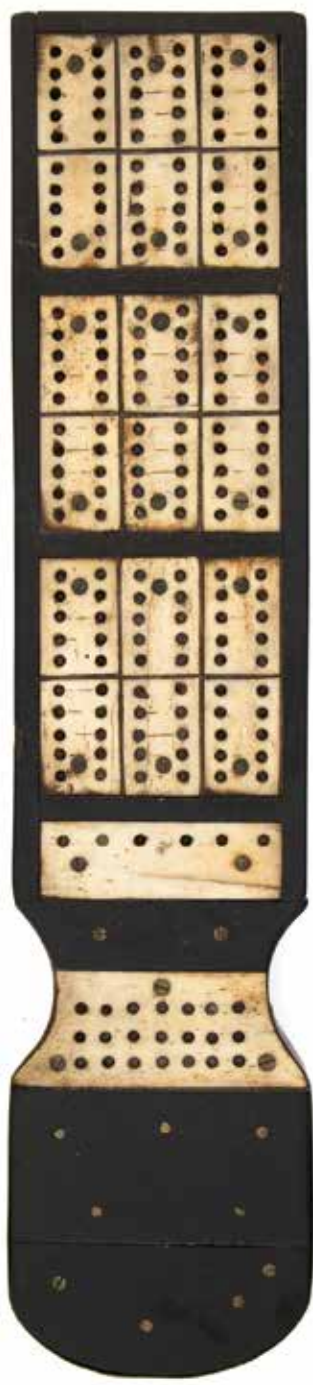
I, begrudgingly, learned these tokens weren't actually from days of the Wild West. Fantasy tokens were first produced in the mid-1960s as novelty items, according to my research, referencing actual places of the past, but not replications of tokens that were actually used. Most are sold online for around \$10. However, some are priced much higher with false information that these are legitimate coins from the late 1800s or early 1900s. Buyer beware!

“Real old tokens used in brothels do exist, but they are not as blatant or as large in size as the fantasy brothels tokens cataloged here,” writes Stephen Alpert in the introduction to his “Fantasy Brothel Tokens: A Preliminary Catalogue.” Alpert notes in his 2007 book that Nolan Tucker first cataloged this series of tokens in his 1997 book “The Fantasy Brothel Tokens: A History and Catalog.”

Continued ON page 8

ON THE COVER: A series of antique duck decoys from the collection of Katie Wennerstrom graces our cover this month. Photo was made by Associate Editor Rusty Rae. Our cover story this month gives insight into collecting vintage carved duck decoys, some of which have sold for near \$1 million. See the story starting on page 10.

Cribbage is a centuries-old travel game. In the 19th century, sailors on whaling ships made and used boards like this one to pass the time on long voyages.



By Terry and Kim Kovel

Do you like to play games on your phone while you're on a long trip? Today's travel games have plenty of predecessors. Cribbage, a card game where players keep score with pegs on a board, is believed to have been invented in the 17th century. It became a favorite of sailors and was especially popular on whaling ships.

Sailors would make their own boards out of carved whale-bone, animal teeth or tusks. This 19th-century game board, which sold for \$531 at an Eldred's auction, has pierced whalebone panels on an ebony and mahogany board. Sailors continued playing cribbage after whaling declined. Most ships still have a cribbage board today. The U.S. Navy has a board that gets handed down to the oldest submarine in the Pacific fleet, a tradition that originated when an officer was dealt a perfect hand in a game played during World War II.

Q: I have a Mexican silver pitcher inlaid with iridescent shells and marked "Alpaca." Is "Alpaca" the maker? What can you tell me about it?

KOVEL SAYS

CRIBBAGE A FAVORITE ON THE SEAS

A: Alpaca silver is a metal. It isn't really silver, but an alloy of copper, nickel and zinc that may also be called "nickel silver" or "German silver." It was first used in China and exported to Europe. In 1823, German metalsmiths created a version of nickel silver that was trade-marked "Alpaca." Use of Alpaca spread throughout Europe and the Americas. It can be a base for electroplated nickel silver. Today, alpaca silver is often used in jewelry, tableware and decorative items. It is usually marked "Alpaca" or "Alpacca." It is more durable than silver, sells for lower prices and may have a less shiny finish than silver.

Q: I recently saw some dishes with red, green and yellow flowers labeled "Delft." I always thought Delft was blue and white. Was I mistaken, or were the dishes mislabeled?

A: Delft, or delftware, is a type of tin-glazed pottery like faience and majolica. It was first made in the city of Delft in Holland in the 17th century, and later in England and other countries. It is often white with blue decorations but sometimes can be multicolored, known as polychrome. Pieces are usually everyday-ware like dishes and tiles. Delft marked "Holland" was made in 1891 or later. If it is marked "Delft," it is probably from the 20th or 21st century. Today, blue-and-white porcelain may be marked and sold as Delft. Authentic Delft is pottery and softer than porcelain, so antique pieces often show signs of wear. Prices depend on age and condition.

Q: I have a set of three wooden nesting tables. They've been in our family for as long as I can remember. They are lightweight and small. The top on the largest one is only 20 inches by 14 inches. Who invented nesting tables and are antique ones valuable?

A: Nesting tables were made in England in the 18th century. The cabinet maker Thomas Sheraton is credited with being the first to make them. They were designed to be functional while taking up very little space in small English houses. Sets of antique nesting tables similar to yours have recently sold for \$90 to \$240.

Q: In the 1950s or '60s, my mother had a Barbie doll that wasn't like any I have seen since. It had painted brown hair with a painted blue headband, and it came with three wigs: long and dark brown, curly and reddish-brown, and short and blond. I have seen a lot of Barbies at auctions but not one with wigs like this. Is this one rare?

A: Your mother's doll sounds like the Fashion Queen Barbie doll, introduced in 1963. This doll had a molded head

with brown hair and a blue headband and non-bending legs. It was dressed in a one-piece swimsuit with white and gold stripes, a matching turban and white open-toe shoes. It was sold with three wigs: one blond, one Brunette, and one titian (the term used for red-brown Barbie hair). It was marked "Midge T. M. [copyright] 1962 Barbie [registered] [copyright] 1958 by Mattel, Inc." The 1964 edition had "Patented" added to the mark. Mattel also made Barbie "wig wardrobes" in the 1960s, which were sold with a doll head, not a complete doll. Fashion Queen Barbies without the wigs or box have sold for less than \$100 at recent auctions. A doll with all three wigs and the original outfit and box can sell for \$100 to \$400.

TIPS:

- To get rid of mildew on wooden furniture, wipe the wood with a cloth dipped in a mixture of 1 cup of water, 1 tablespoon of bleach and 1 tablespoon of liquid dishwashing detergent. Then wipe the wood dry.

- Team-signed baseballs should have about 26 autographs, including the entire starting lineup, star pitchers and other key members of the team. A star's signature on the sweet spot is desirable, but that spot is sometimes reserved for the manager.

- Your diamond or precious-stone jewelry — antique or modern — should be reappraised every other year for insurance value.

- Put a silver spoon in a glass before pouring in hot water. It will absorb heat and keep the glass from cracking.

CURRENT PRICES

Steuben glass pitcher, Celeste Blue, barrel shape, rigaree around base, pedestal foot, clear handle, 10 1/4 x 7 inches, **\$90**.

Vase, Kosta Boda, turquoise sea horse and seaweed, light green bubbled ground, signed, Olle Brozen, 10 x 6 x 6 inches, **\$190**.

Poster, concert, The Temptations, photo, black lettering, red ground, The Moments, Candi Staton, July 10, Cow Palace, halftone, Colby Poster Printing Co., 22 1/2 x 14 1/4 inches, **\$295**.

Silver creamer, urn shape, pedestal base, round-stepped foot, beaded rim and handle, monogram, John Letelier touch mark, 18th century, 5 inches, **\$580**.

Looking to declutter, downsize or settle an estate? Kovel's Antiques & Collectibles Price Guide 2022 by Terry and Kim Kovel has the resources you're looking for.

DESTINATION: CENTRAL OREGON, ANTIQUE PARADISE



There's something for everyone when it comes to scenery on the high desert plain in Central Oregon. For those interested in antiques, vintage and collectible items, it's a gold mine of opportunity.

Redmond, Bend, Tumalo, Sisters hotspots for antiques, collectibles, vintage items

BY RUSTY RAE
Associate Editor
OLD STUFF

Magnificent! Spectacular! Majestic!

It's easy to run out of words when describing the Central Oregon region composed of the towns of Redmond, Tumalo, Sisters and Bend. As unbelievably beautiful as the area is, it is also an antique store haven featuring a mix of mouth-watering delicious antiques, collectibles and vintage items that surely would make any collector's heart beat a bit faster.

These four cities that lie on a triangular confluence of Oregon Highways 97, 20 and 242, share the high desert sagebrush and glorious views of the Cascade Range peaks. Located about a three-and-a-half hour drive from Portland, Salem, and Eugene, and longer for those coming from the Eastern corner of Oregon or the state of Washington, the drive from the Willa-



Evergreen Street is the hub of antique shops in Redmond where you'll find three wonderful shops within a half mile of each other. Between the Redmond Antique Mall (above left) the Farmer's Coop (above right) and Beyond Ranch Antiques, the back yard sluice (center below) you'll find a bounty of items, such as the antique coffee grinder (below left) or some of the many items from Ike Abbas' collection at the Farm Coop (below right).



mette Valley brings one through lush forests as you wind through the mountains, and once you reach the high desert plateau, lodge pole pine trees and an abundance of sagebrush.

Though the drive in the winter may seem

a bit daunting as snow and ice pervade the roads, it's a regular journey for those who enjoy winter sports and for the serious antiquer; it can become a walk in the park with a little practice and common sense.

While most know the world class ski areas — Mt. Bachelor is often a training ground for Olympic competitors — spring, summer, and fall offer a variety of activities that make a trip to the area well worth the drive. More than 30 golf courses

dot the landscape, and fishing is some of the best on the West Coast, while kayak river worshippers find all levels of whitewater. Add to that mountain biking, world class rock climbing and a bounty of eateries and brew-houses and you may

want to make a week of your visit rather than weekend.

Redmond, often called the Rose of the High Desert, began life as a tent city due to a lack of lumber. Its first residents, Frank and Josephine Redmond, pitched their homestead tent just north of what is now downtown Redmond. When the city was incorporated in 1910, 210 souls populated the town.

Today Redmond stands tall with a population of more than 30,000.

If you've come to Redmond for antiques, collectibles and vintage items your first stop should be Evergreen street which intersects Highway 97. There you will find three emporiums within a half mile of each other and two just a hop, skip and jump away from each other.

The Farmer's Coop — it used to be the

See **REDMOND**, 6

Oregon's First National Historic District

AURORA, OREGON

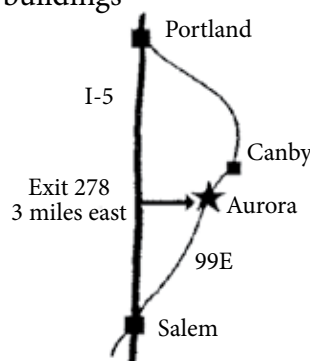
ANTIQUES CAPITAL OF OREGON

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.

Our wide variety of antique and vintage shops, boutiques, art galleries, restaurants and wineries make this a fun destination for all.

Come spend the day and see what we're all about!

- 20 Shops nestled in historic homes and buildings
- Public Restroom and RV parking
- 20 minutes from Portland or Salem
- Easy freeway access from I-5, Exit 278



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Smith Rock is one of the wonders of high desert in Central Oregon, a short drive outside Redmond (above left). You'll also find a bounty of antiques at the Redmond Antique Mall (above right). Western antiques and collectibles of all flavors at both of the Beyond the Ranch stores as seen in the two images at right and the below right. At The Back Porch there is much to see, such as this hand-picked side bar brought to Redmond from Texas.

Redmond

Continued from 5

Co-op but lost its name because its not a true co-op, has graced the confines of Redmond for more than a quarter-century. It boasts 12,000 square feet, 60-plus vendors and the collection of owner Ike Abbas.

Notes Bonnie Hribar, one of the congenial staff, "We are like a museum in many ways — we have many tourists who complain 'We can't see this in a day — we'll have to come back.'

We are truly an antique store — I'd visit the store before I started working here and always found stuff I had never seen before. One time I was looking at something on the porch — and it turned out to be an autopsy table," she said.

Abbas, the genial owner of the Farmer's Coop brings a lifetime of experience to the shop and notes, "I've been collecting all my life — it's a never ending hobby," he quipped.

Abbas' section of the Farmer's Coop has some of the prime items and he adds, "I think I could fill the store two times over with my collection."

Abbas leads the way of the vendors in his store and encour-

ages them to keep the booths fresh with new items. "It's almost like 50 different categories — we honestly have a wide variety of items," he added.

His own philosophy gives insight into the store. "I try to buy things that I've never seen before. If I've never seen it — I want it and I'll buy it," he said.

Just across the parking lot you'll find another true antique store, The Redmond Antique Mall, a family enterprise where the staff is all related and the family atmosphere pervades the 5,000 square feet in two floors. In addition to the 35-40 vendors, each of the family also have booths.

Erika Stephens is the owner. She splits time between Redmond and New Mexico and says she's blessed to have family members as staff. "I really couldn't have this store without them," she noted.

The roots of the store began on the Oregon Coast and then moved to Redmond. At one time she had two store fronts in downtown Redmond, but as rents increased she decided to combine the two shops at the current site on Evergreen Street.

The Redmond Antique Mall has been in its current location for two years and Stephens notes, "I really



didn't feel I could pass on a nearly 25 percent rent increase on my vendors, — they're just like family."

Stephens has been a collector of primitives for more than 35 years and notes, "I love cast iron." Indeed there is a nice collection of cast iron items in the store.

The vendors at the Redmond Antique Mall bring a complete collection of antiques, vintage and collectible items, which Stephens is proud to say focus on quality.

"Crafts items are not antiques and that's not what we are about," she said.

Down Highway 97 several miles from Evergreen Street is The Back Porch where owner Lisa Goad notes, "We have a little bit of everything. Of course we have antiques, which are our focus, but as the antique market shifts we try to adapt — so you'll find other items such as contemporary country and modern farm items," she said.

Goad has 15 vendors in her 4200 square feet of space and notes they bring an eclectic mix to



the store. She regularly makes trips to Texas to search for items. "Every piece you bring in makes me excited — and I think customers

find the same excitement," she said.

The fourth store in Redmond is back on Evergreen Street just across Highway 97

from the earlier noted shops. When we talk about Beyond the Ranch Antiques, we have to review both of Rob Anderson's prop-

erties; each containing items that he notes allow one to step back in time — to an era of ranches, cowboys, the western life and a glimpse of the Old West.

One store is located, as mentioned, on Evergreen Street, and the other is a short drive South to Tumalo. Each store contains a well stocked inside shop and an outside yard. The Redmond store is the largest of the two, composed of 6,000 square feet inside and another 8,000 feet of items and displays outside. The Tumalo store is 3,600 square feet with another 6,000 square feet outside.

Anderson, a retired pastor, comes by his love for cowboy lore naturally. His grandfather was a working cowboy in Texas — and a cowboy artist. Some of the western art in his store is from his grandfather's hand. He also has a collection of spurs made by his grandfather.

"These stores are my attempt to make a personal museum of western life — but most of the items are for sale," he said.

Included in his Beyond the Ranch stores is western-style furniture. "Customers come to furnish a room or the whole house," he notes.

His Redmond location on Evergreen Street is as much a destination as it is an antique store. In the back outside section he has a wide variety of ranch and automotive items. Included in the back lot is a complete wooden water tower with water running down a sluice to a pond. It's fun, entertaining, educational and adds to the western ambiance of the store.

If you're considering a visit to Redmond it's a good idea to plan ahead. The city has a number of regular events going on and particularly during the summer months hotels and motels, of which there are around a dozen, fill up quickly. There are also eight RV sites in the general



In Sisters, Kalamazoo Antiques house a wide variety of antiques including Western items like this Rocking Horse and a very complete vendor book store. About half of the items are from owner Ron Story.

Redmond area. For longer stays, there are vacation rentals.

The city is blessed with more than 100 eateries and pubs from the regular fast food joints to full-fledged upscale restaurants. A flourishing food truck cuisine culture is also found at several corners in the downtown area.

Be aware, when visiting Redmond or Bend in particular, one of the main byways is Highway 97 and during rush hour it can look like rush hour in any large city — your basic parking lot. It is well to plan your travel around these times or develop an alternate route.

Bend is a short drive South from Redmond

and offers all the comforts of a large city, including a variety of hotels and motels. It's a thriving city with a population today of more than 100,000. It, too, can be super busy when one of many city events is going on. Finding a parking spot can be a challenge, but its River Walk section of town is well worth the challenge.

When it comes to antique shops in Bend, the Iron Horse is another classic store where owner Eddie Swisher brings his more than 50 years in the business to the shop and notes, "We straddle from second hand items to antique and vintage items — but the one

thing we avoid is new things."

Swisher and his father started in the business in Newport on the Oregon Coast. In 1982 he moved to Bend. Today the store of 5,000 square feet houses 20 to 25 vendors and Swisher said, "They are an eclectic group with a variety of items so we pretty much cover all of the antique bases."

The Iron Horse, another true antique palace, is selective, according to Swisher, who adds, "The last thing I want is to fill up the store with junk."

While he managed two stores in Bend for a number of years, recently he's combined the two into one and

now he has more time to find new merchandise for the store. He estimates that about half of the items in the Iron Horse are from his collection. With his extra time he's been able to hit estate sales.

One of the unique things at the Iron Horse is Swisher's policy of allowing the return of an item. "We love the tourists who come to the store, but locals — regular customers — are critical for our business. We allow customers to take a piece home and try it out — see if it fits their home — and if it doesn't they can bring it back," he noted.

To the northwest of Bend (due west of Redmond) is the small town of Sisters, a 20-minute journey from Bend on Highway 20. Named for the Three Sisters mountains that keep guard on the city, it is a small town (population just over 3,000) with large aspirations. When it comes to antiques, in the heart of the downtown corridor of Sisters is the Kalamazoo Antiques and Gift Mall. Though located in a small town, and from the street it

may appears as a small mom and pop store, it is another example of a big-time antique store with more than 4,500 square feet.

Owner Ron Story notes that while about half of the items in the store are from his collection, he also has 12 vendors who help populate the store with new items on a regular basis.

One of the vendors for which Story has a special affinity is Bob Boyd's military items. It, like the rest of the store, is well done and has become a meeting place for veterans.

If you're a book collector, one of the vendors, Lonesome Waters, is required reading.

On the back street of Sisters — its really just a couple of blocks away — lies Gypsy Junk. The store features a selection of antiques and vintage clothing.

Ultimately, when you visit this Central Oregon triangle of antique shops, you'll have to choose your own words of description. And that's half the fun — bringing your tales of collecting and adventure to friends.



Redmond has oft been called the flower of the Central Oregon high desert, with good reason (above left). Redmond Antique Mall shows off these vintage whiskey bottles (top right). A silver set found at Gypsy Junk in Sisters (right center) and bottom left a variety of items from the Iron Horse in Redmond. Redmond and Bend have a variety of eating options including food courts, this one found at brew pub in Redmond.

Olde Central
ANTIQUE MALL
Antiques & Collectibles

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South End
Antiques & Collectibles Mall

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ART & ANTIQUES BY DR. LORI

MOVIE HELPS VALUES RISE FOR VINTAGE BARBIE DOLLS



Barbie in original box, Teen age fashion model doll. / Staff of www.DrLoriV.com

**BY DR. LORI
VERDERAME**

The Barbie movie starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, complete with stellar set design, amazing wardrobe, and a top-secret plot, has impacted the collectibles market for America's favorite doll. Collectors are actively buying, selling, and trading the blonde bombshell who taught generations of children that they can do anything and do it style. Online sales for the vintage and new Barbie dolls are active as Greta Gerwig's film continues to attract audiences of all ages. The Barbie movie is helping to drive market prices up for the popular vintage dolls with ponytails and bubble haircut as well as the abundance of Barbie paraphernalia that goes along with her and her many friends.

The Bild Lilli doll, the German fashion doll that sparked Barbie designer Ruth Handler's inspiration for Barbie dolls in the first place, regularly

sells for thousands of dollars on the open collectibles market today. The German doll had fashionable outfits, makeup, and to date has secured a place of honor in the history of doll collecting based on her association with American Barbie dolls. I've appraised many Bild Lilli dolls and even more Barbie dolls and Barbie accessories and both types command high values depending on many factors including age, condition, style, and wardrobe.

Barbie is the focus of the major motion picture's plot, but her supporting cast of characters including boyfriend Ken, controversial girlfriend Midge, Ken's buddy Allan,



Ph.D. appraiser, author, and award-winning personality, Dr. Lori presents antique appraisal events nationwide, appears on Netflix's King of Collectibles and History channel's The Curse of Oak Island and Pawn Stars do America. Visit www.DrLoriV.com or watch her popular videos on www.YouTube.com/DrLoriV



Above: Barbie and Midge vinyl travel case. Right: Bild Lilli doll, a German fashion doll inspired by Barbie dolls. / Staff of www.DrLoriV.com

Skipper, and others have roles in the film as they did in the imaginations of children since Barbie's debut on March 9, 1959, at the American Toy Fair in New York City.

In the Barbie-sphere, Barbie's friends did not outshine Barbie. But, with collectors, Barbie's friends are of interest, and some are showing greater values with doll collectors. Ken was Barbie's boyfriend and vintage examples of the young male doll, and his accessories are collectible and increasing in value. Barbie's female friends are popular in the collectible doll market such as Skipper, PJ, Midge, and Francie (Barbie's British and very fashion-forward cousin). For instance, Midge was an interesting addition to Mattel's Barbie doll

line. Midge, Barbie's best girlfriend early on arrived on the scene in 1963 and her boyfriend, Allan, appeared a year later in 1964. These dolls and their respective male suitors are now collected in groups getting sellers more cash when selling them as a set.

Barbie doll collectors who are ready to sell their dolls will have a good opportunity to liquidate their vintage dolls this fall and holiday shopping season. When it comes to values, Barbie remains the queen of the vintage doll world. An early 1960s Barbie doll with the right features—makeup, bendable legs, pearl stud earrings, zebra striped bathing suit, and blond curls—is a collectible market favorite and the doll brings thousands from



seasoned collectors. And, a well-dressed Midge doll in good condition from the 1960s would be worth \$400 to \$600 today. The best Allan doll example with an original box could command \$300. Remember, a vintage Barbie doll regularly commands several hundreds to thousands of dollars from the most enthusiastic collectors.

As actors Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling immortalize the beloved Barbie dolls, collectors are poised to reach into their pockets to buy old and new Barbies of all kinds. Happily, the big budget Hollywood feature film brought much needed new money into an extremely slow collectible doll market. Hail to Barbie.

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Token

Continued from 3

So, maybe not a hidden treasure found. But, definitely a healthy dose of what they were intended for: novelty.

However, there was a fifth coin of the same make, but far less scandalous in nature. On one side, three small trees with "K.P.M. Co. Kinzua Oregon." On

the other, "Good for 1.00 in trade."

Kinzua is a ghost town in Wheeler County, near Fossil, Oregon. The company town of the Kinzua Pine Mills Company was set up in 1928, and at its height had a population of about 700 people, according to an Oregon Public Broadcast online. An entry in the Oregon Encyclopedia notes: "In

1982, 400,000 Ponderosa Pine were planted on the site, burying the former logging town beneath a forest, a rare occurrence indeed."

My internet sleuthing led me down quite the rabbit hole, from a Kinzua, OR community page on Facebook, where there were multiple posts from people who had come across Kinzua tokens, onto research of the myriad

"trade tokens" — or, scrip, as they are often known as — used in lumber and mill towns throughout the Northwest and far beyond. Unlike the fantasy tokens, it appears that these actually were used as currency.

The next stop of this online rabbit hole was the website for the Pacific Northwest Numismatic Association. Another new

addition to the vocabulary! Numismatists are "persons who study, collect, or deal with coins, paper money, tokens and medals." OK, I'm sure many reading this already knew that. But I'm learning here!

According to an entry on the PNNA website by Al Erickson:

"About 1885, merchants all over the United States started using a form of advertising called a trade token (or chit, or bingle, or "good for"). ...

"Most collectors have one or more particular topic they collect. Probably one of the first that many collectors choose is tokens from the town where they live. Cities

such as Tacoma, Seattle or Spokane each have quite a few hundred different tokens and quite large collections of these cities are possible. Other towns such as Ashford, DuPont, Kapowsin, Parkland or Ruston had less tokens and can be harder to find.

"Another favorite (and more difficult) topic is tokens from the towns in one or more counties such as Pierce, King or Thurston. Each county in the state might have 10 or 20 or 30 different towns that issued trade tokens. It will be easy to find tokens from some of the towns, but the smaller or extinct towns may prove much more difficult and challenging.

difficult and challenging.

"Another favorite is collecting one or more tokens from each town in the state. Washington State has about 900 different towns or locations that issued trade tokens. Tokens from many of the towns are easy to find, while others may be difficult or even unique. Other popular topics include saloons, military bases, dairies, bakeries, confectioneries, lumber companies and cigar stores. The possibilities are limited only by one's imagination. Happy hunting!"

Nine-hundred just in Washington!?

Well, I now have one. A collection has to start somewhere.

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DUCK DECOYS



Carved decoy ducks have a long history in the United States and have become highly collectible over the last 50 years. The carved decoy market has seen some impressive prices, with one going at auction for the \$800,000.



Katie Wennerstrom and the carved white Swan which was her father's favorite of his collection. The collection is a bond to her father who passed more than 25 years ago.

BY RUSTY RAE
Associate Editor
OLD STUFF

Antiques and vintage collectibles, at times, are the ties that bind — a family memory or a relationship of a long past relative — a dad, or a mom, or perhaps an aunt or uncle. For Katie Wennerstrom it's a collection of her father's hand-carved decoys

that have kept alive warm memories of her relationship with her dad, who passed nearly 30 years ago.

Wennerstrom doesn't know why her father, not a duck hunter, but an inveterate fly fisherman, was fascinated by the decoys, many of the collection which were carved by artisans from the Midwest and Southeast. It may have been her dad's Midwest roots, growing up in Racine, Wisconsin.

But whenever the family visited an antique store, all eyes were on the lookout for decoys for dad. "They were all over the house — they were very much a part of my childhood and they bring back

fond memories of those days," she said.

"I don't know why or when he started or what was so fascinating to him about the decoys — its kind of a broken part of the story — but I know he loved the collection," she said.

Her dad's favorite was not a duck but a magnificent carved swan. Growing up in Eugene, Oregon, Wennerstrom remembers her father finding the swan in an antique shop in Florence, on the coast. "We must have made three or four trips to Florence before that swan became a part of the collection," she recalled.

Carved wooden duck decoys date back to the

mid-1800s through the mid-20th Century, when modern technology and materials superseded the hand-carved and painted decoys. As the use of wooden decoys tailed off, duck decoy collecting took off. Today, there are multiple organizations feting the craft of carvers, and as more and more upscale collectors have become involved, prices for antique decoys have soared. At one auction a single decoy duck sold for the astonishing price of \$856,000.

While the art of decoy carving tends to be focused east of the Mississippi, there are many fine carvers in the Pacific Northwest. If you're interested in finding more about local carvers, take in the Columbia Flyway Wildlife Show. It will be held in Astoria, Oregon, September 22-23 at Clatsop County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. Parking and admission are free.

While getting started collecting duck decoys may seem a bit daunting, keep in mind, like becoming an expert collector of any other item, it takes time to learn the ins and outs of carved decoys.

Knowledge is power, as they say, so getting up to speed on the general history of duck decoys is a first step in becoming a knowledgeable collector. Keep in mind there are more than 10,000 decoys listed for sale in a recent eBay search. Knowing what to buy and when to walk away is key in becoming a successful collector.

One of the first areas of knowledge to obtain is the maker of the decoys. In the world of painting there are "Frederic Remingtons" and there are those who copied Remington. The same holds true for decoy carvers. Once you've acquired a sense of the who's who of carvers, the process of collecting decoys becomes easier. A good reference book is essential for one's learning. *American Bird Decoys*,

by William J. Mackey Jr., and *Wild Fowl Decoys*, by Joel Barber will assist you in getting your decoy knowledge primed.

Another area to further your knowledge is to look for decoy collectors' association websites and social media accounts that can help connect you with knowledgeable decoy enthusiasts in your area. Attending decoy shows like the one in Astoria will also help you connect with other collectors and experts.

Starting out, begin with a narrow focus. Concentrate on one area of collecting that piques your interest. From there you can build your knowledge base and increase your collecting chops.

By now it should be apparent that one of the key tests of value of a duck decoy is the maker. But once that is established there are other criteria to consider.

One key delimiting area is the region from which the decoy was made. Long island, New Jersey, North Carolina and New England are regions that have decoy types. Of course, we in the Pacific Northwest have our own artisans as well.

Then there is the species of decoy. These include shorebirds, ducks, geese and others. You'll find shorebirds may be higher priced because hunt-

ing of shorebirds was outlawed in 1928 and therefore they are somewhat rarer. Favorites among collectors are geese and ducks.

Like any other collectible, one of the key factors affecting price is the condition of the decoy. Value will decrease when the decoy is in disrepair. But other factors of condition affecting price are if the decoy has been repainted, or if parts (normally the head) have been replaced. Stating the obvious, the better condition the decoy, the higher the price. And if you have a classic decoy in like-new condition, it could be worth its weight in gold.

Within the area of condition, if there are markings or other features of the decoy, and they assists in identifying the maker, you'll find additional value. Size matters, too. Larger duck and goose decoys tend to be pricier.

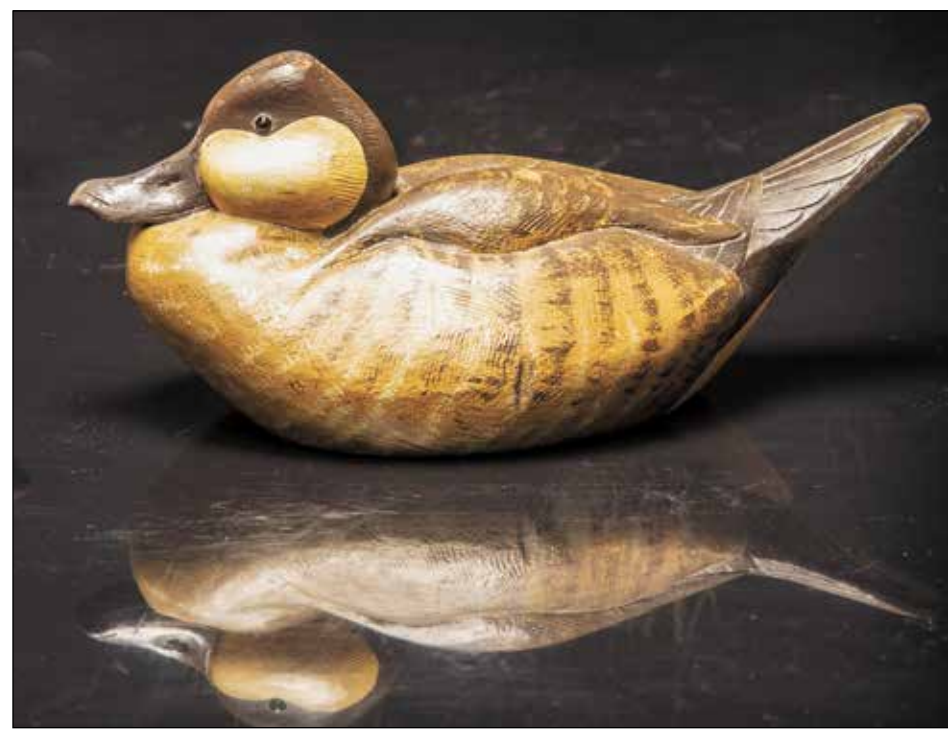
Finally, rarity is another key metric when it comes to determining the value of a decoy. One-of-a-kind items — those which were hand carved and brilliantly hand painted — will boost the value of a decoy.

When it comes to the actual hands-on inspection, here are key items to check. First, handle the decoy gently. You'll want to check for overall condition look-

ing specifically for the shape of the wood and the quality of the paint. Check for shot pattern (from a shotgun), cracks, or tiny chips — these indicate you may be dealing with an antique.

Like Mr. Miyagi always instructed Daniel san — "Always the eyes." Check the eyes of the decoy. Antique decoys tend to have glass eyes, though you may also find eyes made from nails or tacks.

Like checking for fine china, check the



Collecting carved decoys is part passion for the love of these art pieces and part knowledge — knowing what to buy and what to ignore. There are a number of things to watch for: the eyes — what are they made of — and the general shape of the decoy.

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Carved duck decoys are found in many antique shops, in the Pacific Northwest favoring those in the easter section. Do your homework and know who are the classic carvers — you never know what you might find.

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A DRIVE WORTH MAKING!

BY RUSTY RAE
Associate Editor
OLD STUFF

What began with one classic oak table that a young bride wanted for the newlywed's home nearly 40 years ago, today is Mark and Sheryl Zahar's Russellville Antiques, which stands as the premier antique furniture restoration palace and emporium, perhaps on the West Coast. Their shop, a picturesque eight-mile jaunt by car from Molalla, Oregon, through Christmas tree farms and forests, is open one week-end a month and anytime by appointment. Russellville Antiques houses a premium collection of oak furniture and antique and collectible kitchen wares.

Not your average antique shop, Russellville Antiques has become a destination for those who are interested in not only finding THE classic piece of antique oak furniture, but also having an artisan refinish it to like-new condition.

However, the journey the couple took to proprietorship of Russellville Antiques was anything but a straight line. For Mark, the youngest in his family, the journey began when he took over the family farm. A portion of the land is where the business sits today.



Mark and Sheryl Zahar (above) have built one of the premier oak antique shops on the West Coast. Their mantra of quality and quantity has served customers well. Their store is a short drive out of Molalla through forests.

The family business was part Christmas tree farm and part logging. Mark worked the logging business to help fund his and Sheryl's real love, the antique business. A life-threatening accident gave Mark the time to realize that logging simply wasn't what he wanted to do with his life — and the antique business was born out of that tragedy.

"During recovery I was really able to see that working the farm business was really not what I wanted to do with my life," Mark said. And thus the antique business bloomed.

Initially Mark and Sheryl and

another family member ran the show circuit. They were at the first Antique Expos at the Expo Center. They had a pair of 20-foot trailers in which they transported their wares to the shows.

"We were involved in the shows at the height of their popularity. At the time, when a show opened there was a real buzz — it was really exciting," said Sheryl. As time went on, the show visitors seem to lose the passion for the quality antiques that Mark and Sheryl displayed.

"We quit the shows two years before COVID because the people the shows were drawing had no appreciation

for our furniture. I often had to repair some of the pieces after a show because people simply didn't respect our work," said Mark.

In 2008 they built the current *Russellville Antiques* building, which is 7,500 square feet and includes a complete wood-working facility and paint shop where Mark works his magic in the restoration of oak furniture.

"I never dreamed it would turn into what it did," notes Mark, adding, "It's funny how life sends you in one direction and then morphs into something similar but totally different."

In his teenage years, he painted cars and did auto body work; In this work he was required to match paint colors. In doing body work he learned how to match shapes; Today that early experience has helped him master the matching of tones on wood and in the area of wood working where he matches carvings.

Mark and Sheryl take painstaking care to return the furniture they bring to the shop into showroom works of art. Each piece is gently disassembled before being refinished. The Zahars rarely strip the finish off their pieces,

eschewing the chemicals for sandpaper work. It is one of the differences in their work as opposed to those who take the short cut and chemically strip and revarnish.

Though Mark and Cheryl used to make cross country trips looking for pieces, today they have established their niche in the world of oak furniture refinishing. They have many friends and associates bringing them pieces to either finish, or add to their collection. Their floor room includes perhaps the largest collection of oak hall trees in Oregon, if not the Pacific Northwest, as well as a plethora of oak tables and chair.

"But we keep our eyes open for the next great piece — when it's your passion it's hard not to," said Sheryl.

What makes a classic piece for the Zahars? It's really pretty simple, notes Mark: "If we won't put a piece in our house, we won't put it in yours."

Mark believes their success with the furniture comes from the two Qs — Quality and Quantity. "If someone is looking for oak furniture, we've got it," Mark said. However, this isn't a bargain basement antique store. Prices represent the work and quality of each individual piece of furniture.

"We didn't start out low. We went out and found the best and if we couldn't afford a piece we figured out how to make payments," Mark said.

The Zahars have been able to develop a solid clientele with many repeat customers. "Customers come to us and tell us, 'I want that piece this way' — and Mark works his magic to make it happen," Sheryl says with a prideful smile.

While Russellville Antiques has become a destination for many interested in their fine work, Sheryl says, like most businesses, there is always the challenge of developing new clientele. Echoing Mark, she adds, "Once people see what we have to offer, if their interest is classic oak furniture we will see them regularly."

"But we keep our eyes open for the next great piece — when it's your passion it's hard not to."

— Sheryl Zahar

While oak furniture is their passion and the mainstay of their business, Sheryl has developed a secondary ardor for antique and vintage kitchen wares and old lamps.

"I started collecting things that I like," she noted. "I started collecting Pyrex dishes

early on. One thing led to another and the next thing I knew I was attending estate sales," Sheryl said.

Adds Mark, "When we started this adventure she went her own way with the kitchen wares — she has a sixth sense with those items," he beamed.

Today that first classic oak table still decorates Mark and Sheryl's home. "That table took us down this path. We started down this path and just kept going," notes Sheryl.

And now that path leads eight-miles out of Molalla to *Russellville Antiques*.



Russellville Antiques has filled its walls with top quality oak furniture. Mark Zahar is an artisan when it comes to refinishing antiques to a new level of quality.



An oak chair back awaiting Mark's touch in the refinishing shop.



In addition to the great collection of Oak furniture, Sheryl has developed a showroom of antique and vintage kitchen wares and lamps.

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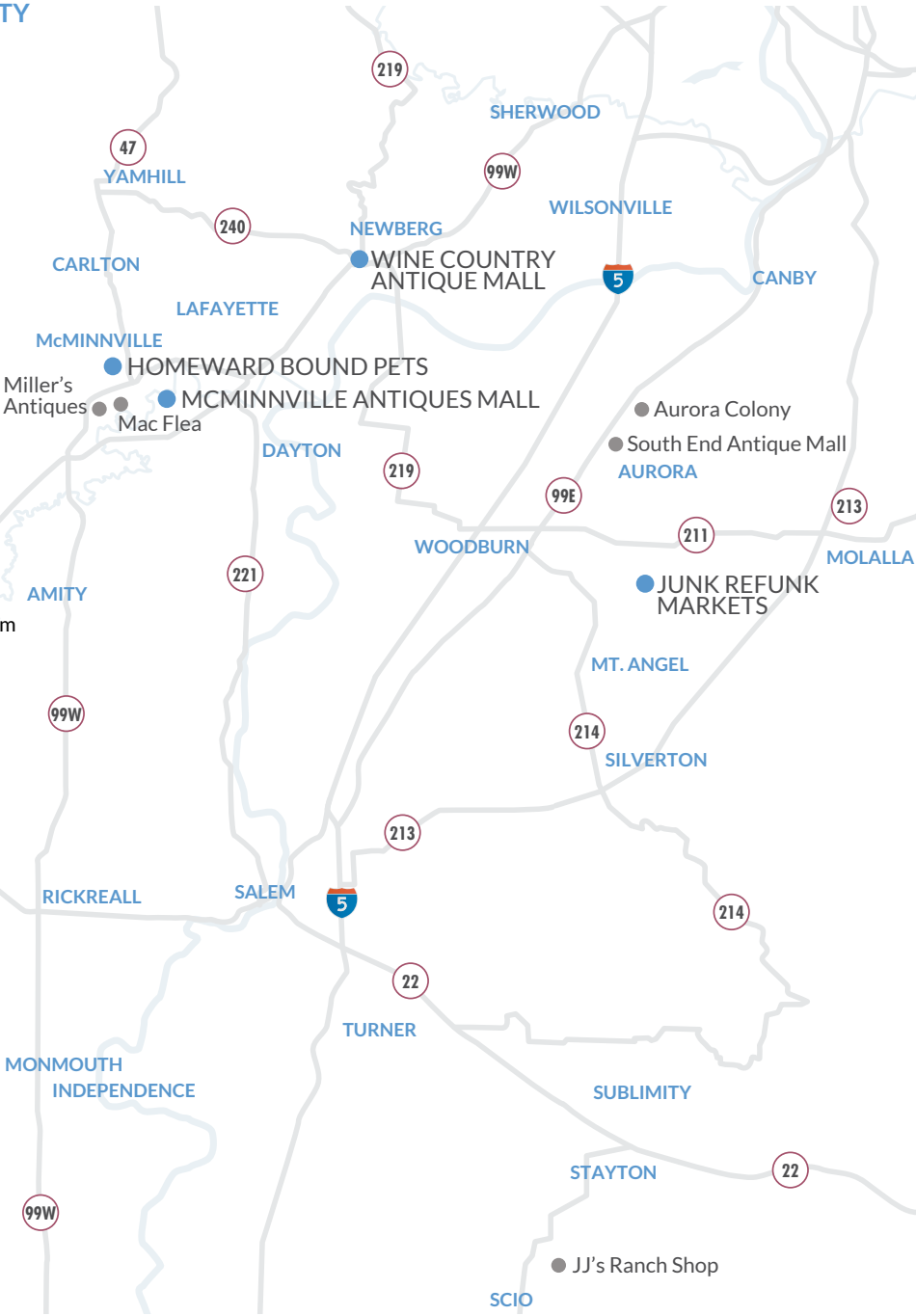
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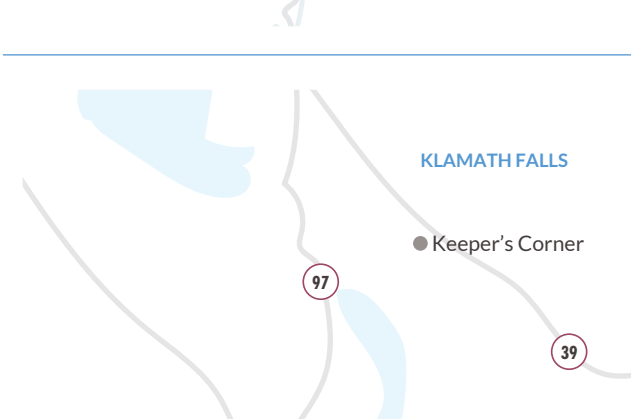
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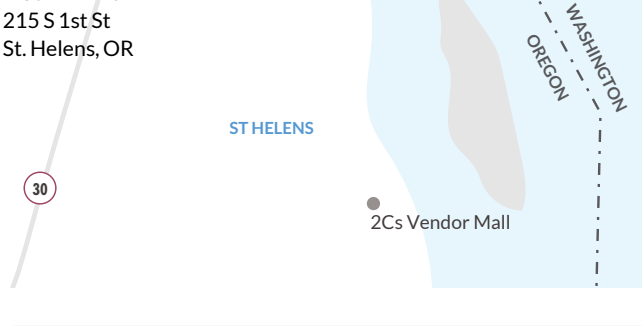
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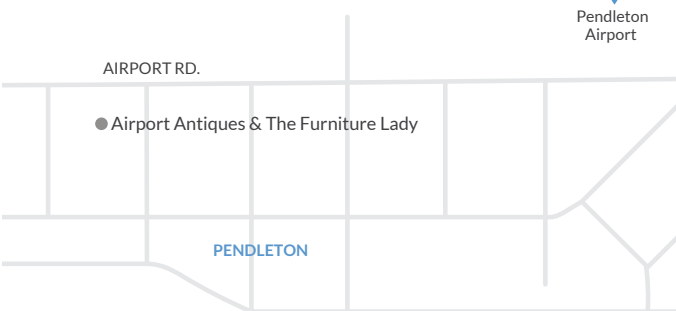
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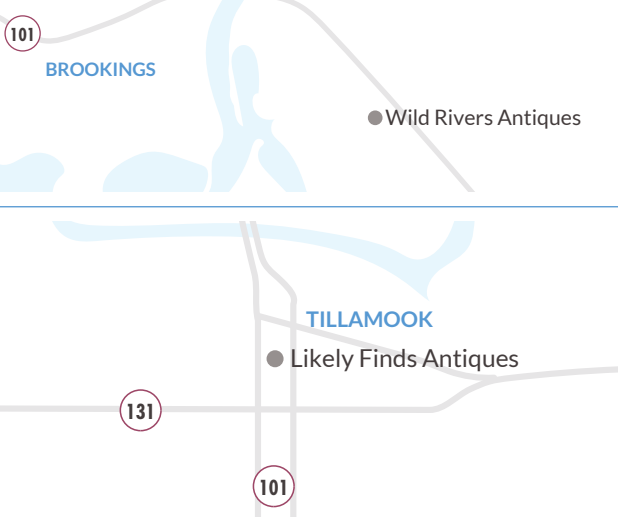
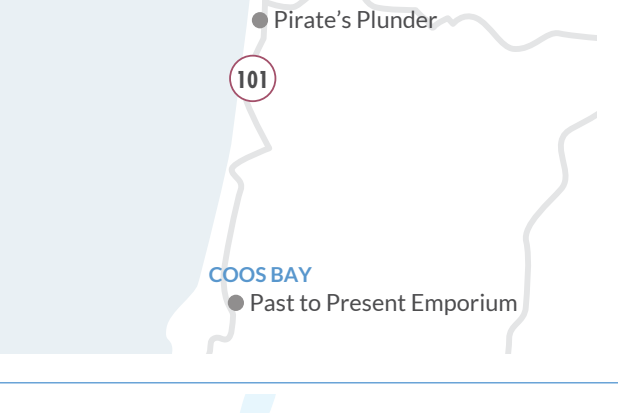
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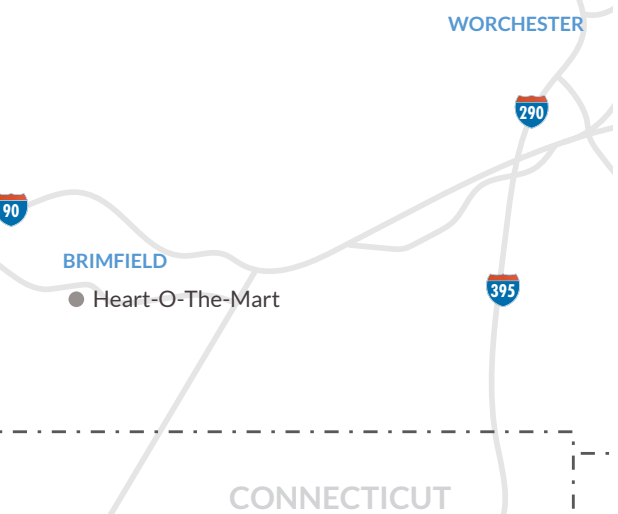


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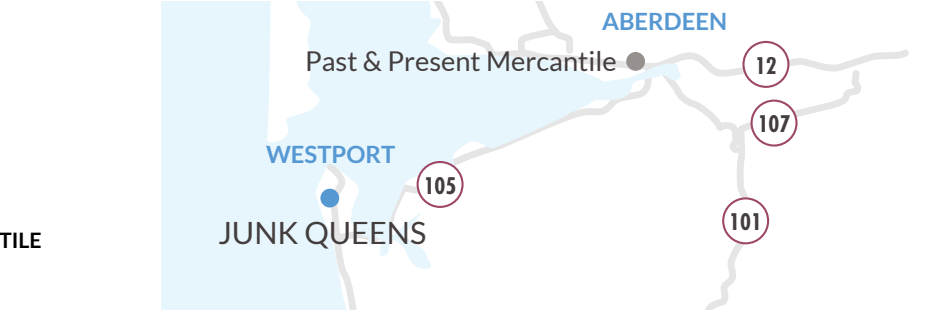
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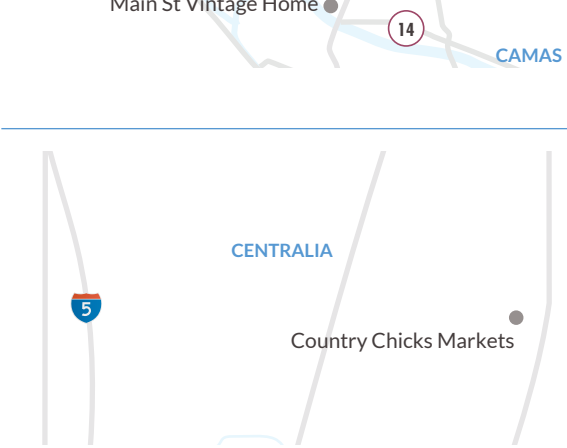
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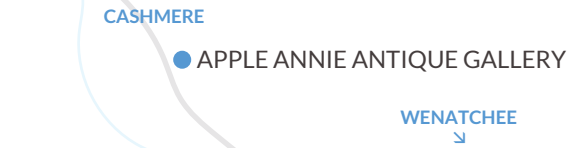
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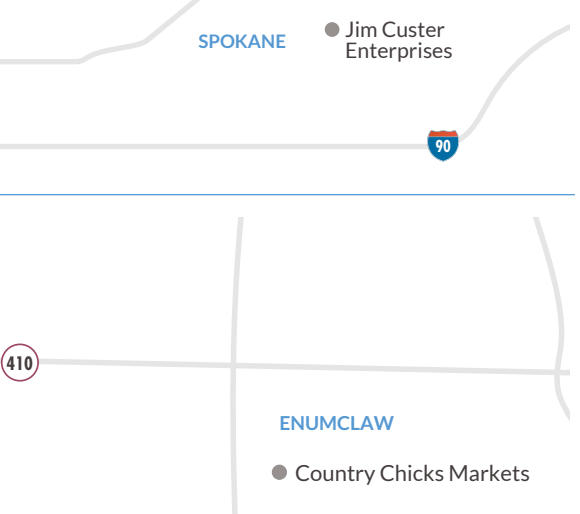
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MR. TIKI

GARY TERASHIMA'S
TIKI COLLECTION
NUMBERS AROUND
500 OF THE CLASSIC
MUGS, AND COUNTING

The mystique of collecting Tiki mugs

BY RUSTY RAE
Associate Editor
OLD STUFF

The journey to becoming an expert collector is often not a linear process. Gary Terashima brings proof to the theorem with his massive Tiki mug collection.

Terashima began collecting glass fishing floats in his native Hawaii. But one day when he was scouting for the glass globes at antique store on Oahu, he happened upon a Tiki mug and brought it home. "Once I realized the floats took up



Checking the bottom of a Tiki mug for the maker's mark helps to establish the value of a mug. Since there are many reproductions on the market today, this is an important first step in determining whether to add a mug to your collection.

too much room — they kinda overwhelm you with the amount of

space they need — I veered to Tiki mugs," he said.

That was back in the late 1990s. Since then he moved to Oregon to be with his wife who was in naturopathic school in the Portland area. Today, he doesn't really know the number of mugs in his collection, but somewhere north of 500.

For Terashima the attraction of the Tiki mugs is the mystique of what these creations, some of which may be 50 years old, bring with them.

"These mugs became popular after WWII

me of the idyllic era of Hawaii," he said

There's actually a regular history around Tiki mugs dating back to Hollywood of the 1930s, when Ernest Raymond Beaumont-Gantt opened a Tiki restaurant in Hollywood, California. Beaumont-Gantt, known as Donn the Beachcomber, began serving exotic drinks, including current-day favorites like the Mai Tai and the Zombie. Movie stars popularized the place and in the late 1930s Trader Vic's opened in San Francisco. Victor Bergeron and Donn the Beachcomber's restaur-



A series of Tiki Mugs in Terashima's collection which illustrate some of the commercial versions of Tiki mugs. These with the name of a Tiki bar imprinted on the base. Often times the mugs were given away with the drink.

"But for me the Tiki mugs remind me of the idyllic era of Hawaii"

— Gary Terashima

rants are credited with the explosion of interest in the Tiki cuisine and cocktails following WWII.

To better understand the mystique of Tiki mugs to many, you have to go back to the Polynesian culture where Tiki was the first man created — and he was looking for companionship.

As Tiki pined away for companionship he carved versions of his sought-after female companions. Throughout the years, Pacific Islanders built statues honoring Tiki. Made from stone, clay and wood, these images of Tiki showed disproportionately large faces with a multitude of wild expressions on small bodies.

While the Tiki culture boomed in the post WWII years, by 1970 the bloom was off the Tiki mug. In the 1990s another Tiki mug boom occurred and today on

ebay there are more than 9,000 items listed under the general heading of Tiki mugs.

However, for those interested in starting a Tiki mug collection, Terashima cautions "Let the buyer beware." He notes, "Ninety percent of the Tiki mugs for sale on eBay are not vintage items. They seem to be made for the modern Tiki mug hunter, they don't have the detail nor the patina of a vintage Tiki mug," he said.

Terashima has found most of the vintage Tiki mugs of the golden era were produced by two Japanese companies, Orchids of Hawaii and Ortega Mercantile Company. He notes, "Typical of Japanese manufacturing, these mugs display detailed workmanship and the detail in these mugs is really outstanding."

Terashima also found that the most recent Tiki Mugs don't seem

to have the same patina as those he considers vintage and suspects a part of the reason is due to the fact the glazes from back in the day are not available today due to environmental reasons — they may have contained lead.

"Contemporary mugs are too shiny and a little too bright," he adds. Terashima's collection is displayed in cases in his home, and his method of display actually requires that he collect two of each mug. He likes to bring order to the display and each display of mugs starts with an anchor mug — the largest of the mugs in a series — in the center and then on each side of the anchor mug are mugs in receding size. The mugs are displayed in rows in his cases, by theme and color.

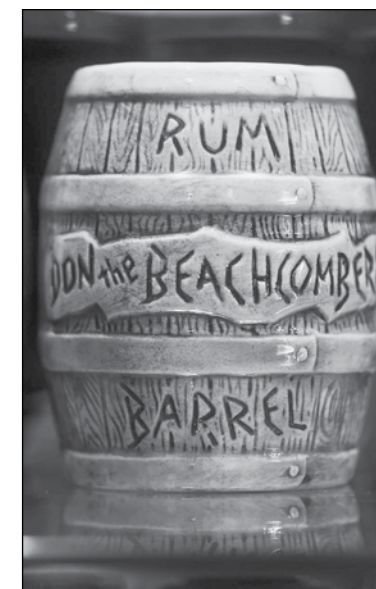
One category of Tiki mugs are those which were produced solely for Tiki bars or Polynesian restaurants.

These mugs normally have the organization's name embossed in the mug, normally at the base, and were often times given away to customers after they had quaffed one of the fruity Tiki drinks.

Pricing for Tiki reaches the same spectrum as the number of mugs which are available. However, the more rarer the mug the higher the price. Like any others antique or vintage item, pricing is based both on the condition of the time and its rarity. Terashima loves the green patina of one series of mugs in his collection and adds that a similar mug sold for \$2,500.

While eBay offers a starting place for developing a sense of the market, there are a number of other websites which focus on the collectible mugs, some of which are also producing modern replicas.

Gary Terashima's collection includes a variety of Tiki mugs as well as other Tiki collectibles. At right, Terashima checks out one of the Tiki Mugs from his collection. Below, a pair of Tiki salt and pepper shakers which are part of his collection. Bottom left, a set of Tiki mugs in his collection, showing the main mugs in the center and then smaller similar mugs. Below right, another of the Tiki Mugs which have been used to market one of the many Tiki Bars.



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