# Old Stuff

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### Antiques, Collectibles, History and Nostalgia for the Pacific Northwest

# **Old Stuff** News Brief

By Rusty Rae Old Stuff Associate Editor T'm haunted by the image of this 📥 burned out building in Talent, Oregon, where Treehouse Oriental Antiques was located.

I was on my way home from a trip to Medford, Jacksonville, and Ashland, and had a note to stop and say hello.

I plugged the address into my trusty mobile phone and off I went. When I first arrived, I thought, the dang phone must have taken me to the wrong address - or maybe I fumblefingered the address. But no, it was the right place.

Upon returning home, I caught up with the former owner, Angela Blackwell, who told me, "Part of me still doesn't believe my store of eight years and all the contents are gone."

Its hard to fathom her loss - 4,000 square feet of Oriental Antiques turned to ashes, with no insurance.

"I never, ever thought an event like this could happen in Talent, so I didn't have insurance," she said.

Blackwell was actually in Ashland moving a few pieces to a storefront where there is more foot traffic when the fire struck.

Located at 242 East Main Street she said she is hopeful she can move forward with the North and East Company.



All that remains of Treehouse Oriental Antiques in Talent, Oregon is this skeleton of a building. Angela Blackwell lost everything when the fire roared through the town in 2020

> 250 miles north on I-5, Norm Tognazzini has been dealing with a different kind of a disaster.

Perhaps not a disaster like the devastating fire in Talent, but a real pain for Norm's Lafayette School House Antique Mall.

The problem is a massive stree renewal project that has clogged traffic on Highway 99W, the main thoroughfare of the town. The construction project has stifled business in the small Yamhill County burg once known as the "Athens of Oregon."

Tognazzini has led local businesses' efforts to receive relief from the state.

While Tognazzini says his business at the School House Mall is off slightly from normal summer levels, he's still seeing decent traffic through the building.

Tognazzini's latest wrinkle is the addition of a wine bar, which he hopes will begin operation this fall and believes will be another enticement for vintage and

Meanwhile in Lafayette, Oregon, antique hunters, who may also want to enjoy the terroir of wine country.

> Down south, near the California border, Dan Borge at Wild Rivers Antiques in Brookings Harbor, Oregon, said despite high smoke from the fires in California and the occasional coastal fog, business has been solid for him.

"We are seeing an earlier slowdown than last year post Labor Day," he said.

Borge made the trek to The Original Giant Medford Flea Market over the Labor Day weekend and found active shoppers.

If you're a mall enterprise with multiple vendors looking to develop community among your vendors, take a page out of Teresa Nootenboom's playbook.

For the last decade, Nootenboom has hired a social media expert to handle South End Antiques' online needs.

One of the items she produces is a newsletter that goes out to all vendors, which includes tidbits on

⊠ oldstuffnews@gmail.com

what the vendors need to do to be successful.

"One of the favorites is customer requests. Vendors can bring a requested item and we'll call the customer to come in and take a look," she said.

That personal touch with both the vendor and the customer has led to additional sales.

They also help vendors focus on the various seasons and remind them to change up merchandise regularly and stop by to

dust their areas frequently - all of which helps for successful sales.

While most of us have dreaded the impact of the pandemic, Joe Versaw in the recently opened Penny Lane Antiques in Vernonia found a gold lining in the slowdown.

He had purchased the J.C. Penny building in Vernonia, and when his Portland-based store was closed due to being a nonessential business, he shifted his focus to readying the new store. That allowed him to open in Vernonia a year earlier than he expected.

Versaw says Vernonia is rapidly becoming an antique shopper destination. In addition to his store, there is Fox Hollow Antique next door and the Rusty Nail just up the street.

Versaw says the three stores offer a variety of quality antiques.

"No Beanie Babies or knock-offs -- just real antiques that people can take home and cherish."



### OREGON

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Collectibles	ç
2S	
orks & Antiques	
rchitectural	
que Mall	
ntiques	
ercantile on Services	
iques	
/intage	
lues	
outique & Salon	
S HARBOR	
iques	13
BEACH	
It Antiques	13
_	
NT	
ll Antiques	15
NE	
cantile	10
FALLS	
r	14
CITY	
orse Mall	
lectibles Week	

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MCMINNVILLE Homeward Bound Pets and Humane Society9 Mac Flea
MEDFORD Medford Armory Antiques & Vintage Sale 15
NEWBERG Wine Country Antique Mall9
NEWPORT Pirate's Plunder
OREGON CITY Oregon City Antiques
PORTLANDAntique Alley10American at Heart8Multnomah Antiques10
REDMOND Farmer's Co-Op Antiques13
SCIO J.J.'s Ranch Shop9
SPRINGFIELD The Antique Peddlers14
TURNER The Farmhouse Show
VERNONIA Fox Hollow Antiques

### WASHINGTON

ABERDEEN Past & Present Mercantile
CASHMERE Apple Annie Antique Gallery19
EDMONDS Aurora Antique Pavilion
LAKEWOOD South Tacoma Antique Mall
LONGVIEW Commerce Corner Collectibles
PARKLAND Pacific Run Antique Mall
PUYALLUP Puyallup Antique District
SEATTLE Fairlook Antiques
SPANAWAY Old Main Street Antiques Mall16
VANCOUVER Old Glory Antiques
Reliques Marketplace

### SERVICES

Insurance, ACNA	1

### FINDING FIXES FOR THE DISPOSABLE AGE

### By Ossie Bladine

I read a souring factoid the other day: Articles of clothing are now worn an average seven times before being discarded. Seven!

It was reported in the recent news article how "fast fashion" is causing environmental issues in African regions. Since American clothes are inferiorly made compared to the past, they now more often than not go unsold at African markets (where clothes end up when they don't make the cut at Goodwill and other nonprofit thrift shops), and end up overflowing in landfills and often strewn about beaches.

It's another unfortunate tale of the disposable age we live in, where products are made faster, cheaper, without longevity in mind – likely to be thrown away and replaced sooner than later, instead of fixed or repaired as needed and cherished over time, possibly even passed down to other generations.

This cultural change obviously affects the antiques and collecting world in multiple ways.

It was the topic of a 2020 BBC Future article I just read titled "The fate of antiques and heirlooms in a disposable age." It starts by describing the unique and specific way in which ko-imari style of porcelain (which dates back to the 17th Century) is repaired: cracks are sealed with a lacquer and then colored with gold or silver dust. "It creates an appearance of veins of rare metal running through the porcelain." To consider something even more valuable after it's been broken and fixed is a much different mentality from the disposable culture, as the article details.

There are some notes of good news, however, in the article for antique and collectible enthusiasts. For one, under 35 year olds are showing renewed interest in antique furniture, as reducing one's

carbon footprint becomes an increasingly major issue for younger generations.

I'm not sure if this was meant as a trend in all Western culture, or specific to the British. But the article discussed a European trend that definitely is taking strides in the state – right to repair laws.

President Biden signed an executive order earlier this year pushing right to repair laws, which are meant to force makers of tech devices, automobiles, appliances and more to allow consumers to repair their own devices, and to make available pieces to do so.

For instance, cell phone companies have trained us to think that the lifespan of a phone should only be about two years, at which time you might as well chuck the thing in the dumpster and buy a new one. (Obviously, there's lots of money being made in the disposable age.)

I find this to be bullish news for the antiques and collectibles industry. There's not so much a direct relation in products. But perhaps right to repair laws could provide a shift in consumers' minds to attribute more long term value to their purchased items; even provide opportunities to more easily modify and individualize those products. As the BBC article puts it, "imagine if more of the objects you own could be ... lovingly restored and enjoyed through the generations despite their age and imperfections."

And with that, from all of us here at Old Stuff, we wish you a blessed holiday season and a Happy New Year. We're excited to see what 2022 has in store for this publication, its wonderful advertising clients, and its myriad cherished readers.

ON THE COVER: Holiday items from the collection of Shauna Davala of McMinnville. Davis is one of the regular vendors at the McMinville Antique Mall. Photo by Old Stuff Associate Editor Rusty Rae.

# VINTAGE TURKEY DAY

By Anne Gilbert 🖉 y memories of family Thanksgivings were an anticipated ritual that began with a blessing ,then centered around the carving of a beautifully roasted turkey and family members passing bowls of fragrant stuffing, vegetables, gravy and jellied cranberries.

It ended with pumpkin pie. After all wasn't this the way artist Norman **Rockwell** painted it in his famous 1942, Saturday **Evening Post** 

> picture? Our places at the table were identified with a cardboard figure of a Pilgrim dressed in black and our name. Sounds just like what

we learned in school about the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving.

But, was that the way it really was as depicted in the 19th century painting we are all famil iar with?

Over the years the symbols of Thanksgiving have been transferred to a variety of antique and collectible vintage objects. Some are affordable while others can be priced at several hundred dollars.

### **SERVING** SPOONS, & CANDLES

PLATTERS,

Above: A Ridgeway antique flow blue turkey serving platter by Staffordshire has been priced at over \$1.000

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In the late 19th century another Thanksgiving tradition became popular: sending postcards picturing various images. There were Pilgrims dressed in black and Native Americans sharing food. Or, drawings of Plymouth Rock where the Pilgrims supposedly first came ashore. During the late 19th century, one of the most cherished objects was the platter with a turkey image. That was only the beginning with complete dinner sets consisting of many serving pieces with transfer print images of a turkey and borders of harvest subjects. They were usually made of modestly priced ceramics often imported from Germany and England, besides being manufactured by America's developing

Considered an iconic rendition of the pilgrim thanksgiving is the painting by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris(1863-1930). The original hangs in the Library of Congress. The painting came to be considered the way the event took place.

ceramics factories.

Fast forward to the 20th century. Famed illustrator Steven Dohanos created a series of five Thanksgiving theme sterling silver plates for Franklin Mint, from 1972 to 1976.

The turkey platter, the center of importance, was often made of silver and other metals. One example is the aluminum turkey platter made by Wendell Forge Aluminum Company that has never stopped being made since its first introduction in the 1940s.

If you can afford it, regular fare at many tables there is a vintage ster- during Thanksgiving. ling silver turkey motif serving spoon for the dressing. Made by Tiffany & Co., the current dealer cost is \$475.

Now, for the facts that some of my research turned up on the History News Network, written by Timothy Walch.

Historically the pilgrims didn't land at Plymouth, but at Cape Cod, near Provincetown, on November 1620. Another fact, the Pilgrims only wore black garments on Sunday. Then there is the matter of their meeting with native American chief Massosoit of the Wampanoag tribe and 90 of his men. They are pictured wearing loin cloths. It

was a bit chilly for such garments in November. Another fact that my research turned up: the pilgrims never called themselves pilgrims. They were separatists. The term "pilgrim" didn't come into use until around 1880.

Most of the artwork available shows the feast being set on tables and served on plates. Historians differ on how the feast was actually handled. Some say the pilgrims didn't have serving utensils and ate with their hands.

What was the actual menu? Venison, seafood, and dried fruits and vegetables. Pumpkin was served but not pumpkin pie. There were wild turkeys but historical records don't say for sure if they were served.

For 200 years Thanksgiving was strictly a New England holiday. It was in 1789 George Washington proclaimed November 26, as the first National Thanksgiving day. However, in 1863 President Abraham Lincoln changed the date to the last Thursday in November. That has not changed.

There are a variety of items available for collectors and most are reasonably priced. One of the

> most popular are the candles in the forms of pilgrim men and women made by the Gurley Novelty Company. The business began in 1939 in Buffalo, New York. They are now being made in Vermont.

Table linens, both as printed cotton and lace were made from the 1920s on. A beautiful version referred to as Quaker Lace pictures the ship Mayflower and

figures of the pilgrims walking on the land.

Aluminum turkey platters made by Wendell August Forge are still being made. Vintage versions still turn up on EBay. The new trays can cost over \$200.

Whether you want to decorate your table with old or new Thanksgiving objects or begin a collection there are plenty of affordable opportunities. There are also books and price guides on the subject. Check out the many online historical references on the subject and decide what is fact or fiction.



This Tiffany sterling silver turkey serving spoon might be a regular member of the family's Thanksgiving dinner, but it's also a highly collectible item bringing prices in excess of \$500



cities of Southern Oregon, (left to right) Medford, Jacksonville and Ashland offer a plethora of opportuni ties for collectors. Ashland (**right**) offers a variety of tourist activities in addition to antique shops, while Medford's antique shops (**right center**) offer quality items. And, don't miss a trolly ride in Jacksonville! (**far right**).

By Rusty Rae Old Stuff, Associate Editor

the California border, lies the triad of Medford, Jacksonville, and Ashland, three diamonds in the luscious Rogue Valley, which for searchers of pristine antiques, collectibles, and vintage items provides a bounty of opportunities for immaculate items.

Though the drive south may be a bit daunting for some-about 450 miles from Seattle; nearly 300 miles from Portland - this area offers ample opportunities for a weekend (or more) getaway, which not only may lead to found treasures, but the opportunity to refresh the soul in these strange pandemic days.

For those who may not know, Medford is the eighth largest city in Oregon and by far the queen city of Southern Oregon and the Rogue Valley, with a population topping 85,000 as of 2020. Named for a town in

Portland

99F

Aurora

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Exit 278

3 miles eas



Gurley pilgrim family candles have become



# **DESTINATION:** TRIFECTA! MEDFORD, JACKSONVILLE, ASHLAND: THREE GOLDEN NUGGET TOWNS AWAITING COLLECTORS

ucked away in Southern Oregon, a short 45-minute drive (or less) from

Massachusetts, Medford was birthed by railroad surveyors for what became the Southern Pacific. They thought running the railroad through the center of the Rogue Valley made the most sense. The city was incorporated in 1885.

The railroad allowed Southern Oregon products to reach larger markets and the valley's crops of pears, peaches, and apples thrived. But there is more to Medford than its fruit bounty. It is rich in the history of the state and is a short ride to iconic wonders of nature

Crater Lake and Mt. Shasta, just over the California line. Four nearby rivers provide additional recreational activities including hiking, fishing, and boating. There is plenty to do after your collecting urge is sated.

rivers populating the Rogue Valley that offer opportunities for fishing, hiking, and river rafting.

The triad of Medford, Jacksonville, and Ashland offer numerous opportunities for sightseeing and a getaway into the natural beauty of the

areas. Crater Lake (above) is an hour drive from Medford and Mt. Shasta, just across the state border, is 90-minutes away. There are four great

Perhaps the little brother to Medford is Jacksonville, located just five miles away and the initial county seat of Jackson County. The city fathers of Jacksonville were hoping the railroad line would run by their burg, which was established in 1851 as the result of a gold rush when the mineral was

found at nearby Rich Gulch.

Jacksonville, too, provides insight into the history of Oregon. When the railroad tracks were planted away from its downtown core, Jacksonville declined. In 1927 the county voted to move the county seat from Jacksonville to Medford.

However, Jacksonville today is a vibrant community alive with the region's unique history, on the streets and in the shops, which have been kept as original as possible, giving one a glimpse into Southern Oregon's past glory.

Although Jacksonville is the smaller of the three cities, it offers collectors a number of shops focused on collectibles and antiques that are out of the ordinary.

Rusty Rae/Old Stuf

A short drive south near the end of the Rogue Valley you'll find Ashland. Not only is Ashland known internationally for its Oregon Shakespeare Festival, but also as the purveyor of antique and collectible shops . Like its brethren in Medford and Jacksonville, Ashland offers a wide selection of pristine bygone relics.

# Medford THE QUEEN CITY OF COLLECTIBLES **OFFERS QUALITY, VARIETY, VALUE**

Bv Rustv Rae Old Stuff. Associate Editor **T**ou may think of I Medford as just another wide spot on Interstate 5 where you stop for gas and a snack on your way to someplace else.

But Medford offers purveyors of antiques and vintage collectibles items at a level of purity not seen often in the Pacific Northwest. Easily, it might be called the Queen City of collectibles based on the large assemblage of classics available.

You can't go wrong visiting any of the half-dozen shops in Medford, depending on what you're looking for. However, one of the first places to stop is also the oldest and largest, not only in Medford but in all of Oregon. That would be Main Antique Mall, in the heart of the city.

Owner Karen Cearley tells that her emporium is 30,000 square feet, housing 200 vendors. Cearley brings 32 years of experience to the Main Antique Mall. She said, "Our vendors are dedicated to providing quality vintage items, top to bottom."

Their attitude prevails throughout the majority of shops in the Rogue Valley triad, and Cearley says, "Not everyone who wants to have a booth here will be admitted. We want vendors who bring true vintage and antique items. The last thing we want is the appearance of a flea market or a garage sale venue."

Over at American Mercantile, owners Krista Singley and Jake Husel, in the business for a dozen years, have a similar focus. "We've changed what we allow to come into our shop. We definitely don't want garage sale vendors - we're very picky about what is displayed here," Singley said.

American Mercantile, too, features plentiful floor space. Husel figures





of equally high quality items are found in shops that dot the city of Medford. Top: A classic Remington portable typewriter from the Main Antique Mall; Above left: This vintage cash register, one of several also at the Main Antique Mall. Right: From LC Antiques in Time, a pocket watch with a duck hunting motif embossed on it. Below right: Two favorite stopping places from Antique and Vintage collectors in Medford, the Acme Garage and Orion's.

they have 13,000 square feet, which Krista noted was actually split into two sections: furniture and décor on one side and vintage items on the other.





The vintage side of the house features 80 vendors.

Krista said they looked to diversify their offerings and found a furniture market for quality

items and a price point for those on a budget. "I think we feature funky vintage items that people can really have fun with when it comes to home decorating," Krista said.

Over at the **Collector's** Market, owner Kathy Beemer shepherds 120 vendors in 12,000 square feet of space. Roaming through her store is, "A walk down memory lane Hopefully, there's something for everyone here," she said.

With 30 years of experience in the vintage and antique business, Beemer focusses on providing quality items reflecting the heritage of the area.

"I don't police the vendors — there are too many of them – but we aren't a pawn shop," she noted with a chuckle. "And the vendors work hard to bring quality antique and vintage items to display in their booths here," she added.

The Coop de Ville and Vintage Rehab are a pair of stores "conjoined at the hip." The two stores have separate entryways into the shared general building. Coop de Ville describes itself as a lifestyle store for pickers, junkers, upcyclers and treasure hunters, offering all things funky, junky, and farmhouse cool. Vintage Rehab features antiques and vintage items, but also has a supply of restoration materials, including strippers, stains, and paints.

Recently Coop de Ville has changed hands. The two stores will continue to share an entryway, but will become separate entities.

On the west side of Medford halfway to Jacksonville, lies another twosome, Acme Garage and Orion's Used Building Materials, where an adventure in collecting awaits those who visit.

The Acme Garage is managed by Carol Rabjohn who has five vendors and a passel of folks who bring her their estate sale items. While the site may seem a bit disheveled to

some, Rabjohn says, "I'm a one-woman show and often times someone brings in really wonderful items from an estate, but I just don't have time to really organize them - so they just sit where they're dropped, at times."

She also notes that she hand-picks a number of items and has a strong interest in antique and vintage items.

"We have a solid selection of collectible items that give excellent value to our customers. I'm not really interested in knock-offs or Made in China items. But. for example, if it's a Kit Kat Clock reproduction that's in good running shape, that's okay, because not evervone can afford a real one," she said.

Next door to the Acme Garage is Orion's, called by Rabjohn, "An iconic neighbor."

Orion's features used building mate rials, including architectural hardware, period lighting fixtures, and a variety of other building materials suitable for refurbishing projects.

A favorite of many who visit Medford is LC Antiques In Time, which dates back to 1947 and where owner Ned Hussan savs he's been in business since 1990.

Hussan is guite clear about his business. noting. "What we are, is a watch and clock repair shop."

However, don't be fooled by that note. Yes, Antiques in Time has three watch and clock repairmen on staff (and the shop is certified to repair those high-end Rolexes). However, when you visit, you will also find an amazing collection of vintage watches and grandfather clocks.

"Grandfather Clocks certainly aren't our bread and butter,"H ussan notes, but the clocks in the store tell



A classic collection of vintage and antique toasters is found at the Collector's Corner where you'll find 12,000 square feet of space, 120 vendors, and are able to take a walk down memory lane.

once did. He notes,

"We've taken on

an interesting history of time keeping in a different era.

"That's what we push – you can't replace the history these pieces tell," he said.

There's also a solid collection of pocket watches with their own tales to tell.

Casey Moseman of Picker's Paradise confesses his shop doesn't feature as many antique and collectables as it

At right: One a set of Staffordshire dishes found at the Collector's Corner in Medford. Below: A vendor's display at American Mercantile in Medford, showing a vintage toy truck and a conch shell. Bottom: Tempus Fugit indeed — and time will fly when you visit LC Antiques in Time.





Medford offers collectors a wide range of motels, a large variety of eateries, from down and dirty fast food joints offering the usual fare of hamburgers, tacos, and burritos, to more fine dining outlets

representing the region's favorite fare. Also found is a thriving food cart business and just about any sit-down cuisine one may desire.

Medford itself is a city full of parks and other recreational opportunities for those who are looking for some physical activity. Of course there is plenty of outside activities (hiking, kayaking, whitewater rafting, and fishing) as well,





as mentioned earlier.

Another fun exploration when you're in Medford is the Harry and David's store, where you'll find fresh fruit in season, and a catalog full of classic souvenirs for those back home.

Not to be missed in any visit is the Southern Oregon Historical Society, where you can find a trove of information on the history of the state and the region. Check with SOHS on the hours its open, since the pandemic has created scheduling havoc.

While in the area, one historical place not to miss is the Hanley Farm, which is now managed by SOHS. This property gives insight to the ways of the world from the time the family purchased the farm in 1847. It was deeded in a will to the society in 1982 and has been managed by SOHS since 1986.

One project SOHS has taken on as a part of the Hanley Farm is the establishment of Monarch Waystation, which is designed (nationally) to promote the growth of the Monarch butterfly population.

That's Medford more than a wide spot on the I-5 corridor; Its the Queen City of collectibles and antiques offering high value items reason-



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# Ashland WHERE THE BARD MEETS ANTIQUES

he first thing one fitten thinks of when considering the city of Ashland is the Oregon Shakespearean Festival that drives the community. But there are in fact myriad jewels in this city of 20,000 souls, including Southern Oregon University, a number of close-by spas and hot springs to sooth your spirit, art galleries and museums, eateries galore, and of course antique, vintage, and collectible shops.

Located in the heart of historic downtown Ashland, **Three** Magpies offers what owner David Ralston says is an eclectic selection of items from A to Z – all of which he notes repre-

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The Three Magpies in downtown Ashland offers a broad selection of items including historic photographs and paintings (above) or this classic Bakelite rotary telephone

sents "the very best of authentic items."

Ralston said the name of shop comes from the Magpie bird, which likes to collect shiny things, and said this represents a segment of the store's offerings featuring jewelry along with



rare books, Asian antiques and a selection of classic art ready to frame.

Three Magpies offers a wide range of antiques and vintage items which Ralston has curates to represent a high level of quality and authenticity

The layout of the shop with its pristine items has the feel of a museum and Ralston notes he often reminds customers, "There's no need to whisper – it's not a museum."

On the other end of the spectrum is Ashland's largest collectible shop,



the Ashland Artisan Emporium, which owner Michelle Christian began developing 11 years ago. The building boasts 15,000 square feet, 150 vendors and 30 consignees. It began life a video rental store.

When the store went out of business, her father's idea was to develop the store

as a collective market for local artisans. That grew into what the business is today.

You'll find Asian antiques

at Old World Artifacts

and these hand-made

creations (above). At the

Artisan Emporium there

such as this refinished

students' desk from ar

are a wide range of items

Christian said, "Obviously, we're not selling one thing rather all sorts of items.

"We're not an antique mall per se, or a craft mall – but we offer a variety of affordable items - some which are



### antiques or collectibles," she said.

Included in the offering is a furniture section in the rear of the store which Christian says she juries and where there are some wonderful pieces at price points the common man or woman can afford.

Hidden away on a back street is Frank Corbin's Old World Artifacts. which specializes in Asian antiques. This includes Hindu and Buddhist items as well as a selection of rugs from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Corbin said he's been collecting all his life. He opened Old World Artifacts two years ago and while the pandemic closed the brick and mortar store for six weeks, he said his online business took off.

In addition to the items he curates, Corbin has two artists who display their work in the shop. Claudia McAllister is a jeweler who specializes in silver work. She has available necklaces, rings, and other pieces. Kat McLver is a sculptor who creates interesting visions of people in clay, among other subjects.

**T** isit Jacksonville to drink in Oregon's 19th century history - the Jacksonville Historic District was designated a U.S. National Historic Landmark in 1966 . But while you're taking in Oregon's history, be sure to stop in the three remaining antique and collectible shops.

If you're visiting prior to Oct. 16, be sure to stop in to the venerable Pickety Place before they close their doors. Picketv Place has been a mainstay in the antique and collectible business in Jacksonville for decades. But in September the

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### COME FOR THE HISTORY, STAY FOR THE ANTIQUES

owners were made an offer they had to refuse with respect to the lease on the building where the business currently resides. The owners indicate they will stay involved in the community, and they'll likely reopen at some point in the future, although that is still to be determined.

Two other antique and vintage operations remain in Jacksonville, Trolley Stop Antiques and C Street Treasures. Both owners got their starts working at Pickety Place so the loss of Pickety Place brings additional

sadness.

At C Street Treasures one finds what owner Pat Montellano calls the best of American pottery. A partner in Pickety Place for five years, she notes, "Fiestaware is iconic Americanmade pottery. It has a history that dates back to 1936 and its still being produced in West Virginia."

Nearby, on the main drag of Jacksonville, lies Sue Tucker's Trolly Stop Antiques. Tucker, too, got her start at Pickety Place. Today her business includes a healthy

portion of estate sales. While Tucker's shop includes prime items from estate sales, she said she also features antique Asian items and one time had the largest collection of Asian antiques between Portland and San Francisco.

Included in the current collection is a 400-year-old cabinet from Germany. Perhaps the real treat is simply walk ing around the shop, housed in one of Jacksonville's historic buildings from the 1880s.

### WILLAMETTE VALLEY





### O SEREES GREAMARES

Top: Fiestaware displayed in the window of C Street Freasures. Bottom right: The C Street sign uses a Gaelic C which some might see as an A. **Bottom** left: Trolley Stop Antiques resides in one of the historic buildings in Jackson-



### IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS, BUT MEDFORD ARMORY SHOW IS BACK

by Carole Berry Twin Bridges Antique Productions

When we held our Fall 2019, Antiques and Vintage Sale benefitting DOGS for better Lives at the Medford Armory, we never imagined that it would be our last Show – for at least two years.

The unprecedented spread of the coronavirus and subsequent health safety mandates totally changed our lives and the world of antiquing.

As we approach dates for our Fall 2021 Medford Armory Show, scheduled for October 16, 17, we

know that our many wonderful dealers are ready to share their treasures with collectors who are truly ready for "life as we knew it" to resume.

Saturday doors are open from 10am to 5pm and Sunday, from 10am to 4pm. Admission is \$6.00 with free return and Free parking. Collectors receive a \$1.00 discount with this article.

Twenty percent of the proceeds from admissions benefits DOGS for better LIVES.

To that end, we maintain a positive attitude and vision

GLADSTONE

MERCANTILE



Floyd Pearson of Lakehead, Calif.. with his dog bank.

that our event will place. However, to be on the safe side, please check closer to show dates to confirm status of the 2021 October show. Founded in 1993 by

Phyllis Bear of Country Heart Promotions, the Medford Armory Antiques & Vintage Sale features dealers from five states with a wide variety of merchandise which is sure to interest all

who attend.

Special services and exhibits include: Antique evaluation and identification by Larry Alexander, Relics at the Rec. Fort Jones, California, during all Show hours. The cost is \$5.00 per item.

The Jacksonville Museum Quilters' Guild will decorate the balconies at the Armory with gorgeous quilts, as well as giving quilting demonstrations.

Doll Restoration and period costuming by Linda Lee Sutton is also being offered.

Siskiyou Lacemakers will display and demonstrate bobbin lace, tatting and needlelace.

For those of you with a little gasoline in your veins, the Rogue Valley A's Car Club will display vintage cars.

The Medford Armory Show benefits the local nonprofit, DOGS for better LIVES (formerly DOGS for

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the DEAF.) DOGS for better LIVES rescues dogs from shelters along with helping individuals who are deaf or who have hearing loss. The nonprofit also provides children who are on the autism spectrum with dogs.

Professionals also use these dogs in their work with special needs students and others who benefit from the dogs' calming presence.

Volunteers from the Organization will be present at the show, giving demonstrations and providing information on their unique and important service to dogs and the disabled community.

The Medford Armory is located at 1701 South Pacific Highway in Medford (exit #27 off I-5 North.) For more information, contact Twin Bridges Antique Productions at 530 241 4063 or on line at www. tbcashows.info.

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much confusion."

she added.

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Everything is coming up roses...

# ...FOR MINDY KING'S ROSE **CITY VINTAGE MARKET**

Veteran show producer Mindy King (at right), who spends six months out of the year in Portland, stopped to smell the roses in a local park and believes there is the opportunity bring back a Rose City show.

**T**hough daunted by the unknown of the L pandemic, Mindy King, who has jumped into the void created by the demise of the Christine Palmer shows in Portland and the Pacific Northwest, went forward with her Rose City Vintage Market at the Portland Expo September 24-25.

"It's been a wild ride – we thought about cancelling or postponing the show," she said, but decided cancelling or delaying the show at such a late date would have created too

"The Expo people went out of their way to help us – opening up another section of their facility so we could put together pods for each of the vendors. And we hired extra security to ensure vendors and attendees masked up,"

With so many unknowns regarding the future, King said she is unsure about subsequent shows. "I have my seasonal shows in



Palm Springs, so for Portland we're thinking about two or three shows in 2022," she said.

King believes the Portland vintage commu nity wants the shows adding, "We'll see how things go with our first show. But if the community comes out that would portend well for future shows."

The good news for Portland is King is committed to the area - she lives in Rose City six months out of the year - and believes the show must go on - as is seen by her commitment to promote the September show at the Expo Center with the COVID Delta strain hanging over the city's head.

For King, the shows are all about relationships. She's obviously a people person and said, "The folks who set up at our shows become family. People form long-lasting relationships all brought together by their common love of collecting. I know it's brought people into my life that I would have never

known and I am very grateful for that - and that's something I hope is a result of the show in Portland.

King finds energy not only in producing the shows, but in walking the floor and seeing the people and booths.

"Like each of us, every piece of art, jewelry, dress, or chair has a story. It's lived (sometimes longer than us) and it has a history. Sometimes hidden, sometimes known. I love peeking into the past with every piece I see," she said.

As mentioned earlier, King is no newcomer to promotion of antique and collectible shows. For the last eight years she's produced the Palm Springs Vintage Market which runs the first Sunday of each month from October to May.

That bodes well for the future of Portland's vintage, collectible and antique community...



# VIC **DOWNS:** WATCH COLLECTING FOR FUN & PROFIT

Retired teacher Vic Downs collects watches by the dozens and loves to wear them, too.

By Starla Pointer

Old Stuff Special Correspondent

Watch collecting has always been close to the heart of **V** McMinnville's Vic Downs. Since he first strapped a watch on his wrist as a high school distance runner to the day he received his father's watch, Downs has found watches both a necessary utility and the keeper of history.

His most precious watch, for sentimental reasons, is neither one of his military chronometers, nor the Rolex, nor the Ironman.

It's a gold-colored, analog watch worn for many years by his father.



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Victor Downs Sr., received the watch as a retirement gift in 2006 when he finished his career as a diesel mechanic at Ross Point Truck Repair.

country and track

Now he avidly

admires them.

"Watches are

technology and art

He wears them, too.

Downs likes to look

at his wrist to learn

Antique watches

are his favorite, but

he loves anything

unusual, unique or

historic in some way,

such as those issued

to military personnel.

a bombing run, World

War II pilots and

bombardiers would

gather for a briefing.

Before heading for

the flight line, they

synchronized the

Elgin A-11 watches

strapped to their

wrists. The model

that allows it to be

features a mechanism

synced to the second.

These watches sell for

For instance, before

what time it is.

together," he said.

collects timepieces,

learns from them, and

High School.

coach at McMinnville

"When dad died in 2014, my mother gave me his watch," Downs said.

That watch started his collection. And no matter what else he finds, whether historic, expensive or beautiful, his father's watch remains the centerpiece.

"Dad's watch is not leaving me," he said.

Downs first became fascinated by time when he was running track in high school. He bought his first watches then, working up to the popular Ironman model intended for athletes. And he kept using watches as a runner at Linfield University (nee College) and as a teacher and the cross

up to \$500, depending on their condition and history.

Watches have often led him on a search for more information. When he found his first World War II watch, for instance, he just thought of it as "old". But when he turned it over and saw "MIL" followed by a serial number, he looked it up on line. "Then it really interested me," he said.

"World War I and II watches ... I love 'em," Downs said. "The workmanship is amazing."

He's also impressed by the high-quality watches American soldiers bought at the PX in the Vietnam era He has one from 1971, one from a couple years later. Both are heavy, sturdy and accurate, he said.

He calls those military watches "treasures," although most people would see many riches in his collection.

Ultimately, Downs thinks of himself as a storyteller. The watches are the props that focus his stories and push him to find more information.

"I've always been curious about life's events - particular those dealing with the history of the Western United States and the events of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam

"Each of these watches has a story to tell. Sometimes when I hold a watch in my hand I wonder what significant impact it played in someone's life - maybe how it made a difference in history," he said.

A biology teacher during his teaching career, Downs has found the watches have opened another vein of interest for him - story telling and the watches drive many of the stories he shares with friends and families.

But he's more interested in watches for their history than their prestige.



Among his prized possessions is this pocket watch which is nearly 200 years old (above), His bench (top right) has a number of watches in various states of readiness. Downs keeps his many watches in plastic bins and has then cataloged by brand (lower right.).

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"I learned about history from antiques," he said. Those WWII watches have led to interest in certain battles.

Downs also is happy when he finds an inexpensive, but interesting watch, such as one inscribed to a new graduate or a loved one. Those have stories to tell, too.

His collection of watches has grown in rather organic fashion - sometimes by being in the right place at the right time and

100

sometimes just by sheer luck – buying a lot of watches for the chance at finding one special chronometer.

"I've bought massive bags of watches, and I've bought them one at a time," said

Since he and his wife have retired from teaching, wherever they travel, they visit antique and used goods shops. She will look for books and vintage knick-knacks, scarves, clothes, etc. She admires watches





from the 1940s and 50s, but doesn't seek them out. Of course Vic does

In addition to haunting antique stores, Downs searches thrift shops, yard sales and estate sales. "Got any old watches?" he'll ask if he doesn't see them

Once he visited a watch repair shop in his hometown of Lewiston, Idaho; the owner had died, and his watches and tools were for sale. Downs bought out the supply of parts.

"Repairs are not my thing, really. I don't have the steady hand you need to make repairs," he said. "But I knew I could use the parts."

One of his friends is training to make and repair watches. And

other people are look ing for parts, as well

"Sometimes I sell parts so I have the money to get more watches, just to fuel my hobby," he said. He also sells some of the watches he finds. offering them via the Internet and at the booth he and his wife maintain in downtown McMinnville.

He also gives many away to relatives and friends.

Downs is always on the lookout for another watch

"I buy a lot, hoping to find something good," he said.

Sometimes that pays off: the garage sale host brings out a box of tangled timepieces that he didn't expect would sell.

It happened recently when Downs was in Eugene for the Olympic track and field trials. At a garage sale, he unearthed a bag filled with nearly 30 watches.

continued on page 14





Those special watches in Downs' collection, ones which are his favorite and which he wears regularly, are kept in a special protective case.

Named in honor of

biking and swimming

triathlon, the Ironman

was made especially

for people who are

training seriously:

athletes who need

to be able to clock

"All mine work, and

they're all mechani-

cal," he said, noting

that he prefers to

wind a watch than

Downs keeps his

special watches in

replace a battery.

precise time.

the tough running,

Downs said he finds a lot of Timex watches in his search. They really do live up to their advertising slogan, he said, "They "take a licking and keep on ticking."

He's not sure why, but batteries seem to last longer in Timex models, he said. And the analog models "go and go and go."

A Timex is the watch he wears most often: his red Ironman.



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special enough to warrant being sent out for professional repairs.

One of his Vietnam era watches came to him scratched so badly he could hardly read the numbers; it also was missing its strap.

In undertaking the restoration, he said, "I kept as close as I could to the original." But he stopped short of replacing the band from one made in the 1970s. They are so rare, he said, it might have cost \$1,500 to find one for his vintage watch, which originally sold for about \$45.

A recently-acquired Rolex, for instance. Many people consider the expensive timepieces the pinnacle of the watch world. Downs appreciates Rolex quality and plans to get this one restored professionally.

He was willing to spend a reasonable amount, though, because he planned to wear the watch himself.

"Watch collecting can be an expensive hobby," Downs admitted.

He has several favorites that he rotates in his wardrobe, including the Vietnam watch and an Ironman similar to his first version of that model, but in red metallic.

"I like red watches," he said, noting that Mac High's colors are red and white.

They're also great for coaches, he said, especially since they have a digital display.

That's an exception to his preference for analog watches, he said.

One of the favorites in Downs' collection is a Nike watch with

FOUR TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL WATCH COLLECTING

By Rusty Rae Old Stuff, Associate Editor If you've caught watch collecting fever, what do you need to do to be successful at your

sturdy cases designed

for the purpose. Others

since he finds it hard to

Some watches are

tumble in large bins;

some of those were

pass up any watch.

purchased in lots,

passion? Let watch collector supreme Vic Downs

give you a few pointers on getting started Here are four pointers from the master to help you start your collection.

1. Don't buy for value, but for the story the watch tells on your wrist.

Downs says when starting out, buy watches that please

you as collector. "Watches are meant to be tools that you wear, so when starting out buy watches that you like. Purchase watches you enjoy – remember you're paying for the time it's

on your wrist and the story it tells." Watches have a

great story to tell, and Downs adds, "Sentimental watches are wonderful. Hold on to those watches that

and pass them on to friends or relatives so the story behind the watch continues." 2. Avoid buying

have special meaning

everything, particularly when you are first starting out.

When you're beginning, your collecting is just a hobby – so make smart business decisions. Notes Downs, "Four or five years ago, I'd buy a bag of watches without thinking twice today I have to think twice about that kind of a deal."

First Downs says, you have to consider the cost of repair of any of the watches in a lot sale and he adds, "You can't assume that any of the watches will be an easy sell.

"You may see the watch listed for \$50 online, but that fifty dollar watch might take \$200 to get it repaired," he reminds.

One caveat Downs adds, "Watch out for reproductions - some of them are good enough to fool even

the most experienced expert. It's probably a part of one's learning experience but I love military watches. I purchased one that seemed like a sure thing – but when I actually looked at it in my hand I was totally disappointed – it wasn't an actual military time piece."

3. Know your watch components In general Downs says watches with workings made in China are not very good. Watches with innards from Japan are considered pretty solid, but Downs adds, 'But you still have to be careful. Swiss components are the gold standard when it comes to watch workings.

4. Talk to people - learn to enjoy the hunt. While eBay and other online sources may provide one with a specific watch, and are a good place to find basic information on pricing, Downs loves to chase around looking for watches.

"I think its fun to

a rubber strap. "Just Do It," the back of its case says, along with the date 08/08/08. The watch was issued to mark the opening day of the Beijing Olympics.

"It's one of a couple dozen that were given out to Nike-sponsored athletes, he said. He found it at shop in Eugene.

He handles the Olympic watch carefully. "I don't want to scratch this one," he said. "It's the best of the many Nike watches I have."

Another special watch is a Vietnamera Seiko diver's watch. "It's one of the Holy Grail watches for collectors. They're getting really scarce," he said.

He also owns a rare Bulova "Devil Diver" watch, with a 24-hour

Continued on page 17

be on a treasure hunt - I'm not great on the phone but I love talking with people and finding out about their history and the watch's history.

"I enjoy looking and sometimes I don't bring much home, but I had a good time doing it," he said.

Downs says yard sales, estate sales, and thrift stores are prime places he looks for watches, but adds, "Our local jeweler has a good selection of watches - some which fall into the range of vintage time pieces. You just never know until you walk through the door and start the conversation, 'Have any old watches laying around?‴

Ultimately experience will guide one in their collecting prowess and Downs adds, "Figure out what you like and then find out as much as you can about the particular watch - knowledge of a specific watch will guide your purchase."

Chess sets are a fine collectible, but they do take up a lot of space. A solution to this issue is a collection of miniature and portable chess sets. There were many of these made between the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first few decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. One style, made in

England for almost a 50-year period, from 1880 to 1930, has a box ade of mahogany with brss fittings. Hinged flaps close to hold the pieces in place if a game needs to be interrupted. The



## Mini chess sets easy on space, big on value



Mini chess sets date back to the 1890s and have become a collectible for devotees of the game as well as general collectors.

chess board is made of rosewood and holly squares with holes to hold the pegged chessmen. The chessmen are of bone, one set left natural and one stained a reddish color. Altogether, when closed,

the smallest sized box was just 8 by 4 inches. An example of an even smaller portable

set, measuring just under 7 inches square, has a mitered sliding top and pegged chessmen, which fit into holes. Most of

the portable sets have pieces, which are all the same height, so that when the cover is closed it will hold them all securely in place.

Many of the sets were made in England, Germany, and Spain., there were also some very nice ones made in China and India. If you find

one in a wooden bos made of teak, this is a clue to its Asian origin.

For a really small chess set, look for one made for a dollhouse. When the dollhouses for adults were so popular at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a few of these miniature chess sets were made. They were works of

art, and often made of ivory. The tallest pieces were only about ½ inch high, and the total height, including the table on which the set was placed, was no more than 2½ inches high.

While you can purchase new mini sets for under \$20 today, vintage sets range from \$50 and up.



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### LIGHT UP YOUR TREE WITH A VINTAGE CHRISTMAS LIGHT

### **BY ANNE GILBERT**

Edison had a bright

idea. These days we'd

say "a light bulb went

blue bulbs and strung

trunk of a Christmas

tree that had a rotat-

ing stand. This was

a time when there

were no light strings

or even light sockets

Each bulb had a wire

coming out of either

were blown, colored

glass later painted on

the outside. Unfortu-

nately they burned

hot, adding to fire

They had to be

flow of electricity

and to illuminate

the lamps. If you

wanted to light

your tree at home

vou had to call an

electrician to make

all of the necessary

connections, powered

by a generator, a long,

tiresome and expen-

linked together for a

concerns.

end. These early bulbs

for the little lamps.

off." He hand-wired

80 red, white and

them around the

When I was grow ing up in the mid 20th century, during the Christmas holidays, the family would drive through various neighborhoods to see outdoor light decorations. Over the years outdoor and indoor lighting decorations became more elaborate. These days we take the lighting of the White House Christmas tree as a given. However Christmas tree lights have made a long journey that began with the invention of the electric light bulb.

The Christmas tree lights we take for granted have come a long way since they first lit up a window on a Christmas tree in Thomas Edison's shop on 136th street in New York City. It all began in 1882 when Edward Hibberd Johnson, an inventor employed by



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sive procedure. Before that Christmas trees were lit with candles inserted in metal clips, a dangerous practice that caused many fires.

It was a spectacular event in 1895 when President Grover Cleveland officially had the first electrically lighted White House Christmas tree displayed. Suddenly the general public discovered a new, safe way to

light their Christmas trees and a new industry was born. Over the decades not only did their materials evolve but their shapes and

sizes changed I and other Christmas tree light collectors consider the Golden age of Christmas tree lighting to be from 1900-1950s. Following WW11 electric Christmas lighting blos-

### SOUTHWEST WA

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somed, inside and out.

Homes

were outlined, outdoor shrubbery was lit. When I first began researching the history I found a website that listed Old Christmas tree lights museum. l discovered it wasn't a bricks and mortar museum, but strictly a website. There was no curator to interview, only some research done by dedicated collectors, Bill and Bob Nelson, now deceased. Fortunately they did a good job, so here is the

I learned that since electricity was expensive few except the wealthy could afford it, much less to light a Christmas tree before 1900. In fact what family even considered it. A string of pear-shaped lights in brass sockets the size of shot glasses were priced at \$12. In today's' market that would be about \$350.

history.

In 1901 the first commercially available light sets were available to businesses to attract customers. Then in 1903 the first sets of pre-wired lights were offered to the general public by General Electric. By 1906 figural Christmas tree lights were imported from Germany and Austria.

Christmas lights became more decorative in 1910 when General Electric changed the shape of their bulbs from pear to round with an exhaust tip at the top, and contained carbon filaments. However by 1912 they began using tungsten filaments that had a longer life.

In 1919 once again the shape of the Christmas tree light bulb changed to a flame or cone shape. It was the beginning of figural lights in the shape of Santa, angels, clowns and comic characters.

Early examples were made from molds or ornaments. Many countries made them such as Austria, Germany, Japan and the United States. Of interest to today's' collectors are the painted, milk glass figural bulbs made by Japan beginning in 1922. Paint adhered to milk glass and they were cheaper than the German and Austrian figurals. Adding to their appeal was that since they were machine-made they cost less.

Many of the figural

WA COAST

lights were copied from early German figural ornaments. An exciting new

decorative concept were the "Wonder Star" lights. They were made beginning in the 1930s by the Matchless Electric Company in Chicago They were made of colorful glass combinations, hand cut in Czechoslovakia. Collectors hang them as ornaments.

In the 1920s "bubble lights" became a popular competitor edging out the "Wonder Star" lights. Originally made in the 1920s by Telsen Electric in England.

In 1936, Carl Otis, an accountant for Montgomery Ward invented the Bubble Light. However, Noma electric received a patent in the United States shortly afterwards. They lost their popularity when miniature "Fairy" lights were introduced.

After World War 11 in 1955 "twinkling lights" became trendy. Who knows what the next invention will be

What can you do if you if you have a string of old Christmas tree lights and want to use them? You can check out "Kilokat's Antique Light Bulb Collector's Site". Check eBay for specific categories, such as Bubble lights. You can find bulbs to replace burned out bulbs. Or, just hang the figurals as ornaments.

BY Terry and Kim Kovel History repeats itself, and collectors who research their collections are often surprised by the findings.

In 1892, a group of businessmen in Greentown, Indiana, invested in a company that was brought in by the newly found fuel natural gas -- that had been discovered there.

Two years later, the Indiana Tumbler and Goblet Company had attracted workers and changed the economy of the small town

The company joined the National Glass Company in 1899, and they made many types of colored glass that are popular but scarce today.

The company was making pressed glass in colors when Jacob Rosenthal arrived in 1900.

He was an experienced glass maker. The first new product was chocolate glass, an opaque brown and white glass that was a huge success.

Next was an opaque medium green color called Nile green, then golden agate, rose agate, holly amber, milk glass and Vase line glass.

Unfortunately, in 1903 there was a fire. The entire factory was destroyed and never rebuilt. But pieces like this Nile green tumbler attract collectors. This 4-inch-high tumbler sold at a Jeffrey Evans auction for \$888.

\*\*\*\*\*

By 1861, when the Civil War started, there were already several ways to take a picture.

Continued from page 14 restorer in New York showing how difficult dial. It's guaranteed it is to find a watchto work as deep as maker these days. 666 feet, although Downs considers it "My vintage too precious for him watches don't go in to test that promise. the water. I don't take that risk," he said. The Devil Diver is one of the few he's Since beginning his had professionally collecting with that repaired. He sent it very special family watch, he estimates to North Carolina for the work; another of that "about 20,000

his watches went to a watches have passed

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1862" and was probably

made for years after that.

Allow do I sell three

**Q** programs from the

1969 Woodstock festival tha

A The program is one of the few official souve-

nirs of the three-day music

festival, which took place in

are in excellent condition,

and what is the range of

their value?

The first photos of a war were taken during the Mexican-American fight from 1846 to 1848. The Civil War (1861-1865) was the fourth.

Matthew Brady was a determined photographer who collected his and other photographers' war photos by buying negatives from others. Most of the pictures in museums today

are part of the record saved by Brady, but not all were taken by him.

There are ambrotypes, daguerreotypes, albumen prints and a surprising number

of stereo pictures of the war. \$900 Many were portraits of soldiers in

uniform posing in a studio, but there are also many pictures of battlefields after a fight showing the dead. The portraits were framed and displayed just as we do today.

An unusual painted iron picture frame was offered in an Eldred auction with an estimated price of \$500 to \$1,000. It held two pictures, and the small glass circle at the top of the frame beneath an eagle was mean for a picture of President Lincoln. The large circle surrounded by American flags and a Union shield held the portrait of a soldier The frame was marked as "design patented Nov. 25,

This very rare Nile Green glass tumbler made by the Indiana Tumbler and Goblet Company before 1903 sold at a recent auction for almost

programs didn't arrive until the last day, when there were no

vendors to sell them, so they were thrown from the delivery truck, some in the boxes they came in. Not many survived in good condition because of the rain and the mud, or they were discarded and trampled on by the crowd.

The program has been reproduced. The letter "f" in the title "3 days of peace & music" on the cover of the original program is slightly fuzzy because it's in the bud of the sunflower.

It's clearer in the reproduction. The first and last pages of the original program are onionskin parchment. The repro-

duction pages are not as thin. Original Woodstock programs sell at auctions of rock 'n' roll memorabilia. Value of the right single program in good condition is about \$200.

● When I was little, my **u**mother sent away by mail for a Little Orphan Annie mug for me. It has a picture of Annie on the front saying, "Didja Ever Taste Anything So Good As Ovaltine? And It's Good For Yuh, Too" and her dog, Sandy, on the back. I also have "Little Orphan Annie's Song" sheet music. I'm 95 years old and don't know anyone who wants these things. What I should do with them?

▲ Harold Gray created **A** the comic strip "Little Orphan Annie" in 1924. The Little Orphan Annie radio series debuted in 1931. Ovaltine sponsored the show from 1931 to 1940 and offered several premiums. The sheet music. a 1931 Ovaltine premium, sells for \$10-\$35 depending on condition. This mug is from about 1932, sells online for \$20 to \$30. You can see if a local consignment shop will sell them, or just donate them to charity and take the tax deduction.

### **CURRENT PRICES:**

Bohemian glass bowl, amethyst iridescent, veining pattern, red interior,

scalloped rim, polished pontil base, Pallme-Koeniq, 2 by 6 inches \$50.

Mt. Washington salt & pepper shakers, yellow, multicolor flowers, fig shape, 2 3/4 inches, pair, \$105.

Tobacco jar, humidor, silver, wood liner, Georg Jensen, 5 x 3 inches, \$810

Doll, French Bebe, bisque head, blue paperweight eyes, brunette mohair wig, jointed wood & composition body, 1890s dress, Steiner, 25 inches, \$1,090.

Purse, crossbody bag, quilted fuchsia snakeskin, front flap with embossed CC logo, outer crescent pocket, entwined chain & leather strap, Chanel, 6 x 7 1/2 inches, \$2,320.

Advertising sign, Drink Blatz Beer, porcelain, die cut, neon, lights up, Artcraft Milwaukee. 32 x 72 inches. \$6,000.

Advertising sign, "Eat Honey, Feel Better, Live Longer," image of a bee, tin yellow letters, black ground 1930s, 4 by 11 inches, \$215

Wristwatch, Raymond Weil, Parsifal, stainless steel, bicolor gold, Roman numerals, date window, 34 mm dial, \$340.

TIP: Never allow water to evaporate in a glass vase. It will leave a white residue that may be impossible to remove.

Marble will eventually react to rain and deteriorate Keep marble ornaments out of the rain and frost



through my hands. That's nearly two weeks' worth, if you're counting one per minute.

Starla Pointer, who believes everyone has an interesting story to tell, writes the weekly "Stopping By" column for the News-Register in McMinnville. She's always looking for suggestions. Contact her at 503-687-1263 or spointer@newsregister.com.

ld Stuff magazine wants to know more about what's happening in Old Stuff magazine wants to know more about what o happened the Northwest antiques and collectibles world. Send press releases or news items of interest to oldstuffnews@gmailcom. Want to contribute or have a story idea? Email us; we'd love to chat about it.

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### DIALING FOR DOLLARS:

# VINTAGE RADIOS BRING STRONG PRICES

BY Terry and Kim Kovel

Vintage but modern-looking plastic radios are popular with collectors today.

The art deco design was popular when Bakelite was introduced as the first molded plastic used for radio cases, in 1933.

But Bakelite was either brown or black, sometimes with a marbleized look, and customers wanted more color.

In 1937, Catalin was a new plastic that was white or beige when used for a molded case. Red and a few other colors were also possible.

The famous Fada radio used this plastic, but no one realized that the colors might fade.

Today, white cases have vellowed, and blue ones have turned dark green The cases also shrink, crack and have other damage.



Photo Credit: Kovels This plastic Fada radio was made about 1941. It iwas alabaster color and about 6 by 10 by 6inches. Now faded to a light green, it sold for \$1.000

But plastic scientists kept improving mixtures and manufacturing methods, and by the 1950s, other better and cheaper radios were made with new materials.

Today one of the older plastic radios in good working condition sells for \$440 to \$1,000. This Fada Model 845XA sold at a Palm **Beach Modern auction** for \$1,000, although it was

never tested to see if it works.

▲I bought a "personal wash set," four pieces consisting of a chamber pot, pitcher and two smaller pieces. On the bottom they're marked "Admiral V.P. Co." I've searched online and can't find any information on the company or item. It's a pretty floral pattern, purple flowers on a white back-

### ground, and is in very good shape. The seller thought the piece was made in the 1800s. Can you tell me anything about this set

Wash sets were used in the late 18th and early 19th centuries before indoor plumbing became common. A washstand, usually in the bedroom, held the items necessary to "wash up." The pitcher was used to fill a washbasin or bowl. The chamber pot usually had a lid. Other pieces could include a soap dish, hair receiver, toothbrush holder and slop jar. This mark was used by Vodrey Pottery Company of East Liverpool, Ohio. The company made white graniteware and semi-porcelain. It was in business under that name from 1896 until 1928. A pitcher and bowl set from an average maker sells for \$100 to \$150, the slop jar with lid for about \$75, and small pieces for \$25-\$40.

### **CURRENT PRICES**

Tortoise shell glass powder jar, round, squat, lid with silver repousse decoration, c. 1900, 2 1/2 x 3 inches, \$80.

Wood glove-making form, carved birch wood, mitten shape, tombstone style base, Gloversville, N.Y., c. 1910, 14 x 3 1/2 in., 6 pieces, \$405.

Toy, bus, Seeing New York 899, open air, 4 passengers, driver, cast iron, 6 1/2 x 10 1/2 inches, \$860.

Lamp, electric, Tripod, Robsjohn Gibbings, chrome, steel, 3 supports, center band, tapered linen shade, Widdicomb, c.1950, 47 x 19 inches, pair, \$1,875.

TIP Never store jewelry in a plastic bag Moisture inside the bag will cause the stones to discolor.

crack at high temperatures and it

In 2006, the old tin foot warm-

ers usually command the highest

prices, \$200-\$300. Stoneware foot

holds heat for a long period of time.

Start a new Thanksgiving collection with a group of turkeys made of glass. These two-part dishes can be used to hold anything from candy to cranberry sauce.

At least eleven American glass companies have produced these pressed glass turkeys over the past 120 years.

John & Sandra Thomas, in Thanksgiving and Turkey Collectibles, state that they have been made in four standard sizes: 2" turkey salt; 5" turkey on nest; 7' jam jar/covered dish; 9" jam/jar covered dish.



VINTAGE FOOTWARMER KEEPS FEET TOASTY, BRING HOT PRICES stove or fire. The material doesn't

By Old Stuff Staff

When it's cold and blowing outside, and you're by a warm fireplace inside, it's easy to feel nostalgic about the good old days, and to picture how much fun it





would be to go on an old-fashioned sleigh ride.

In order to be fun, however, one needed to find a way to stay warm. Several versions of foot warmers

were available to help keep a person comfortable.

Placed under the feet with the rest of the body covered by a blanket, the foot warmers helped keep the entire body warm.

One of the earliest types of foot warmers in this country was a rectangular box made of tin. It was used with a brazier or pan of hot charcoal and it let the heat escape through holes punched in the tin.

A similar style was a LITTLE AD - BIG STORE

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box-like container with a shelf for charcoal. These metal foot warmers were contained in a lightweight wooden frame or covered with a rug fabric.

Later designs were made of stoneware. Filled with boiling water and closed with a plug or screw cap lid, they retained heat for many hours.

A little fancier were the foot warmers made of copper they, too, held boiling water and had brass or screw tops.

One of the most common types of foot warmers was a square or rectangular block of soapstone. These had a heavy wire bail at one end and were heated directly in the



on Esty for less than \$200.



### **Old Stuff**

warmers in the familiar keg shape were usually priced at \$50-\$70 in the Northwest. Copper foot warmers were about this same price or a little higher, depending on the condition – they tend to collect dents easily.

### GLASS TURKEYS, NOT SO TASTY, BUT VERY COLLECTIBLE

dishes.

In reality each manufacturer's turkeys will very somewhat from these standard sizes, depending on their individual moulds.

> The first American company known to make covered turkey dishes was Challinor Taylor. In 1891 they produced a series of animal covered dishes in a Farm Yard Assortment series. Included in the set was a standing covered turkey dish. It became the model for every covered turkey produced in this country since that time.

Included in the companies no longer

in business that produced these twopart dishes were Cambridge, McKee, Imperial, Kemple, Degenhart and L.G. Wright. Each company's turkey had a distinct look. Some were upright and others sat on nests, much like the more common hen-on-nest

There are also at least four companies still in operation, as of 2006, that make turkeys: Boyd, L.E. Smith, Fenton, and Mosser. Boyd makes a series of the salt-sized turkeyon-a-nest in about 90 colors. The 7" L.E. Smith turkey is the

one most likely to be seen today. It is an upright figure and it, too, can be found in many colors. Fenton's version is the nested type.

You'll find representative samples of most of the companies pictured in Thanksgiving and **Turkey Collectibles** (Schiffer Publishing: 2004).

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