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Old Stuff

July | August | September 2022

Vol 45 | Ed 3



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Antiques, Collectibles, History and Nostalgia for the Pacific Northwest

BY RUSTY RAE
Association Editor, Old Stuff

Welcome to summer! It seems as if here in the Pacific Northwest it has taken forever for it to arrive. There's a wealth of events happening around Old Stuff Nation this summer which are bound to bring joy to collectors far and wide.

Regardless of your collecting niche, there's likely a show or conference for you.

We've highlighted several collectors and collections in this issue, including the Pez collection of Rick Olson and the phonograph collection of Ed and Nancy Martin.

Pezmania takes place in Ohio this July, as noted in the Pez article.

If you've caught the antique phonograph collecting bug like the Martins, then you'll want to make plans for the Antique Phonograph Society Annual Banquet, Show & Sale, August 20-21 in Buena Park, California.

Closer to home, the Deschutes Historical Society's Antique Fair will be held August 20 in downtown Bend from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. There's sure to finds galore at the collective gala.

In the Portland area, the Rose City Vintage Market and Collectible show returns for a second year at the Portland Expo Center



Nancy Martin/Special to Old Stuff
A collector gets a chance to inspect an antique radio at the Spring Oregon Territory Antique Phonograph Society show. Joining a local club is a great way to get started collecting.

July 8 -9.

The next day you can check out the monthly Rose City Collector's Market on North Lombard Street.

In September the 35th annual Coburg Antique and Vintage Fair takes place in downtown Coburg. It will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Coburg is a city of some historical note, so in addition to finding quality antique and vintage items, there is also plenty of Oregon history to consume.

When it comes to becoming a knowledgeable collector, obviously the internet is a great resource. But when you're getting started, it really helps to find someone knowledgeable

in your collecting pursuit who can help you sort the wheat from chaff. A good starting point is a local collector's club. You would be surprised how there are clubs for just about any collectible item.

Local and regional clubs often have their own collecting events. These mini-conventions often feature speakers on topics of interest to collectors as well as opportunities to find new items for one's collection.

At the very least, they provide opportunities for a hands-on inspection of a particular element you may be looking to add.

The site Collector Online (www.collectoronline.com/cgi-bin/clubs.

cgi?groupKey=7) lists more than 2,000 clubs for anyone with the collector gene looking for a club to join.

In my travels, I've been impressed with the knowledge of proprietors of vintage, collectible and antique shops. They are not only experts in a number of areas, but have a passion for both collecting and collectors. They are great sources of information.

All you have to do is ask. If they don't know the answer, they probably know someone who does.

Rick Chavez at Old Fogie's Treasures in White City, just north of Medford, Oregon, said he has on hand several outstanding

antique furniture pieces. One is a Tiger Oak buffet that he believes dates back to the 1920s.

Another really great piece is a French étagère from the late 1880s, which he said was hand-carved. Additionally, he has an early 1900s oak icebox and a 1911 National Cash Register. It's an electric powered model.

You might not believe this if you've only viewed Apple Annie's Antique Mall from the road, but it features 70,000 square feet with more than 120 vendors.

Michelle Whitford said, "I think we have something to make everyone happy."

Apple Annie's next event is their fall flea market, which will take place September 17. Vendors can get booth space for \$25. It's free for those just looking to add to their collection.

Old Stuff is always on the lookout for stories about collectors, vintage and antique items. If you have an idea for a story please send it on to us.

Have any good stories about antique, collectible, or vintage items? We love to hear from you about it.

Email us at oldstuffnews@gmail.com with your ideas.

Enjoy your summer collecting!

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AMERICAN SOCIETY
CLASSIFIED ONE AD AT A TIME

BY OSSIE BLADINE
Editoir/Associate Publisher, Old Stuff

With just a small space in this issue for my welcome note, I'll get right into my promised, albeit brief, book review of "Strange Red Cow ... and other curious classified ads from the past."

Author Sara Badar presents a unique telling of American history by chronicling the various ways classified ads have been used, organized in six of the original classifications: Lost and Found; The Runaway Slave Notice, Information Wanted; Personals; Help Wanted; and, Swap.

From Founding Fathers seeking information on escaped slaves, to potential wet nurses advertising a "fresh breast of milk," to young officers returning from war seeking a companion, and much more, it's fascinating to see the breadth of how this form of communication has been used through the generations.

For a variety of reasons, people have long published their personal business in print, much as is

done on the internet and social media these days. Badar includes 21st century classified postings on Craigslist, to show how the advertisement of these matters remains similar in content today as they were when the country was founded.

More than just a cultural history tale, there's plenty in the book for collectors and antique dealers, too. As Bader writes, these notices describe the value of materials in the past. "There for the taking are precious historical details that require no fact checking: what a snuff box was made out of, the fabric used to line a nineteenth-century cloak, the centens of a soldier's Civil War saddle bag, or the color of a 1949 Girl Scout pencil."

I don't have a thousand words to go on about the book, so pick it up yourself. You'll find that, just like a picture, a small classified can be worth a thousand words when viewed through the lens of American society.

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ON THE COVER: A collection of favorite PEZ dispensers from the collection of Rick Olson. Highlighting the collection the Mickey Mouse dispenser, one of more than 4,000 in Olson's collection. Photo composite by Old Stuff Associate Editor Rusty Rae.

Let the buyer beware

Early American stoneware requires expert knowledge

BY TERRY AND KIM KOVEL

In the early years of America, there were many small potteries making stoneware and other ceramics for use in the kitchen, bedroom or farm.

Most utensils made in America by the 1800s were made with thick pottery sides in simple shapes with almost no decoration.

The most expensive examples collected today have a design or name on the crock to trace the age and maker. However, unsigned pieces are often identified when sold at auctions. That takes an expert; a family legend is not enough.

Conestoga Auction Company often sells antique and vintage stoneware. Is the side curved or straight? Is there a shaped rim? Is the interior glazed in the same color as the outside or is the inside



Photo Credit: Kovels

This one-gallon stoneware crock has the impressed mark of Daniel Shenfelder pottery, proving it was made about 1870 in Pennsylvania.

different? Are there quirks in the shaping of the bottom? These clues can be recognized from a picture, but contact the auction and ask how they knew the maker of the unsigned piece.

This crock is similar to others attributed to Shenfelder Pottery of Reading, Pennsylvania.

It has an impressed mark of the numeral "1" inside a cogwheel circle.

It also has a blue hand-painted leafy branch on the outside. "Daniel Peter Shenfelder Reading Pa." is a known mark.

The Conestoga catalog said it was "attributed," not definitely identified, but the

auction house is close to the pottery building and has sold many stoneware utensils. This crock sold for \$170 after 10 bids.

Q:How can I tell new from old milk glass?

A:Antique bottles have become collectors' items, especially those made in rare colors. Less-expensive bottles with secure closures were used by the 1930s. Milk glass bottles with attractive women's portraits as the label-under-glass were often the decorations in a Victorian barber shop.

Beware — modern copies have been made.

Old milk glass is opaque and may be pure white, pale green, robin's-egg blue, pink or black.

Milk glass was not used for dinner plates but was used for door-knobs, lamps, vases and knickknacks like salt and peppers. They even made reusable figural milk glass store containers for mustard.

When buying, look at milk glass carefully. Old glass is smooth and often marked with

a shape or pattern number. There are many vintage and new copies that sell for very low prices.

CURRENT PRICES

Souvenir tablecloth, California, yellow map, cities, multicolor drawings of famous landmarks, turquoise ground, red scallop border, cotton, 1950s, 50 inches square, \$85.

World's Fair, lamp, New York World's Fair 1939, frosted glass plate with Trylon & Perisphere, square stepped base, electric, bulb sits behind plate, 7 inches, \$240.

Kitchen, butter churn, wood, stave construction, metal bands, original blue paint, pole in center, 1800s, \$490.

Advertising, trade sign, boot, figural, sheet iron, tall shaft, stacked heel, painted black and orangey tan, western detailing, late 1800s, 26 1/4 inches, \$780.

Basket, gathering, woven, split oak, two flattened arched handles, c.1885, 11 x 19 inches, \$75.

Clothing, coat, fur, raccoon, full length, wrap collar, six brown

buttons, cloth lining, label, Brooks Brothers New York, man's, \$140.

Fulper pottery centerpiece bowl, Chinese Blue Flambe glaze, blends into matte glaze layer underneath, flared out sides, stamped rectangular mark, four pulled feet, 1909-1916, 4 3/8 x 10 inches dia., \$575.

Disneyana toy, Disneylandia Turn-Over Tank, images of Donald Duck, Daisy Duck, Scrooge McDuck & Minnie Mouse, burglar on bottom, tin lithograph, windup, 4 x 3 inches, \$660.

TIP:Use protector pads on the bottom of furniture feet. Replace them periodically when they become dirty or very flat.

Don't store ceramic dishes or figurines for long periods of time in old newspaper wrappings. The ink can make indelible stains on china.

Looking to declutter, downsize or settle an estate? *Kovels' Antiques & Collectibles Price Guide 2021* by Terry and Kim Kovel has the resources you need.

WHIRLIGIGS: TOYS AND TOOLS FOR COLLECTORS

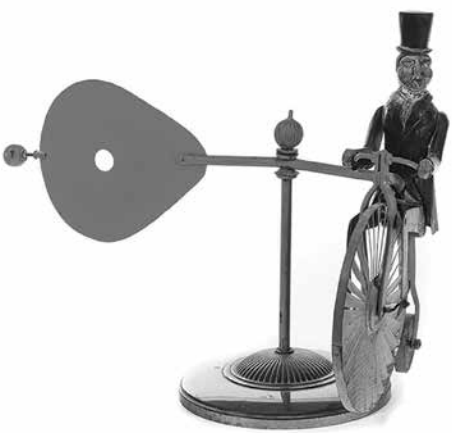
BY TERRY AND KIM KOVEL

Whirligigs were invented centuries ago. They are both toys and tools, indicators of wind direction and the weather. Sources disagree on where the first were made; it was probably in China about 400 B.C. or by Native Americans about 550 B.C. The whirligig must have a spinning part and a base and many were made in fanciful shapes. The oldest known pictures of a whirligig were in tapestries made in medieval times.

There are many names and many shapes of whirligigs. Old sources call them pinwheels, gee-haws, whirljigs or whirlys. Vintage examples have waving arms, flags, angels' wings, a man chopping wood, horses running and much more. They are also popular children's toys or garden ornaments.

A political whirligig was sold by

Garth's Auctions in Ohio a few years ago. It is a figure of President Theodore Roosevelt with a top hat and monocle riding on a penny farthing cycle. Roosevelt served from 1901 to 1909, so it must have been made after 1901. The handmade whirligig sold at Garth's for \$865.



Handmade Roosevelt whirligig went for \$865.



Snohomish, Washington, offers collectors of antique, collectibles and vintage items the opportunity for collecting, nirvana or just a nice getaway from the city. The Star Center Antique Mall, top left and right, offers more than 150 vendor booths on five floors. It's one of the largest in Western Washington. There's other smaller malls with a variety of offerings. For a moment of relaxation try the riverwalk or unwind at the historic Carnegie Library.



Like the Louvre, there's too much to see and do in just four hours

A SNOHOMISH weekend Odyssey!

BY RUSTY RAE
Associate Editor
Old Stuff

The late great newspaper columnist and humorist Art Buchwald once wrote an amusing tongue-in-cheek column, Breaking The Four-Minute Louvre, about the quickest visit ever to Paris' massive and impressive museum. When it comes to the Snohomish, Washington's antique and collecting community, like the Louvre, there's simply too much to see and do to consider a visit of only four hours.

This vibrant community northeast of Seattle on the banks of the Snohomish River offers collectors of antiques so much to do and see you may as well make it a weekend from the very start of this adventure in collectibles.

Located a stone's throw for the mammoth Boeing plant in Everett, and a hop, skip and jump from

the Eastside technology corridor, where the massive Microsoft campus is located, Snohomish's small town charm has continued to thrive. It remains one of the most appealing aspects for many who visit, how the town provides a pleasant getaway from the hustle and bustle of a big city.

While Native Americans were the first to live in the area, by the time settlers began moving into the area in the late 1850s, most had moved to one of four reservations nearby.

Snohomish, which was earlier called Cadyville after founder Edson Cady, was initially developed to support the local agricultural economy. But it wasn't long before it became a logging town thanks in part to the area's lush forests of Douglas fir. In 1871, Cadyville became Snohomish.

While Snohomish



When it's time for a break, you'll find Snohomish offers a delightful number of eateries to satisfy any culinary desire.

is the largest antique community in Washington, it is still known as an agricultural center and on any given day one can find a bounty of plants, flowers and vegetables grown in the lush soil that surrounds the area.

The first tip to consider when visiting Snohomish is to arrive early. Parking is at a premium and on-street slots fill up

quickly, particularly on the weekends. The city downtown association is working with city officials to alleviate this issue. There is a parking lot at the west end of the city that includes four EV charging stations. Another possibility is to park at the lot at the historic Carnegie Library, now the Snohomish Education Center. The lot is posted, but locals tell us

as long as there isn't a formal event going on its safe to park there. Use your judgement.

It's unlikely our story will cover every single antique, vintage and collectible outlet, but enough to give you a flavor of this Washington heartland city.

Where you park will likely give you your first stopping off point. The Snohomish Exchange was a first stop since it was close by. This is a large building that comes with its own history dating back to 1950. Jim McGinty is the proprietor. Retired from construction work, McGinty said the building has been in the family since the 1970s.

"We are unique — kinda a second hand store that deals in just about anything that folks might be interested in. We really have a wide range of second hand stuff," he said.

You'll also find a good selection of furniture,

glassware and dolls, and probably the kitchen sink, too, if you're looking for one.

Away from the downtown core sits the largest antique and collectible store in Western Washington, the Star Center Mall. The former Snohomish Armory, it dates back to 1928 and collectors will find more than 150 vendors across five floors. Visiting the multi-tiered Star Center Mall not only is a great way to achieve your daily steps goal, but also gives you several flights of stairs to add to your routine.

Holly Regan, along with her husband, manages the multitude of vendors. Her father-in-law purchased the building in 1982, and she notes it's been a destination for antique community for many years. It's difficult to pinpoint what you might find among the

See **SNOHOMISH**, page 6

Oregon's First National Historic District

AURORA, OREGON

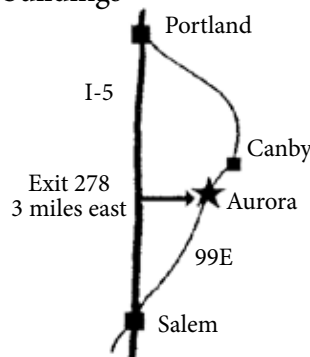
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Aurora has made the TOP TEN of Best Antiquing Towns in the US by four online sources, MSN.com, the TravelChannel.com, HouseBeautiful.com and CountryLiving.com.

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You'll find a broad range of items at the Snohomish Exchange such as these old stoves.

Snohomish

Continued from page 5

many vendors. Need-less to say, there really is something for everyone.

Holly and company focus on French Art Glass, Art Nouveau, and Sterling Silver Jewelry, and adds, "We have collectibles and antiques for just about anyone."

On the way to the main drag of Snohomish — First Street — where the core of the antique and vintage shops are found, you'll come across a couple of shops that you might miss if you just stayed in the downtown core.

Wonderland Vintage is an eclectic store featuring clothing from the Victorian Era to the early 2000s. Owner Deborah Granick notes, "I'm passionate and focussed about Victorian clothing and clothing to the 1930s. I'm always trying to sort those types of things."

Granick adds, "This is a community space

focussed on self expression. I believe what you wear is an art form and affects your happiness and joy."

Nearby, it is easy to miss Matthew Danner's Every Day Natural Products shop. From the outside it is a mushroom and CBD company, but on the inside you'll find, as Danner notes, more of a curiosity shop with antiques and eclectic items.

In addition to wood carvings, Danner's shop includes a collection of Tiffany-styled lamps. "These aren't Robert Louis Tiffany lamps — but they're in that style and it's a nice collection of functional art," he notes.

Jumping back to First Street, a stop at the Troy Beck shop will introduce you to Sharon and Doug Bates, both of whom are longtime collectors with a significant level of knowledge of a wide range of antiques and vintage collectibles.

Says Doug, "Every-thing in here is ours —

we don't have vendors. That allows us to be very focused on what we offer — and we think we really are able to offer true vintage, antique and collectible items. We price items reasonably to the marketplace and generally items turnover quickly.

"People get a good deal and they keep coming back," Doug noted.

Sharon adds, "We have a great collection of items for the Man Cave or the Woman Cave." That includes Automobilia, vintage pottery and Native American artifacts.

The couple have been involved in the antique and vintage business for more than 30 years and Sharon said, "We're experts at being generalists. I know a reasonable amount about a wide range of antique and vintage topics. But I'm always learning more and researching."

The name of the store is in memory to her son and daughter-in-law, who died in a private

plane crash.

By now, if you haven't had a hearty breakfast — and even if you have — you might be ready for a bite to eat. Downtown Snohomish has no less than 25 eateries offering just about any cuisine your heart desires.

These include Andy's Fish House, where you'll likely wait in line for an order of fish and chips, Fred's Rivertown Alehouse, The Cabbage Patch Restaurant and the Spada Farmhouse Restaurant and Brewery, just to name a few. It seems there isn't a bad meal to be had in Snohomish.

We would be remiss if we didn't mention the two bakeries located on the antique trail. The Snohomish Bakery provides delicious turn-overs to go with morning coffee. Nearby is the Grain Artisan Bakery featuring gluten-free and vegan treats.

No worries about a little sweet indulgence along the way -- you'll likely walk off the calories as you see the special collectible item.

While there are many choices for places to stay within easy driving distance of Snohomish, the full Snohomish experience is best had near the downtown core antique area at nearby inns and homes. These include INN at Snohomish, Pine Avenue Carriage House and Adam's Manor. That also solves your parking problem.

In the 8,500 square foot Antique Warehouse, Eamon Puzzo brings a wealth of knowledge as well as store with a diverse selection of items. He's a WWII airplane buff and has a number of scale models of historic WWII planes.

But there's a great deal more to this establishment. You'll also find a wide range of antique and vintage furniture, including one of a cherry roll top desk, immaculately refinished that is sure to catch your eye. There are also a number of mounted animal heads, including a moose with a full set of horns that measure

nearly 70 inches in width.

For the full antique experience, visit the basement where Puzzo noted customers have complained of mischievous ghosts who flash the lights on and off or move various items.

At Remember When, Lori Powell Warren believes you'll find grandma's store, a quintessential antique store where she says collectors are sure to find something they'll like.

She's been in the business for nearly 30 years and, as her daughter chimed in, "She knows everything (about antiques)."

"I was one of the dealers in the store initially, and bought the store 18 years ago. I'd say we are a wide ranging shabby-chic store.

"Man or woman, young or old, I think you can walk into our shop and find something you'll like and that's something that I'm really happy about," she said.

Warren said they have an excellent selection of guy things, like fishing equipment, tools and such. However, she's quite proud of the glassware that the store offers.

"A lot of people gave up on glassware, but we've kept it. One of the areas we specialize in is Pyrex dishes. For many, these dishes bring back memories of days past, but they're also still very useful," she said.

If you want to take a break from the collecting scene, Snohomish provides myriad other activities. These include monthly Sunsets in Snohomish wine walks, the Mad Hatter Croquet Tournament in early September, and the Snohomish Classic Car Show, also in September, to name a few.

While the downtown historic district is well known among collectors, Snohomish also has a number of Victorian homes which add to the charm of your visit.



A walk around the streets of Snohomish always brings a surprise to one's eyes, such as this custom decorative wheelbarrow.



At Wonderland Vintage you can find clothing from the Victorian Era and the 1930s.



Though you may not think Everyday Natural Products as a shop for collectibles, stop in, it will surprise you with its selection of classic lamps..



A perfectly refinished roll top desk with enough drawers for a library is found at the Antique Warehouse..



Snohomish is home to a number of Victorian era homes. It's a refreshing walk to check them out.

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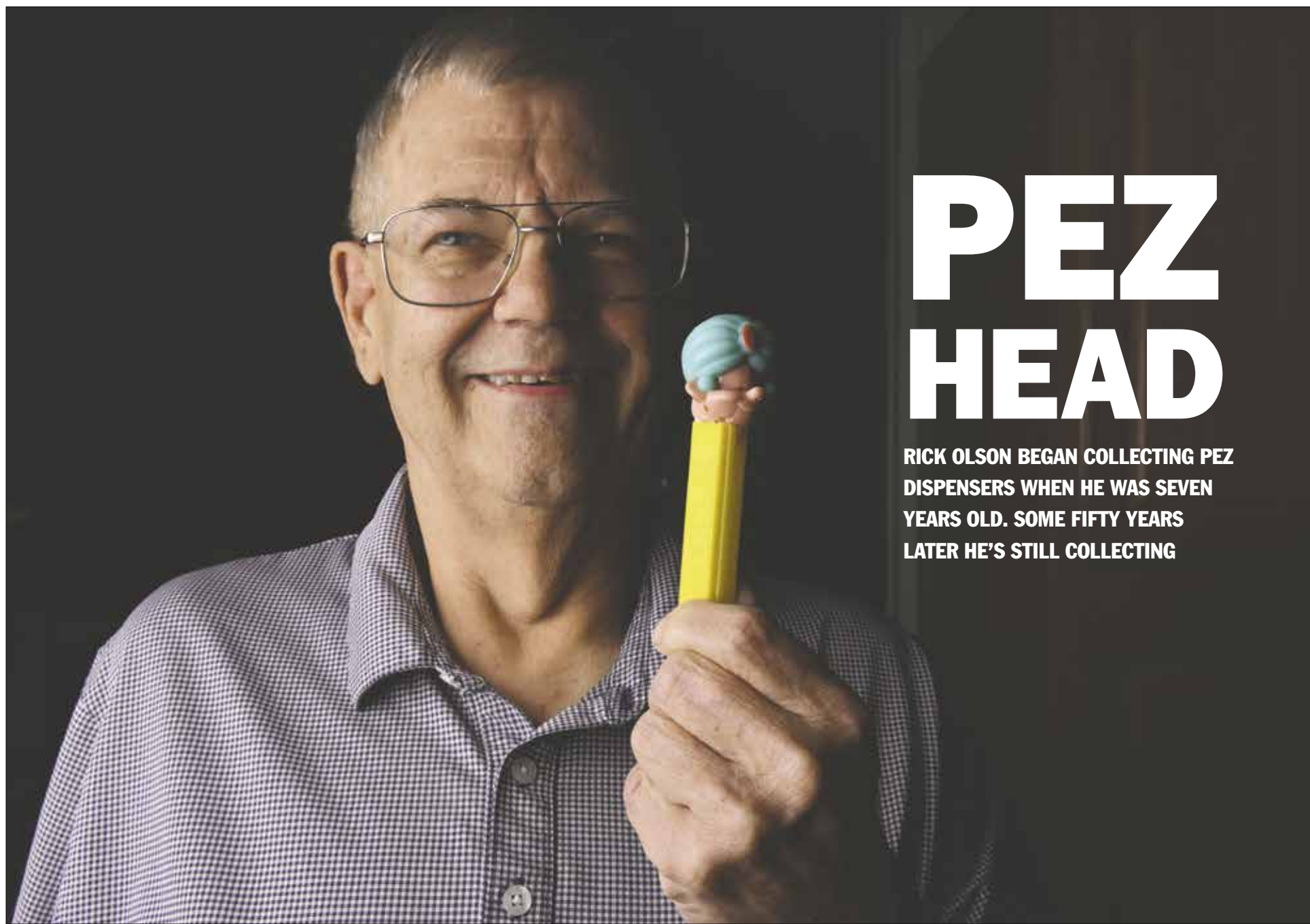


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PEZ HEAD

RICK OLSON BEGAN COLLECTING PEZ DISPENSERS WHEN HE WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD. SOME FIFTY YEARS LATER HE'S STILL COLLECTING

Rick Olson with one of his favorite Pez dispensers — the Maharaja with turban. These are rare items that sell for upwards of \$500. Below, a NASCAR Pez package. Olson notes today there is regularly cross-promotional campaigns with the candy dispensers, which creates interest among both Pez collectors and, in this case, NASCAR fans.

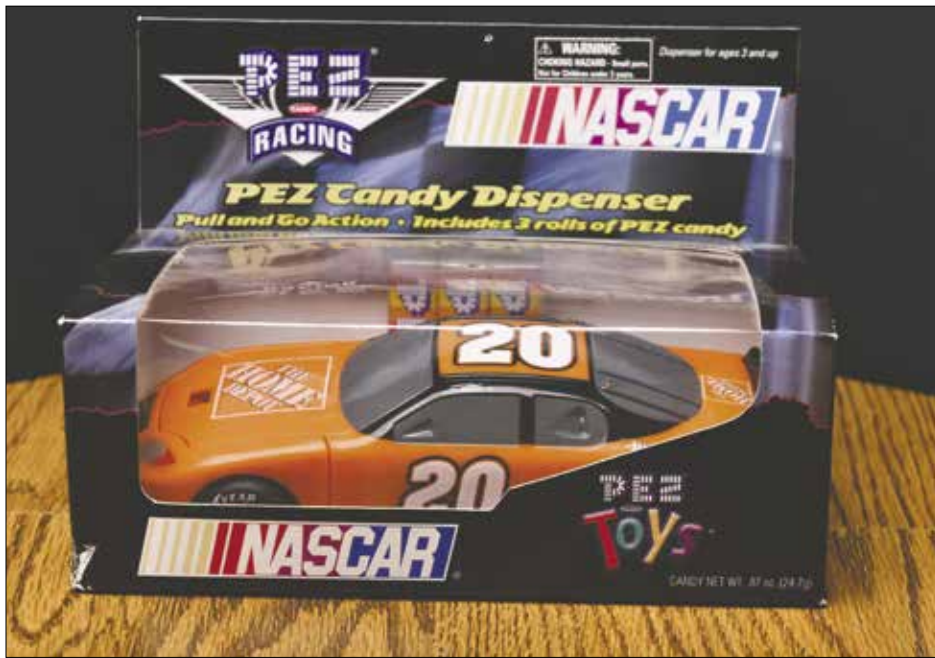
BY RUSTY RAE
Associate Editor,
Old Stuff

What happens when you grow up in a candy store? If you've got the collector gene, you wind up collecting candy — and that's what happened to Rick Olson of McMinnville, Oregon, who's been collecting Pez dispensers for more than 50 years. Today his collection numbers more than 4,000 pieces and handily fills his man cave.

Olson's father ran a distribution company servicing vending machines in the greater

Portland area. As a kid he and his siblings were in charge of receiving for the small warehouse. Back then, when paid a modest salary for his warehouse work, he got a discount on the Pez dispensers with their minty candy. "I think they were going for a nickel and I only had to pay two cents," he remembers.

And that started him on his way to collecting. "Some kids collected Hot Wheels, I collected anything that had anything to do with Pez dispensers. I never stopped collecting since



I was seven years old."

"I guess the initial attraction was you push that lever and it shot

out a grape or orange flavored piece of candy," Olson recalled.

When he departed

for the Navy for eight years, his collection went into boxes and stored at his parents'

basement. While he didn't actively collect during those Navy years, when he saw a Pez dispenser that caught his eye, he bought it for his collection.

Olson certainly isn't the only collector with an ongoing affinity for the famed candy dispensers. Many will gather July 21-23 for Pezmania 31, in Independence, Ohio, a 20 minute drive south of Cleveland. The first convention was held in 1991 and now declares itself "The World's Largest Gathering of Pez Collectors."

Pez dispensers have their niche in the history books. They date back nearly 100 years, when Eduard Hass of Vienna, Austria, invented them as an alternative to smoking. The dispenser mimicked a lighter and pushed a peppermint candy into one's hand or mouth. The name comes from an abbreviation of the German word for peppermint, Pfefferminz. It takes the first letter, the E from middle and the Z from the last letter.

Pez arrived in the United States in 1952 and in 1973 opened its first candy manufacturing facility in Orange, Connecticut, where a visitor center was opened in 2011.

Though Olson may be the king of Pez in the Pacific Northwest, Michigan resident Jim Blaine might be the emperor of Pez World, as his collection totals more than 17,000 of the candy dispensers. While Pez company officials try to estimate the number of collectors worldwide, it seems to be an unattainable number. There are many collectors who identify as collector, attend conventions and such. But there are many more who collect the Pez dispensers but keep their collections to themselves.

In 1956, Pez dispensers made a quantum leap in design. They changed to a new type design, a ray gun that plunked the mint candies in one's mouth.

But it was a licensing opportunity that produced a Popeye Pez that led to the creation of Pez heads. The rest is history — as thousands of Pez heads have been produced to delight of the many collectors.

Collectors pay high coin for some of the rarer Pez dispensers. An astronaut Pez head created for the 1982 World's Fair went for \$32,000 on eBay. A Prince William and Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton pair of dispensers sold for \$13,360 at a charity auction in 2011.

Olson doesn't have anything that expensive in his collection, but he does hang out with some classic Pez heads. Among his collection are several of the presidential Pez sets. He notes today they sell in the \$400 range.

His collection includes rare Lucky Charms and Cheerios boxes with Pez dispensers. The boxes are unopened, which

makes them much more valuable, though he jokes the cereal may not be edible. He also has a two DVD set with dispensers from the Bee Movie, one of his rarer sets.

His two favorites are Wiley Coyote and Marvin the Martian dispensers.

Getting started collecting Pez dispensers is relatively easy, even if your father doesn't own a candy machine vending business.

He believes the first thing you need for collecting Pez dispensers is the want — and to a certain extent if you start looking they'll start showing up. Currently dispensers are found at multiple big box as well as smaller specialty.

"Start by simply purchasing one or two of the ones that you're attracted to — but the big thing is to leave them untouched in the card. Opening them and taking them out of

packaging will see them lose three-fourths of their value," he said.

Once your quest begins, Olson notes all the world is your oyster.

"Garage sales are an easy place to look and you'll be surprised what you can be found in one of these sales. And when you find Pez dispensers in a garage sale you can generally pick them up for five or 10 cents apiece," he said.

Olson also said he frequents antique, collectible and vintage stores. "Many in these stores have feet so they stand up — and those are the older models so they're obviously more collectible. If I find anything that I don't have, I buy it," he said.

One time he was visiting his sister-in-law and he did his normal thing: He visited the local gift shop and found a dispenser he'd never seen before. It was a Green Lantern Pez priced at \$5. He got on the internet to

research, and it turned out to be a 40-year-old classic.

"I actually paid her \$25 for it, but it turns out it was worth more than \$200," he said.

"I think the best way to start is to start small — collect for the fun of the hunt and see where

that takes you," Olson said.

He also believes the serious collector should probably buy one of the collector books that lists all of the Pez dispensers by serial number, which allows one to check the authenticity of a dispenser.



A set of Pez dispensers with feet from Olson's collection.

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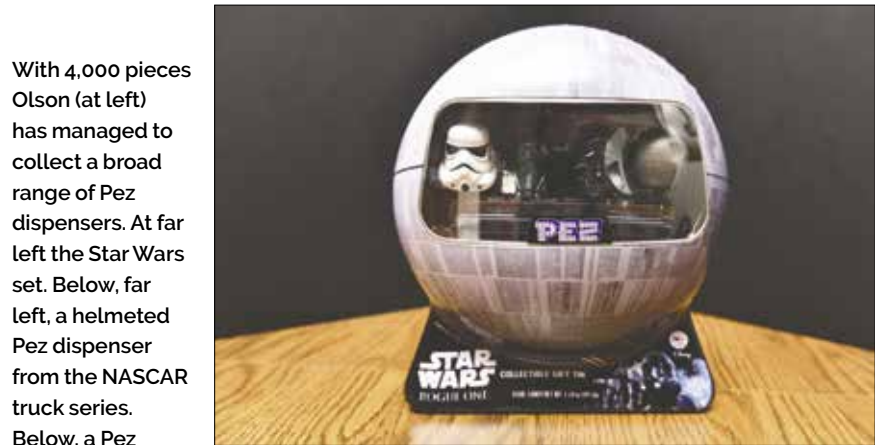
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With 4,000 pieces Olson (at left) has managed to collect a broad range of Pez dispensers. At far left the Star Wars set. Below, far left, a helmeted Pez dispenser from the NASCAR truck series. Below, a Pez



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For the love of antique phonographs

Nancy and Ed Martin pose with some of the more than 50 antique phonographs in their collection. Nancy does the refinishing and documentation and Ed takes care of any mechanical issues.

BY RUSTY RAE
Associate Editor,
Old Stuff

The say love makes the world go round. For Ed and Nancy Martin it might be more accurate to say antique phonographs make their world go round.

The Portland couple is a perfect example of a husband and wife destined for collecting.

Ed, a retired Marine gunnery sergeant and inveterate tinkerer, can repair just about anything. There is no task too daunting for him when it comes to repairing a phonograph that may be more than 100 years old.

Nancy, on the other hand, has the Midas touch when it comes



Its obvious the Martins' collection is a labor of love in more ways than one. In one old phonograph a message from Ed.

to refinishing anything wood or requiring a deft hand with a sewing machine. She also has a passion for rounding up the background of many of the machines in their collection. She's become a walking encyclopedia on many of the phonographs. She's also put together documen-

tation on many of the phonographs in their congregation of vintage record players.

These machines are not relics from the 60s that you might have used to listen The Beatles or The Mamas and The Papas back in the day. They were known as *Talking Machines* back in the day. Many are more than 100 years old.

In this era of digital downloads and the ability to enjoy music almost at will, one may find it difficult to imagine a time when the only music that came to people's ears was live concerts or community sing-alongs.

With the invention of machines that could

reproduce music at the touch of a crank, the term *Talking Machine* was coined. Today collectors speak of two categories of these items: Those from 1888 to approximately 1929, which play cylinder records, and those from the 1889 time frame which play the discs we are familiar with today.

The actual record playing machines are divided into two categories. One type has external horns, which generally are players from the early years of phonographs. The other type are those with internal horns, hidden by cabinets.

In general, *Talking Machines* produced prior to 1925 utilize spring driven motors and require a crank. Those produced later are generally driven by an electric motor.

Today the Martin's collection includes more than 50 old phonographs with more than a dozen in the restoration process. Most still play records, which they enjoy listening to.

Their collection includes both wind-up phonographs and those with electric motors. Visiting the Martin's collection of phonographs is like taking a stroll back in time. As they have collected phonographs, they also amassed a large selection of various records of the day.

When Nancy pulls an old platter from a cabinet and winds up one of the classic phonographs, one is transformed to a slower-paced era, where one witnesses the birth of an industry.

"Record collecting is a nice sideline we've developed as our collection has grown. We've taken in records with many of the phonographs we've added," Nancy notes. They haven't counted, but estimate more 2,000 platters that have come with their antique phonographs.

Their collecting passion began when they inherited a barrel of long playing 78 records, mostly old

country and western platters. The Martins didn't have a record player. Nancy recalled, "All I wanted was one record player to play these 78s."

One day they visited an antique store in Portland and the proprietor noted he had an old phonograph in the back. "We didn't know if it worked, how it worked, or really the first thing about it," said Nancy.

Fortunate for them, the Martins had a friend, Becky, who was a consummate collector. They called Becky and asked if she would check out the machine with them — show them the ropes, so to speak.

Becky was delighted to help. The Martins rushed home to grab a couple of records to test on the phonograph in question. They met Becky at the shop. The first record they chose didn't play. Turns out it was a 33. "Shows what we knew at the time," Nancy said. The next record played fine and the price was right. The Martins brought the player home.

This was one of the smaller Victrola console models, an electric model that didn't need hand cranking. Then Becky said, "Of course now you need to get a wind-up model."

"We hate Becky," Ed quipped with a smile. "She's the one who got us started collecting."

Next they found a player at an estate sale. This one was a wind-up machine but the Martins didn't know if it was something for them. Becky came to the rescue once again. She met Ed and Nancy at the sale. The machine was a near-perfect Columbia in a beautiful upright console. The tone arm was a bit stiff, but when they got it



Above: This phonograph is also a lamp. Nancy completely refinished the lamp shade. Below: One of the classic off brand machines the Martins have brought back to life.



home, Ed took it apart, applied his magic touch and reassembled it — as good as new.

From then on it seemed to Ed that every time they turned around there was another antique record player that needed their loving care.

That was around eight years ago and their collection of talking machines has continued to grow. Nancy notes, "The saying in our group is, 'If there's room on the floor, there's room for one more.'"

The Martins specialize in their collecting. They focus on uprights and consoles rather than older machines with external horns, in which their friend Becky specializes.

Ed adds, "We buy phonographs most people don't want.

These are off brands, but they're still beautiful machines that play well."

Nancy adds, "The top three brands are Victrola, Columbia and Edison, but we have a unique collection of antique record players. Many of these off brands made really high quality machines that sound really great."

While it may be a daunting challenge to begin collecting these machines, many more than 100 years old, the Martins are thankful for the assistance of

See **PHONOS**, Page 16

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Eat the animal crackers, save the tins

BY ANNE GILBERT
The Antique Detective

Chances are that you or someone in your family has eaten Animal Crackers and loved every bite.

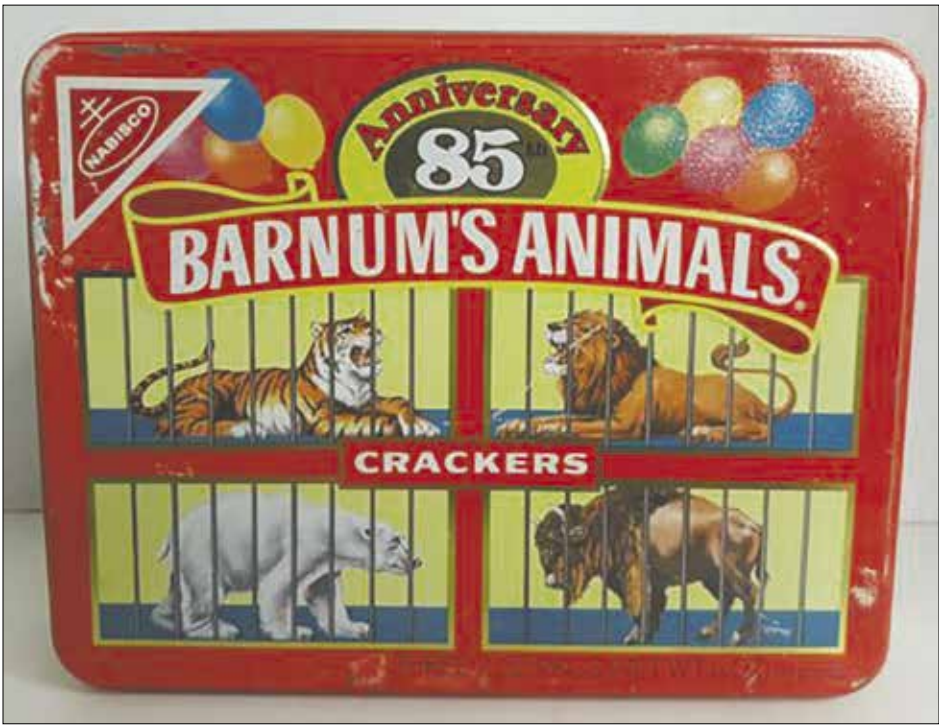
Perhaps you are even a collector of the tin boxes they came in. They have been woven into our culture in many ways.

Prices vary from a few dollars to several hundred dollars paid by serious collectors. Or, maybe you have inherited an old English biscuit tin and are now a collector. They are an important part of biscuit tin history.

A popular current collectible example are Animal Cracker Tins. The original box design for the Animal Crackers tin box depicted four caged wild circus animals. However, in 2018 the animal rights group, “PETA” forced a design change that now shows wild animals together, free, in an African landscape. The tins prior to 2018 are now a part of biscuit tin history.

Historically in the 1500s European voyagers needed food to last for their whole long trip. Double-baked biscuits with a long shelf life were the food of choice. Several hundred years later air tight and reusable biscuit tins were came to life.

Biscuit tins are metal cans made of tin plate. In 1850 Great Britain was the major supplier of tin plate. At that



Over the years animal cracker tins have become highly collectible. Top, the original tin with animals in cages and above the newer designed tins with the animals free. At left an British Tin box.

time making biscuit tins was a small part of the industry. In those days biscuits were sold in bags, in quantity.

That all changed when the Licensed Grocers Act(1861) in England allowed groceries to be individually packaged and sold. This coincided with the new process of lithography, in 1877, that allowed multicolored designs to be printed onto varied shaped tins.

Everything changed when Huntley and Palmers, bakers of biscuits, designed and created elaborately decorated biscuit tins to

Company(Nabisco) in 1898.

Just before World War I the decorations were made to appeal to children and for Christmas gifts. World War II stopped production in England.

By the end of the 19th century companies were hiring artists to showcase their products on tin. Early designers often depicted popular fads and fashions from mid-Victorian through the Art Nouveau to Art Deco eras.

Beginning with Queen Victoria , the Royal family was depicted on biscuit tins. The 1897 Queen Victoria tin celebrating her Diamond Jubilee showed other scenes including a young Victoria. This rarity can fetch several hundreds of dollars.

Over the years the new generations of royals have been depicted. In the 1960s Winston Churchill was was honored by appearing on a biscuit tin. It is highly collectible and priced under \$5.00 in a retail setting.

By the late 19th century animal-shaped crackers or biscuits, in British terms, were imported to America. They became so popular that bakers in America began making them by 1871.

Animal “biscuits” were made in 1902 by The National Biscuit Company. They became officially known as “Barnum’s Animals”,

after the then popular Barnum & Bailey Circus. Fifty-three different animals have been depicted since 1902.

In 1948, the Company changed the product name to the current name of “Barnum’s Animal Crackers”. Currently several American companies make animal crackers and sell them in a variety of tin containers.

Collector interest took off in the 1960s. At that time there were still plenty of authentic and unusual examples to be found. When small grocery and drug stores closed to make way for supermarkets and drug chains, old advertising items, including tins were tossed.

Many of the early collectors were young “hip”advertising executives. They saw it as a great career-collectible that tied in with their work. By the 1970s reproductions of early novelty tins appeared.

CLUES: Prices are modest usually in the \$25.00 range. However the 1987 anniversary cracker tin box in the original design can cost over \$100. Rare early 20th century British Huntley & Palmers tins can sell in a retail setting for several hundred dollars.

Prices can go up over the years. Now is the time to go hunting tin.

BY OLD STUFF STAFF

Majolica, pottery with a magical conglomeration of color and form that dates back to the 1300s, today is world renowned for its artistry and dynamic range of colors, but gives collectors a challenge as they attempt to sort through the multitude of sources who produced these dishes, which add a joie de vivre to the hearts of many homemakers and collectors of this pottery.

These dishes take their name from Majorca, the largest of the Balearic Islands off the southeast coast of Spain. It was here these beautiful pieces of pottery became known as “majolica” (“muh-JOL-i-kuh”) and were first loaded onto trade vessels en route to Italy, where the culture found great pleasure with the multicolored dishes.

Despite the name, the techniques and methods used to produce majolica actually are traced all the way back to the ancient Assyrians. They developed the process involving tin glazing (due to the presence of tin oxide), which provided a more stable base than lead-based glazing; with virtually no bleed between colors.

Tin glazing transformed earthenware items into glossy white canvases upon which elaborate designs could be painted. A second firing locked in imitative and detailed hand-painted pattern for the ages.

Majolica arrived during Italian Renaissance and its popularity spread across Europe. In Victorian England it became known as majolica, and its subject matter and features evolved to better complement British interiors.

The 19th century is considered the golden age of majolica. It was shown at the Great Exhibition in London’s Crystal Palace in 1851 and made its American debut in 1876 at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition. Both showings met with

COLLECTORS BEWARE: THE MANY FACES OF

MAJOLICA



Majolica pottery is wonderful to hold and look at, but because of the many producers of this glassware collectors are wise to do their due diligence before taking a piece home.,

great success, leading to a dramatic increase in popularity and production.

And therein lies the rub for collectors.

Collectors of majolica should be aware that, in addition to that produced in England and America, there were also numerous manufacturers of the ware in several European countries.

One of the most important European manufacturers was Sarreguemines, which started out as a French company. Later, boundary changes in 1870 made it a part of Prussia. This company tended to follow English designs, especially in its early years, and produced a high quality of majolica into the 20th century. It was a large plant, at one time employing more than 2,000 workers. Other French majolica makers were Avisseau

Barbizet, Pull, Choisy le Roi, Onnaing and Glen.

Some excellent majolica was produced in Portugal. Factories there included those of Jose A. Clunha; Mafra and Son; Rafael Pinheir, all of Caldas da Rainha. This town has a long history as a pottery center and is still producing majolica ware today.

In Italy, Ulisse Cantagalli produced majolica from 1878 until 1901. Another Italian firm, the Society Ceramica Richard, operated from 1842 to 1860. Italian ware took most of its design inspiration from the Italian Renaissance.

The dominant majolica manufacturer in Germany was Villeroy and Boch. It produced huge quantities between 1860 and the early 1900s, with much of it being exported to the United States.

Another well-known

German firm producing majolica was Georg Schneider, which operated from 1890 to 1920.

In addition to the useful products, Schneider also made souvenir items in English-type

designs.

In the Czech Republic, Wilhelm Schiller and Sons, which was founded in 1829, began making majolica when it became popular, until its closure in 1895.

The Arabia pottery in Finland produced large functional pieces of majolica from 1874 to 1930. Arabia was a subsidiary of the Rorstrand Pottery in Sweden.


Many of the European firms used established English designs. Others referred to their own heritage for inspiration.

In France, especially, the work of Palissy (who stressed naturalism in his ceramic designs) in the 1500s served as a model. However, since he had also served as a model for many of the early English designs, this didn’t create a big variation in style. It can be very difficult to identify the maker, or even the country of origin, of

See **MAJOLICA**, page 17

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Burnt toast product of early toasters

BY OLD STUFF STAFF

The first toasters were simple — our early ancestors put a piece of bread on the end of a stick and held it over a fire. As man became more proficient at tool making, long-handled forks of wrought iron or heavy wire were used in the same way. These, in use in colonial times, were often patterned and could be quite decorative.

Refinement of this method occurred over the years, until a major development followed the introduction of stoves to the kitchen: a stove-top toaster. These toasters, shaped like pyramids, were made of tin or steel and held four pieces of toast. They were designed to set over the lid opening. When one side was browned, the slices of bread were turned by hand.

Some versions were flat on top, so a coffee pot could be kept warm. The Knoblock Pyramid Toaster, patented in 1909, was of this type. It could toast four slices of bread in two minutes. Sears Roebuck sold it for 23 cents.

The first electric toasters appeared in 1908-09. Made by both General Electric and Westinghouse, they heated the bread on just

one side. Then the slices were turned manually. If the housewife was inattentive, she spent a lot of time scraping burnt toast because there was no shut off.

This feature was added in the 1920s. A timer mechanism shut off the heat until the bread was turned over. It wasn’t until the 1930s that fully automatic pop-up toasters appeared.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY

14

[illegible]

CENTRAL OR

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OREGON CONTINUED

WASHINGTON

SEATTLE AREA

A map of the Puget Sound region in Washington state, highlighting antique malls. Major cities and towns are labeled in blue: Snohomish, Edmonds, Seattle, Bellevue, Port Orchard, Tacoma, Lakewood, Puyallup, Spanaway, and Tukwila. Interstates 5, 90, and 405 are shown as thick grey lines with their respective shields. State routes 16, 167, 18, 169, 410, 510, 507, and 7 are marked with red circles containing numbers. Specific antique malls are indicated by black dots and labeled: Aurora Antique Pavilion (near Edmonds), Olde Central Antique Mall (near Port Orchard), Fairlook Antiques (near Seattle), Black Diamond Antiques (near Bellevue), Pacific Run Antique Mall (near Tacoma), South Tacoma Antique Mall (near Lakewood), Puyallup Antique District (near Puyallup), and Old Main Street Antique Mall (near Spanaway). A compass rose in the bottom right corner shows North (N), South (S), East (E), and West (W).

WA COAST

CALIFORNIA

CONCORD CA

OXNARD CA

SOUTHWEST WA CASHMERE WA

Phonos

Continued from 11

their friend Becky. They also note that the best way to get started is to join a local club. They are members of the Oregon Territorial Antique Phonograph Association. The club has members in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California.

“Dues are really low and we meet quarterly at someone’s home where we get to see how other collections are displayed. There is always something to learn at one of these get-togethers, and some of the collections are something you can only dream about,” said Nancy.

“We’ve seen a phonograph worth a million dollars at one of our meetings,” adds Ed.

With respect to their collection, Ed notes, “We buy machines that need a little tinkering, primarily because they’re more affordable and partly because we like to do the tinkering.”

“In the tinkering, you’re investing yourself in the machine and it becomes more valuable to you because of your own personal investment,” adds Nancy.

In the tinkering department, Ed is an expert on breathing new life into motors and other mechanical parts. He learned his trade by watching countless YouTube videos and talking with assorted collectors about the nitty gritty issues involved in bringing these machines back to life. He and Nancy also found their go-to folks when they need a special part or specific information about the inner workings of one of their babies.

Nancy notes that while Ed’s never met a motor he didn’t like, she personally is a sucker for a pretty grill. She does any wood work required in the restoration process and is the team’s documentarian.

“When I’m taking something apart, particularly something that we don’t have any documentation on, Nancy makes photos each step of the way so reassembly is a little easier,” said Ed.

While restoration of these classic record players may seem a bit daunting, Ed adds with a chuckle, “If you make a really bad mistake – well, that’s why we have a fire-place.”

Nancy searched in every nook and cranny of the



Above: Nancy demonstrates the use of a sock in attenuating the volume of one of the Martin’s antique phonographs. Below left: Some of Nancy’s handiwork documenting one of the phonographs in their collection. Below: A classic phonograph that Nancy has refinished, bringing out the grain in the wood console..



World Wide Web, and numerous other antique stores, book stores and libraries to find information about the various machines in their collection. She’s put together complete booklets on many of their machines, which are spiral-bound and become a part of the collection.

One factoid from Nancy concerns the volume control of these early phonographs. Later machines had a series of moveable baffles built into the consoles that



allowed for the volume to be regulated. Closing the baffle or slats reduced the volume and vice-versa.

However, on earlier machines without the baffle, in order to turn the volume down, owners would stick a piece of cloth in the horn –

Below: An older phonograph showing external double horns.



Below: An older phonograph showing external double horns.



often times an old sock. Thus was born the phrase, “Stick a stock in it!”

Ed adds, “Sometimes you can find the patent information on a particular phonograph which will give you

See **PHONOS**, next page

Phonos

Continued from page 16

schematics and plans which are helpful in restoration.”

Nancy and Ed both enjoy the social aspect of collecting phonographs. “This hobby has

enriched our lives. It’s a treat for us to meet other people who are interested in our hobby — and to listen to their stories,” added Ed.

If you’d like to join this breed of collectors, the Martins have a few tips to help you on your way.

The first is to join a



Vintage and antique shops often have old phonographs, such as this one. However, they may take a little a work to make them into players, which Ed and Nancy consider to be one of the great joys of collecting.

local club, or if there isn’t a local club one of the regional groups. Clubs often times have local sales and it’s a good place to purchase your first machines. Additionally, these clubs are a great source of information for first-timers and there’s always a “Becky” available to assist one with a first purchase.

Ed, the former Marine, is a gung-ho buyer, it seems. “It’s easy to get started. Go on

Craigslist and just buy a bunch of machines,” he said, with a sparkle in his eyes.

Nancy reined Ed’s wildman focus in a bit, cautioning, “It’s always good to learn a little about a machine before you buy it.”

That’s another reason for joining a club is they provide mentors who are normally super helpful in guiding one in an initial purchase.

Ed and Nancy both believe it’s easier than

ever before to collect phonographs with the plethora of online resources available today. Some of these are listed the resource box at the end of the story.

Phonograph collecting resources

The Oregon Territory Antique Phonograph Society - OTAPS : otaps.org/index.php

Antique Phonograph Society: www.antiquephono.org/

The Talking Machine Forum: forum.talkingmachine.info/index.php

Northwest Vintage Radio Society : www.nwvrs.org/

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Beer cans have found their niche among collectors with thousands of different brands and marketing campaigns creating numerous collectibles. This can is from the Schmidt Brewery in St. Paul, Minnesota. It began production in 1855 but went out of business in 1990. The cans remain highly collectible.

golden lagers.

In conjunction with the Gottfried Kruger Brewing Company of Newark, New Jersey, canned beer was introduced. Gottfried Kruger sales exploded by 500 percent.

The following year Pabst and Schlitz, two of the major brewers in the United States came out with beer in cans.

With the constantly changing can technology, the birth and demise of hundreds of local and regional breweries and the birth of small craft breweries across the United States and the world, there are thousands of different designs of beer cans for one’s collection.

Beer can collecting offers many choices

There was a time when beer can collecting was considered the sign of immoral behavior. In the mid-1960s two students at Baptist-supported college were threatened with expulsion for having an empty beer can collection in their room.

Fortunately, cooler heads (and by heads we are not speaking of Budweiser) prevailed

the pair graduated and went on to further corporate success.

But beer can collecting today has become a hobby of many. Beer cans, however, are relatively new to the beverage scene. It wasn’t until 1934 that the American Can Company developed a can with a special enameled lining, to keep the metallic metal taste out of

Majolica

Continued from page 13

unmarked majolica.

To further confuse the issue, when majolica production began to fade in England in the 1870s, the European potteries exported a great quantity of inexpensive novelty items in majolica to England, as well as to America.

Here are some tips on starting your collection:

1. STUDY: As in the norm for any collection, knowledge is power. The best way to be able to spot a modern reproduction of majolica is to go visit some in real life. Go to a museum, an antique dealer’s collection. One great starting place is the French-GardenHouse website, frenchgardenhouse.com.

2. QUALITY: Modern majolica is

clearly inferior to true, 19th and early 20th century pieces. They’re second-rate copies. They won’t have the same careful painting, sharply molded details, nor that “wow” factor that a true antique piece of majolica will have.

3. GLAZE COLOR: Authentic majolica is eye-popping colorful, their glazes will have a rich, lustrous color hue. Modern reproductions will be much more garish in their colors. While the true antique majolica pieces are carefully glazed, the new pieces may be sloppy, with drips and glaze runs. The production lines of newer copies don’t allow for the same careful quality control that the Victorian pieces had.

4. WEIGHT: Authentic antique majolica will have a

certain weight to it. They are heavy pieces. Modern reproductions will be much, much “lighter.” This is where your knowledge of majolica will come in handy.

5. UNDERSURFACE: Antique majolica pieces will have a body underneath the glaze that is pink, blue, green, golden yellow, or cream. Some pieces have a mottled under-surface of blue-brown, blue-black. Newer pieces will most likely have a white undersurface.

6. MARKS: Like many pottery makers, 19th century majolica manufacturers clearly marked their wares. But there are plenty of smaller manufacturers such as beloved Joseph Holdcraft, who did not. However, reproductions today are either

unmarked, or often have a pretend British diamond shaped registry mark on the bottom.

7. CONDITION: As collectors, we seek out the most pristine pieces we can find. Large chips or cracks that go all the way through a piece are hard to accept. Dull glazing obviously devalues a majolica piece.

But once in a while, we can get carried away by a piece that has been repaired. If you are not a perfectionist, there are plenty of majolica beauties out there waiting for you at a very friendly price.

8. COMMON SENSE: If a piece of majolica seems very inexpensive and the price seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Also see: <https://www.veranda.com/shopping/home-accessories/a35369869/>

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For queen, country and collectibles

The recent celebration of Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee celebration has created many commemorative items for collectors. There are tee shirts, coffee mugs and cushion covers to mention only a few.

Famous people from presidents to inventors and celebrities have been immortalized as collectible objects. George Washington,

Benjamin Franklin and Martin Luther King Jr. are among them. The objects are sometimes disrespectful.

Historical events range from battles to Lindbergh's flight, actors and musical groups. Many have been and are being made by limited editions companies such as Bradford Exchange. While many early examples are in

museums many still come up at auctions. Who knows how many are awaiting discovery? Historically commemorative and Jubilee souvenir items go back several hundred years. European and American history used plates, figurines and a variety of ceramics and glass to display political and cultural events and causes.

The earliest British Jubilee commemorative item was a Delftware plate made during the reign of Queen Elizabeth in 1600. In 1680 a commemorative mug was made during the reign of Charles XI.

An early example is a 1748 earthenware plate from the Netherlands celebrating a birth in the Dutch ruling family. It is part of the collection at the Historic Deerfield Museum in Deerfield, Massachusetts.

Developments in manufacturing techniques allowing images and designs to be transferred to pottery in the early 19th century were created in 1760. A Worcester pitcher was made commemorating the death of King

George XI. One side showed his likeness, the other one of his naval battles. A current price offering for one is \$9,000.

On the 50 year Jubilee of King George III Wedgwood made a tea set for royal families. The sets were sold at auction later.

George Washington and Benjamin Franklin were two favorite subjects for Wedgwood potters in the 1800s. Franklins' trip to England, when he received the Copley award for his experiments on lighting and electricity were honored by Stafford pottery figures.

Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee 1887, offered a wide variety of commemorative collectibles, such as, ceramics, woven silk pictures, wallpaper and pipes.

By the middle of the 19th century important commercial events were happening creating a growing market for commemorative items. The Crystal Palace Great Exhibition in Hyde Park, London, England in 1851 was the first World's Fair to



The Queen's Jubilee Celebration has seen a number of commemorative items become available including the coffee mug above. Other events have also spurred an abundance of the celebratory items. But as always, let the buyer beware.

exhibit items relating to culture and industry. A great diversity of souvenirs were included, with images ranging from medals to mugs and thimbles.

Not to be outdone, in America New York City created "The Crystal Palace Of Industry Works Of All Nations" in 1853. Like the London version it was made of iron and glass. Unfortunately the floor was made of pitch pine. Somehow it caught fire and burned to the ground on October 5, 1858. Currier and Ives created a colorful print depicting firemen fighting the blaze.

The most interesting souvenir is known as "The Rose." Made of a flat piece of cardboard it opened again and again in the form of petals. Each petal depicting a steel engraving of points of interest. When closed it was in the form of a colorful full blown rose. Hundreds were made and printed around the world.

1893 marked the opening of the Columbia Exposition in Chicago. The souvenirs depicted images of Christopher Columbus and various exhibition buildings and events.

Chicago's World Fair in 1933, and New York's World Fair in 1964 created many types of souvenirs still available and inexpensive. The Union Pacific exhibit

handed out aluminum coins to promote the use of metal in their new trains.

Commemorative items often had a dark side. In Great Britain there was a serious abolitionist movement beginning in 1783 to end slavery in the United Kingdom and the world.

In 1833 an act of Parliament, in most British Colonies, was passed freeing more than 800,000 enslaved Africans in the Caribbean, South Africa and Canada.

There were many Abolitionists and an Abolitionist Society. The Society created a drawing of a black man in chains and the words "Am I not a man and a brother?"

Josiah Wedgwood, England's most famous potter, convinced his friend, Thomas Clarkson, a member of the Society, to create a medallion, using the image. It became the most famous image of a black person in all of 18th century art. A medallion was sent to Benjamin Franklin who was then president of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. The image was reproduced not only on crockery but fashionable objects from bracelets to being inlaid in gold on snuffboxes. The Wedgwood medallion is and was the most famous image of a black slave in all of 18th century art.

Dos and don'ts of appraisal

Painless evaluations of your prized antiques

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A 'qualified' personal property appraiser is an independent individual, educated and experienced in appraisal standards, which include theory, principles, ethics and the law.

Accurate appraisals require consistent, ongoing education and comprehensive testing to endure competence. Membership in an organization is only as important as the standards and requirements set for membership in the organization.

Some appraisal organizations require only a fee for membership and minimal character references. Some associations even 'certify' their members by payment of that entry fee. A 'certified' appraiser may not be a 'qualified' appraiser. Beware!

There are associations that do require testing. The International Society of Appraisers (ISA) has led the field in establishing a standardized body of comprehensive study and testing for full membership.

You'll be able to find an ISA certified appraiser on their site: <https://www.isa-appraisers.org/>.

Until legislation is passed requiring minimum standards of personal property appraisers, the public

will have to check each appraiser's credentials and qualifications carefully to determine if that appraiser is qualified to do the job. Oregon and Washington do not, at this time, license their personal property appraisers.

An appraiser needs both expertise (knowledge based on education and training) and experience. Being able to identify an antique in detail does not automatically qualify a person to know the value of the item.

An appraiser cannot be an expert in all fields. Beware of such an expert. However, an appraiser who is a member of a qualified association can network with others in the association to cover field where he is less knowledgeable.

When hiring an appraiser, ask for references, and check them. Beware of conflicts of interest, such as an appraiser/dealer who will appraise an item and then offer to purchase it.

It is impossible to

give an unbiased opinion of value while having an interest to purchase, and many consider it to be unethical to offer to buy an item one has appraised.

In fact, the federal government forbids such practice in appraisals prepared for federal purposes. They also forbid percentage appraising, which is appraising for a percentage of the value.

After you hire an appraiser and the work is done, expect the comprehensive report to include the appraiser's qualifications, a complete accurate 'word picture' and value for each item, the market approach used, and a summary.

Do not accept a formal appraisal if it is hand-written, a 'laundry list', a percentage fee based on the total value, or if the appraiser is unwilling to back up his statements in court.



Regardless of the item, if it's something that is really valuable, it makes sense to get it appraised. Finding a qualified appraiser is the first step in ensuring accurate valuation of your collection.

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