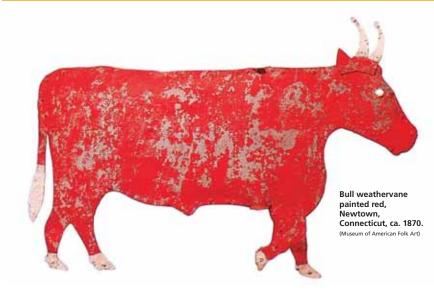
# CELEBRATING

**VOLUME 45, NUMBER 10** 

WWW.RENNINGERS.NET

**OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2019** 



#### A Bullish Look at Bull Collectibles

By Robert Reed

Tistorians will tell you that the bull was a sign of good economic news even back in the 18th century. The unanswered question really is why it was so.

Dealers on the London Stock Exchange were called bulls if they thought the value of stocks and bonds would be rising. They be-lieved stocks and bonds they had immediately acquired would eventually climb to a higher price in the future.

One theory is the bull was selected as a term for a positive market because of the typical upward tossing of its horns. Another thought was that the bull represented strength and power, moving forward seemingly unre-

At any rate, a fondness for

the bull symbol soon spread to Colonial America. The familiar bull became a standard for trade and tavern signs during the latter part of the 18th century. While many potential customers not educated enough to read, they certainly could understand the meaning of such signs.

The National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. has a tavern sign depicting a bull, which was likely crafted in the 1790s. It marked the operation of Captain Aaron Bissell's friendly tavern. Gallery experts suggest the choice of a bull's head, "probably reflected his pride in the successful endeavors of the family through the years." Later a name was added when the place changed ownership.

Laws in much of Colonial



Cast-Iron flat bull windmill weight, Fairbury Windmill Weight Co., Fairbury, Nebraska, early 20th Century.

America at the time required that establishments offering food and lodging provide a public sign, and there are indications that the bull was used in a number of places At the Abby Aldrich Rock-Continued on page 2

#### **Technical Collectibles**

ollectibles were sometimes made to fool people. A tiny teddy bear could hide a perfume bottle. Pincushions hide beneath the fabric skirts of halfdolls, ceramic figures stitched to the skirt. Some collectible canes hid thin flasks that held forbidden whiskey to drink secretly while on a walk. And bronze statues sometimes could open to reveal a naughty scene. In the early days of television, a ceramic black panther was really a lamp lighting the room and the TV set. But almost forgotten are loudspeakers

made for early radios that looked instead of the large horns usually used. Most famous were the Andia loudspeakers, their radio parts inside a metal base with a glazed pottery top. One that was auctioned recently looked like a bright red, blue and yellow 14-inchtall parrot. It was made by Royal Doulton & Co. of Eng-

land for Artandia Ltd. in 1927. Other designs include Miss Muffet, a Persian king, a Chinese scribe and other figures that would attract buyers. It sold at Auction Team Breker, a German auction of radios, music machines and other technical collectibles, for

This rare bird, a ceramic parrot, conceals the working parts of a radio loudspeaker made in 1927. It substituted for the large horn used to amplify the sound of the radio and sold for about \$900.

#### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

By Terry and Kim Kovel

O. I have a tall, white pitcher with daisies painted on it and gold trim. It's marked "Bel-Terr China, U.S.A., 22 Kt. Gold." I'd like to sell it. What is it worth?

A. Bel-Terr China was founded in 1961 by Belden and Terry Ham in East Palestine. Ohio. The company is no longer in business. Bel-Terr pitchers, about 8 inches

tall, sell for under \$20.

O. I inherited two art prints from my grandfather, who was the manager of the Rialto movie theater in Louisville, Kentucky, in the 1950s and '60s. Both prints are by Reynold Brown. One is "The Dragon Fight" from the movie "The Wonderful World of Broth-

Continued on page 6

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KUTZTOWN, PA 2020 · April 24-25 · June 27, 27

#### A Bullish Look at Bull Collectibles

Continued from page 1

efeller Folk Art Center in Colonial Williamsburg there are carved wooden toys depicting bulls, cows, and other animals. The figures were likely crafted and painted by skilled, but untrained, folk artists around the 1850s and range from six to ten inches in length. Later in the century, a few folk artists, such as Wilhelm Scheme, scratched out a meager living handcarving animals from wood. Scheme mostly made birds and dogs, but on occasion, he also crafted farm animals, including cows and bulls, which he sold in his wanderings for a few cents or traded them for food and drink.

Back in England, potters of the latter 19th century sometimes fashioned striking ceramic figures of bulls applied with delicate paints and completed the works with fine glazes. Today some of the works of Wedgwood potters and other British craftsmen of that period are highly prized.

From the 1870s through the 1890s and perhaps even longer, the bull became a major symbol on American weathervanes.

To those who may won-der why the popularity of a bull's image was on the equally popular weathervane, an explanation is of-fered by William Ketchum Jr. in the book, All American Folk Arts and Crafts:

"A simple board swing-ing freely in the wind would have been sufficient, but few farmers were content with that. The farmer carved his weathervane from wood or shaped it from metal or purchased a vane as elaborate as he could afford. The shape of the weathervane the farmer made or bought was often related to the type of farm he ran. Most farm families had a few cows, and the cow, steer, or bull was a frequently seen type of weathervane.

Homemade weathervanes were typically made of wood or sheet iron and then painted in bright colors. As a rule, they did not withstand the elements of harsh weather as well as the store-bought versions and were subject to frequent repairs.

Farmers could purchase, on the other hand, factory made weathervanes depicting a cow or bull. The cost was \$20 to \$40, which was considered a very substantial sum down on the farm in the latter 19th century. More elaborate oversized bull weathervanes--some up to four feet wide-- made in the New York factories of J. W. Finke of E. G. Washburn with shining gilded metal trimmings, might well have sold for twice the regular amount.

From a commercial product standpoint, the most famous bull of the 19th centurv was one that sold smoking tobacco to millions.

During the Civil War, enterprising John Ruffin Green of Durham's Station, North Carolina, began selling "bright tobacco" to soldiers and others. The prod-



Tavern sign of bull's head, 18 th century, Connecticut.

uct was packaged in small cloth bags. By the year 1868, the image of a bull became a part of the packaging and the tobacco's name fully became Bull Durham.

Dr. Gerald Petrone, author of the book Tobacco Advertising, The Great Seduction, suggests Green may have copied the idea from a British trademark for mustard. Others offer it was simply a masculine image designed to appeal to a rugged male

Regardless, "The popularity of the bull gave impetus to the growing national trend for smoking tobacco and using hand-rolled cigarettes," concludes Dr. Petrone.

By the 1880s, Green's massive efforts at promotion and marketing had paid off. The workforce had grown from 10 in 1865 to more than 800 in 1885. Bull Durham, with its bull image on everything from posters to watch fobs, was the world's bestselling tobacco.

Bull Durham continued to be a popular selling product well into the 20th century. Today collectors remain



Wedgwood majolica model of a bull, England, ca. 1878, approximately 12-inches high.



Bull Durham watch fob, early 20 th century.

fascinated with the wealth of advertising memorabilia once offered in the name of Bull Durham from trade cards to trolley signs.

Late in the 19th century and early into the 20th century the bull image was, once again, a popular symbol of American farms, this time as a windmill weight. Firms like the Fairbury Windmill Weight Company and the Simpson Windmill and Machine Company, both located in Nebraska, made great numbers of bull-image cast-iron weights. Typically, they were painted bright red or silver and mounted on a rectangular base. They often ranged in size from 18 to 24 inches, not counting the

produced a friendly look-ing bull cookie jar. The unmarked bull, in two different versions, was part of the company's Hands-in-the-Pocket series, which included other animals as well.

Breyer Animal Creations began operations in the 1950s by producing and marketing toy versions of Western horses. Eventually the unique operation expanded to include dogs, cats, and farm animals such as the bull. Over the next few decades, bull issues included the Black Angus, Polled Hereford, and the Texas Longhorn Bull.

ly 1950s, American Bisque

Today many forms of bulls of the past remain attractive and collectible

That original Heisey Glass Company bull of the late 1940 and early 1950s may well command a price of more than \$3,000 presently. As noted in the comprehensive volume, Glass Animals by Dick and Pat Spencer, a lavender ice colored version was issued by Heisey Collectors of America many years later as a limited edition tribute to the original piece.

Meanwhile, original bull weathervanes that have survived the ages in proud condition can bring \$4,000 or more today, proving the bull is back with collectors. If, indeed, it was ever gone



305 Wertz Ave 1 mile W. of

Exit #106 off 1-77

The bull left the farm for

the carnival midway in the

Supply catalogs of the 1930s and 1940s offered

the likes of chalkware and

plush "jumbo comical bulls"

in bright colors. The plaster

images could be standing or seated and be nine to twelve

inches in length. Cloth

stuffed bulls were slightly

larger, around fifteen inches,

with black or orange colored

In 1949, the Heisey Glass

Company issued a four-inch

tall, seven-inch long crys-

tal glass bull. Production

of the glass bull continued

over the next few years. The

clear-looking glass item was

hodies

years that followed.

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#### **COMING UP**

#### NOVEMBER

- 2 ......Agricultural Hall, Fairgrounds, Allentown, PA....Toy
- 2-3 .... Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, VA
- **2-3** .... Stormville Airport, Stormville, NY... .F/M
- **3** ......Singerly Fire Hall, Elkton, MD....Bottle **3** ......Farm & Home Center, Lancaster,
- 3 ...... Farm & Home Center, Lancaster, PA....Doll, Toy
- 7-10... Expo Centers, Atlanta, GA
- **8-10** .. Renaissance Airport Hotel, Phila., PA....Miniature
- 8-10 .. Chase Center, Wilmington, DE
- 9-10 .. Stark County Fairgrounds, Canton, OH
- 9-10 .. Fire House, Oxford, MD
- **15-17** Renninger's Extravaganza, Mt. Dora, FL
- 15-17 Lakewood 400, Cumming, GA
- 16 ..... Penns Landing Caterers, Phila., PA
- 16-17 Fire Halls, Kimberton, PA
- 22-23 Expo Center, Carlisle, PA
- 30 Dec.1 Expo Center, Columbus, OH

#### DECEMBER

- 1 ...... Memorial Hall, Expo Center, York, PA....Tov
- 1 ......Bethlehem Catholic H.S., Bethlehem, PA....Bottle
- 7-8 .... Fire Hall, Mauricetown, NJ

#### Every Sunday Thru Nov. 24,

Roosevelt Mall, Phila., PA.....Outdoor F/M

**Every Saturday and Sunday**Montgomery County Fairgrounds,

501 Perry Pkwy., Gaithersburg, MD



# 66th Lancaster Doll, Toy & Teddy Bear Event November 3

The 66th Semi-Annual Doll, Toy & Teddy Bear Show will be held on Sunday, November 3 at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 1838 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. More than 35 vendors with 120 tables will be bringing their finest dolls, toys, teddy bears, Beanie Babies, Barbies and Star Wars. If you want to view and buy these collectibles – admission is only \$6 or \$5 with this article or newspaper coupon for \$1 discount. Children under 14 years of age are admitted free when accompanied by a parent

of age are admitted free when accompanied by a parent. Show hours are Sunday, November 3 from 10 am until 2 pm. Many door prizes will be given away! In addition, if you want to beat the crowd – early bird admission is available at 9 am for \$10. For more information please contact Ron Funk, 3045 West Meadowview Drive, Gordonville, PA 17529 or phone 717-371-0395.

#### **CURRENT PRICES**

Current prices are recorded from antiques shows, flea markets, sales and auctions throughout the United States. Prices vary in different locations because of local economic conditions.

Child's chair, wood, painted, bellflowers, yellow & black trim, shaped crest & splat, Penn., c. 1885, 19 1/4 inches, \$70.

Blown glass flask, amethyst, swirled pattern, spiral ribs,

Stiegel type, sheared mouth, 5 inches, \$190.

Folk art wood carving, eagle, wings tucked in, remnants of gilding, American, early 19th century, 14 x 8 inches, \$340

Sterling silver stuffing spoon, Hester Bateman, Elk monogram, England, 11 3/4 inches, \$355.

Tall case clock, grandmother, lacquered wood, japanned,

Continued on page 4



# 41st ANNUAL ALLENTOWN ANTIQUE TOY SHOW & SALE

"Some of the finest antique toys in the world..."
- Antique Toy World magazine

## **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2019** 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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This show will be held in AGRICULTURAL HALL AT THE ALLENTOWN FAIRGROUNDS, 17th and Chew Streets, Allentown, PA For more information CALL 484-553-2947 or Email: JULIESAUERZOPF@gmail.com



A striking dispay of hatpins welcomes you into the vintage clothing/fabric booth of Amber Ashley, Olde Stark Antique Faire, Canton, Ohio

#### Olde Stark **Antique &** Vintage Market Nov. 9 & 10

Items and Toys of the Past at the upcoming Antique & Vintage Mar-ket, November 9 – 10 at the Stark County Fairgrounds, Exhibition Building, 305 Wertz Ave., Canton, Ohio. Saturday hours are 9 am to 4 pm (Early Bird at 7 am) and Sunday 10 am to 2 pm for this large indoor show featuring over 100 dealers and collectors.

Nostalgic collectibles of every description from fine heirlooms to folk art wait your perusal. Included are antique furniture, pottery, porcelain, crystal, clocks, quilts, linens, lamps, postcards, old toys, dolls, rustic primitives, Period and Victorian, Art Deco, militaria,

lde Stark will offer vintage clothing and jew-vintage Christmas elry, books and prints. In addition, this special event will feature many unique vintage Christmas items as well as dolls and toys of the past - a great way to meet the dealers, gain insight, befriend other collectors, find bargains and have a great Denny Potter will offer

watch repair at his booth and various vendors offer free appraisals. Admission is \$5, children under 12 admitted free - earlybird admission is \$7 at 7 am. Acres of free parking is available. Directions: I-77 to exit #106, 1 mile west to 305 Wertz Ave., Canton, Ohio. For further information contact: Barbara Garduno, 330-794-9100.

#### Thrill and Chill at Haddon Heights **Antiques Center**

he Halloween season is upon us and the Haddon Heights Antiques Center has mounted a display to thrill and chill you.

Vintage Halloween items continue to have strong collector appeal and this multi-dealer shop is happy to oblige. You'll find both the cute and the macabre. There are plastic and ceramic light-up decorations, old party favors, masks, paper decorations and books, and figural representations of witches, ghosts, monsters, and even scary clowns.

Autumn is one of the best times of the year for antique hunting, and the Haddon Heights Antiques Center, which has been going strong for over 25 years, is a great place to hunt. The shop is open seven days a week from 10 to 5 with extended hours on Friday evening.

It's conveniently located on Clements Bridge Road, just off I-295 Exit 29 or 29B and the White Horse Pike, where Haddon Heights and Barrington meet at the railroad tracks. For directions or more information, call 856-546-0555.



#### **CURRENT PRICES**

Continued from page 3 arched bonnet, metal face, Kienzle works, bracket feet, 69 inches, \$370.

Writing desk, Rococo style, fruitwood, serpentine top, 5 drawers, kneehole configuration, flared cabriole legs, Italy, 31 x 48 inches, \$510.

Wooden box, pine, sliding lid, painted stylized tulips on ides, 3 1/2 x 4 1/2 x 7 inches, \$585.

Coffee mill, Landers, Frary & Clark, No. 20, Crown, double wheel, cast iron, black paint, hinged lid, wooden handle, 12 1/4 inches, \$1,045.

Mechanical bank, Organ Grinder & Dancing Bear, cast iron, Kyser & Rex, Pennsylvania, c. 1882, 5 1/2 x 6 3/4 inches, \$2,700.

Arequipa pottery vase, stylized pink flowers, green ground, squeezebag decorated, squat, F. Rhead, 1912, 3 x 5 1/2 inches, \$5,625.

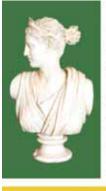
Newcomb College Pottery vase, moon, moss, blue, Anna Frances Simpson, c. 1922, 5 x 3 1/2 inches, \$1,920. Roseville vase,

molded pea pods, red, green blue, horizontal ribbing, handles, 9 1/4 x 8 inches, \$1,410.

Sideboard, George III, mahogany, satinwood, inlay, bow front, casters, 6 drawers, 2 doors, 35 x 107 inches, \$3,000.

Basalt bust, Shakespeare, collar, buttons, convex base, impressed Shakespeare, marked, 12 x 8 inches, \$150.

Verlys vase, Thistle, opalescent glass, flared archways, 3-piece mold, signed, 10 x 7 1/4 inches, \$240.





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#### **Grist Mill Antiques Center Celebrates 25th Year**

Center is celebrating its 25th year in business! The dealers have gone all out to stock their booths, making this anniversary even more special. Holiday displays are being installed and collectibles for Halloween and Thanksgiving are making their way into the shop. No autumn display is complete without a vintage papier-mache pumpkin or antique transferware turkey platter! The Grist Mill has something for every collector from Primitive to Mid Century Modern. Come visit and find out why their customers keep coming back year after year.

Just In! The Grist Mill has acquired a fine selection of lighting including antique hand painted glass lamps, an Arts and Crafts hanging light and an elegant etched mirrored glass chandelier. These treasures can be found among a multitude of fine oil lamps and other decorative lighting.

Sales & Events! In addition to a shop discount, each week the Grist Mill has a 25% off sale on a selected theme. A Scavenger Hunt is held on the last Wednesday of every month from 5 pm to 8 pm. Refreshments are served and the winner receives a \$25 gift certificate good at the Grist Mill or sister shop Haddon Heights Antiques Center. Follow on Facebook and Instagram or sign up for a weekly newsletter to receive updates on events and weekly sales. Send your request to: theplace@gristmillantiques.com.

Shop Discounts: All merchandise priced \$6 or more is 20% off every day! Each week they feature a themed 25% off sale. To learn more about sales or subscribe to the weekly email please check out their website!



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PA TPK (I-76) to exit 286 turn right on rt. 272 N. then right on rt. 897 S. Go 3/4 mile to Grove on left 717-484-4115 Shupps@dejazzd.com ShuppsGrove.com GPS: 607 Willow St., Reinolds, PA 17569

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Oct. 26-27 Animal Collectibles & Memorabilia
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New Dealers! The Grist Mill continues to renovate and design space for new dealers. streetsed in becoming a Grist Mill Dealer? Spaces are available! Contact Barbara Lind at 609-726-1588 or theplace@gristmillantiques.com.

The Grist Mill is a multidealer shop featuring 2 floors of over 10,000 sq ft of antiques and vintage, furniture, china, collectibles, pottery and more. Sets of fine china, MCM dishes, art pottery, glassware, collectible dolls, lamps from every era, Pyrex and retro kitchen items abound!

Grist Mill Antique Center is located at 127 Hanover Street (Route 616) in Pemberton, NJ 08068. Open 7 days a week, 10 to 5, Wed. til 8. More info: www.gristmillantiques.com.





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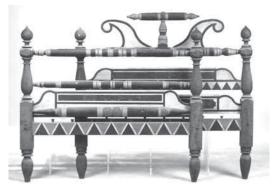
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#### **Antique Beds**

an an antique bed be used in a modern home without difficulties? Yes and no. The beds used before about 1900 are shorter and narrower than the standard sizes used today. That means to use the beds, the fitted sheets, blankets, box springs and mattresses may have to be custom made. It might be possible to use toppers or foam rubber instead of springs. But then the top of the the late 1800s, the mattress was held in the bed frame with wooden slats or rope. An old rope bed will have holes in the side rails to "rope the bed." Some old beds have pegs in the side rails. These hold a mattress with 'sacking," a piece of sailcloth with eyelets that match the positions of the pegs. It is strung into place in the center of the frame to hold the mattress. Ask a local antique dealer, his-

line for "roping a bed" for instructions. An antique bed is shorter than a new one. The largest is 48 inches long, shorter than the modern 54-inch king. Sometimes it is best to use just the head- and footboards and buy a modern metal frame. A colorfully painted antique Empire bed made in New England was auctioned by Nye & Co. recently for \$12,500.



This unusual bed with decorative bright paint sold recently for \$12,500. It was made about 1830.







#### **Atlanta Expo Centers** Atlanta, GA

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MAR 12, 13, 14 & 15

MAY 7, 8, 9 & 10 JUN 11, 12, 13 & 14 JUL 9, 10, 11 & 12 AUG 6, 7, 8 & 9

**Show Hours** 

Thurs. 10:45am - 6pm Fri. & Sat. 9am - 6pm Sun. 10am - 4pm

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3 miles East of Atlanta Airport, I-285 at Exit 55 (3650 & 3850 Jonesboro Rd SE)

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**Show Hours** 

Sat. 9am - 6pm Sun. 10am - 4pm **2020 Shows** 

JAN 25 - 26 FEB 22 - 23

MAR 28 - 29

**Directions** 

I-71 Exit 111 (E 17th Avenue) to Ohio Expo Center.









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#### **QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

By Terry and Kim Kovel

Continued from page 1 ers Grimm" and the other is "The Stampede" from the movie "How the West Was Won." The prints hung in the theater lobby during the showing of the films in 1962. Both are signed. Can you tell me their approximate value?

A. William Reynold Brown (1917-1991) was an American artist whose work included posters for over 275 movies, covers for books and magazines, drawings for a comic strip, and oil paintings. Movie posters are collectible. Prices depend on subject, condition, size and rarity. The standard movie poster is a "one sheet," 27 by 41 inches. Brown's posters for horror movies sell for high prices. His poster for "Attack of the 50 Foot Woman. 17 x 41 inches, sold for \$9,000 last year. His poster for "Creature from the Black Lagoon," 81 by 79 1/2 inches, sold for over \$19,000. Most movie posters sell for under \$100. Your posters won't bring high prices, but the signature, if authentic and not part of the print, may add value. Contact an auction house that has sold movie posters to see what they might bring. It will help to have the provenance mentioning the movie theater.

Q. I was invited to a 1969 costume party, so I searched my closet for something I wore 50 years ago, I found a lumber jacket that was decorated with tiny toy cars that looked a lot like Match Box or Hot Wheels cars but a little smaller. Are they salable today? About 30 are stitched onto an embroi-dered "road."

A. The jacket sounds like the perfect thing to wear to a costume party, but don't tell anyone your tiny cars are too new for the party. Micro Machines, the best-selling toy car, were introduced in 1987 by Galoob, and new ones were made every year until 2008. They made all sorts of model cars, trucks, planes, tanks, even helicopters and motorcycles. The line was sold to Hasbro, and the cars were discontinued until a revival in 2015-2016. The cars should say Micro Machines or Galoob on the bottom. They sell today for about \$5 each, although some sets, like "Aliens," are priced \$50, and "Star Trek" and "Star Wars" also sell for more.

O. My uncle owns an accordion that has "Fratelli Luigi, Made in Germany' written on the case. He's had it since the 1930s. The maker's name appears to be Italian, but it says the instrument was made in Germany. Can you give us any information about the maker and possible value?

A. The first accordions were made in Germany in 1829. By the late 1800s, they were being made in several other countries. Many fine accordions were made in Italy and some manufacturers from other countries used Italian names on the accordions they made. Fratelli Luigi is a name used on some accordions made by Gebruder Ludwig, a German company founded in 1844. It began making accordions in 1889. The names Gebruder Ludwig and Fratelli Luigi translate to "Louis Brothers" in English. The value of your uncle's accordion depends on the condition, size and other factors. You should take it to a music store that sells accordions to get an idea of value.

Q. I am trying to find out what my silver tray is worth. It is oval and has a rope twist rim. There is a mark on the bottom with a three-leaf stem, a crown and a standing lion over two more lions and a star. The mark also has old-English-looking letters: EBM

A. The letters on your tray are actually EGW & S, which stand for E.G. Webster & Son of New York City and Brooklyn. The Elizur G. Webster firm started in New York City in 1860. In 1864, Webster partnered with William Dupree and the firm became Webster & Dupree. After a few changes in partnerships with William Dupree and Webster's brother Adel-bert Webster, E.G. partnered with his son Fred H. Webster in 1886, and the firm became E.G. Webster & Son. E.G. died in 1900. His son continued the business until 1928, when it was sold to International Silver Co. In 1981, it was sold to Oneida. Your tray is silver plate and the pattern is No. 210. The mark dates it from 1886 to 1928. Mediumsized silver-plated serving trays in good condition are worth \$35 to \$50.

Q. Since Franciscan China began in California, why do my Simplicity pattern dishes say "Japan" on the Continued on page 7

#### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS By Terry and Kim Kovel

Continued from page 6

back? These were from my grandmother in the 1950s or '60s.

A. Franciscan dinnerware was introduced in 1940 by Gladding, McBean and Co., a California company that made sewer pipes, floor tiles and other architectural products. Competition from dinnerware made by foreign manufacturers in the late 1950s caused the company to shift some production to Japan in 1959. Simplicity is one of five patterns in the Porcelain line introduced in 1961 and made in Japan. Later, after changes in ownership, Franciscan dinnerware was made in England, China and Thailand, Production stopped in 2015. Gladding, McBean is now a division of Pacific Coast Building Products and continues to make sewer tile and other architectural products.

Q. I bought a pickle castor with an undamaged embossed glass container and a silver frame at a house sale. I was told it was made by Mt. Washington Glass Works. Is it valuable?

A. Mt. Washington Glass Works was founded in 1837 in South Boston, Massachusetts. The company moved to New Bedford, Massachusetts, in 1870. It merged with Pairpoint Manufacturing Co. in 1894. Pickle castors sell for a few hundred dollars to a few thousand dollars. Size, decoration, condition and frame material determine price. Pickle castors with solid silver frames sell for about twice as much as those with silver plated frames. If yours is plated, it is worth about \$150 to \$250.

Q. I have a silver spoon marked with a small hallmark: the letter "S" in the middle of wings. I'd like to know the maker and when it was made.

A. This mark was used by George W. Shiebler, who started his company in Baltimore in 1876. He moved to Brooklyn and the company name became George W. Shiebler & Co. in 1891. It went out of business in 1910. The company made flatware, hollowware, souvenir spoons and specialty items. A sterling teaspoon is worth about \$25 to \$50. A plated teaspoon sells for only \$10 to \$15.

Q. I have an old cast iron bell stamped B.C. Taylor. It's 12 inches high and 16 inches wide and in good condition but rusty. What is the value of this bell?

A. B.C. Taylor Agricultural Works was founded in Dayton, Ohio, in 1862. The company made horse-drawn hay and grain rakes. Hay rakes were farm tools used to collect cut hay or straw into rows so it could be dried and collected quickly and efficiently. The business met hard times in the 1870s and cut back, but still exhibited at neighboring state fairs and even the Paris Universal Exposition of 1878. Business revved up again in the early 1880s as B.C. Taylor and Son, when the foundry also made bells - industrial, farmhouse, dinner and school bells. The company was out of business by about 1909. Your school bell is worth about \$250.

Q. I have a small wooden box that my mother kept jewelry in. It is lined in red and inside the lid is a gold seal that says "Medal of Honor, Republic of Barcelona, Buren, 100th Anniversary" with the dates 1842-1942. I've seen several of these for sale online but never with information. Can you tell me anything about it?

A. In 1842, a few watchmakers opened shops in Buren, a town in Switzerland on the River Aare. They made watch parts and later, a few watches a day. Demand for the watches grew and a factory was built in 1867. The shops were brought together under one roof and the Buren Watch Company name was registered. Their excellent work received recognition in timepiece-making competitions, one of which was the 1929 International Exposition at Barcelona, Spain, where it was awarded the Grand Prix Medal of Honor. In 1966, the Buren Watch Co. was sold to Hamilton Watch Co. and who made their watches. Buren went out of business in 1972. but the brand name is still used by Swiss Watch Editions of Hamburg, Germany. Your box originally held a Buren watch. The seal inside commemorates the 1929

award and the 100th anniversary of watchmaking at Buren. We found an empty box like yours that sold for \$30.

Q. Can you tell me the approximate value of old newspapers and magazines? I have the full copy of The New York Times newspaper from Saturday April 15, 1865, with the headline "Awful Event, President Lincoln Shot by an Assassin," as well as a newspaper of Kennedy's assassination. I also have old Playboy magazines from the 1950s-"70s.

A. Old newspapers covering major events, like the assassinations of Lincoln

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and Kennedy, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby, sinking of the Titanic the San Francisco earthquake and other major catastrophes, sell for the highest prices. The front page of the April 15, 1865, New York Times sold at auction for \$450 last year. A copy of the same issue, with eight pages, sold for \$1,200 three years ago. Most Play-boy magazines sell for only a couple of dollars. A collection of 30 magazines sold for \$76. But beware, many copies have been made of the famous newspapers. Old newspapers yellow and fall apart unless properly stored.

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