

Arizona's  
**ANTIQUE REGISTER**

Vol 28 - Issue 3 A Guide to the Antique, Vintage & Collectible Marketplace May-June 2024

*Complimentary*  
GUIDE TO  
ANTIQUE AND VINTAGE  
SHOPS & EVENTS



May-June 2024

Arizona's  
**ANTIQUE REGISTER**  
Your Guide to the Antique, Vintage and Collectible Marketplace • Established 1998

**Barbara Stillman, Publisher & Office Manager**  
**Lolly Konecky, Publisher & Art Director**  
**Patty Duncan - Sales/Office Assistant**  
**Phyllis Cypert - Sales/Office Assistant**  
**Nancy Williams - Editorial Consultant**

**515 E. Carefree Hwy #1128 • Phoenix, AZ 85085**  
**antique@barlomedia.com**  
**(602) 942-8950 • Fax (602) 866-3136**  
**888-942-8950**  
**[www.theantiqueregister.com](http://www.theantiqueregister.com)**

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Tami Mitchell, owner of **Midtown Mercantile Merchants**, said she is eager to increase foot traffic at the new location. *"The new location is so much more convenient and has been beautifully remodeled, offering a lot more space for merchants and a bigger selection for customers to browse. We'll be offering the kind of curated merchandise from the Best-of-the-Best Merchants! Our customers are going to love it!"* Tami told us.

The 8-year-old business will celebrate its anniversary when it reopens at Rancho Center. Visitors who walk through the door at **Midtown Mercantile Merchants** will experience the same warm greeting by staff members who are also available throughout the mall to answer questions and offer assistance. A treasure trove of individual uniqueness will be offered along with classes on various topics and teachings.

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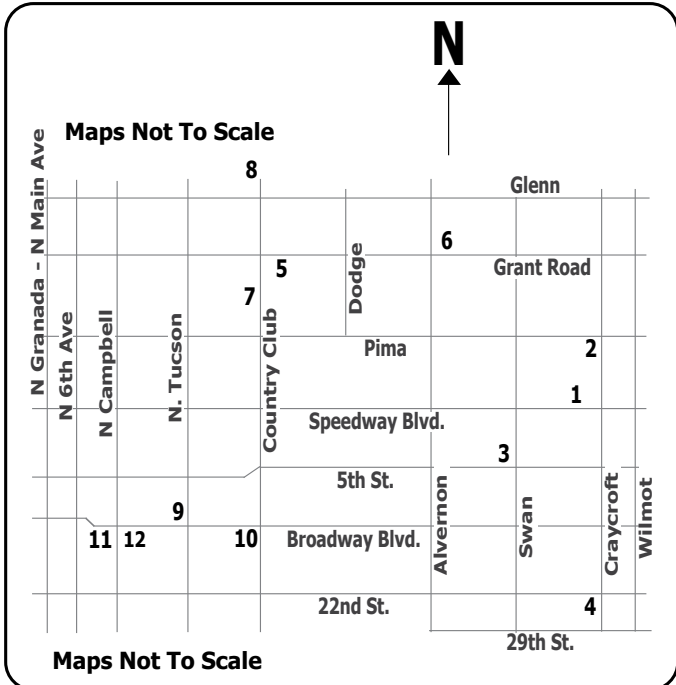
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## Giveaway Winner from March-April Issue

We have one giveaway winner from our last issue. Yvonne Shilling of Bisbee will be sent a \$25 Gift Certificate to be spent at her favorite Antique Register advertiser, **Tombstone Antique Mall** in Tombstone. Yvonne told us this is her favorite advertiser because of their great selection.

We love hearing from our readers about how they enjoy *The Antique Register* and use it to hunt for great finds, interesting items and special events. In this issue, there is another \$25 Gift Certificate giveaway so be sure to enter and tell us where you pick up the paper. Remember to take a copy with you as you travel in and around Arizona this spring and summer!

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### Collector's Corner

## 10 Guiding Principles of Collecting

by Jim Olson

What should we be looking for when it comes to purchasing collectibles?

Well, buy what appeals to you! Buy what you like. Buy what speaks to your heart. If you are collecting with the intent that eventually it will also be an investment, then it may behoove you to become more educated about what you are buying and buy the best you can! Read on.

“Collectible” means different things to different people. There are many “collectors” out there, but at the end of the day, most of their collections would not sell for much if the collection suddenly needed to be sold. That is fine if you are collecting for the sake of collecting. Reminds me of the old story of the guy who collected leaves, he really thought he was raking it in!

People often say the main difference between a collector and a hoarder is a matter of discrimination. There’s a lot of truth in that! An advanced collector always looks to buy the best that they can. But remember, everyone has to start somewhere.

While in the early stages of building a collection, collectors seem to focus on volume. This isn’t necessarily a bad idea. It can actually be a great way to learn more about what they are collecting. Talking about learning, it’s smart to find out as much as you can about what you’re collecting. Talk with reputable dealers, meet other collectors, join clubs if you can and read lots of books. It’s smarter to use \$100 to buy books on your collection topic (and really read them) than it is to spend that same \$100 on a single item, not knowing what you are doing. When you’re ready to buy, always aim for the best quality within your budget range.

“I believe that everyone collects. I think collecting is in our blood as humans,” Lynda Resnick, entrepreneur.

Keep in mind, there is more to collecting than just buying items. It’s also about learning, the thrill of the hunt while searching for treasures, that warm feeling of satisfaction when you find something special, the camaraderie with other collectors and, if you’ve collected well, you may even get some monetary reward from your collection later on should you decide to sell.

Here are 10 basics to remember while collecting:

- 1) Start small and collect what you like. As you progress, your tastes and knowledge will evolve and refine.
- 2) Quality is important.
- 3) Things made to be collectible—rarely are. This includes pretty much all kinds of commemorative and mass-produced items.
- 4) If your “collectible” says “Made in China” or “Made in Taiwan” on it — it’s not a collectible. It is a decor item, or even a cheap knock-off.
- 5) There is a difference between collectibles and decor. Decor is rarely collectible, but collectibles can sometimes make great decor.
- 6) Things that have survived a long period of time and remain in good condition are generally sought after.
- 7) Condition is usually a big factor of value. Restoration is generally not desirable in most cases.
- 8) Rarity (or uniqueness) is also a big factor of value. Things whereby only a few have survived the test of time, or items that stand apart, are generally sought after.

*Continued on page 12...*



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*10 Guiding Principles...contined from page 10*

9) Things do not have to be old to be collectible. Contemporary art by well-known artists is a prime example. However, beware of fads.

10) Always deal with knowledgeable and reputable sellers who will stand behind what they sell. Do this until you know enough yourself and are okay with taking a risk, even if it might not work out.

“The collector attempts always to acquire the best and his knowledge of what is best is always widening. His is the task of judging between degrees of perfection.” Arthur Davison Ficke (1883–1945), American poet and collector.

The main reason to collect is for the fun of it. The most valuable thing you'll end up collecting isn't items but memories. And the memories are priceless!

*Jim Olson, Western Trading Post, 403 N. Florence St., Casa Grande, AZ 85122. Learn more at [www.WesternTradingPost.com](http://www.WesternTradingPost.com), email [info@westerntradingpost.com](mailto:info@westerntradingpost.com) or call 520-426-7702.*

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## Those Were The Days!

# Is it time to Re-Tire?

by Jay Mark

When smoking was the rage as it was for most of the 20th century, advertising of all sorts that reached the nearly universal addicted audience was a no-brainer. Along with matchbooks, lighters promoted companies and products. Hundreds of thousands of ash trays were filled with ads.

Although both debuted in the 19th century, cigarettes and automobiles were two of the most significant products to rise in popularity in the 20th century. In the first 50-years of that period, annual cigarettes sales soared from the low billions to more than 1.5 trillion.

By 1910, American auto manufacturers were spending more than \$1 million annually – the equivalent of nearly \$33 million today. By comparison, tobacco companies were investing more than triple that amount in the same year.

It's no surprise that the automobile industry wanted cars to be as prevalent as cigarettes. And, it found an ideal customer in smokers.

Many consider the first half of the 20th century as the golden era of automobile advertising. It came in all categories – print ads, colorful posters, and a diverse array of three-dimensional advertising.

One of my favorites is the promotional ashtray with real, miniature rubber tires, and a glass or ceramic insert promoting a critical automobile component – the tire.

Along with the automobile that began stylistically as a mechanically-powered horse-drawn wagon but evolved into the more recognizable shape of a modern vehicle, wheels on which they rode, similarly adapted to an emerging technology.



*When the 1934 Chicago Century of Progress celebrated the advancement of technology, it was an ideal event for Firestone to advertise their product in the form of an advertising ashtray.*  
 Photo: Henry Ford Museum

share of a highly competitive market.

Firestone Tire and Rubber Company began making hard-rubber tires in 1903. Within six years, it was producing miniature solid tire ashtrays with a brass insert that promoted Firestone, and sometimes a dealer.

The ash trays featured a precise miniature tire, complete with tread and embossed sidewalls. Initially the tires were solid rubber,  
*Continued on next page...*



*One of the earliest advertising ashtrays featured a hard-rubber tire with a brass insert. Photo: Jeff Koenker*

For most of the 19th century, wheels were generally wooden with rims often covered by iron, leather, or a rubber-like material. All of which were unsuitable for gas or battery powered vehicles.

The idea of a pneumatic, or air-filled, rubber tire began with bicycles. But was soon adapted to the horseless carriage.

Just like today, cars were purchased with tires, but had to be replaced with after-market products whose manufacturers were looking to achieve their



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Re-Tire...continued from previous page...  
 to be replaced later with a pneumatic tire as that design began supplanting the earlier hard rubber wheel.

Soon, other companies followed Firestone. And it wasn't long before the market was flooded with the novelty in the form of automobile, truck and tractor versions. Tire sellers often gave away ash trays with a purchase. Dealer stores used them in their waiting rooms. Gas stations that sold tires had them. It wasn't long before they wound up in other businesses and homes.

Even though they have been around for more than a century,  
*Continued on next page...*





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Re-Tire...continued from previous page...

surprisingly, advertising tire ashtrays have not disappeared. Although, there have been some changes like the transition in the 1950's from rubber to less costly plastic "tires."

Fewer are being given away in favor of sales. Goodyear is now offering a motorcycle tire ashtray with a variety of advertising glass inserts.

Although many areas of collecting that we "grew up" with have waned in the 21st century, automobilia remains one of the exceptions—particularly because after more than 135 years, personal transportation is in its infancy stage of dramatic transition from

internal combustion propulsion to battery and hydrogen fuel cell technologies.

Cars of the future will likely bear less resemblance to their ancestors. That means artifacts from the first century or so will continue to see an increase in values.

VALUE: Pre-1950 older rubber tire ashtrays can be acquired reasonably – between \$10 and \$30 dollars. A few rare examples can reach the low \$100's. Earlier ashtrays with solid tires as opposed to pneumatics are considered more desirable by some collectors. The color of the glass inserts can also affect values.

The inserts can also help determine age. The first ashtray inserts were brass or metal. By the mid- '20's, colored glass was introduced in colors like green, amber, red, yellow, pink, and milk glass. A fewer, less abundant were Bakelite. By the end of the 1930's, most inserts were clear glass.

While smoking has certainly diminished since its heyday, tire ashtrays are not obsolete. They can still serve as decor items, coasters, food containers, and whatever else a creative mind can conjure up.

So, if you have ever considered it, to paraphrase the early 20th century popular Fisk Tire ad, now maybe the time to "Re-Tire!"

Virtually an antique himself, or maybe a collectible, Jay Mark, has more than a half-century experience in the antiques business. He owns *Those Were The Days!*, an online specialty bookstore. A recognized historian, he also teaches, lectures and frequently writes about antiques and history. Reach him at [jaymark@twtdbooks.com](mailto:jaymark@twtdbooks.com) © 2024



Three tire advertising ashtrays. From left: Firestone pneumatic tire, U.S. Royal solid rubber, Goodrich solid tire Photo: Jay Mark



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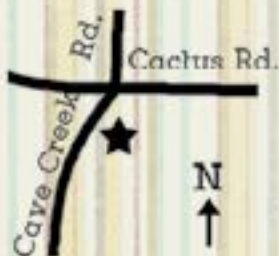




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# When a House Becomes a Home

by Kerri Habben Bosman

A house becomes a home when it gets filled with memories. Add in a special blanket, and it gets even better.

On the back of his recliner my husband, Wayne, has a favorite crocheted blanket. It is a double-bed sized granny square. My grandmother made it for my parents when they bought a new sofa in 1989. Over the years, many of her crocheted items were donated to hospitals or nursing homes. We couldn't possibly keep everything she had made as she crocheted nearly every day for 91 years. But when Wayne and I sold my childhood home, this blanket had to stay with us. It is big, cozy, and wrapping up in it feels like an endless hug.

We frequently have family gatherings at our beach house, and our 3 bedroom home sleeps around 9 of us and entertains up to 18. We originally bought it as a second home especially for this purpose as my stepdaughter, Kira, and her family live four miles away. Both our homes get filled up with all of us, including Wayne's five grown children, their spouses, and seven grandchildren. Two Aprils ago my now 103 mother-in-law and family visited from Wisconsin, and the house still carries a special essence from that time together.



We are overjoyed when the house breathes with a precious cacophony of laughter and conversations. I once wanted to own a Bed and Breakfast as I loved feeding people and fussing about the house. Dreams evolve, and now I ensure beds are ready and serve made-to-order omelets to family. Along the way we are tucking away memories that warm us after everyone goes home. Much like my grandmother's blanket, which is now Wayne's. The blanket has served well for 35 years.

We live three blocks from Bogue Sound on the Intracoastal Waterway. When we take walks there together, often someone will turn the blanket into a cloak. Whoever is sleeping in the TV room covers up with it at night. My stepdaughter, Sanja, cocoons in blankets. I made one especially for her, but the older one remains her favorite. Every grandchild has used it, whether while playing, reading, or sleeping. Particularly the youngest, six year old Quinn, who is on top of the world when he is sitting in his Grampa's recliner and also under his blanket. Bring Quinn mac and cheese on Grampa's tray, and he is king of the castle.

I keep a framed photograph of my grandmother on my roll top desk. It was taken at her 90th birthday party in 1997. In it she leans forward in her favorite chair, an enduring joy emanating from her eyes. It is a happiness mingled with a spark of mischief, a timeless vibrancy, and also an undercurrent of resiliency. A combination of these traits served her well through every era of her long life.

*Continued on next page...*

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Contact shops for current shop hours

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*House becomes a Home, contined from previous page...*

My grandmother passed away in 2006, but when she gazes at me from the recesses of my desk, it seems as if she is right beside me. Sometimes I just smile back at her. Other times I talk to her for a moment. Not aloud, but in my head. I tell her about Wayne, who she never met. I share with her about this beautiful family that I treasure. I tell her how I especially feel her with me when I am with the grandchildren.

I thank her for everything, especially for showing me how to love. In these reflective moments I think of Wayne's blanket and how much comfort it brings to him and our family. And to me.

The last time Sanja was here she was teasing Quinn that she had the blanket. "I've got the blanket Kerri made," she said.

"Even better," I answered. "My grandmother made it."

*Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer in Cape Carteret, NC. Her email is 913jeeves@gmail.com.*



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