

Arizona's
ANTIQUE REGISTER

Vol 30 - Issue 5 A Guide to the Antique, Vintage & Collectible Marketplace Sept-Oct 2026

Complimentary

GUIDE TO
ANTIQUE AND VINTAGE
SHOPS & EVENTS

Arizona's ANTIQUE REGISTER

Your Guide to the Antique, Vintage and Collectible Marketplace • Established 1998

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The Antique Register was founded by Barbara Floyd

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May - June	April 1
July - August	June 1
September - October	August 1
November - December	October 1

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Lifetime Collection Finds New Purpose at Treasures & Collectibles Showcase

When a lifetime of collecting comes to an end, treasured pieces often begin a new journey.

This fall, Presby Pickins', a ministry of Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church, will open the doors to its first **Treasures & Collectibles Showcase**, a special indoor event featuring an extraordinary assortment of collectibles selected from a single estate on September 18th and September 19th. Friday hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Leading the collection are more than **120 Breyer horses**, representing years of collecting and a wide variety of models. The herd includes Traditional and Classic models, along with

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Valley of the Sun Doll Club Presents
The 44th Annual
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FOR APPOINTMENT OR INFORMATION

Changes to Come for Well-Loved Antique/Vintage Shops in Carefree

Three popular Carefree antiques and vintage shops, **Bilinda's Vintage Treasures**, **Arizona Territory Antiques** and **Carefree Collective**, have been affected by the sale of Los Portales Mall on Easy Street. All three businesses, located at the mall, were notified that the building's new concept will not include its current shops, leaving the owners to decide whether to relocate or close.

Bilinda's Vintage Treasures

Since 2020, **Bilinda's Vintage Treasures** has invited shoppers to step through its doors and into an eclectic display of nostalgia, curiosities and one-of-a-kind finds.

Owned and curated by Linda Bigos, **Bilinda's Vintage Treasures** has launched a Going Out of Business sale which will continue through September 23 when the beloved Carefree shop will close its doors.

All treasures, including display pieces, will be offered at discounted prices. Deeper discounts are available for cash, Zelle or check. Savings will also be applied to credit and debit cards.

Bilinda's sale includes classic vinyl records, jewelry, books, collectibles, home decor and one of a kind vintage pieces as well as treasures in the year-round Christmas room that is filled with trees, vintage ornaments, menorah, nativity sets and festive decor.

Over the years, **Bilinda's Vintage Treasures'** customers have become friends with smiles and "catching up" conversations. Linda thanks all who have supported her business over the years.

Before bidding farewell, the shop is participating in the "Charm Your Way Through Carefree" event August 1 through September 18 offering for sale a limited edition solid silver souvenir charm and optional silver plated bracelet.

Bilinda's Vintage Treasures is located at 99 Easy St. Suite 230 in Carefree. Sale days and hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call 602-732-8866 or email bilindasvintage@gmail.com.

Arizona Territory Antiques

Rick and Susan Leach, owners of **Arizona Territory Antiques**, announced their shop's closure at Los Portales, 99 Easy Street, effective by September 30. They are relocating the shop to Sundancer Center, Suite B3 at the corner of Tom Darlington Road and Cave Creek Road in Carefree, just a block north of their current location.

Opening in 2012, **Arizona Territory Antiques** has been in continuous operation offering a large selection of Native American beadwork, Old West antiques, pottery, kachinas, Western Art, cowhides, home decor, Zapotec and Navajo rugs, runners and pillows.

Arizona Territory Antiques is holding a major inventory reduction sale with 30% off store wide. The shop is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Arizona Territory Antiques will open its doors at the new Sundancer Center location on October 1 with the same store hours. For more information contact Rick at 520-561-6554 or Lori at 520-561-6554.

Carefree Collective opened almost 5 years ago in the Los Portales Mall in downtown Carefree. Owner Joycelee has created two beautiful suites offering Vintage, Mid-Century Modern, books, collectibles, gifts, glassware, new and gently used items, furniture and home décor items and more! With such

Continued on page 6...

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Carefree, continued from page 5...

short notice that she will have to move out of the location in the Mall has been very impactful and Joycelee is earnestly looking for a new location to relocate in the Carefree area. So, watch for more information to come on her new location for **Carefree Collective!**

The shop will offer Daily Specials with discounts on certain items such as furniture and fixtures until September 23rd in anticipation of the move. Stop by often and check out the savings offered to you.

Carefree Collective is located inside Los Portales Mall, 99 Easy Street, Carefree in Suites 201 and 205. The shop is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call or text 480-299-5937.





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Collection, continued from page 3...

an impressive group of Breyer Holiday Horses, both boxed and unboxed.

But the Breyers are only the beginning.



Kathy Cole, Presby Pickins' Ministry Chair, with a sampling of treasures at the Treasures & Collectibles Showcase.

Visitors will also discover Hummel Nativity figures and other Hummel pieces, delicate Belleek Irish porcelain, beautiful Eastern European glassware, Waterford crystal, Lenox china, sterling silver jewelry and other distinctive treasures.

In preparation for the **Showcase**, Presby Pickins' volunteers have been carefully cleaning, sorting, researching and cataloging the collection. The Breyer horses alone have become quite an undertaking, with each horse being examined and photographed so collectors can more easily explore the herd.

For Presby Pickins', however, the event is about more than finding new homes for beautiful things.

"These pieces were collected and enjoyed over many years and now they have an opportunity to be treasured by someone new," said Kathy Cole, Ministry Chair of Presby Pickins'. "What makes it especially meaningful is that their next chapter also helps others."

Proceeds from the **Treasures & Collectibles Showcase** will benefit Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church ministries, Fountain Hills youth programs and community causes. Over the past four years, Presby Pickins' Flea Market has become an important outreach of FHPC and a committed community partner, supporting organizations and causes both close to home and beyond Fountain Hills.

Whether you're a longtime Breyer enthusiast, a collector searching for a particular piece or simply someone who enjoys the thrill of discovering something beautiful and unexpected, the **Showcase** offers a chance to browse a remarkable collection while helping those treasures continue to do good.

Admission is free and the event will be held indoors in air-conditioned comfort at Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church, 13001 N. Fountain Hills Boulevard in Fountain Hills. For additional information and previews of featured treasures, visit www.fhpresbyterian.info/collectibles.

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Collectors Corner

Dick Powell, Mr. Casa Grande

by Jim Olson

Dick Powell was born in California on October 15, 1943. In later years, he liked to say, "You see, when I was born, I didn't know much. But by the time I was two, I had a couple of years' worth of experience under my belt..."

As a young boy, Dick moved to Casa Grande, AZ the place he would call home for the next three-quarters of a century. Of



course, his parents had just a little to do with the move. Dick's father, Dewey Powell, had been stationed in San Diego during World War II. After the war, the Powell family returned to Arizona, where they became important members of the community.

In 1951, Dewey founded Powell's Feed and Supply, a business that would become a familiar landmark. Dick later took over the reins not long after finishing college. His mother, Dorothy Powell, was also deeply involved in the community and the Dorothy Powell Senior Center was named in her honor. College friend Dick Wagner wrote, "Dick got his public service genes from his mother."

Over the years, Dick came to be known by many as "Mr. Casa Grande." Folks in the area understood that if something important was to get done, there was a good chance it needed to be discussed with Dick Powell first. Many decisions that shaped the area were talked over in his small office at the back of the feed store, long before they were ever voted on at town hall or

Continued on page 10...

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Mr. Casa Grande, continued from page 9...

in any other official building.

Dick loved Casa Grande and the Western community, and he proved it through a lifetime of service. He was especially passionate about rural issues and the way they affected the people who worked the land. Water, agriculture, open space and the preservation of Casa Grande's small-town rural character were all near and dear to his heart. He worked hard to protect the qualities that made the community special. It has been said that Dick Powell did not just grow up in Casa Grande — but that Casa Grande grew up with Dick Powell.

Aside from being an important civic and business leader, Dick was a devoted family man and a trusted friend to many. He was the kind of man who made time for people. He made them feel welcome, respected and heard. He made people feel like they mattered.

At Powell's Feed and Supply, there was often a line outside his office. Some came to "bend his ear" about community issues. Others came to swap cowboy stories, or deal in bits, spurs and Western gear. Dick would visit with folks all day, often remaining at work until six or seven in the evening just to finish his regular duties after the doors had closed.

Dick was an avid collector of bits, spurs and all kinds of cowboy gear. He loved the history, craftsmanship and stories behind the pieces. Longtime bit and spur trader and mutual friend, Bill Plummer recalled, "When I first went to work for Dick, he would ask me all kinds of questions about bits and spurs. But it wasn't long before he was a widely recognized expert himself, and people were searching him out for advice. He really studied that stuff hard."

Dick also had a deep appreciation for Native American basketry, especially the work of the O'odham people from the region surrounding Casa Grande. Both the Akimel O'odham and Tohono O'odham people are known for their basketry traditions and Dick was a strong supporter of their artistry. More than that, he respected, honored and helped promote their heritage.

Dick Powell was a dedicated community servant, an honest man to do business with, a faithful friend and a family man who loved his family deeply. Most of all, Dick was a Christian man who was not ashamed to share his beliefs. He was not one to force his views on others. He would simply share his opinion and then be willing to listen to yours.



Dick always stood firm for what he believed in. As his daughter, Kylie Powell, pointed out he often said, "Tough on issues — not on people."

Dick was the sort of man this author and many others wanted to emulate. He was respected in the community, in business and in cowboy collectible circles. He was known for being honest, fair and steady with people. He was one of the few people I would consider playing poker with — over the telephone.

Hope to see you again someday, my friend.

Jim Olson © 2026

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Collectors Corner

The Bolo Tie

by Jim Olson

Few Western accessories carry as much history, personality and craftsmanship as the bolo tie. Part neckwear, part wearable art and part symbol of the Southwest, the bolo has remained a favorite of Westerners, collectors, artists and just about anyone who appreciates a well-made piece of Western style jewelry.

For decades, the bolo tie has been closely associated with the American Southwest, particularly Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The simple form of a cord worn around the neck with an adjustable slide has given silversmiths numerous opportunities for creativity. Bolos may feature designs such as turquoise, coral, shell, petrified wood, silver overlay, inlay, hand stamping, figures, animals, brands, emblems and just about any subject imaginable.

Yet for such a familiar item, the history of the bolo tie is more complicated than many realize.

The Origins of the Bolo Tie

Victor E. Cedarstaff of Wickenburg, Arizona, is often credited with inventing the bolo tie in the late 1940s. There is a well-known story of a horseback ride during which his hat came loose and was tied with a cord around his neck. A companion reportedly remarked that it looked like a tie, inspiring Cedarstaff to develop the idea further. It is a good story, and Cedarstaff certainly played an important role in popularizing the form. However, evidence does not establish him as the inventor of the bolo tie.

Cedarstaff did file a patent application in 1954 for a "Slide for a Necktie," which was issued in 1959. The patent covered a slide mechanism used on a cord-style necktie, rather than the invention of the bolo tie itself. Read that again — Cedarstaff patented a slide mechanism for a necktie, not the actual bolo tie itself.

As a matter of fact, earlier examples and related bolo-like neckwear had already appeared in the Southwest for years prior to this, including scarf slides, neckerchief hardware and early cord ties.

Research has also documented other bolo-style ties being made and sold by the early 1950s. In 1953, William H. Meeker of Hickok Manufacturing Company applied for a patent titled

Continued on page 14...

**UPCOMING EVENTS IN
HISTORIC CATLIN COURT
& OLD TOWNE GLENDALE**

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Bolo Tie, continued from page 12...

"Apparel for Neckwear," describing an adjustable necktie and slide arrangement that clearly resembles the modern bolo tie. Early Western catalogs and newspaper advertisements from the same period used a variety of names, including "Western tie," "string tie," "gaucho tie," "neck rope," "bola tie" and "bolo tie."

It is fair to say that Wickenburg played an important part in the bolo tie, as Cedarstaff certainly played a major part in advancing it. But rather than crediting one person with creating the bolo tie overnight, it is more accurate to view it as a Southwestern form of neckwear that developed during the 1940s and 1950s with contributions from many. Native American silversmiths from the Southwest were instrumental in transforming the bolo from a Western niche market item into a piece of neckwear recognized around the world as a form of Southwestern style jewelry.

The Bolo Became a Western Icon

By the mid-1950s, bolo ties had become widely available. They were practical, comfortable and less formal than a conventional necktie, while still offering a finished appearance. Their popularity grew by leaps and bounds throughout the 1960s and 1970s as there was a world-wide surge in the popularity of Native American silver and turquoise jewelry. Now the Native American silversmith had taken the reins with regard to the production of bolos.

The bolo eventually became important enough to earn official recognition. Arizona designated the bolo tie as its official state neckwear in 1971. New Mexico adopted the bolo as its official state tie in 2007, and Texas designated it as the official State Tie of Texas that same year.

Today, bolo ties remain a staple of Western dress, but they have also found a broader audience. Contemporary artists continue to produce bolos ranging from traditional turquoise-and-sterling examples to highly modern pieces featuring unusual materials, bold imagery and inventive metalwork.

Dating a Vintage Bolo Tie

Dating a bolo tie is rarely as simple as looking at one feature and assigning a year. A proper evaluation considers the slide, clasp, hallmark, construction, materials and overall style.

The back of the slide is a good place to begin when determining a date range for when the piece may have been made.

Early Loop-Back Construction

Some early bolo slides used simple silver loops or channels on the back. The cord passed through these loops and was held in place by tension. This style may suggest an earlier construction method, particularly on a piece with period designs and materials indicative of the 1940s-50s.



However, loop-back construction alone does not prove a bolo is old. Many contemporary silversmiths intentionally use this traditional style, especially on handmade pieces. The slide must be evaluated as a portion of the whole picture.

Bennett Clasps

The most commonly encountered vintage bolo clasps are marked either "Bennett Pat. Pend. C-31" or "Bennett Pat. Pend.." These were commercial findings sold to jewelers and silversmiths to connect bolo slides and cords. Keep in mind, a Bennett marking is not a maker's hall mark, it simply identifies the clasp,



Continued on next page...

Bolo Tie, continued from previous page...
not the artist who made the bolo.

Collectors commonly associate the “Bennett Pat. Pend. C-31” clasp with bolos made from the late 1950s through the late 1960s. Later Bennett-marked examples without the “C-31” designation are generally associated with production from the early 1970s through the late 1980s. These markings can be useful dating clues, but they should not be treated as absolute proof of when a bolo was made, as these clasps were sold well past the time they were actually produced.

Clasps sometimes remained in inventory for years before being used. A silversmith may also have replaced a damaged clasp during the life of the piece. For that reason, a clasp usually helps establish the earliest likely period for a bolo, rather than an exact manufacturing date.

Unmarked clasps should be examined carefully as well. Most are later commercial examples, made after the late 1980s, while others may be handmade Bennett-style mechanisms made by the artists themselves.

Other Patented and Commercial Clasps

A number of inventors developed clasp mechanisms or slides along the way. We already covered Victor Cedarstaff above. John W. Day received a patent in 1972 for a spring-loaded bolo clasp, based on an application filed in 1966. James H. Mosby patented an interchangeable bolo-slide design in 1969 after filing in 1968.

These patents demonstrate how popular the bolo had become. Manufacturers and makers were looking for improved ways to adjust cords, secure slides and allow decorative elements to be changed. Again, the presence of a particular clasp style should be used strictly as one clue of many—not as a final answer.

What Else to Look For

A hall mark can be a very useful feature on a bolo tie. Check the back of the silver work and any attached decorative elements thoroughly. Some marks are lightly stamped or may be partly hidden by the clasp or slide mechanism.

When a bolo is marked by a recognized artist, that information may provide a much more reliable date range than the clasp alone. Artist biographies, known working dates and examples of documented work can help narrow the time period.

Construction is also important. Look closely at the silver work. Handmade sawtooth bezels, hand stamping, repoussé, overlay, twisted wire accents, shadowbox

designs and traditional inlay all have certain dates they came about and may help identify a region or maker. At the same time, style should be used carefully. A bolo should not be assigned to a particular tribe or artist based on appearance alone except perhaps by a recognized expert. Even then, it is a subjective

Continued on page 19...



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Bolo Tie, continued from page 15...



opinion.

The cord and tips deserve attention as well. Braided leather cords and silver or metal tips are often replaced because they receive the most wear. A replacement cord does not make a vintage bolo newer, but it should be noted when evaluating condition and originality.

Stone condition also can come into play.

Turquoise, coral, shell and other materials may show natural variation, wear or repairs. Some collectors appreciate the look of an older, well-worn stone that is turning a variation of colors, while others prefer clean, stable material. Neither preference is wrong, but the condition of the setting should always be considered when determining age and value.

Practical Tips for Buyers

When buying a vintage bolo, do not rely on a single feature to put a date on it.

A Bennett clasp does not indicate a particular artist made the piece. A sterling mark does not establish tribal or regional affiliation. A turquoise stone should not be assigned to a mine without reliable documentation. A cord may have been replaced. A modern silversmith may have intentionally used an old-style construction.

The best evaluations consider all available evidence together:

- Hallmark or maker attribution

- Construction and silver work
- Clasp type
- Cord and tips
- Materials and stone condition
- Provenance
- Overall style and workmanship

Also a well-made contemporary bolo can be every bit as desirable as a vintage example. Likewise, an older bolo with no hallmark may be an important piece if the craftsmanship, materials and design support a certain attribution.

Bolo or Bola?

Well, it depends upon who you ask - both spellings have long been used. Arizona's official declaration refers to the "Bola tie," while collectors, dealers and makers more often than not use "bolo" in modern times. Some argue the word Gauchos use for the device that wraps around an animal's hind legs (similar to a North American cowboy roping an animal's hind feet) is a "Bola" and this is where the term originates. Maybe so.

For practical purposes, however, "bolo tie" is a more widely recognized modern spelling. Just Google it yourself and see which comes up more often. Still, when researching older advertisements, catalogs and legal references, it is useful to search both terms — as well as related names such as string tie, Gaucho tie and Western necktie.

Whatever it is called, the bolo (or bola) tie remains one of the most recognizable forms of Western neckwear. It is functional for dress, a canvas for artistic expression and a lasting connection to the history of the American Southwest.

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Giveaway Winner from July-August Issue

We have one giveaway winner from our last issue.

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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 \$30 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, California and Nevada this Fall!

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Who's Behind the Prescott Antique Show and Vintage Market?

For more than 20 years, the local Thumb Butte and Yavapai chapters of THE QUESTERS (a 501(c)(3) organization) have jointly presented the market, where 100% of profits are donated to historic preservation and restoration in and around Yavapai County. Area museums, historical societies, heritage centers and municipalities have all benefited over the years. Significant donations have been given to projects ranging from renovation of historic buildings and sites, artifact purchase and restoration, and the restoration and purchase and/or repair of commemorative markers. More recently, thanks to corporate and individual sponsorships that have boosted donations, the budget for historic preservation has increased.

Who Are THE QUESTERS?

The Questers is an international non-profit organization founded in 1944. Members share a passion for studying antiques, collecting historical knowledge, and funding historic preservation, restoration, and education. They always welcome new members and invite you to join their "heritage keeping" cause to preserve local history and customs. For more information about membership in the organization, visit their website [The Questers](http://TheQuesters.org) or email arizonaquesters@gmail.com.

Welcome Shoppers of All Ages!

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To be sure, the event is fun for the whole family, and everyone is bound to find a take-home treasure when they visit the Prescott Antique Show & Vintage Market 2026!
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Those Were The Days!

Collecting IKEA

by Jay Mark

God bless the *Wall Street Journal* – the staid publication that concentrates on the stock market and everything in the financial world. But that's not all. Sometimes in the general news sections, it addresses something close to all our hearts – antiques and collecting.

In the past, it educated me on subjects of collecting I had never thought about. Who knew there was interest in MRE's (Meals Ready To Eat) food containers – some selling north of \$1,000. Or movie-themed popcorn buckets; the kind you get your popcorn in at the theater. They can sell for as much as \$50 in theaters. Later, they show up on eBay for more than \$800.

Of course, the WSJ also had to cover Popeil, the number one 20th century purveyor of the Veg-a-Matic and other “As Seen on TV” products.

I've written about all these items previously in *The Antique Register*. Now, a new collectible has shown up in the *Wall Street Journal*. Items that I never thought would have had much of an after-market value. At least not yet.

But I have been proven wrong...once again. This time its IKEA, the Mid-century sensation, that became the beloved marketer of inexpensive but innovative household furniture and accessories. And it has caught the fascination of Millennials and Gen Zers; much to the surprise of the Silent Generation and Baby Boomers.

Just why IKEA has become so collectible in a quick moment. But first, how a 17-year-old Swedish youth started his own mail-order business from his family's farm in the midst of World War II. Only to become a billionaire. In 1943, Swedish-born Ingvar Kamprad (1926-2018) founded a company to sell small, inexpensive household items like wallets and pens.

He named the company IKEA, “I” and “K” for his initials. “E” for Elmtaryd, the family farm. And “A” for Agunnaryd, his hometown. It could also represent nearby Älmhult, his birth place and now home to the company itself.

By 1948, Kampard moved into furniture, designed in the clean lines of the Scandinavian style. To go beyond the initial local popularity of his merchandise, he engineered “flat pack” furniture to create an economy of shipping and wider distribution.

He called his pieces “Democratic Design”—combining form, function, quality, sustainability and low prices. By the 1970s IKEA had grown into an international company. But it wouldn't be until 1985 before the first IKEA store opened in the U.S., in Philadelphia. Today there are 60 IKEA giant stores distributed across 27 states.

There is no doubt that billionaire Ingvar Kamprad was a creative and marketing genius. In 1953, in his first store in Älmhult, Sweden Kamprad notice shoppers leaving his store without purchasing anything. Why? Because they were hungry. That's when he decided to keep his customers well-fed so they stayed longer.

In the *Wall Street Journal's* recent article, it asks the question, “Is Your IKEA Purchase a Future Collectible? Reporter Leonora Epstein goes on to add “Once, it was just cheap Swedish furniture. Now, Gen Zers and Millennials are hunting rare items and turning them into investments pieces.”

Is it too late to get in on these newly discovered treasures? That's a matter of opinion. Some are already out of reach. For

Continued on page 29...



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Go Take a Ride On a Train

by Barbara Kalkis

Visiting family used to require enough driving to make me feel like a crunched-up candy wrapper at the end of the trip. I'd pack enough clothes and jackets for all four seasons and every eventuality, from hiking to yoga class to restaurant dining to slouching in front of the TV. Intent on filling every space in my car, I even packed camping gear: tent, sleeping bag, backpack and cookware. (Never can tell if the family wants to take an impromptu hike.) Finally, I'd throw in the necessities: maps, emergency road assistance supplies, snacks, chips, water bottles, a stack of CDs and my cell phone. Content that every contingency was addressed, I'd head off for several hours on seemingly always crowded highways.

The trips included stops at familiar cafes and boutique shops along the routes. Although I passed through beautiful farm lands, I could only glance at the blossoming fruit trees, ripening tomatoes, corn, hops, sunflowers and golden wheat. At freeway speed, it was just a colorful blur. Occasionally I'd see trains in the distance, moving at pace with and then ahead of us when traffic slowed. It looked romantic and alluring, but I needed my

Continued on page 30...

Ikea, continued from page 26...

example, in 1972 IKEA debuted a very modern lounge chair called *Impala*. At \$354, it wasn't cheap. About \$2,800 today. How far has it come?



IKEA is thought of as a Scandinavian manufacturer of minimalist-design flat-pack furniture and a variety of household items. Items manufactured before the company's arrival in 1985 are popular designer pieces and collectibles. The "Impala" lounge chair, introduced in 1972, has been offered online for \$12,300. IKEA Museum

1st Dibs, a pricey vintage selling site, lists the *Impala* for \$12,300. A sizeable appreciation over 54 years. By the way, most IKEA furniture is offered for over \$500. Auction houses have taken up selling of IKEA.

Items manufactured before 1985, the year IKEA first reached American shores tend to be the most desirable, and command the highest prices.

For those on a more modest budget, there is always eBay.



If one wonders if IKEA collectibles a passing fad, a recent survey of eBay recorded more than 7000 IKEA produced items. If your budget is minimal, there are plenty of items for much less than Impala Lounge Chair. Like this c1998 storage box offered for \$51. eBay

A recent search found more than 350 listings for IKEA pieces ranging in average price of \$100 to \$400. In addition to furniture, there are hundreds of useful IKEA accessories that can be purchased for well under \$100.

IKEA has always been known for its sensitive aesthetic. Its colorful designs almost seem timeless. And that's

what probably makes its pieces so appreciated today.

So, is now the time to get in on the IKEA craze. I agree with the *Wall Street Journal*. I don't think it is a fad. That said, there is plenty of room for appreciation.

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 writes about antiques and history. Reach him at jaymarkhistorian@gmail.com

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Ride a Train, continued from page 28...

car and all of my possessions.

That changed in one moment on a drive home one holiday weekend. Traffic was heavy but moving fast. I had just crested a hill and was headed into the valley when a small car blew a tire. The force of the blowout threw the car across three lanes of traffic and spun it around, facing into the cascade of speeding vehicles. Miraculously, every traveler in every lane hit the brakes and stopped in time. After a collective gathering of breath and senses, the two young inhabitants exited the car and ran safely to the side of the road. It was a game changer.

On my next trip, I decided to try a train ride. I figured I'd hate it. After all, how could I get along without all my stuff? Downsizing is painful, whether it's a house or a roomy car. However, the freeway near-miss incentivized me. I packed only essentials in a backpack and carry-on. I am now a train loyalist.

While someone else "drives," I relax in the rolling comfort of a seat on the top level. I have high-speed Wi-Fi, so I can catch up on email, news and the daily crossword. Best of all, I have the luxury of time. I can study every aspect of daily life as it floats by. Trains capture the endless parade of sights: from smoking industries, to landfills, to condo villages, to mansions, to stunning wild lands, farms, forests, waterways and an endless sky. Graffiti "decorates" construction sites, yet the English teacher in me admires punchy philosophical bits of street wisdom and impressive artistic talent displayed in creative -- almost three-dimensional -- lettering that transcends calligraphy. Large-scale mural artistry is a real talent!

As we barrel down the tracks, the conductor sounds the whistle in a continuous shrill scream. The stopped highway traffic at the cross-roads seems like a dream. We pull away and continue the blissful rhythm of the rails.

Driving requires stopping to "stretch." Plane rides are cumbersome. When I want to move on the train, I sashay over to the café car. The train alone offers us a close-up look at how we live our lives, place by place.

The fabric of America is not in the sky. It is on the land. And it is the train that shows us who we really are. Don't take my word for it. Go take a ride!

©Barbara Kalkis, 2026. Barbara divides her time between consulting, writing, and teaching. She's author of *Little Ditties for Every Day*. Contact her at BarbaraKalkis01@gmail.com.

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National Grandparent's Day - September 13th

by Barb Stillman, publisher

Grandparent's Day is one of those holidays that doesn't get a lot of attention, even though Grandparents are an especially important part of our lives. Most of us have or have had grandparents that had a huge impact on our lives, they are a part of our history and where would we be without them?! Whether they live nearby or they live far away, Grandparents are always glad for your visit and to see you!

Grandparent's Day is young in its origin compared to other holidays. In the United States this holiday owes its official recognition to the dedicated efforts of Marian McQuade.

Motivated by a concern for elderly individuals in her community, especially those in nursing homes who she felt were overlooked, she began her campaign in 1970. Her goal was to emphasize the value of the older adults' contributions to society and encourage a connection between generations. Marian envisioned the holiday as an opportunity to educate the youth about the importance of seniors and encourage them to "adopt" a grandparent.

Through Marian's efforts the first state-recognized Grandparent's Day was celebrated in West Virginia in 1973. She then expanded her campaign, contacting governors and legislators nationwide resulting in 43 states proclaiming the holiday. The grassroots support led Senator Jennings Randolph to introduce a joint resolution in 1977, requesting the President to designate the first Sunday after Labor Day as National Grandparent's Day. Congress passed the legislation and President Jimmy Carter signed the proclamation on August 3, 1978, officially establishing the national holiday.

The official purpose of Grandparent's Day as cited in the statute was to honor grandparents, provide grandparents with an opportunity to show love for their grandchildren and to raise awareness among children about the strength, information and guidance older people can offer.

National Grandparent's Day is celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day and this year it will be September 13th. The month of September was chosen to represent the "autumn years" of life and the official flower of Grandparent's Day is the Forget Me Not. This year as we honor the grandparents in

Continued on page 35...

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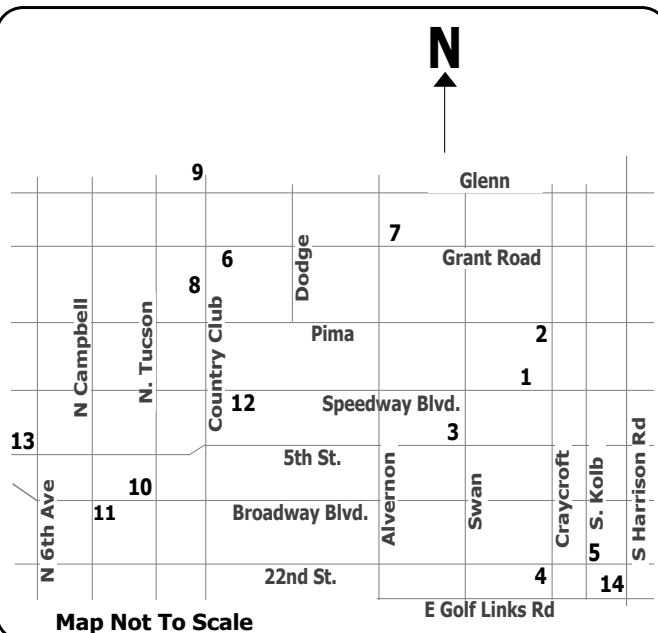
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I Am 75, After All

by Wayne M. Bosman

I have never been one to celebrate my own birthday, possibly because there have been so many. That may be why I was shocked when my 8 year old grandson looked up at me and said, "Grandpa, did you know we're having a surprise party?"

Well, it was my birthday and almost all of my children were there and 7 of my grandchildren, but I thought that was serendipity, not planning. That two of my sons were busy at the grill and a few hundred local oysters were waiting to be steamed did not strike me as abnormal. We're a large clan and sharing food is a time-honored ritual. When a few of my friends arrived, I was tickled. Apparently my children and my wife, Kerri, thought that turning 75 was special, and of course it was.

Since then, I have used the phrase "I am 75" shamelessly. I use it as a quick defense when I lose the word for one thing or another. I have decided that I no longer have to be the main "muscle" when heavy things need to be moved. "You guys get this one, I am 75 after all". Before that, I felt a little guilty asking for help with anything. What doesn't kill you makes you stronger was part of my credo.

What is apparent to me now is that at this point in my life, what doesn't kill me feels like it is trying to and that maybe taking a break isn't the worst thing. I am 75, after all.

Genetically I have been very gifted. Mom's side of the family, who I most take after, have been graced with long active lives. When Mom passed last November at 104, she had only spent the last 2 years in serious decline. She was still doing charity work, albeit in a much reduced role into the last year of her life. Her brother George, my godfather and hero, was still hooking his boat to the car and driving 3 hours to the family cottage into his 90s. He would spend a week fishing and preparing his catch to distribute to family and friends. Mom held her breath when he went on those outings, but he lived a full life and it wasn't his driving that finally got him. If I have any targets and expectations they provided them to me.

Further, as recently as a year ago, before I let my beard grow, I would often have to show my driver's license to get a senior discount at some stores. Maybe it was store policy, or the cashier was trying to make me feel good, but I chose to believe what I chose to believe. I am 75, after all.

The hard part of being 75, besides the glasses and hearing aids, is reading the obituaries. Most of us have had friends who died young, but my friends are too old for that now. The grim reaper has absolute job security and the older I get, the better the odds that my time will be due. Maybe that is one of the reasons that I stopped celebrating my birthday. Whistling in the dark... I'm 75, but I can still whistle after all.

My son-in-law, who was raised by his grandparents, is always amazed by my ability to work hard at 75. Sometimes he comes by and finds me on my back under a car, hopping up quickly to get more tools or parts just like I did for 49 years of my work life. Old habits die hard and I only see the job that has to be done. Till later, every muscle in my body is sore. I let him lift the heavy stuff now. I am 75 after all.

Wayne M. Bosman is retired auto mechanic living in Cape Carteret, NC. His email is whosman1@gmail.com.





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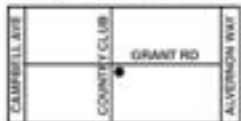
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Grandparent's Day, continued from page 31...

our lives and those that have gone before, it would be a good opportunity to reflect on their life and the impact on our lives. Grandparents have a lifetime of experiences and knowledge to share and it would be wonderful to spend the day learning about their lives. If your grandparents have passed on, you could "adopt" a grandparent to celebrate the day with and honor their life and all they have to share.



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Building Harmony

The Bugs

by Jeff Cappis

I consider myself a nice guy. I try to do what's right, as I'm sure most people do. Because of that, I have an extra healthy respect for all God's creatures- both big and small.

So, you can imagine how I felt the other night when I spotted a small beetle walking across my floor. I was comfortably watching TV with my dog when I spotted it. It was just walking along. I heaved a bit of a sigh because I knew I'd have to get up, catch it and throw it out the door. (In a humanelly way of course).

So, I did. Cupped in both hands, I carried that little guy to the entry, opened the door with my nose, swung it open with my knee. I set him outside into the night and went back to my comfortable couch to cradle my bowl of popcorn. I wished it well. Maybe I was even feeling a little smug because I'd spared a life. On TV they were playing a late night monster movie in black and white. It was a good one.

At the beginning of the movie a monster emerges from somewhere in the ocean. It looks around then slowly sinks back into the water- all to some sinister music.

After a few minutes something else caught my eye. It was another beetle. Yup. Walking across my floor. Crap. Now I'd have to get up and do it all over again. But I did. I put my popcorn off to the side and got up. What an inconvenience. This time when I threw the beetle outside I noticed it had begun to rain.

"Oh well, good luck," I said to it as I closed the door.

Back to the couch with my dog. Back to the popcorn. Back to the movie. In the movie they spot the monster and start deciding what to do. The movie was starting to get a little tense. I started

Continued on next page...

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The Bugs, continued from previous page...

to eat my popcorn faster- and that's when I noticed it.

There were 2 beetles walking across my floor. Damn. Again, I got up and caught these guys with a sheet of paper and went through the routine. As I tossed them from the house, I noticed the rain was starting to come down harder. "Sorry guys. Good luck."

Back at the couch with the dog, the popcorn and the movie: The army was getting its soldiers together and plotting the next move. Things were beginning to heat up. I was munching my popcorn when I noticed more beetles walking across the floor.

"@#\$\$%&!" I walked around with the paper and gathered them up. This time I just flung them out into the pouring rain. "Good bye."

I just sat down when I spotted a few more. The TV monster was getting really agitated and so was I. This time I grabbed a dust pan and started scooping them

up. After flinging a bunch of them out into the rain I yelled "Get lost." Then I turned around. Dozens more. Even the dog sat up on the couch to take notice.

I started running around, scooping them up and flinging them out the door into the driving rain. Still there were always more. I couldn't believe it. I couldn't tell where they were coming from. I grabbed a broom and started sweeping them into piles but I couldn't keep up. Outside there was lightning and thunder.

In the movie the monster was running amok. Soldiers were flying everywhere and trucks were getting stomped.

I was fighting a battle of my own! I grabbed a vacuum from the closet and turned it on the little buggers. After a feverish moment I realized I was gaining on them. "Aha! Take that you little demons!" A laughed a mean laugh as I sucked them up. Then the vacuum clogged.

Now I had no choice. Grabbing a broom I managed to sweep a path back to the couch. (By this time, the dog was perched on the head rest and barking). Thunder and lightning were going off outside.

I climbed onto the couch just ahead of them. Now they swarmed the entire floor and were starting to make their way up the couch.

On TV the monster was kicking the crap out of a city with the army firing cannons at it and dropping bombs.

I grabbed my popcorn and climbed up on the headrest with the dog. The godless beetles were climbing up towards us. I screamed. The dog howled. The beetles were all clicking. I pelted them with popcorn but they kept coming. Closer and closer. Soon they surrounded us, crawled up our legs and torsos. I looked at the dog for one last time and just as we were about to be totally covered with bugs...

Poof. I woke up. The movie was over and the dog was eating my popcorn. I've got to admit I was very relieved. Not a bug in sight. "That's the last time I gorge on popcorn and fall asleep watching a monster movie," I said to the dog. He belched but ignored me and just kept on eating.

I settled in to watch another movie with the dog (maybe a gangster movie this time), and that's when I saw it, a beetle walking across my floor.

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