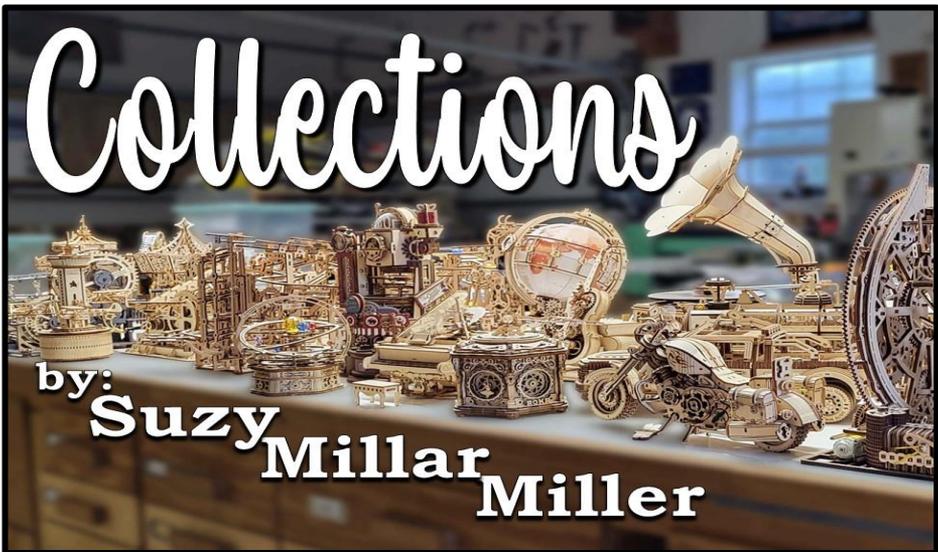




Collections

by:
**Suzy
Millar
Miller**



Now we are in the calm part of the year when the holidays have finally past, and bills start arriving in the mail. It's too cold to go outside and do very much,



so it's time to look to what's in our homes. One thing I always did was clean up my collections of things. Everyone I knew collected something. **My grandmother** had a button collection. My piano teacher, **Zella Taylor**, had a Hummel figure collection. My **Mom** collected everything, including marbles. I collected storybook dolls, little teacups and saucers that came from Virgil Alwood Florist, and piano music.



I recently discovered that Mary Stoots' sister, **Jeannine Turner** (RTHS Life Member), collects many antique things. Her house must look like a museum with all of the interesting items she has gathered over the years. She has multiple typecases full of miniatures, jars, enamel ware, teddy bears, old toys, and vintage tinware. On top of that Jeannine has a green thumb and can grow just about anything!



Mary revealed that her sister's talent doesn't stop there by a mile! Jeannine graduated with the RHS

class of 1967, and Mary was in the class of 1970. Mary (Continued on page 02)

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said, “Jeannine is a master seamstress. She made all of my clothes when I was in school, including my formal prom dress with a matching shawl and clutch-purse. When she got into counted cross-stitch, she entered a picture in the local County Fair and took first place, from there she won first place at the Ohio State Fair, and second place at the Nationals! I was so bustin’ proud of her!”



Jeannine lives in southern Ohio. Mary’s

brother, **Tom Turner** (RTHS Life Member), lives in Florida and is also a longtime craftsman and collector. He makes wooden puzzles on his scroll saw, crafts pens from various materials on a small lathe, and has an extensive collection of

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(continued from
page 02)



ROKR 3-D wooden assembly puzzles and toys. The company makes models of exotic machines consisting of gears created by laser cut wood. They were founded in 2007, and are dedicated providing innovative, imaginative, intelligent and interactive products. Their fundamental mission is to Supply the “Total Puzzle Solution” to the world and make fun for all ages who assemble ROKR wooden toys



After spending a number of years in Germany, Tom was able to collect quite a few nutcrackers and various other Christmas-related items, so to make room for the holidays, he moved all his ROKR wooden toys out to the workshop.



Mary was able to get a few photos



of his entire collection on top of the workbench while she was visiting over the holidays.

This year, he made a tree for his Santa collection that revolves on a Lazy Susan, and it stands about eight-foot tall.

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RTHS Museum, 1485 Jackson Street, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

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P.O. Box 144, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

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This last collection may seem like a strange topic, but it has roots going back as far as 1911. My family always gathered to celebrate my grandparent's February 2nd wedding anniversary. I grew up thinking that Groundhog Day was a holiday to be celebrated. But how did the day become Ground Frog Day to me? The **ribbeting** story is a little complicated, but here is a brief explanation.



A long, long time ago (sometime in the late 1950s), in a place far, far away (Ohio) a little girl boarded the Lakeshore bus to Christmas shop in the big city of Columbus – all by herself with her entire fortune of approximately \$1.50. Upon arriving “downtown” she discovered that her money would not purchase many

gifts and her list was long. She sadly left Lazarus and went to Woolworth's Five & Dime next door where lo and behold there was a *Silver Frog* just waiting to take a ride on the bus. Granted it was only silver paint on ceramic, but it had great shelf appeal (it was on the bottom shelf... remember, this is a “little” girl). So, *the Silver Frog* went home with her and was lovingly wrapped and placed underneath the Christmas tree. The little girl's mother loved the present (so she said...). Then on Christmas night the family visited another relative in Whitehall. Upon leaving the residence, *the Silver Frog* was found sitting in the bathroom at the relative's house. So, the history of Ground Frog Day began. *The Silver Frog* was left sitting on the bathroom sink with a note written on toilet paper stuck to the ceramic tile that said, “Merry Xmas.”



The girl discovered it when she went in the bathroom before leaving the relative's house. She was terribly upset that her mother had given the lovely Christmas present away, on the same day no less!

Then the journey of *the Silver Frog* began in earnest. In February, *the*

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page 04)

Silver Frog was
found in the
kitchen of the

girl's house. It had come home. It seemed that no one wanted *the Silver Frog*



and to get rid of it, relatives stooped so low as to “sneak” it into other people’s

lives, homes, cars, luggage, planes, bird feeders, ice makers, duffel bags, gifts, yard, computer stands, kitchen cupboards ... well, you get the picture. Thousands of miles later, the frog started causing other frogs to appear.

This was not necessarily a good thing. No one in the family wanted to have ANY frogs, let alone bunches

of them. Apparently, frogs reproduce at a rapid

The story continued at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota. The girl had married an Air Force officer and they were stationed out there on the prairie without a lot to do except for visiting Mount Rushmore. The girl was getting homesick and decided to throw a party on February 2nd in honor of Groundhog Day. Somehow relatives heard about it and started sending frogs to South Dakota, mainly to get them out of their houses. The party, held in 1972, was designated a Groundhog party, but the guests started calling it a Ground Frog party after seeing the ugly frogs.



Along the way *the Silver Frog* increased to a frog collection of hundreds of frogs. They are in all shapes and sizes. Some are ugly, some grotesque, some cute, some beautiful, but all of them are frogs. Frogs that no one wanted to collect, but somehow ended in the possession of the little girl who had grown up to a mature little woman. In fact, her house became known as a home for Wayward Frogs.

So, February 2nd became the Official Ground Frog’s Day and has been



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from page 05)



celebrated in remote places by friends and relatives. The frog gathering has been a very big social event. People come from many walks of life to meet, eat, and look at frogs. It is a nontraditional holiday that was started out of love for family, friends, and tacky frogs.



People wondered if the frogs are on display all the time. NO! The frogs are only allowed out for viewing during Ground Frog Week. The frogs spend the rest of the year grumbling in their 14 storage boxes. Because the frogs complain so much during the year, they were promised an all-out party for their coming out – yes, a coming out party for frogs – once a year. They are accompanied

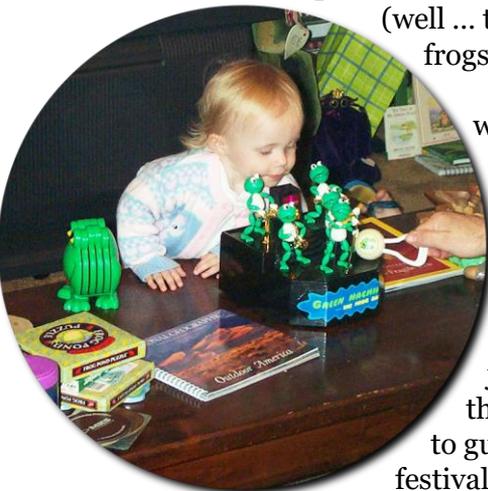
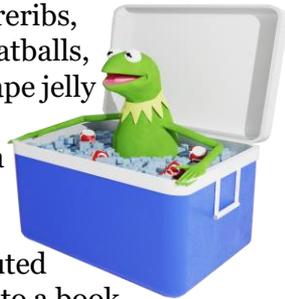
by hundreds of frog articles which are attached to the walls and doors of the house.

After 40 years of frog parties, the tradition ended for the little girl. She dragged those frogs from state to state, attic to garage, and everywhere for a long time. It became time to pass the torch



(well ... the frogs) to someone else.

The 40th and Final Ground Frog Party was held on Feb. 4, 2012. The traditional food of Chinese spareribs, sweet and sour meatballs, and hot dogs in grape jelly and mustard were served along with a lot of laughter and joy. After the party, the frogs were distributed



to guests and later taken to a book festival where they rested on a long table with a sign, “Free Frogs”. The frogs went to exercise class and given to the group.

There are a few frogs left in boxes to this day. They are kept out of sight, out of mind. The day of the frogs is over for the moment. The *original silver frog* is



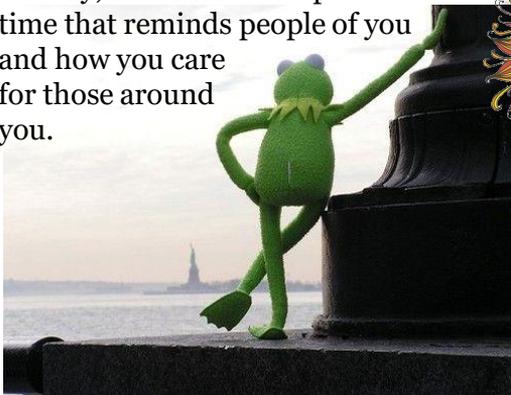
Collections

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(continued from page 06)

in a safe place, buried with my daughter so no one can sneak it on someone else. Rest in peace Julie and the *silver frog*.

One final thought, I highly recommend people starting their own holiday. It can be about a collection of items, a special family date, or anything. The important point, is to keep it consistent and not a traditional holiday, so it becomes a personal time that reminds people of you and how you care for those around you.



Signs



NEW MEMBER!

- **Roger Worth**

Individual

♪♪ ta-DA! ♪♪



Sunshine Committee

Do you know someone who needs some Sunshine?

Contact **Carol Deuber** if you are aware of an RTHS member who could use a Get Well, Thinking of You, Sympathy, or any other type of card for some added sunshine in their life

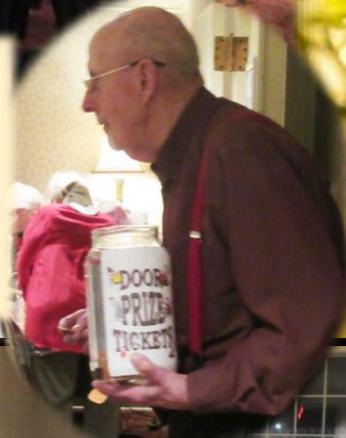
...
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Write **“SUNSHINE”** in the subject line of your email:
cadeuber@gmail.com

The 2023 Christmas Dinner



Our members are from left to right (front row, seated), Doris Downing, Richard Barth, Robin Kefauver, Sharon McCray, Mary Turner Stoots, Iva Lee Basinger, Sherry Shrimplin, Kriss Barth, Judy Diuguid. (standing) Sue Gilmore, Marvin Shrimplin, Amanda Whitman, Don Larimer, Pamela Larimer, Neal Whitman, Tom McCray, Steve McLoughlin, Brian Millar, Mike Kefauver, Kyle Barth, Steve Barth, Chris Millar, Pat Adams, and Doug Stoots



Ornery People!
(clockwise) Marvin Shrimplin, Sue Gilmore, Mary Turner Stoots, and Sherry Shrimplin



Here are our Raffle Winners!

Tammi Oldham

Thank
You
Shirley
Buck!



Robin Kefauver



Thank
You
Shirley
Buck!



**PAY
YOUR
DUES!**



Pay Your Dues by 02/14/24

I guarantee that if you pay by Valentine's Day, good things will happen to you!

For Example:

- 1. You will feel good about yourself!** You always feel good when you are current!
- 2. You will be saving postage for RTHS because you won't need a 'reminder' postcard**
Thank You! Thank you!
- 3. Our Corresponding Secretary will want to be your friend because she doesn't have to send a 'reminder' postcard!**

Or maybe not. I didn't ask her before I typed it.

(Don't count on this one.)

- 4. I won't have to send the crazy Piñata Man to your house to collect.** You must pay before 02/14/24, because he's only on loan from the Asylum until February 18th



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See how HAPPY Marvin is when he receives Dues in our Post Office Box!!



2024 CALENDAR

January

- 16 – TUE – Board Meeting – 1:00pm
20 – SAT – Open House - 10:00am-2:00pm

February

- 13 – TUE – Board Meeting – 1:00pm
17 – SAT – Open House, 10:00am-2:00pm
20 – TUE – Deadline for March *Courier*
28 – WED – Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser
4:00-10:00pm
28 – WED – Dues Deadline for listing in the
Directory

March

Publish March *Courier*

- 09 – SAT – *Harriet Tubman Day Walk*
10:00am – 1:00pm??
12 – TUE – Board Meeting – 1:00pm
16 – SAT – Open House - Mural Coloring
Contest Exhibit, 10:00am-2:00pm
27 – WED – Pizza Cottage Fundraiser

THE COURIER

January 2024 Issue

Reynoldsburg-Truro

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Contributors:

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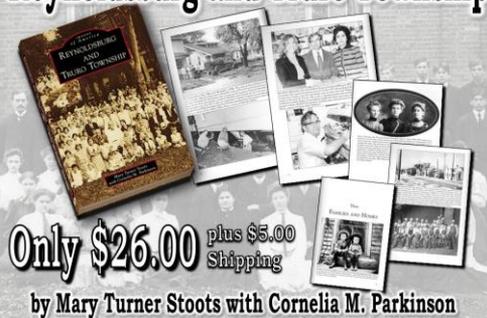
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