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September/October 2021

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Karen Huisman of Luverne, MN won a \$25 gift certificate to *The Sewing Basket* in Luverne, MN! Karen says *The Sewing Basket* is her favorite shop because "they have a wonderful inventory of fabrics!"

Rita Glazebrook of Cottage Grove, MN won a copy of the book, *The Build a Quilt Workbook!*

Congratulations!

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The Country Register began in Arizona, in the Fall of 1988, to provide effective, affordable advertising for shops, shows, and other experiences enjoyed by a kindred readership. Since then the paper has flourished and spread. Look for the paper in your travels.

Barbara Floyd, founder • barbara@countryregister.com • 602-321-6511

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Months September/October 2021

Volume 27 Number 5

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Deadline For the Nov/Dec 2021

Edition is October 10th!

Happy Halloween!

Along The Presidential Trail ... a regular feature in this edition of *The Country Register* is indefinitely on hold.

The popular *Along The Presidential Trail* series of articles first debuted in the Nov/Dec 2015 edition of *The Country Register*, featuring George Washington. Since that time, all of our past presidents and their wives except for Martin Van Buren, 1837+1841; Millard Fillmore, 1850-1853; Grover Cleveland, 1885-1889 and 1893-1897; Herbert Hoover, 1929-1933; Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933-1945; William Clinton, 1993-2001; Barack Obama, 2009-2017; and Donald Trump, 2017-2021 have been featured. This decision is due to travel constraints as well as the irregular hours or total closures caused by Covid of many presidential museums and homes.

City Listing

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12th Annual 12 Days of Holiday Baking

Send in your favorite holiday baking recipes including cookies, cakes, appetizers, main dishes, etc! Entries will be included in the November/December issue in the 12 Days of Holiday Baking special!

Send your recipes to
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kim@countryregisterofminnesota.com



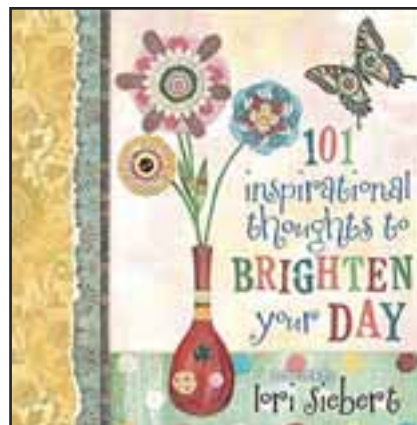
Book Review

101 inspirational thoughts to Brighten your Day

by Lori Siebert

The vibrant art of Lori Siebert adorns a host of ways to notice and pass along blessings, big or small. This page by page journey through 101 simple joys—from a majestic sunrise to a glass of fresh orange juice to the laugh of a loved one—transforms bad days into good ones, and good days into celebrations.

Readers can savor these sparklers of cheer one at a time, or when they need a burst of inspiration, they can enjoy these delights one after another.



You Could Win!

You can register to win a copy of **101 inspirational thoughts to Brighten your Day!** Clip and mail in this form! If you prefer not to cut up your paper, write the form below on a note card and mail to: The Country Register; 2920 - 144th Ave NE; Ham Lake, MN 55304. You will be notified and receive your prize by mail! Good Luck!

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Special Events

September

- 4.....Fall Opening - Country Craft Shed - Duluth
- 9-11.....The Great Wisconsin Quilt Show
- 14-16.....Fall Featherweight Festival - Quilt Haven on Main - Hutchinson
- 16-18.....Back Room Sale - Quilter's Cottage - Kiester
- 18.....National Jelly Roll Day Celebration - Gone To Pieces Quilt Shop - Kimball
- 18.....Sew a Jelly Roll Sew-In - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
- 25-26.....Siouxland Samplers Quilt Guild Quilt Show - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
- 27-Oct 9.....Vintage Sewing Machine Display - The Cutting Edge Quilt Shop - Rush City

October

- 7-9.....Pumpkin Pie Party - Quilted Dog - Cloquet
- 9.....Fall Arts and Crafts Festival - Brainerd
- 11-16.....Anniversary Celebration - Quarry Quilts and Yarns - Sandstone
- 16.....Teeny Tiny Collage Class with Lori A - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
- 23.....Fall Quilter's Market - See ad page 10

November

- 11-13.....Hometown Holiday Road Trip - See ad page 10
- 11-13.....Hometown Holiday Road Trip - New Ulm - See ad page 20
- 12-13.....Fabric Collage 2 Day Class - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
- 26-28.....Christmas Sale - Country Craft Shed - Duluth

December

- 4...Pine City's Holiday Madness - American Legion & Lighthouse Christmas Boutiques - Pine City

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Thoughts of Mothers on a September Day

by Kerri Habben Bosman

Autumn is upon us. As the shadows shift, I always doubly treasure the leaves and the light. I smile ruefully at our garden. The vegetable patch that was hideously non-prolific. However, there is more than one kind of harvest. The garden of our lives is truly abundant, and I am grateful.

I write, sitting upon the bench that my husband, Wayne, rebuilt. My grandfather gave it to my grandmother over thirty years ago.

It is fifteen years ago this September that my grandmother died. I called her "Huba." She was 99 years old. Huba had not cooked for about five years by then. Yet, I remember her most cooking in her comfortable kitchen. I see her preparing mashed potatoes. She always beat them by hand, her motions a gentle flurry. Then she would smile and say that her secret was to "beat the heck out of them." I still make them the way she did, where my whole self is moved by every churn.

It is four years ago this September that my mother was diagnosed with brain cancer. She passed away six months later. Her final bursts of effective energy were spent on recipes. She asked me to bring all of her cookbooks to her, which I did. Then she wanted scissors and paper clips. She went through the books page by page, cutting out what she wanted, and organizing by category. It took every bit of concentration she had, but she was completely invested in it.

Before my eyes was an ailing woman, and yet all I could see was us when I was a young girl. I would sit and do my homework at the kitchen table and watch Mom cook. When she would place food in hot oil or water, I would think, "my mom is so brave." And she was.

What I learned most from both Huba and Mom about cooking has nothing to do with procedures and everything do with love. For it is love that flowed through their every motion.

When they were both no longer with me, I was single with no children. My dad had died seventeen years before. Quite rarely I would allow myself a very brief time of wondering if there would ever again be anyone to shower love upon.

And, by grace, there is.

I met Wayne seven months after my mother's death. He shares a full family with me, including five grown children, their spouses, and seven grandchildren.

When I cook for our family, I don't see my mother and grandmother, I feel them. My hands and my love are their legacy, and I am sharing it. That alone would be fulfillment enough.

But there is more which makes my contentment overflow upon itself.

There is another mother in my heart, one that Wayne has treasured for all the years of his life. Unfortunately hundred of miles separate us, but I write her two letters a week to share all the important things. Like what her great-grandchildren did at our house, when laundry is in the dryer, and what we are having for dinner.

This Mom and I have sat at her kitchen table for hours. Sometimes we look through her recipes. Sometimes we drink coffee and just talk of everything and nothing. She is 100 years young with another birthday this December.

During our last visit, she literally shooed me out of the kitchen when it was time to do the dishes. I tried to come back and help her to no avail.

She later came to me with a sparkle in her eyes.

"You don't mind me any better than the rest of them," she said. "What kind of mother am I?"

"The best kind, Mom," I answered.

My hands know that by heart.

Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer in Chapel Hill, NC. She is currently working on a book of essays and poetry. She can be reached at 913jееves@gmail.com.



Photo by Sami Haggar



Search for the underlined words in the recipe in the word search below!

Hearty Ham and Bean Soup
by Gooseberry Patch Slow-Cooker Recipes

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 3 cups parsnips, <u>peeled</u> and diced | 1-1/2 lbs. smoked <u>ham</u> hocks |
| 2 cups carrots, <u>peeled</u> and <u>diced</u> | 2 cloves garlic, <u>minced</u> |
| 1 cup <u>onion</u> , chopped | 2 tsp salt |
| 1-1/2 cups dried <u>Great Northern Beans</u> | 1/2 tsp pepper |
| 5 cups water | 1/4 tsp <u>hot pepper sauce</u> |

Place parsnips, carrots and onion in a slow cooker. Top with beans. Add remaining ingredients. Cook on high setting for 6 to 7 hours, or until beans are tender. Remove ham hocks. Cut into bite-size pieces and discard bones. Return meat to slow cooker. Heat through and serve!

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N E K L D C V Y L K C Q Q X J W T D S M
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Country Register Recipe Exchange
Rhubarb Pie



submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Pie crust for a double crust pie | 1/3 heaping cup flour |
| 4 heaping cups fresh or frozen rhubarb | butter taste |
| 2 cups sugar | |

Prepare a basic pie crust recipe. Prepare the rhubarb and cut into 1-inch long pieces. Mix the rhubarb, sugar and flour together and pour into crust. Dot with butter and add top crust sealing the edges. Bake at 350° for 1 hour if you are using fresh fruit. For frozen rhubarb bake 30 minutes longer.

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KISSed Quilts

by Marlene Oddie

Quilter's Trek – Summer 2021



With more and more statewide openings happening, I hope you're able to get out and shop at your favorite local quilt shop and beyond! This summer, the previously named Row by Row Experience® is now called Quilter's Trek and has more options for participation. Besides the original intent—to visit shops along the way of your travels—you can also shop online. This year's theme is Pop of Color. Working on my own shop design—and considering my recent AnglePlay® Certified Instructor status—I chose to use Set 3 of AnglePlay® templates because of the 9" format prescribed for the blocks in the event. My Sails block can be set in a spinning motion like the other two blocks or the way it is presented.

After talking with long-time friend and co-conspirator for many quilting things, including getting me involved in writing for *The Country Register* many years ago, Elaine Shaw at Highland Quilts in Athena, OR, asked me to design her block—Highland Games.

Then, when another shop opened in my community (Quail Run Quilt Studio), I reached out to make sure she was participating in this event and was invited to design her block as well—Quail Round. Just think—two reasons to come to Grand Coulee, WA!

Each design uses the same template set and is made up of four blocks. You can set them in a square (as shown) or in a vertical or horizontal row or mix up each set of blocks in your finished quilt for your own creative style. Changing their placement will give you many more setting options as well.

Using the AnglePlay® templates provides an easy method to make these half rectangle triangles come together for a perfect rectangle and opens up so many design possibilities. You'll be able to use these templates for many quilts.

Get more details regarding Quilter's Trek at www.quilterstrek.com and AnglePlay® at www.offthewallquilt.com. Find templates and each of these designs at their respective shops: www.kissedquilts.com, www.facebook.com/highlandquilts and www.quailrunquilts.com,



Marlene Oddie (marlene@kissedquilts.com) is an engineer by education, project manager by profession and now a quilter by passion in Grand Coulee, WA, at her quilt shop, KISSed Quilts. She quilts for hire on a Gammill Optimum Plus, but especially enjoys designing quilts and assisting in the creation of a meaningful treasure for the recipient. Fabric, patterns, kits and templates are available at <http://www.kissedquilts.com>. Follow Marlene's adventures via <http://www.facebook.com/kissedquilts> and <https://www.instagram.com/marlene.kissedquilts/>.

Remembering Mrs. Herod

by Barbara Kalkis

Although it has been a long time since I was a student or even a teacher, I love every new school year. Each one is like a fresh start, another chance to begin projects that languished in the heat of July and August.

I recall teachers and what I learned from them. Mostly, they were diligent, caring and determined that we would LEARN.

In these memories, my fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Herod ranks highest. She wasn't my favorite teacher. She was frightening. Even the most recalcitrant boys cowered before her.

She was tall, in a looming-over-you sort of way. She was big, not fat, with a blocky shape that seemed to blot out light. She never yelled. She never had to. Her deep voice carried to the farthest corner of the room. Her lacquered golden hairdo remained perfectly in place even under the stiffest Pennsylvania winds.

She had piercing eyes and wore glasses that dangled from a gold necklace designed to let her flip the frames on or off. She could scrutinize us without blinking until we kids began sweating and wondering why our mothers said we were too young for deodorant. She didn't need to work for respect. She was awesome.

One day, Mrs. Herod freed us at recess to go outside and play that game of target practice and survival that seemed favored by all teachers—Dodge Ball. We counted off in "ones" and "twos." Mrs. Herod then decided which group would be in the middle as targets. My friend Judy and I always seemed to be in that group. Fortunately, we were both small, agile and had honed quick reflexes.

After a spirited game, we returned to the classroom cheerful that we had successfully escaped damage. Taking our seats in military order, we folded our hands, sat up straight and awaited Mrs. Herod's next command.

Instead of speaking, Mrs. Herod stared at us from her favorite spot by the windows. Time stretched, forcefully reminding me that I needed to question my mother again about deodorant. No one moved. No one could. With all eyes riveted on her, she strode to the blackboard, took a piece of chalk and wrote in bold capital letters—

A M E R I C A N .

Turning, she asked us what sentence we saw in the word. No one moved. No one would. We were only nine years old but we knew a set-up when we saw it. Mrs. Herod never asked questions. She stated them in the tone of an imperative. Think "caught red-handed" and on the way to the principal's office for a chat.

Staring at our glazed eyes, she ran thick bold lines under the last four letters. The words read, "I CAN." She made us repeat the statement three times.

Then she began to speak. She said we were privileged to be born Americans. That we were citizens of the world's richest nation. That nothing could stop us. That we could do anything we set our minds to, be anything we wanted to be, face any problem, overcome any challenge. She said there was no excuse for any of us to fail in class, in school, in life—because we were Americans.

We could not fail when our very name ended with the words, "I CAN."

That incident is seared in my memory. I do not know what inspired Mrs. Herod's speech that day. I'm just thankful I was lucky enough to live a year in her classroom. She gave us kids the greatest gifts a teacher can give in one sentence: confidence, optimism, determination and patriotism.

Barbara Kalkis is a consultant, teacher and writer. Her poems can be found in *The Country Register* and in her book, *Little Ditties for Every Day...A Collection of Thoughts in Rhyme and Rhythm*. You can contact her at BarbaraKalkis01@gmail.com.



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Pumpkin Pie in a Mug

- 2 small cookies crushed into 2 tbsp of crumbs (graham crackers or gingersnap cookies)
- 1/3 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp milk
- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp pumpkin pie spice *
- 1 pinch of salt
- 1/2 tsp vanilla



Picture by Gemma's Bigger Bolder Baking

1. In a small bowl, whisk together the pumpkin puree, egg, milk, brown sugar, pumpkin pie spice and salt until no lumps are formed.
2. Add the crushed cookie crumbs to the bottom of a mug.
3. Pour the pumpkin pie mixture on top of the crumbs.
4. Microwave for about a minute and a half to two minutes. Check every 30 seconds. (top may look damp, but it will set as it cools).
5. Let stand for a couple minutes to cool.
6. Serve with whipped cream.

* Pumpkin Pie Spice: 2 tsp cinnamon; 1/4 tsp Ginger; 1/8 tsp nutmeg; 1/4 tsp cloves; 1/2 tsp allspice

Recipe by Gemma's Bigger Bolder Baking



Become Inspired

by Annice Bradley Rockwell

Simple Country Joys

As the long, warm days of summer begin to fade, we begin to feel the subtle hints of glorious fall. There is a different golden glint to the sunlight now and nightfall greets us with a cool, dewy reminder that the season is ready to change. We await fall with an anticipation for all that is to come—harvesting our herbs, canning our garden vegetables, decorating with our garden cornstalks and pumpkins and redecorating our homes to express a season that eventually brings us back inside.

On a crisp, late, fall morning a simple country joy is to take down an early splint gathering basket from its wrought iron hook on the kitchen beam and begin cutting the sweet marjoram blooms that have finally deepened to a rich, burgundy hue. Their long stems and round blossoms will dry beautifully from the keeping room mantel. The yellow tansy with its bright, button-like blossoms of goldenrod yellow can be harvested now too and dry so well they can be used all year to add color and texture to our country arrangements.

Abundant Country Blessings

Another fall morning may find us in our gardens tending to the task of cleaning out the last vestiges of summer. Our zucchini bed might yield a few more vegetables that can be happily made into a jar of zucchini pickles or a "mock apple crisp," to be enjoyed as a finishing touch to a country harvest supper. Some of our last tomatoes of the season can be given to our sweet little chickens as a farewell gift from summer. The chickens' natural love of garden treats reminds us that sometimes the transition to fall can seem bittersweet.

Yet we are ever-grateful because the season of fall gives us an abundance of new country blessings. Our garden pumpkins in dark orange can transform our summer porches to a perfect fall display. Cornstalks can be bound to our porch posts, our rain barrels in weathered wood can be adorned with bittersweet and gourds and Indian corn from our local orchard can be hung against our batten door to proudly proclaim that fall has indeed arrived.

Nature's Affinity for Transformation

Our home interiors can also be made festive with the beauty of fall. Brass and copper antique buckets can hold fall mums in deep cranberry, gold or orange. Smaller, dried gourds can fill our antique trenchers atop a pumpkin-colored woven runner on our early tap table. Our lighting can also be enhanced now to add even more light to our settings now that evenings advance more quickly. And our country candles in fall scents like Pumpkin Butter and Colonial Apple Crisp can be a special treat to the senses as a perfect touch of the essence of fall.

The season of fall is also the perfect time to enjoy the wonder of quaint, country happenings. Outdoor events such as antique shows, harvest gatherings, agricultural fairs, outdoor concerts or hayrides at a local orchard among the apple trees are all great opportunities to embrace the beauty of fall. This season, surround yourself with all that this special season has in store. Indulge in the colors, scents and sounds of change as you are reminded of nature's affinity for transformation.

Annice Bradley Rockwell is an educator and owner of Pomfret Antiques. She is currently working on her book, *New England Girl*. NewEnglandGirl2012@hotmail.com

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Join Our Upcoming Sew Along

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by Jacquelynn Steves

Creativity is healing. There's something so satisfying about making something with your own two hands. And study after study has shown that creative hobbies like sewing are good for both your physical and mental health- and isn't that so important these days! It's also a wonderful way to relax and escape just for a little while.

It also helps to explain the recent resurgence of sewing in popularity. Last year, many people who had never sewn before (or maybe hadn't sewn for years and years) took up mask making. Now they find themselves bitten by the "sewing bug" and completely hooked on stitching pretty fabrics into unique projects that they can enjoy themselves, or to give as gifts.

Creative hobbies are also an excellent way to make new friends- did your grandmother ever talk about sewing or quilting bees that she attended? Just hop online, and you can join a sewing group with enthusiasts from all over the globe!

I have found in my Facebook groups that people are really craving that personal connection with other creative folks. Before the pandemic, we were hosting virtual "sew alongs," but they really exploded in popularity once everyone was sequestered in their homes, looking for a social and creative outlet.

We are hosting even more virtual sew alongs than ever! This fall, we will be doing a sew along called "Snowmen & Silent Night" and we'll be making a darling little mini quilt with the cutest little snowmen on it. And, we are starting now so that your projects can be completed for the holidays.

I'll even teach you how to do hand embroidery through easy-to-follow video tutorials. But, if you don't want to do hand embroidery, you don't have to! I always like to give people lots of options and ideas for making my projects the way that they want to!

Did I mention that the sew along, patterns and hand embroidery tutorials are **FREE**? What a fun fall activity! And it could be the perfect activity to do (virtually or in person) with friends that you need to "reconnect" with.

Want to know more? Please visit my website below to find out all about it. Just sign up, and you'll receive an email each week with the newest block pattern. The patterns include well written instructions and lots of diagrams, so your sewing will be relaxing and fun! Sign up on our website and join us!

We'd love to have you join us! For information just visit SnowmanSewAlong.com. Happy stitching!

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fall bucket list

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- Make & eat caramel apples
- Jump in a leafpile 
- Visit a pumpkin patch
- Go Trick or Treating

Where in Minnesota?

Somewhere in Minnesota the image to the right can be found.

Where is it?



(Answer on page 18 of this issue)

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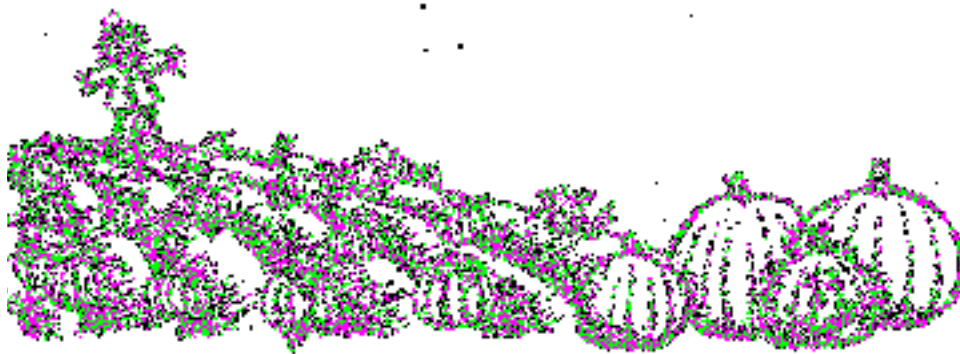
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Country Register Recipe Exchange
Asparagus, Ham and Tomato Strata
 submitted by Shirley Ross of Alexandria, MN

1 tbsp butter	2 cups shredded Italian cheese blend
2 cups asparagus pieces (1 inch)	10 large eggs
1/3 cup chopped onion	2 1/2 cup half and half
1 cup halved grape tomatoes	1/2 tsp salt
1 cup dried fully cooked ham	1/4 tsp pepper
10 cups cubed French or Italian bread	



In a large nonstick skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add asparagus and onion. Cook 3-4 minutes, stirring occasionally until crisp and tender. Remove from heat. Stir in tomatoes and ham. Place half of the bread in a greased 13x9 baking dish. Top with half of the asparagus mixture and cheeses in a large bowl. Beat eggs, half and half, salt and pepper until blended. Pour over layers. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350°. Uncover the baking dish and bake 45-50 minutes or until puffed and golden. Insert a knife in the middle and bake until it comes out clean.

Slices of Life
 Sherry's Adventure Travels
 By Sherry Osland



I typically write memories of my life in chronological order. But this one jumps ahead many years.

Sherry's Adventure Travels basically translates into my getting lost (nothing to boast about) especially since lost seems to have become a "norm" for me. As such, these times have become memories, hence, slices of my life. Like a cloud, this penchant for getting lost subtly descends upon me as I "spell" hubby on our drives from Kansas to his parents' home in Minnesota. (He came to Kansas via a stint in the Army).

In my defense, there are many ways to get from here to there, and no one way is ingrained in my brain. We enjoy different scenery, but we do have one or two more efficient routes that we take when necessary. We make the trip in around 10 hours. Thankfully, my husband and I travel very compatibly. We are both in awe of God's beauty: the changing landscapes, well-kept farmsteads, barns (with the occasional barn quilts), horses, crops in their various seasons, wild flowers in the ditches, etc. Last, but not least, we have in-synch bladders and bums and that helps the compatibility factor a lot! Our trips are also always an opportunity for good conversation – life in general, family, faith, etc.

On one route, I love the beautiful panorama of the Council Bluff's valley. I go back in time and imagine the trip as a pioneer woman in a Conestoga wagon and wonder how high the undisturbed grasses grew. I typically drive this section. There's a turn-off not long after I take the wheel, and that's when the afore-mentioned "cloud" tends to descend upon me. The first time, we ended up in a beautiful park. A wonderful park! BUT! . . . our route isn't through a park! Thankfully, when awakened, my husband said, "Well, head North and we'll eventually get to the highway we want." A later trip, I recognized the turn-off and took it. I felt pretty confident -- until I also recognized the same park. Did I mention it's a beautiful park?

On a later trip, near Omaha, we were to take a crescent drive to bypass the city. It was getting dark; we were tired and headed home. I was at the wheel and on the look-out for the crescent drive sign. Hubby was comfortably snoozing. I turned at the sign. I found myself stopped at a 3-way stop sign T-intersection facing a rocky hillside with an arrow pointing to Crescent. Who knew? There's a small Nebraska town called "Crescent". Oh, the irony . . .

Fast forward to this past Memorial Day weekend. We left on Thursday for Minnesota and returned on Tuesday – hoping for less traffic. Interstate and four-lane traffic was still very heavy. As we switched drivers, my husband settled back for his typical snooze saying, "Get off at Exit 146 . . . I think." (Snore). I saw the Exit 144 sign and prepared for 146. Since he had said "I think", I decided, at the last minute, to wake him. He came fully awake at Exit 147b. I made a split-second decision to take it before getting too far from the right one. Once again, (thankfully) we simply "headed North". WHOA!! We ended up on a two-lane highway. I was bemoaning that fact until it gradually dawned on me how good the highway was. Plus! Little to NO traffic! I met only four cars, and no one came behind to push or pass me. I'm convinced, everyone else was on the Interstate! I felt I was in God's favor since it went so smoothly and was such a beautiful route. We will actually purpose to find and take that one again.

We talked a bit about the collective times I have not taken the beaten path North. We've decided that God has been so very kind to give us views of especially beautiful scenery as well as lots of grace in terms of minimal time and miles out-of-the-way. I've also been so very thankful for this, because it helps assuage my embarrassment and allows us to mostly (well, except for Crescent) laugh about it all. As for this last trip, I said to my husband, "maybe God thought my previous travel stories were getting a bit old, and He thought I needed a new one!" Laughingly, my husband chimed in calling them "Sherry's Adventure Travels" vs "Sherry's Lost Again". Which is good! I'd much rather laugh about them than cry. (God, indeed, has a sense of humor and, thankfully, so does my husband.)

Written by Sherry Osland of Praise Works Quilting in Abilene, formerly writing the *Quilts That Redeem* column for The Country Register. For examples of quilting (as well as pictures of Hand-braided rugs and *Quilts That Redeem* books, for sale) go to: facebook.com/praiseworksquilting Contact information: sherryo51@hotmail.com or 785-263-5528.

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Random Acts

by Maranda K. Jones

Pencil Me In



Joy flows through my felt tip pen as it carefully transforms the stark white paper into a well thought out plan for the week. Ideas for making learning fun are scribbled onto the schedule. Stickers are put down carefully to mark special events. There is nothing like a new school year to send this teacher's heart racing! A new academic calendar and a new lesson plan book are full of possibilities for a new set of students. While spring brings growth and winter arrives with a fresh calendar year, the fall is also a time of beginning. It is so exciting to see what the future holds for a classroom of brand new first graders. Eager students excited to read, write, count, add and subtract, make friends, play, eat, and learn together. Making lesson plans is one of my favorite activities, and I always look forward to September.

One would think that after sixteen years of creating lesson plans, I would have learned by now to write them in pencil. We plan many aspects of our day, yet we cannot always plan for changes that occur. Accidents and surprises happen, and while planning helps us avoid some problems, we cannot eliminate them all. Even the best made plans will need adjustments, and that applies in the classroom and out.

Sometimes we need more time. Sometimes we need less. Some of us take longer to learn particular concepts while we understand others sooner than expected. With our ever evolving plans, flexibility is important to keeping a positive outlook and being ready for anything that comes our way. That's when those pencils with erasers would come in handy. They provide balance of what is written and what needs erased.

We are better able to find a balance between considering the future and responding to difficulties with God's help. God often has a purpose for the trouble he allows in our lives and develops patience, endurance, and hope in us that we may not have thought possible. He provides ways to bring us closer to Him. The Lord's purpose prevails and is seen as we submit our goals and hopes for the future. He'll show us what He wants to accomplish in us and through us. It's hard for me to imagine teaching without the Lord's help. As a teacher, and as a mother, I pray throughout the day for wisdom, kindness, and gentleness. Jesus corrected people with love, and I pray that I may give children gentle corrections that may be received graciously.

Those are the plans I should write in ink.

© 2021 Maranda K. Jones

Maranda Jones' new book **Random Acts** is now available at amazon.com.

The book includes her reader-acclaimed articles from the last decade.





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Fall Quilter's Market

Saturday, October 23rd
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- Quilt Haven on Main - Hutchinson
- Shades of the Past - Clara City

Call any shop for details!

Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

The Way It Is

This summer a pair of Horned Larks, a bird that typically builds its nest on the ground in a stubble field, decided to set up housekeeping and raise a family at the base of an evergreen seedling in our yard.

I discovered the nest with three small eggs on the last day of June. On July 5th two of the eggs cracked open and a couple of baby Horned Larks emerged and I got my first look at the naked, strange-looking, big-eyed baby birds. They were adorable.

That morning, as I attended to my seedlings, I tried to be very careful as I watered near the nest. In spite of my best intentions, water flooded the little home and the helpless creatures nearly drowned.

Quickly my husband John found a little twig and flicked the little birds out of the nest and onto slightly higher ground. Several minutes later, as soon as the water soaked down into the soil, I flicked them back. Meanwhile, the agitated parents watched from a distance, anxiously awaiting an opportunity to return to care for their offspring.

Several times that day I checked the nest. The two little birds seemed fine, but I was worried about the remaining egg. What was wrong? Had the cold water shocked the unborn bird and killed it before it hatched?

Early the next morning, the very first thing I did was peek at the nest. Oh happy day! I now had three baby birds, each very hungry and waiting to be fed.

Those little birds grew so fast they quickly overflowed the nest. In fact, exactly one week after they hatched, two of my little feathered friends left the nest and never looked back. Then, the very next day the third bird hopped out and, likewise, was off and on its own.

That's the way it is with children, too.

They're born.

We make mistakes.

Somehow they survive.

Then they're grown and gone.

Oh how important it is to remember to "rejoice and be glad" (Psalm 118:24) and enjoy each and every day because, just like those baby birds, how quickly the time flies by.



©2021 Jan Keller. No reprint without permission. Jan shares other pieces of her life in her books, *Pieces From My Crazy Quilt*, and *The Tie That Binds*. These books can be ordered by calling 719-866-8570, or writing to: Black Sheep Books, 11250 Glen Canyon Drive, Peyton, CO 80831

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COUNTRY REGISTER RECIPE EXCHANGE Beef Stroganoff

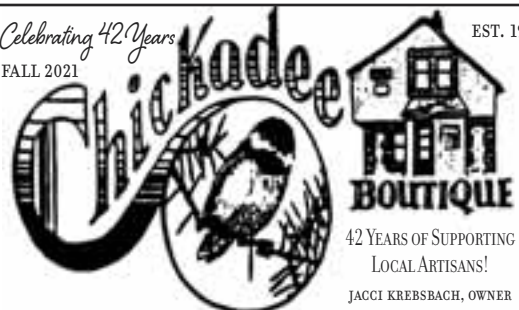


From the kitchen of Kate Miller, Fort Collins, CO

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 lb. round steak, cut in 3/4 inch cubes | Flour |
| 2 Tablespoons fat | 1/4 cup chopped onion |
| 1 clove garlic, minced (1/4 teaspoon powder) | 1 cup sour cream |
| 1 can (6 ounce) mushrooms, drained | 1 can tomato soup (condensed) |
| 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce | 6-8 drops Tabasco sauce |
| 1/2 teaspoon salt | dash pepper |
| 1 package (7 ounce) wide noodles, cooked | Parmesan cheese |

Dip meat in flour and brown in hot fat. Add onion, garlic and mushrooms. Mix sour cream, tomato soup, mushrooms with liquid and seasonings then pour over meat. Simmer 1 hour. Serve over hot noodles. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Serves 4-6.

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THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
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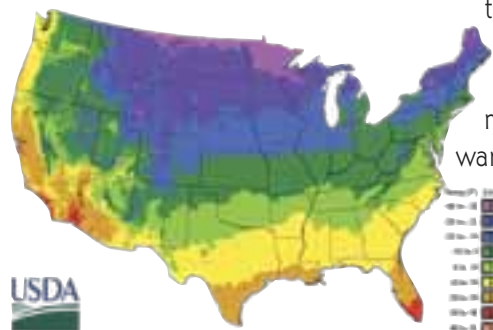
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It's Time to Plant Your Tulips!

It may seem weird to be talking about tulips right now, but it's time! The beauty of tulips shine bright in the spring months across the country, but the work begins in the fall. Tulip bulbs should be planted in the fall when the soil has cooled off from the summer growing season. In cold climates this could be in September, while in warmer climates it could be November or even December. Looking at a planting zones chart can help you narrow it down and decide when to plant your bulbs. Note that tulips are great for growing in zones 3-8.



Once you've figured out your zone for planting, it's really quite simple from there! Flower bulbs are tough! Like all flower bulbs, tulips need a cold period to develop their roots to be ready for spring. Bulbs need to be planted deep enough that they won't be affected by the temperature variations above ground...either too warm or too cold. The standard method for calculating the ideal depth is three times as deep as the bulb is high. Plant the tulip bulb pointy side up! Tulips will fight each other for nutrients in the soil, so it's best to space them 4-5" apart. A final, and just important step, is to water the bulbs once you've planted them. This will help them settle and grow some quick roots. You won't need to water them anymore after this.



Unfortunately, containers can't protect bulbs from the above ground temperature variations. To plant bulbs in containers, follow the exact same steps as planting them in the ground. Once you have them planted, move them indoors. Pick a place that is cool, dark and well aired that won't get warmer than 60 degrees. A basement or garage work great! Experiment with planting the bulbs close together to make a dramatic affect. However, make sure to add some organic fertilizer compost to the soil to provided much needed nutrients.

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Feeling chilled or feeling lighter,
A listless calm with no name,
A gentle breath that soothes and tames . . .
Everything changes when it begins,
The magical air we call the wind.

~Barbara Kalkis©2021

Barbara Kalkis is an English teacher and marketing consultant. Her poems can be found in The Country Register and in her book, Little Ditties for Every Day...A Collection of Thoughts in Rhyme & Rhythm. Contact her at BarbaraKalkis01@gmail.com.



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Cooling a Creamery Building Way "Back in the Day"

by Dave Emigh

People often think it would be great to own a historical building or a home. Old buildings have a certain character that is nearly impossible to replicate in new construction. However, old buildings also come with their own "issues."

In 1897, my great-grandfather, Ward Emigh, purchased the Walla Walla Creamery. The name was changed to the Shady Lawn Creamery in 1922. The "Walla Walla 2020 Historic Research Service" has traced the ownership of our buildings back to the late 1880s but they are older than that.

In 1994, my wife Jill and I purchased the buildings from my mother and we established Shady Lawn Antiques. So, yes, we know about old commercial buildings with a lot of character and issues.

One such on-going issue has been the heating and cooling of our building. There is simply no way to keep it as cool as we would like, especially on the most extreme days. The late June heat wave, with the record high of 116°, just reinforced this issue.

During that heat wave, I heard people say, "I'm just going to crank-up the AC and stay inside." Remember, there was a time when that was not possible. In fact, it was not until the late 1960s that central air-conditioning was routinely installed in new house construction.

The heat event triggered my memory of how our building was heated and cooled in the old creamery manufacturing days. Those old days lasted up to 1994 when we installed the first (commercially manufactured) heating and cooling system that the building had ever had.

The original (1880s?) building eventually became the "old office." It had a wood floor and thick walls that were filled with cork "insulation," Near it, and essentially in the middle of the building, is a storage cooler.

The north and west "wings" of the building were added in the early 1900s. They feature concrete floors and exposed concrete footings/sills.

The walls and ceilings of these wings were not insulated, which presents a heating/cooling problem. However, the lack of insulation allowed steam and moisture to escape without damaging the interior wooden walls and ceiling.

There is no indication that there was ever a specific overall heating and cooling plan. It was more like an interwoven set of practices, with each piece playing its part. This heating/cooling discussion covers the fifty-year period prior to 1994.

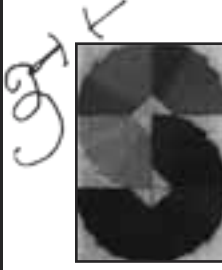
The biggest impact on the temperature of the building is the concrete floor and base of the walls. These floors are in effect a big thermal mass that stores heat (or cold).

During the manufacturing days, the creamery well pumped 58° water, year-round. That water constantly flowed through hoses and ran across the floor. Depending upon the outside temperature, the well water would either cool or warm the floor.

The main production room also has twenty-two-foot-tall ceilings. A series of small windows encircle the room near the ceiling. These windows could be opened to let the moist warm air rise and escape.

Two creamery operations produced a significant amount of heat. During the vat pasteurization process, cream was heated to 185°, for at least thirty minutes before it was then cooled. Steaming hot water was used in a Can Washer designed to clean and rinse milk cans. It was big enough to hold at least six of the large ten-gallon milk cans.


The added heat was appreciated during the cold winter weather. However, during the summer, those processes were generally done at the end of the day.



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Carving pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns is a popular Halloween tradition that originated hundreds of years ago in Ireland. Back then, however, jack-o'-lanterns were made out of turnips or potatoes; it wasn't until Irish immigrants arrived in America and discovered the pumpkin that a new Halloween ritual was born.

The only "conventional" heating device was a steam radiator with a fan mounted behind it. It hung up in one corner of the production room. Steam was run through the radiator in the winter. The well water that was run through it in the summer made it into a "swamp cooler."

By the time that I remember that heater, it was a bit leaky. Steam would hiss out of it in the winter. In the summer, water also leaked out of it but that was no big deal. It would fall on the concrete floor and run to a floor drain.

If the worst summer job was washing milk cans (and it was), the best job was wrapping butter. The small butter wrapping room was immediately adjacent to the storage cooler that was cooled to 40°. A little cooler door was opened and an electric fan blew cold air into the butter wrapping room.

The cooler seemed to be a magical place. In the summer, the 40° temperature felt cool if not almost cold. While in the winter, when outside temperatures were in the teens, it felt warm.

As a young teenager, I always thought that it was great to wheel cans of cream into the cooler. I would go fast in the hot building and then slow down when I got into the cooler. I'm not sure that it helped but I thought that it did.

My dad was even known to hose down the outside of his creamery boots with cold water in the summer. I'm not sure that helped, either. But I do know for certain that the unlimited supply of popsicles helped (at least mentally) and they were a big treat.

Stay cool and enjoy the summer.

Dave Emigh and his wife Jill are the owners of Shady Lawn Antiques in Walla Walla, WA, perfectly located in the 1870s wood frame creamery buildings that Dave's great-grandfather purchased in 1897. Dave is a professionally trained woodworker and he and his son Nick specialize in the restoration of oak furniture. Shady Lawn, in its 27th year, has become a regional destination for oak furniture and is also known for a well-curated display of country, rustic and rare and unique "small" antiques. Glimpses of the ever-changing Shady Lawn inventory can be seen on Facebook and at www.shadylawnantiques.com.

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Scrap Happy

by Deb Heatherly

Falling leaves in orange, red, and yellow, apple crisp, pumpkin spice, high school football, sweaters and flannel shirts, boots or a crackling fire—which image comes to mind when you think of Fall? Maybe it's a combination of them all. As for me, I look forward to warm, comfy clothes, watching the changing colors on the mountains around me and pulling out projects to quilt.

One of my all-time favorite fall quilts is this easy scrap quilt made from rectangles. It's starting to get old and a little worn but that makes me love it even more. It's not an intricate pattern like those I design now for Creative Grids®. It's just a simple, scrappy quilt made long ago that, for more than 20 years, has been my constant companion when I feel the first hint of a chill in the air.

'Scrap Happy' is the perfect snuggle quilt. Whether I'm reading a book or watching a movie, this quilt is like an old friend. Most of the time I end up sharing it with one or more kitties but that just adds to the overall feeling of love.

I was once told that in the late 1800s and early 1900s quilts in this type layout were called "postcard" quilts because postcards were used as templates. Can you imagine having to cut all of the pieces by hand? Today, we can easily cut the rectangles with a rotary cutter and be sewing in no time at all. Pull out your scraps and get ready for fall.



You can make this quilt as large as you want by simply lengthening and adding more rectangle rows. Mine is lap size (59" x 67"). To make one this size, use an equal amount of light neutrals and dark prints, cut into 3 1/2" x 5 1/2" rectangles. I used 73 lights and 73 darks for the quilt center, and 40 random colored rectangles for the pieced border.

You will make 4 types of vertical rows, each alternating the lights and darks. Row 1 starts with a dark rectangle and ends with a light rectangle using 5 light and 5 dark in the row (make 4 of row 1), row 2 starts and ends with a light rectangle cut in half and uses 5 dark and 4 light rectangles in addition to the 2 half rectangles (make 4 of row 2), row 3 starts with a light rectangle and ends with a dark rectangle using 5 light and 5 darks in each row (make 3 of row 3) and finally row 4 starts and ends with a dark rectangle cut in half and uses 5 light and 4 dark rectangles in addition to the 2 half rectangles (make 3 of row 4).

I added an inner border cut at 2" (5 strips WOF) and then used left over rectangles for a second border. I finished with an outer border cut at 4 1/2" (7 strips WOF). Using the same fabric for the inner border and outer border, you will need 1 1/4 yd. I used a different fabric for the binding cutting 7 strips at 2 1/2". Although this comes to 17 1/2", 2/3 yd. will give you a little padding in case you need to square up the edges of the fabric.

This quilt is quick, easy and finished in no time at all. Happy Fall!

Deb Heatherly is a designer for Creative Grids® rulers. When not in her studio, Deb is normally on the road doing Creative Grids® lectures and workshops for guilds and shops across the country. She is the designer of the Creative Grids® Cat's Cradle Tool, Strippy Stars Tool, Turbo 4 Patch, Ultimate Flying Geese Tool, Cat's Cradle XL, and the new Kitty Cornered Tool. She is also the author of the books 'Cat'itude, Strippy Stars, 4-Patch Panache, The Ultimate Flying Geese Book, Catitude XL, Creatively Yours, and her newest, The Build A Quilt Workbook. Visit her website at www.Debcatsnquilts.com. Creative Grids® fans are invited to join her Facebook group, Grids Girls, for tips and inspiration. Grids Girls members have the opportunity to participate in exclusive Grids Girls mystery quilts two times each year. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/7704296498004571>.

Quilt Shop Owners, you are invited to join the group above and Deb has an additional Facebook group just for you—Grids Girls for Quilt Shop Owners Only. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2735936572565241>. You can contact her at Debcatsnquilts@aol.com or call the studio, Deb's Cats n Quilts Designs, 828-524-9578.



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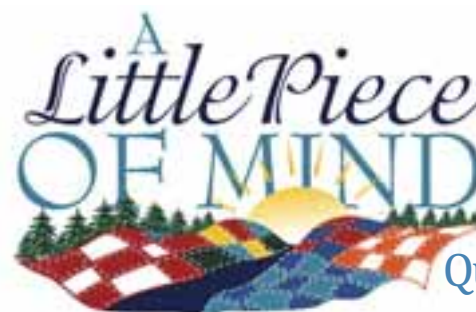
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Life in Skunk Hollow



by Julie A. Druck

Bloom Where You're Planted

Bloom where you're planted. It's a cliché—one of those oft-used little phrases that appear on refrigerator magnets and T-shirts. It carries the idea of taking advantage of whatever environment you find yourself in and seeking to make the most of it with an attitude of gratitude ... and in the process, growing something beautiful.

The phrase popped into my head a few weeks ago when I was out working in my flower bed. I had just finished weeding and walked over to the edge of our creek to the area where I toss weeds. My mouth fell open when I saw a gorgeous calla lily at least a foot high growing up out of my weed pile. How did *that* get there? It came to me that in my last enthusiastic weeding session, I must have pulled out a lily bulb and tossed it unknowingly on the compost pile. The lily simply did what it was designed to do: grow. It didn't care where—the flower bed or the compost heap. I carefully dug it out and moved it back where it belongs—or rather, where I happen to want it, and it's doing just fine. Bloom where you're planted (or tossed).

A few weeks after finding my surprise lily, the old cliché came to mind again. Only this time, in a very different environment than a weed pile.

My husband and I occasionally enjoy visiting a large farmers' market that's held once a week in the next county. The market has several auctions, as well as a couple of big buildings housing vendor stands where all sorts of goodies are sold. Out of necessity, of course, the market has a large bathroom facility which is a building in and of itself. And this particular bathroom is unlike any bathroom I have ever seen in my life.

Because it gets so much use, the market employs someone who is continually maintaining the restroom facilities. The employee is an older lady in an old-fashioned smock-style apron who bustles about constantly checking to make sure that sufficient supplies are available and that everything is clean and tidy. None of that is terribly surprising. What's unique about the bathroom facility is the environment the employee has created. From a CD player in the corner, hymns and inspirational music pour forth. On each stall door and/on the walls are pretty scenes clipped from calendars. The large mirror is hung with a garland of some sort—coordinated with other holiday or seasonal decorations that are changed every month or so.

You'll find quotes and verses of encouragement hung above the towel racks to read as you dry, a tub of lollipops for children to take on their way out, and small silk flower arrangements adorning the long sink. Bloom where you're planted.

I'm always encouraged every time I go in there, yet it's not the inspirational quotes or holiday decor that do it for me. Rather, it's the idea that one person has gone out of her way to take an environment that's not typically known for its beauty and made it into something beautiful. She's planted in a bathroom, and she's grown encouragement and inspiration and refreshment and kindness – all simply to bless others.

And *that* is what is truly beautiful.



Julie Druck is from York, Pennsylvania, and writes from her farm in Skunk Hollow. She'd welcome your comments at thedrucks@netzero.com.

From Lydia's Recipe File: Checkerboard Cake

Now you can have chocolate and white cake in one slice.

- 1 chocolate cake mix
- 1 white cake mix
- 3 round cake pans (8- or 9-inch) divider for cake pans
- Chocolate frosting (purchase or prepare homemade)



DIRECTIONS:

Prepare each cake mix in a separate bowl according to package directions. Use the same brand of mix for both cakes so the cakes are similar in density and the colors don't run through. Line 3 cake pans with circles of parchment paper. Add the divider to one pan. Pour chocolate cake batter into the outside ring and center ring. Add white cake batter to the middle ring. Carefully remove divider, lifting it straight up and setting it aside. Wash and dry the divider; fill the second cake pan the same way. Wash and dry the divider. Add the divider to the third cake pan. Pour white cake batter into the outside ring and the center ring. Add chocolate cake batter to



the middle ring. Remove divider. (If you prefer more white cake than chocolate, fill two pans this way and fill only one cake pan with chocolate batter in the outer and center rings.) Make cupcakes from any leftover batter. Bake according to package directions. Place cakes on cooling racks and cool completely; remove parchment paper before frosting. Frost with prepared or homemade frosting. Alternate layers with the chocolate and white rings of cake on the outside. Spread frosting between the layers, on top, and around the sides.

TIPS: Find cake pans and checkerboard cake divider online and in some stores. Find videos online that demonstrate alternate ways to make a checkerboard cake if you don't have a divider. Also, you can use other colors and cake flavors to make a checkerboard cake.

HOMEMADE CHOCOLATE FROSTING

- 1 cup softened butter
- 1/3 cup milk
- 3 1/3 cups powdered sugar
- 2/3 cup cocoa powder (unsweetened)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

DIRECTIONS:

Beat together butter and cocoa powder. Mix in milk and vanilla. Beat in sugar, one cup at a time. If frosting is too soft, add more powdered sugar, 1 tablespoon at a time. If frosting is too thick to spread, add a little milk, 1 tablespoon at a time.



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Joy In Your Day, *Jody*

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM is written and illustrated by Jody Houghton. Request a color file of this writing at jodyhoughton@msn.com. www.JodyHoughtonDesigns.etsy.com



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Reuse • Repurpose • Recycle

by Kim Keller

Fall decorations have always been so fun to me. I enjoy decorating for Halloween as well as fall in general. I'm always looking for new ideas to freshen up the house with new ideas. When I stumbled across this project I knew I wanted to try it!!

What you'll need:

- 20 Mason jar lid bands
- Orange spray paint (or any color you'd like!)
- Burlap
- Cinnamon Sticks
- Orange ribbon or floral wire
- Any kind of small lights
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Raffia ribbon



1. Spray paint all the mason jar bands inside and out. Let them dry.
2. Tie the lids tight together with the orange ribbon or floral wire.
3. Trim off the excess ribbon or wire.
4. Fan the lids out like a pumpkin.
5. Push the lights inside the pumpkin.
6. Cut two or three leaves out of burlap.
7. Hot glue the leaves to the top.
8. Hot glue the cinnamon sticks into the middle to make a stem.
9. Tie on the raffia to make a bow.

While I did my pumpkin orange, there are endless possibilities with this one! You can do any color you want, any combination of colors, or even leave them plain metal. You can also take strips of decorative paper and glue them to the bands! Let your imagination run wild!



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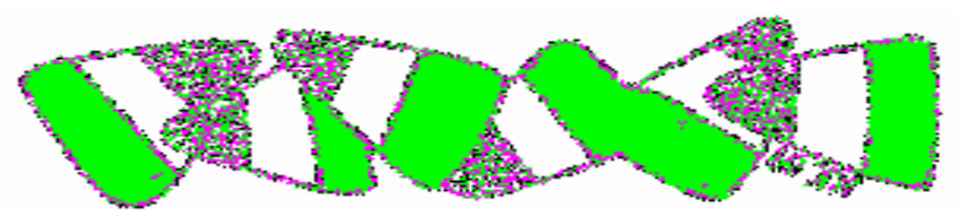
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Where in Minnesota?
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This "Original Duck" located next to the fire department in downtown Blackduck isn't actually the original. It was built in 1942 to replace a less hardy statue. It measures 16 feet long and is made of cement.

A TOUR OF MINNESOTA'S STATE PARKS

Glacial Lakes State Park



The park is located at a crossroads or transition zone between the original prairie land to the west and the central hardwood forests to the east. Only about 1/10 of 1 percent of the original Minnesota prairie remains. The park preserves a portion of rare native prairie including a wide variety of grasses and forbs such as the big and little bluestem grass, Indian grass, prairie clover, pasque flowers, coneflowers, and goldenrods.

You can stand on top of the scenic glacial hills and experience the vast, open prairie which once dominated Minnesota. Wildflowers and prairie grasses blanket the landscape from spring through fall.



Glacial Lakes State Park is located in western Minnesota in a geological area commonly known as the Leaf Hills. This region, a 10- to 19-mile-wide band of glacial hills unlike any other in the state, extends from Detroit Lakes to Willmar. As glacial ice advanced southward, hills and bluffs were sheared off down to the bedrock. Lakes were carved out as well. Signalness Lake, also known as Mountain Lake, is the largest of these lakes.

Picnic at the beach area or swim in the spring-fed waters of Signalness Lake. Restricted to non-motorized and electric motors only, the lake is populated by sunfish, crappies, large-mouth bass, northern pike, yellow perch and walleye. If you don't



have access to a non-motorized boat (which the park does rent out), you can try to catch the fish from a fishing pier near the beach. Reach scenic views by hiking Mardy's Trail around the lake.

If you like to camp, this park has lots of options for you! Among the options there is a horsecamp that features non-electric campsites and five sets of double-tie posts for your horse. Riders can enjoy nine miles of horse trails within

the park. Baby Lake Hike-in site is located two miles from the parking area at the horse camp. Another two miles from the horse camp is the Kettle Lake hike-in site.



This site offers lovely views of the open prairie but does not have any shade or wind protection. Oak campground is another hike-in site nestled amongst the oak trees. More traditional campgrounds are located at the Oakridge campground and lower campground. If you prefer year-round cabins they have those too!

Many species of prairie and woodland birds make their home at Glacial Lakes.

Take the Prairie-Woodland Interpretive Trail or visit marshland areas to see a variety of bird and mammal life. Squirrels, deer, beaver, wood ducks, raccoons, pileated woodpeckers and occasionally coyotes can be seen.

Information from www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks. Visit the website for more information, pictures, hours and fees.

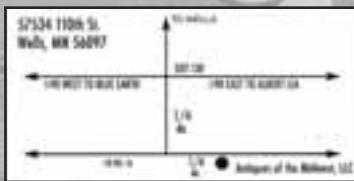


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Writing from Life

by Jeanette Lukowski

Museums

To docent, or not to docent? An interesting question I never thought to ponder, until my recent text-conversation with a friend. I had visited the International Quilt Museum in Lincoln, Nebraska, while she had "herded a group of bowhunters through a car museum" somewhere that same week.

She asked how long it took me, to go through the museum. That was the moment I was presented with this conundrum. (She had a docent, while I did not. She still would have traded with me.)

As a child, we took annual school field trips to museums. The Field Museum, the Art Institute, the Museum of Science & Industry; I pretty much remember them as being boring (with a capital B). First the long bus ride, then the rules of "Stay Together," "Hold hands" (perhaps with a classmate not of our choosing), and "Remain quiet" were paramount throughout the visit. The "guide"—as our teachers referred to them—were often soft-spoken, so I'd miss much of what they said about this or that boring artifact, painting, or diorama we were squishing around to see.

Chaperoning my children's early visits to museums was almost equally disengaging. Being "in charge of" a handful of first graders was more challenging than I had imagined when filling out the volunteer slip on my couch at home.

Visiting art museums of my choice, though, as an adult, has been surprisingly engaging. Like the bus trips I have taken with my mother and her fellow seniors to the Russian Art Museum (with a docent), or to see the Flower Exhibit built around pieces displayed in the Minneapolis Institute of Art (without a docent).

Docents give you some interesting inside information, sometimes. That trip to quickly view the flower arrangements throughout the MIA had me rushing to see them all—but when I heard the fragment a docent was sharing with a group ("Look at Washington's feet, in this painting. If you stand on the left, they face you; if you stand on the right, they still face you").

What? I circled back to check it out for myself, after the group had moved on.

Since the trip to the quilt museum was tied into a visit with a friend, to hand over the flannel rag-style quilt I had assembled for her (purchased 9 years earlier, with the plan of learning how to make it with a mentor-friend), my trek to the museum was a fun "road side stop," if you know what I mean.

In my enthusiasm to visit the International Quilt Museum, I was there when the doors opened (10 a.m.). After all, an entire museum dedicated to what I have considered "just a hobby" was an amazing concept! I hadn't anticipated it being a full-blown museum, you see, and the post-pandemic changes to everything had me happy to just be admitted; no thought about docents being an option.

The "Guided Tours" I read about later, apparently begin every day at 11 a.m.?

I loved my solo visit.



Photo by Sami Haggar

VEXILLOLOGY

by Carol Nixon

A vendor's exhibition of a flag, draped and curled atop a pitchfork in a consignment window peaked my curiosity to inquire of its history. A sign posted in the store entrance, read: "If you see it today, it will be gone tomorrow." Upon closer examination, I spontaneously purchased a piece of Americana, or so I believed. Hoping to gather pertinent information for provenance, the clerk phoned the vendor. She had purchased it from a resident of CT, who in turn, purchased it from an antique store many years ago.

The flag is at least 125 years old. I worried about its wear and tear until I arrived home. Pride filled my heart while I unfolded it. It covered my entire living room floor. Measurements were 5' x 8'. Research led me to learn about Vexillology, the study of flags.

Having 45 stars signified it was a flag of Utah. I contacted an accredited Vexillologist, John Hartvigsen. His residence is in Salt Lake City, Utah. It was an honor to speak with such a cordial Historian/Scholar about a field unknown to me. He is retired from the Colonial Flag Foundation in Sandy, Utah, but is still a historical member actively working with bordering communities and holds many distinguished awards. We eagerly exchanged facts and tentative hypotheses in relation to my flag.

Graciously I related my facts. The top has 2 grommets printed with the name, H. G. Morse, with no significant fading. It appeared to be made of burlap or wool. John then gave his expertise that in fact, the material was wool bunting. "Wind can't go through it as with nylon fabric." "There were several historical facts related to the importance of the 45th flag. Utah entered the Union in 1896. It crossed from one century to another, 1896 - 1908, under the leadership of Presidents Cleveland, McKinley, and Teddy Roosevelt. John Philip Sousa was inspired to compose "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

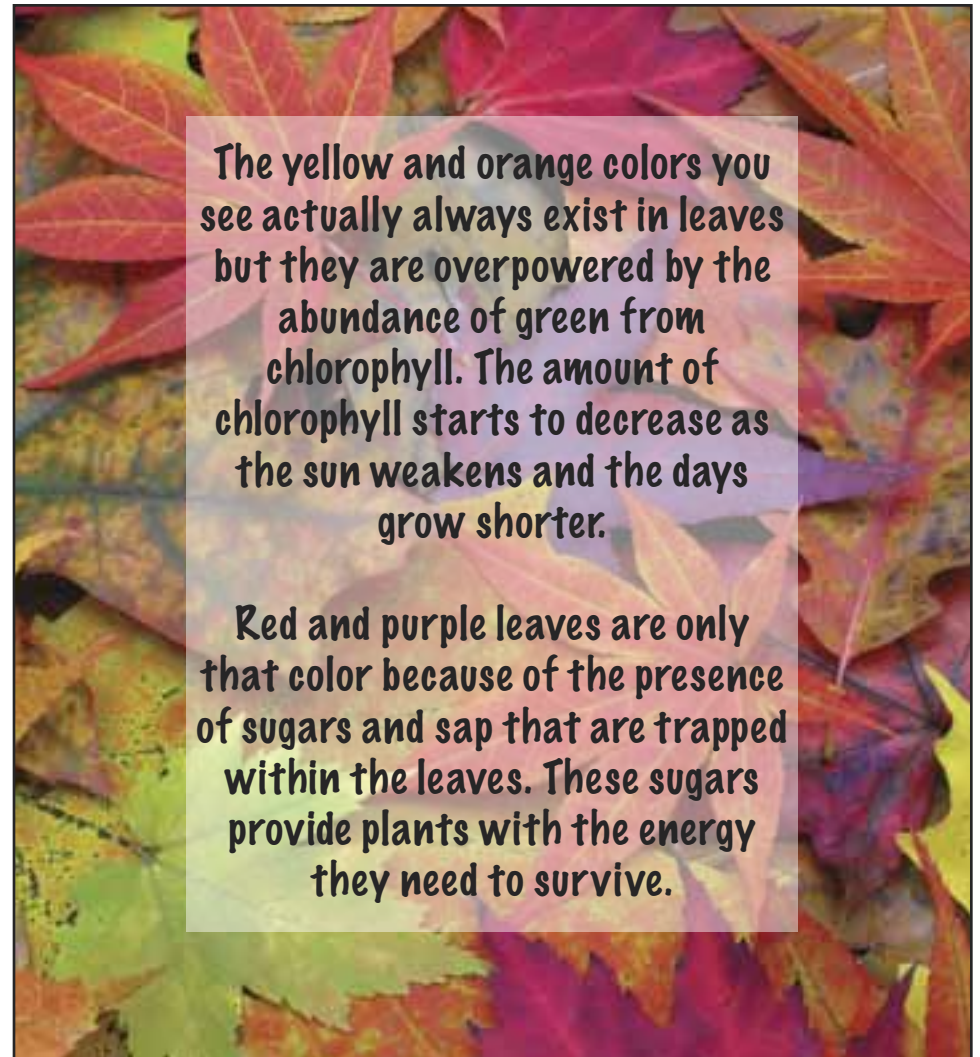
Both of us could use some help from History Detectives. This story will end with uncertainty. "H. G. Morse, could the inscription stand for Captain Hiram Gardner Morse? Answers will have to wait to see if there is a correlation with the flag and Captain Morse. John went on to say everything is tentative at this point. Who can approve or disapprove? Any living relatives, perhaps great grandchildren, would be hard to locate. Would they have any positive intake on Captain Morse and the flag?" For more than 50 years, Hiram Morse navigated the Seas, serving as Commander and Captain.

I'm privileged to own this flag.

If there is any information which could tie this flag with Captain Morse, please submit your findings to: www.linkedin.com/in/john-hartvigsen-7957269.



New Ulm



The yellow and orange colors you see actually always exist in leaves but they are overpowered by the abundance of green from chlorophyll. The amount of chlorophyll starts to decrease as the sun weakens and the days grow shorter.

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Happy Fall Y'all

First Quilt Pattern Printed in America

by Rachel Greco

A popular quilt pattern of the 1830s was the Hexagon pattern, also known as Honeycomb or Mosaic Patchwork. This pattern, the oldest quilt pattern printed in America, was first published in 1831. Even before its publication, there were many American quilts of this style, as evidenced by those quilts that have been found and documented with dates far earlier than this first publication.

Research has shown that the hexagon pattern appears to have originated in England as far back as the 18th Century. Templates for these quilts have been found in England and were made as early as 1770, although the earliest known (and documented) American-made hexagon quilt is dated 1807.

Most of these early hexagon quilts were made using the English Paper Piecing Method, which consisted of first creating a paper hexagon pattern for each hexagon. Fabric was then cut one-fourth inch larger than the paper pattern for a seam allowance. The fabric was turned down over the edge of the paper pattern and basted in place. After completing a number of these hexagons, the edges of two pieces were lined up, front sides together, and whip stitched into place. Fabrics used included chintz or calico with color patterns ranging from dark to light brown or sometimes blue. A design appeared when six of these hexagons were sewn together to form a ring.

In 1831, the pattern Hexagon Patch-Work appeared in *American Girl's Book or Occupation for Play Hours*, written by Eliza Leslie, a well-known 19th century American author. A note accompanying the illustration explained that this type of patchwork could be made "in various forms, as stars, triangles, diamonds, waves, stripes, squares &c." The author described how to sew the hexagons together to create a ring and then how to connect each ring to create a quilt.

In the January 1835 issue of *Godey's Ladies Book*, editor Sarah Hale printed the design and instructions for creating a hexagon quilt. The text accompanying the pattern read, "Perhaps there is not patchwork that is prettier or more ingenious [...] then the hexagon, or six-sided, this is also called honey-comb patchwork."

One hundred years later, hexagon quilts continued to be popular. Unlike earlier 19th century hexagon quilts, by the 1930s, these quilts were bright and cheerful. A typical hexagon ring might consist of a solid yellow for the center, with colorful prints and solids in subsequent rows. They began to be called "Grandmother's Flower Garden," which could be a result of a hexagon pattern that appeared in the Grandmother Clark catalog. In this presentation, the rings were surrounded by a field of white or green to accent the design. Each hexagon was then hand quilted one-fourth inch away from each seam line. And, like their predecessors, all of the work was done by hand.

In her book, *Clues in the Calico*, published in 1989, Quilt Historian Barbara Brackman has noted that the hexagon design "sustained its popularity across the decades, changing from chintz to silk to wool to calicoes, first in brown cottons, then grays and then pastels."

Today, 1930s style hexagon quilts or their component parts can be found in antique shops, people's attics and flea markets. Although not many are made today, hexagon quilts are reminiscent of days gone by and these quilts continue to be a crowd favorite.

Rachel Greco owns Grandma's Attic, a traditional quilt shop in Dallas, Oregon. A quilt historian and avid reader, she gives talks on needlework as well as the role of women in American history and their connection to fabric. She has authored several books and patterns, and runs Grandma's Quilt Club, a monthly quilt class where participants collect quilt blocks, learn about quilt history and make new friends. Look for her at <https://grandmasatticquilting.com>.



Ann's Lovin' Ewe

by Ann Stewart

Novel Writing 101

You make a difference in a novel way! When I submit a manuscript to a publisher, I must list my platform. My platform includes all the places I have a readership, including social media and columns. With its huge readership spreading across North America, The Country Register is a big help to me! Now I need my platform (you) to dive into *Out of the Water*, my latest novel.

A few years ago, my agent asked me, "What is your next book about?"

Good question. I didn't have a clue. Not until I drove across Washington state pondering what fascinates me most: adoption and the search for biological parents. The title came from when Pharoah's daughter rescued Moses by drawing him "out of the water." The stories of rescue and reconciliation took me from Ireland to Boston to Charlottesville, Virginia, to Priest Lake, and even my hometown of Bothell, Washington. What joy to place beloved characters in my favorite places; one character even opens the novel with lambing in Deer Lodge, Montana!

My press kit shares the following information:

"Christy Award winning author, Ann Marie Stewart delivers a poignant and heart-felt novel revealing five generations of secrets. Stories unravel from the stony cliffs of Kilrush, Ireland, to the pandemic grieving Boston 1919, and from a battle-front near St. Denis, France to Seattle 1981 in the search for healing.

Irish immigrant Siobhan Kildea's impetuous flight from a Boston lover in 1919 lands her in the unfamiliar prison town of Deer Lodge, Montana, and with a new family. Her one link to the past is Antonio who maintains a connection by trading a letter for a book, as their friendship continues through familiar classics. After a horrific tragedy, Siobhan's farm and family threaten to unravel. Meanwhile, nurse Genevieve Marchand's career takes an unusual turn when placed on the French battlefield in 1919. When she returns stateside, she finds the absence of a certain soldier her greatest loss. Music teacher Anna Hanson tucked herself away in the small town of Darrington, Washington, thinking her story and secret were safe. And childless Erin Ellis thought she won the lottery when she and her husband adopted, but even Erin cannot answer all of her daughter's questions about the "other mother". When Claire Ellis sets out to find her biological mother in 1981, she has no idea the generations of stories she will unearth and the ultimate restoration they will bring."

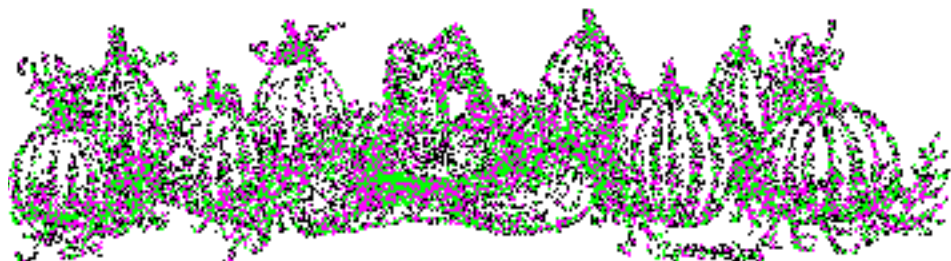
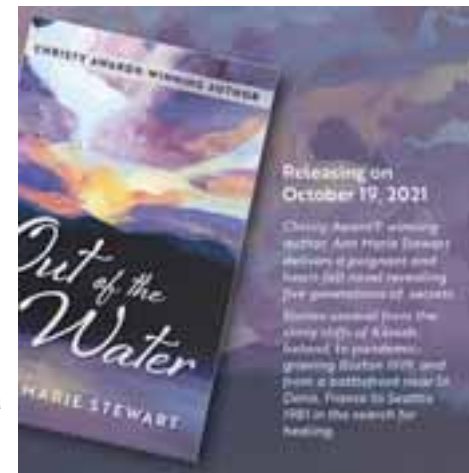
How can you help your "Ann's Lovin' Ewe" columnist?

- Go to your local bookstore and ask for *Out of the Water* before October 19 to make sure it will be on the shelf.
- Write on your calendar to order *Out of the Water* presale sometime before October 19.
- Select *Out of the Water* for your next book club read. It's perfect for discussion because of the various mothers and the difficult choices they have to make for their children.
- After purchasing a copy, make sure your library will stock it.
- Connect with me on my website www.annmariestewart.com and let me know when I can join in your book club discussion via ZOOM.
- Post a picture on social media of you reading the book.
- Post a sentence or two on Amazon and Goodreads and any social media with your thoughts.
- Order novels for Christmas gifts

YOU helped me get a contract. Now I'd love my readers to plunge into *OUT OF THE WATER* and come out telling everybody else to pick up a copy! Here's your invitation to love on the columnist for "Ann's Lovin' Ewe."

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Ann's latest novel *Out of the Water* releases October 19. www.annmariestewart.com



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Reckless Abandon

by Aminta Geisler

my joy went missing...

This week, my joy went missing. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't seem to find it. I think it may have gotten buried underneath expensive car repairs, sick kids, big decisions, a mountain of to-dos, job rejections and lack of sleep.

As I was lamenting my lack of joy to the Lord this morning, he gently corrected me. He reminded me that my joy is not supposed to be found in my circumstances, it is supposed to be found in my

Savior. No matter what I am going through, I can still have joy because of my God.

There is great joy to be found in the depth of God's love for his people; both who he is and what he has done for us.

- He is always: loving, kind, patient, merciful, good, holy, sovereign, gracious, majestic and so much more. *He is all we need.*

- He sent his son to pay the penalty for our sins and in doing so, he made a way for us to be with him in eternity. *He gave us an incredible gift.*

His love is ALWAYS cause for great joy.

Psalm 84:11-12, "For the Lord is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right. O Lord of Heaven's Armies, what joy for those who trust in you."

Friends, if joy is elusive, lift your eyes to heaven and gaze at the Creator. Sing worship songs to him, read Psalms to him, and bask in his presence. Joy will find you.

Aminta Geisler is married to her best friend, Ben, and is a stay-at-home-mom of two teens and two toddlers. A self-proclaimed Jesus freak, she loves making old furniture new, studying God's word, and all things pizza. You can read more about her journey of reckless abandon for Jesus on her blog @amintageisler.com, in her monthly newsletter, or by following on instagram @amintageisler



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Sign up for space, Free to sign up [Not a Class]

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Back to School!



Grading Antiques and Collectibles – How Much is This Worth?

By Ed Kindle

What makes an item valuable is a difficult question to answer simply as there are many things that factor into what makes one item more valuable than another. Let's see if we can make some sense out of this.

Scarcity – Simply put, how many did they produce and how many are left on the open market. Items that were made in the millions are just not ever going to be as valuable as items that were made in limited numbers. This is supply and demand's basic tenant.

Condition – Mint condition items bring the best prices. Unless something is so rare that you will be happy to get one in any condition, the more defects something has, the more points you take off. Scratches, missing parts/pieces, no original box, faded colors etc, all detract from an item's value. You can add points if it's in its original packaging. Sometimes having the original box can double the value of an item. This is especially true with toys.

Desirability – The more people who want something, the more the price goes up. This fluctuates with trends & tastes. NASCAR items were selling like hotcakes several years ago and now, they sell for pennies on the dollar because they are just not popular.

Location – Believe it or not, where you live can have a large impact on values especially in items like furniture. Heavy large oak furniture or primitives are much less in vogue in Florida verses the northeast.

Market trends – The trend right now that we are seeing is many members of "The Greatest Generation" are passing on and leaving large collections of items like china and glass and also hand sewn items like quilts and doilies. The younger folks who are inheriting these items really do not want them, so they are selling them cheap and since this is flooding the market, the values are dropping.

In addition to all this, when we talk about antiques and collectibles, we use different words and definitions to describe them as related to their condition. This is especially important when buying or selling an item online when you can't touch or examine the item in person. A good description and clear photos can make or break a deal. Let's take a look at some of these descriptors and what they mean.

Mint – Merriam Webster defines this as "unmarred as if fresh from a mint". We would use this to describe an item in perfect condition. For a book or magazine, it would mean unread and absolutely nary a crease or wrinkle. For other items, as it came from the factory and if in its original packaging, we would call it "mint in the box."

Near-mint – This would describe an item that may show minimal wear but would still be close to mint condition.

Very fine – Showing moderate evidence of wear. You could also use just the descriptor of fine.

Good – It's seen a bit of life, but still very useable; It's obvious the item has been cherished and used per it's function, but it has life left and/or could be lightly restored.

Poor – Major flaws are evident, and the item may have parts or pieces missing. It would need a major restoration to be useable or a candidate for a repurposing project.

The problem when we talk about grading an item whether we are the seller, or the buyer is that these terms are very subjective. In addition, nearly every genre of item such as comics, coins, ephemera, furniture, cars, diamonds, jewelry, books, autographs, wines and more, all have their own specific grading scales.

For vinyl records, it could be Mint, Near mint, Excellent, Very good plus, Very good, Good, Poor or Fair. In addition the record may be graded separately from the jacket and inner sleeve giving three different grades.

For coins and paper monies, you could be using a scale such as Brilliant uncirculated,

Uncirculated, About uncirculated, Extremely fine, Very fine, Fine, Very good, Good, About good, Fair, and Poor.

In addition, you have scales that will use an in between marker such as Fine /Very Fine and show it as FN/VF. Yes, in some markets this is what we call splitting hairs and it can get very confusing, very quickly.

This all can lead to some serious bewilderment for the buyer of antiques and collectibles. I usually try to avoid these types of labels and describe what the item is and what's its general age is. The labels I usually use, especially with vintage or antique toys are original, new old stock, or reproduction.

New old stock is used when an item is in its original packaging and is a left-over item that has been preserved as if it could be still sitting on a store's shelf for sale. Many items bought from serious collectors can fit in this category. Original would be an item that has not been modified in any way and will show some use or wear. Reproductions both good and bad are abundant in every category, so again be careful and do your homework.

There is obviously much more to this than we can cover in a short column. Take some time to chat with long time collectors and read all you can online. Another great source of information that can now be found reasonably priced are out of date price guides.

Old collector guides can be had for very little investment these days. Even though the values are well out of date, they are great references for learning and many have lots of full color images to help you learn about the items and identifying them. If you collect, you can mark off in the guide the pieces you own, and make notes about where you bought it and how much you paid and condition. This helps when you are buying when travelling so duplicates are not purchased. Keeping this type of journal also helps for insurance claims or police reports if you suffer a loss.

Good luck buying and selling and remember, as you grade your items, be fair, be flexible and remember to have fun.

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Cowgirl Poet, Quilter, Entertainer



Yvonne Hollenbeck

Our Guild's Next Quilt Show

He sits all alone in his old easy chair;
a-flippin' the channels, his wife is not there.
She's gone to a "Quilting" like she does every day.
It seems any more that he's just in the way.

His old shirt needs patching, there's a button that's gone.
He once had good meals, now it's a box bought from Schwann's.
The house is a-clutter, there's cloth everywhere
in boxes, on tables, on all of the chairs.

There should be a shelter for the husbands of gals
who are busy with quilting and neglect their poor spouse;
they could start a "Support Group" and all they would need
is a TV, Remote, and an occasional feed.

I have an idea! That will relieve all our guilt;
We'll have all the guilds make some nice raffle quilts;
and sell lots of chances and take all the money
For a nice "half-way house" made especially for honeys

Of all of us quilters, and there they could go
With a Big Screen TV for their rotten old shows;
and there have companions with those other guys....
...the husbands of quilters, now that would be nice!

It would be a big building so there'd be room for them all,
with even a Golf Course and a great big Mess Hall.

It would be so darned nice that us ladies would go
there to hang up our quilts for our guild's next Quilt Show!

© Yvonne Hollenbeck; 2021

Yvonne Hollenbeck, from Clearfield, SD, performs her original poetry throughout the United States, captivating audiences in her wake. She is one of the most published cowgirl poets in the West and is not only a popular banquet and civic entertainer, but also co-writes songs with many western entertainers. Yvonne also pens a weekly column in the "Farmer-Rancher Exchange" and writes articles about life in rural America in various publications throughout the West. For more information, visit <https://www.yvonnehollenbeck.com>

Happy Halloween

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APPLE CRISP

375° Serves Six

- 4 med. peeled, sliced, green apples
- 1 c. fresh cranberries
- 3/4 c. firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 c. flour
- 1/2 c. oats
- 3/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 3/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/3 c. softened butter

Preheat oven to 375°. Butter a square baking pan. Place apple slices in pan & scatter half the cranberries over. Mix together topping ingredients, gently mix in remaining cranberries & sprinkle over apples. Bake 30 min. till apples are tender & topping is golden brown. ♥



CELEBRATE
FALL

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