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Weeding the Summer Garden

by Kerri Habben Bosman

I weeded our garden this summer morning before the swelter of the day snuck in. I worked beneath a nicely overcast sky, surrounded by a quiet breeze with the slightest hint of rain in it. I migrated from garden bed to garden bed, welcoming each arriving thought as I listened to the world breathe.

I talked to the tomatoes and smiled at the watermelon. I checked the cucumber plants, happy to see that more were growing after yesterday's harvest. I shook my head at the plethora of mint, swiping my hand across it to bring forth its aroma. I pondered the tiny purple flowers on the thyme. I transplanted seven pepper plants to a better spot, silently apologizing as I uprooted them. I secured them gently but firmly into their new place, and watered them right away with a promise to come back soon.

My husband, Wayne, says it is an act of faith to plant a garden. Each winter as our seedlings sit in the front window, we eagerly await each new stage of their development. We plant dormant seeds with prayerful hopes, hoping that our care, their environment, and uncontrolled circumstance will support their growth into the best plant they can be. We rejoice from the first tendrils to the last vegetable or flower when autumn is coming upon us. We clear out for the last months of the year and wait to start all over again.

Much of our summer garden began on a winter's day in January when I brought out all the seeds we'd saved from last year. Zinnias, marigolds, peppers, and tomatoes. The beans, carrots, sugar snap peas we had to buy. And of course, I bought plants. Except for spoiling grandchildren, we are frugal. With Scottish and German backgrounds between us, we cannot escape it. However, putting me in a plant nursery in late April with a credit card is possibly more dangerous than sending a shopaholic to the mall. Thankfully I have a lot of willpower, but often something beautiful and new to me simply jumps into my cart.

We bought our cucumber plants from our 16 year-old-grandson, Hunter. He grew them in his high school horticulture class, and then they had a plant sale. Cucumbers don't always grow well here at the coast. Because he planted the seeds and nurtured them, we especially wanted them to bear fruit. Even if it was just one cucumber, his efforts would be a success. We are grateful to be enjoying many a cucumber salad.

And, like I said at the beginning of this article, I plucked out the ever-tenacious "Pflanzeichwillnichts." (This is my very own botanical name for a weed. It is a combination of German and Latin, meaning "plant that I do not want.") Along the way, I made mental notes as to how the plants I do want are growing, deadheading as I go. I find a bit of irony in weeding-as I meticulously cull a concentrated area, I am also focusing on the entire garden. I feel the surrounding beauty and the grace of being alive. This creates a precious cohesion, an acceptance of all that is and all that is not.

Our garden of life these last few years has been partially fertilized by loss and sorrow. They churned up the soil of who we are, and these emotions are still breaking down into nutrients that will somehow serve us. Yet, through it all, we resettled our roots, trusting the journey in this strange soil, and we were given enough water and enough light to grow into a new season.

Now, I must go to check the transplanted peppers, smile at the cucumber plants, and pause gratefully at the tender, tiny flowers of thyme.

Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer living in Cape Carteret, NC.

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One person will be drawn from the correct entries to be named as the winner in next issue. The correct entry drawn from last issue was from Neva Larson of Fort Walton Beach.



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Age Matters

Only if You're Counting

by Barbara Kalkis

I was feeling pretty perky about the country's 250th anniversary and even planning a family gathering until I had a conversation with a casual acquaintance. In a somber voice, he mentioned that he is old enough to remember our country's 200th anniversary. The thought of clearly remembering a major event 50 long years ago made him feel old. Realizing that I also fondly remembered 1976, my perky attitude died as quickly as a mosquito hit by a bug zapper.

Rather than dwell on how I've spent the last 50 years, I decided to consider age in a disciplined, logical manner. Difficult to do. After all, society is consumed by the ages of everyone we know and those we don't know but who are related to those we do know. We color our hair to hide the gray. We erase wrinkles with magic creams and medical procedures. We work out at fitness clubs with gusto and the determination of professional athletes. Health foods become meal staples. Conversations dwell on ways to stay healthy, what vitamins to take, how to maintain balance, how to be a 'super-ager,' avoiding unrefrigerated leftover foods that create toxic bacteria. (Cooked rice! Who knew???)

Taking a different approach, I took out a packet of 1976 quarters that I still have. Remember them? Yes, you may admit it. A colonial patriot is beating a drum; adjacent, 13 stars representing the colonies encircle a flaming torch. Below it are the immortal Latin words, "e pluribus unum," or "from many one," that beautiful concept of a diverse population united by love of country. The words, "United States of America... Quarter Dollar" circle the coin's edge. Every essential image packed in just under 1-inch diameter.

Then I started to consider things older than I am. When in doubt, think about crafts. My first thought was that stitching things together had to have occurred on the final day in the Garden of Eden. On a more logical trend, I remembered spinning fibers and weaving linen into clothing and tanning animal skins into hats, coats, shoes happened in our earliest history. Anonymous painters like the one of Lascaux, France's ancient caves, covered the walls with vivid likenesses of racing horses, deer and bulls.

In America, weaving, shaping bowls and grinding grain were mainstays of natives and, later, Pilgrims. Quilting was a mandatory job to make blankets. Children embroidered alphabet samplers with decorative stitches. Cooking was required to survive.

In the late 1800s, astute homemakers wrote books that elevated every housewife's tedious role into "craft". Suddenly, it wasn't just cooking anymore. Authors instructed readers how to design nutritious meals, sew clothing and decorative items. Most importantly, the books explained how to create budgets and manage household expenses under the title of "home economics."

With that history in mind, I feel better about age. As with all the anonymous people who lived in North America or came to it, building, creating, designing, inventing, painting, "making do" and doing what was necessary to make a home was the start of crafting. Folks just didn't know it then. Today we have the luxury of crafting for comfort, beauty and celebrating our imagination to make something beautiful or useful. Crafting is the heart of every national anniversary. It's not about numerical ages on a personal or even a national level. It's about ensuring that the age we live in and our own stage of life build on the past, celebrate the present and gift the future with new talents and new perspectives. Happy birthday, America! Here's cheers for the next 250 years!

©Barbara Kalkis, 2026. Barbara is a writer, teacher and marketing consultant. Her poetry book is Little Ditties for Every Day: A Collection of Thoughts in Rhyme and Rhythm. She believes happiness lies in not thinking about age – hers or anyone else's.



Rachel and Grace with their boyfriends on a recent trip.



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The drawing will be made prior to the next issue. The winner will be mailed information on redeeming their certificate and also announced in the next issue.

Note: We do not place your information on any mailing list.

And the Winner is...

Our winner from last issue is Joy Sima. Joy will receive a gift certificate to spend at Meg's Quilt Cottage in Sebring.

She enjoys this shop because "everyone's so nice and lots of fabric!"

Congratulations Joy!

The Florida Register Gift Certificate Entry Form

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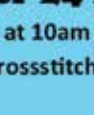
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KISSed Quilts

Take a Ride Into the Countryside

by Marlene Oddie

For over a decade I have been designing quilts with Island Batik fabrics. They are now a division of Lumin Fabrics and I'm honored that they asked if I'd put my name to one of the fabric collections designed by Jerry Khiev. I selected this beautiful blue and yellow collection – *Countryside Charm* – as my first Signature Collection.

Various values of blue and yellow create a pleasing palette that is just happy! The motifs are a variety of floral patterns, leaves and small petal shapes.

I've designed four primary patterns and a couple of them have bonus designs included.

Angled Shadows – you may recognize the block that I designed last year as part of our All Pacific Northwest Shop Hop event. This version of it doesn't include any sashings and has a consistent background throughout the quilt. This is easily constructed when using AnglePlay® templates for the half rectangle triangles. Having angled shadows is something new to our industry! Enjoy the 3-d effect.



Honeycomb – Used my newly designed Half Hexi template, that maximizes the use of a 10” square and can cut a half or whole hexi, the setting elements and corners, to make this quilt. The template has holes where the 1/4” intersections are to help facilitate marking your seam start and stop points. Bonus: Make a simple wallhanging with your favorite fabrics. This concept could be used with any collection.

This one may be familiar, but looks quite different than one you might have seen a few years ago. This is because I'm using a light medium value blue consistently for the vertical rectangle instead of a darker value. This may look difficult to construct but uses strata techniques to make it simple. This tile pattern can be found at the entrance of Sintra Palace in Portugal. I've chosen to color it quite differently.



Hearts-a-Bloom – Using the corner-to-corner technique you'll get bonus half square triangles. So I used them in a bonus design—Windy Pinwheels. You could also just make one block set and frame it as a wallhanging.

These fabrics, templates and patterns are shipping to your local quilt shop now. If you need patterns, templates, fabrics and/or kits—please ask!



Marlene Oddie, of Grand Coulee, WA, is an engineer by training, a project manager by profession, and a quilter by passion. At her quilt shop, KISSed Quilts, she quilts for hire on a Gammill Optimum Plus and especially enjoys designing quilts and helping create meaningful keepsakes. Fabrics, patterns, kits, and templates are available at kissedquilts.com. Follow Marlene's adventures on Facebook and Instagram.



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America The Great

by Janet Young

As we enter the 250th Anniversary of our nation, let us be ever mindful of the impact the signing of the Declaration of Independence signifies.

Signed in 1776 in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, this document shaped the future of our country as it stated that all people are created equal, and are empowered by unalienable rights, to which we adhere to this day. Through this document our freedoms were granted. The establishment of this nation was built on God-fearing men, who wanted to escape Britain's religious persecution, taxes, and social constraints.

Many believed that the Hand of God enabled them to win the wars. In fact, the reference to God's Hands is a symbol of peace, strength, and the ability to see His influence in all things. For example, when George Washington was preparing for battle, fog appeared overnight which enabled Washington and his troops to escape. Abraham Lincoln referencing "this Nation under God," encouraged the people to stay and pray for this country, which further supports the idea of divine guidance. Americans have always believed in God's help in winning the war, and this nation was their commitment to putting "In God We Trust" on our currency. Many examples show that these men clearly felt God's Providence was upon them.

Just as the men and women of yesterday, fought for our freedom; so too, our brave men and women of today are fighting to keep our nation safe and free. Let's not destroy that which we have fought for so hard these many years.

There is no question the United States of America is by far the greatest country ever. Let us not destroy it from within. We reap what we sow. So tonight, when you put your head on your pillow, I trust that you will thank God for this country and pray that as a nation we will come back to Him. For our country was built on Godly principles. If we turn our backs on God, He will let us go on our narrow ways. Remember America is the greatest country ever born, let us not destroy it.

Happy 250th America!

© Janet Young is a Certified Tea and Etiquette Consultant, Co-Founder of Mid-Atlantic Tea Business Association, and prior owner of Over The Teacup

The image shows the logo for 'THE QUILTER'S COTTAGE' which includes a line drawing of a quilt hanging on a line, a small cottage, and a tree. Below the drawing is the text 'THE QUILTER'S COTTAGE' in a serif font, with 'FABRIC SHOP' in a smaller sans-serif font underneath. Below the logo are three small photographs: the first shows a quilted table runner on a wooden floor; the second shows a display of quilts and fabric on a white table; the third shows shelves stocked with various fabric bolts. At the bottom of the image is the 'Grace COMPANY' logo in blue script and 'SINGER' in red bold letters, followed by the text 'Now offering E2E Longarm Services'. Below this is a list of services: '• Notions • Threads • Patterns • Kits • Gifts •'. The address '10879 US 301 Suite 2 • Oxford Florida 34484' is listed, followed by the phone number '352 - 816 - 9133'. The business hours are 'Tuesday - Friday 9am - 4pm' and 'Saturday 10am - 2pm'. Social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are shown, along with the website 'www.thequilterscottage.com'.

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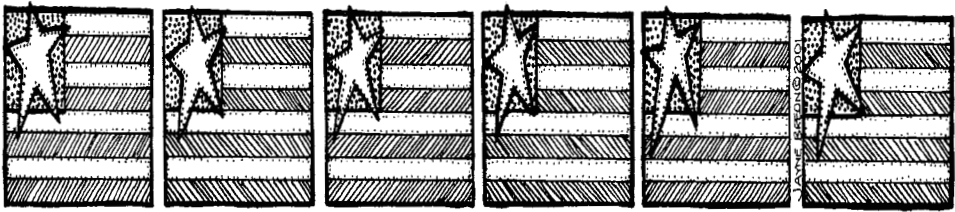
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Life in Skunk Hollow

Christmas in July

by Julie A. Druck

I've been thinking a lot about Christmas lately – more specifically, about Christmas trees. The thoughts have been coming as I wander through the newly-planted Christmas tree field on the hill above our little house. I've taken to walking through the grassy field most evenings at dusk, praying over and blessing the trees – that they would grow strong and well as they work their way to maturity over the next 7 years.

In addition to a growing beef cattle herd, our son, Caleb, and his wife, Abby, are trying this new venture on the fifty-acre farm on which both our families live. Our son is a thorough researcher and meticulous implementer of any new project that he takes on. So, after much planning and paperwork, he purchased 1,100 Canaan and Douglas Fir seedlings. And over a period of three days in late spring, our family helped put those baby trees into the ground. Four generations from Caleb and Abby's families turned out to help at various times over those days. From Caleb's grandfather who helped dig holes to little nieces and nephews who watered the baby seedlings with cups from a bucket, it truly was a family affair.

Caleb told me that he heard 7-year-old Joshua gently talking to one of the trees as he watered its base. Josh's encouragement of "Grow, baby, grow" is the same desire of all those who helped – from the ones who babysat Caleb and Abby's toddler son (who was more interested in eating dirt than planting trees), to Abby's sister who helped tuck trees into the ground while her newborn son was tucked into his swaddle against her, to those who golf carted bucket after bucket of water to the field, and the ones who dug (seemingly) countless holes. We're all eager to see the growth and harvest of the crop.

And therein lies a tendency I recognize within myself – that of wanting to jump to the end of a process – no matter if I'm making something, reading a book, or waiting for trees to grow. The process can sometimes feel like an interference to the ending. Sometimes I just want to have the gift without the bother of opening it! And yet, I'm slowly realizing (in a lot of areas of life) that the process, the journey, IS the gift.

You know, the length of time we have on this earth is unknown to us. There's no guarantee that I'll actually see those trees grow to fruition or ever have the privilege of having one decorate our home during the holiday season. But if I focus on the beauty of the process instead of jumping ahead, I realize that seeing the end of the trees' maturity isn't the only, or even the primary gift. One gift that's already been realized because of these Christmas tree seedlings has been the blessing of family working together for a common purpose. And that purpose goes far beyond a farming venture. For this year, we planted more than just trees. We planted common memories – memories of the joy and sweetness there is in helping one another. The process of doing a job together is just as valuable and as precious as tall, mature Christmas trees. And so, in a sense, beauty has already begun coming to fruition, and these seven years of waiting will provide more opportunity to discover, delight in, and be thankful for all the gifts that will surface in the process.

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

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Ann's Lovin' Ewe

by Ann Marie Stewart

57 Questions of Life

With the passing of a loved one, we lose generations of knowledge, thoughts, wisdom, and a resource of history. No more can we find the answers to our questions. That thought begs us to consider what words are important to leave behind. Thoughts about this were spurred after reading **The Frozen River**.

Author Ariel Lawhon claims she "collects" people for her novels. Ironically, she "collected" 1780's midwife Martha Ballard at her OB-GYN when she picked up Our Daily Bread and read the August 1, 2008 devotional about an 18th Century midwife who had delivered over a thousand babies and never lost a mother.

Then she discovered that Martha Ballard's daily medical notations became a legacy and medical and historical record compiled and turned into a biography by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich on which Lawhon based **The Frozen River**.

So you see, Martha would be forgotten and her medical wisdom lost were it not for the fact that her words still have power.

What about you? What words do you need to record for future generations?

Blank Book. If you're like me, you probably have a blank book like Martha's just sitting around the house. Or you could pick up a pretty one for your nightstand. It's not a diary, but a place to collect:

- Nightly thoughts
- Favorite Bible verses
- Beautiful quotes and sayings
- Something you learned that day
- A line from a book you read
- Memories

OR you could record memories of your kids or grandkids. During Covid when I daily walked the eight-mile trail with my friend Barb, she told me funny and poignant stories of her grands. "I hope you're recording these!" I'd tell her. I didn't want the stories lost or forgotten because I knew her grands would one day appreciate the retelling.

You could record:

- Something your kids or grands said that day
- Something your kids did or learned that day
- Some wise advice they gave you
- Some wise advice you want to give them

Memories are important. Recently someone sent me a decade-old letter my grandfather had written in a November birthday card to his son, Abram. Since it was near Christmas, Grandpa wrote about Baby Jesus having swaddling clothes then compared it to when their family fled Russia and my grandmother had no diapers for their six-day-old infant Abram. But someone had donated a few shirts and so his young wife cut off the sleeves and turned them into diapers! This was a precious fact I added to my novel.

I only knew this fact because it was written in a letter and saved and passed down to me. Whether emails, letters, or journals, find a way to record and preserve memories.

I was blessed to interview my grandparents about their escape from Russia and the child they left behind. These memories became the novel **The Remnants: One Family's Escape from Stalin's Russia** which will be available in October 2026. Please go to my website at www.AnnMarieStewart.com to learn more.

Your Questions. To help with your own research, I have compiled a list of questions from AmericanAncestors.org and VisitingAngels.com that can help YOU prompt loved ones to tell you about their lives. Or use the questions to start recording for the generations who follow you. You can download the 57 questions off my website at AnnMarieStewart.com Then print and start writing, talking and listening.





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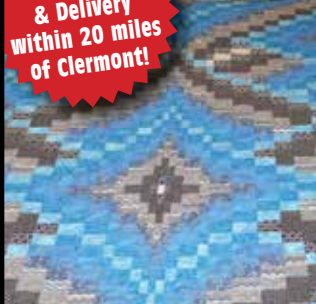
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The 250th Anniversary of the United States: Ideas and Ideals

by Nancy J. Nash

In the 1890's, a man named Dietrich was a blacksmith at the Wilhelmshaven naval shipyard in Germany. The story is told that one day he spoke to his younger brother, Wilhelm, and gave him a warning.

"I'm not supposed to tell you this," he said. "I could lose my job for divulging this secret. But down at the shipyard, we're not making cargo ships for world trade like the Kaiser wants the public to believe. We're putting guns on them. We're building battleships and preparing for war.... Don't stay in this country. You have to leave again."

Wilhelm had already lived for a short time in the Midwestern United States with his wife and son before returning home to Germany. There they were blessed with the birth of another child, Sophia. The young father bemoaned the lack of job opportunities he had had as a carpenter in the Midwest. But now there was another reason to return: trouble was brewing in his native country. He knew he had to heed Dietrich's advice.

Wilhelm and his family crossed the ocean to Ellis Island, landing on July 3, 1894. Little Sophie was almost three years old. She watched, transfixed, as her parents bowed and kissed the ground in gratitude for a new homeland. She never forgot.

The family settled in Illinois, where Sophie grew up on a farm, as did her daughters after her. One of them later married into my family and became my aunt. She was raised to value freedom, and all her life, she embraced the sense of responsibility on which freedom rests.

A number of years ago, my brother wrote *Books and the Founding Fathers*, a study of the literature that influenced the drafting of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. Our Founders thought deeply, read widely, and attempted to articulate principles that they could then apply to forging a system of government responsive to the will of its citizens.

Over and over, they affirmed the need for virtue and integrity among the people of the new nation. Ultimately, the success of the American experiment would depend upon the ability of its foundational ideas to live in the minds of the citizens and the power of its ideals to sustain their willingness to sacrifice.

The Founders gleaned wisdom from the works of ancient philosophers and from Judeo-Christian scripture (with its emphasis on freedom, justice, equality, and human worth). Thus was born a nation different from all other nations - one that replaced kings and queens with a few carefully crafted pieces of paper that contained an enduring blueprint for the American republic.

The United States is not simply a place of prosperity or a distinctive landscape. At its heart is a set of principles of government intended to honor human dignity and to form a sturdy framework for freedom. Its ideals continually demand our attention and challenge us to think soberly and wisely.

Sophie grew up to marry the son of English immigrants. England and Germany fought each other in the First World War, but the life of the young couple in America was one of peace. It was also rigorous, working a farm without running water and electricity for many years. But Sophie had seen her parents kiss the ground in this new land, and she never forgot their gratefulness for the opportunity to escape oppression and to embrace liberty. Neither did my aunt.

Their memorable heritage is like fabric in a patchwork quilt, its colors and designs blending with others in a unique and vibrant pattern 250 years in the making.

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Nancy is the author of *Mama's Books: An Oregon Trail Story* and *Little Rooster's Christmas Eve*, both available at amazon.com. She holds a B.A. in English composition from Mount Holyoke College and an M.F.A. in Writing for Children from Simmons College. She may be reached at tradi2@verizon.net.

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Lakeland

Those Were The Days!

Advertising in Song

In this day and age of instant communication, radio & TV, internet, social media and the like, it is a challenge to think back to a time when none of these existed. Radio, the first mass communication medium didn't emerge until the 2nd quarter of the 20th century.

Magazines and newspapers were the primary source of news and information... albeit delayed.

The telephone, patented in 1876, allowed person-to-person communication. A year later, Thomas Edison introduced the phonograph. For the first time people could hear recordings of voices and music.

Until then, music and performances could only be heard live. That's why the piano was the most popular instrument in the American home. It was the family's entertainment medium. To keep up with the latest songs and music, the sheet music industry exploded in the 19th century. The industry changed from simple covers to colorful, eye-catching covers to lure customers into making a purchase.

Sheet music (initially called "music sheets") in itself offered opportunities to publish historic classical scores and other instrumental music. But the medium soon opened up to song sheets that could tell stories of love and romance, humorous experiences, travels and news events like in "The Wreck of the Titanic." Anything a composer could come up with.

As aviation emerged, it was quickly covered in sheet music – *Come Josephine in My Flying Machine*, *Come Take A Trip In My Airship* and *Lucky Lindy* amongst countless others.

All this got me wondering what mediums did companies use to promote their products in the late 19th and early 20th centuries? It turned out sheet music was an ideal way for advertisers to get their messages and products out to the masses.

With the emergence of the automobile, dozens of promotional pieces were published. Songs like *In My Merry Oldsmobile*, *My Little Ford Rambled Along*, *Take Me on a Buick Honeymoon*. Countless other manufacturers whose life spans were pretty short are immortalized in sheet music. *The Jitney Bus*, *Maak's Swell Car Was A Maxwell* and *A Jolly Ride in a Glide*.

Food and beverage products were another area in which themed sheet music proliferated. Songs like *Heinz is Pickled Again*, *Under the Anheuser Bush*, *Rum and Coca Cola*, *I'm Just Wild About Animal Crackers*. Well, you get the idea.

The beauty of old sheet music is that because of a plethora of subjects and themes, there is virtually nothing that one can't find of interest. I've found that amongst the many things I collect, I probably have more sheet music than any other thing. Pick the subject and there are enough to satisfy a collector's desire to accumulate. Some of my areas of interest include Rags, railroads, aviation, Black Americana, jazz, sports, musical instruments, songs about cities and states, just to name a few.

But for me, I am most interested in advertising sheet music. Not only for their colorful, imaginative covers, but how they address their products in lyrics. My holy grail is a piece of music called "*Signs We See As We Pass Along*." Published in 1904, it is an early critique of the pervasiveness of advertising. A train passing through a tranquil countryside assaults passengers with 40 products on billboards, signs and painted barn sides.

For more information about that intriguing song, see my article in the May-June 2017 *Antique Register*.

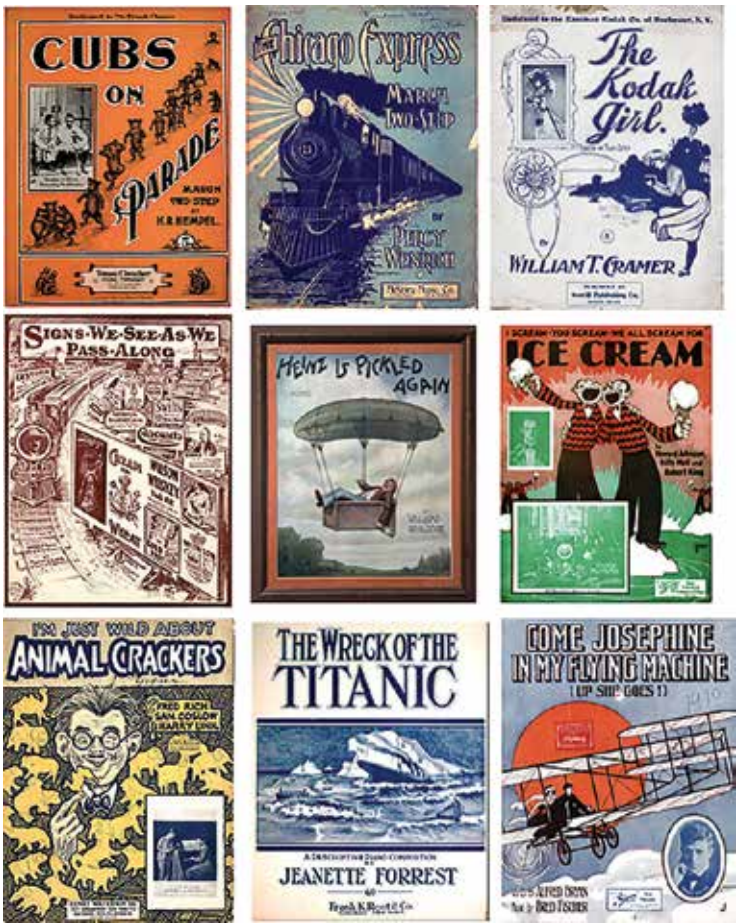
The great thing about sheet music collecting is that they don't have to be just stored in albums. In fact, they serve as ideal framed decor. They are easy to display. And they are frequent conversation starters.

A Good Read: Few books have been published of late about the history of sheet music. Some information can be gained from "Old Sheet Music: A pictorial history" by Marian Klarkin (1975); "Victorian Sheet Music Covers" by Ronald Pearsall (1972); "Rare 19th Century Large Music Sheets," and "The Sheet Music Reference and Price Guide" (1992).

Value: The beauty of collecting sheet music is there is something for everyone. Many pieces are valued at under \$5. Others can be purchased for less than \$25. For some of the most desirable pieces such as those mentioned in this article can go far north of \$100. Remember, condition is one of the most significant factors in evaluating the value of sheet music.

Start collecting sheet music, and people will "sing" praise to your unique eye and ear.

© 2026. *Virtually an antique himself, or maybe a "collectible," Jay Mark, has more than a half-century experience in the antiques business. He owns Those Were The Days!, an online specialty bookstore. A recognized historian, he also teaches, lectures and writes about antiques and history. Reach him at jaymarkhistorian@gmail.com.*



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Memories of Mom

I grew up watching my mom when she had a few spare moments work crossword puzzles. It's a pastime that has been forgotten by the younger generation.

I recently cleared out my mom and dad's home after my dad passed away and found new and some old crossword puzzle books. Our whole family was used to seeing my mom picking up a crossword puzzle book when we would gather together or drop in for a visit. There was rarely an occasion such as a birthday, Mother's Day or Christmas that she did not receive a new book as a gift. Mom was always good with words and an intelligent women and I can now appreciate the piles of crossword books laid around the house. She would have a couple on her end table beside her recliner and there was usually one on her bedside table and one on the kitchen table while she was preparing a meal. And, of course there might have been one in the bathroom too.

As a child I thought my mom was the smartest mom on the block because she could complete a puzzle in no time flat. If she didn't have a book she would work a puzzle in the daily Indianapolis Star newspaper. Since finding her books while clearing my parents home, I've found myself opening them up and working some myself.

I retired two years ago and at times I don't have my everyday chores to do or my husband is watching another favorite wartime movie and I curl up in my chair and work on one a little bit. I've found that one of my favorite places to relax and enjoy the quiet is on my front porch with a crossword puzzle book in my hand. It's a chance to get away from the everyday noises of television and phones. I make it a habit to leave my phone in the house and just enjoy the peace and quiet with my own thoughts. I also find it relaxing and comforting to know that I inherited the enjoyment of crossword puzzles from my mom who passed away four years ago. I even found one that had not been finished from 2000 and it was nice that I could finish what mom had started. The one from the year 2000 had some old phrases and meanings of words used today. I've found those a little easier to solve because of my age I suppose. I also love seeing my moms handwriting again and before her hands became too shaky to stay in the lines. It makes me feel close to her each time I pick one up and miss her even more.

I know that from now on I will continue to work crosswords and each time it will bring back precious memories.

© 2026 Tammy Page, who writes from her family farm in Indiana.

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Those Were The Days!

Nostalgic Revival of Vintage Pinball

by Jay Mark

What do vinyl records, cassette players, photograph film, typewriters, jukeboxes, and pinball machines all have in common?

Those are just a short list of things that once dominated our lives, but lost support in favor of newer technologies. It wasn't that long ago, for example, when thrift store shelves were filled with vinyl records that were being discarded for Compact Discs. Now there are a lot fewer.

Where have they gone? Back into the hands of a new generation that say LP's have richer tonal quality than the "harshness" of CD's.

Long ago, VHS gave away to the DVD; then online storage. But, believe it or not the "ancient" video cassette is now back in demand. We are told that a mint VHS copy of the 1985 "Back to the Future," sold in 2022 for...are you ready? \$75,000!

Remember when the flip phone gave way to monster-size, huge screen smartphones. Well, guess what? "Flippers" are back in demand.

All this came to mind when I came across a full-page article in the Wall Street Journal celebrating the comeback of the mechanical pinball machine.

Pinball can trace its lineage back to the late 18th century. According to the National Museum of American History, "The game's origins are fuzzy, but most historians credit the French for this popular pastime. In 1777, Count Artois, a brother of King Louis XVI of France, hosted a party at his home, the Chateau Bagatelle (hence the name), where he erected a building especially to house his Bagatelle tables.

It became a rage in Europe. In 1871, English immigrant, Montague Redgrave brought it to America where he received patent #115,357 for what he described as an "Improvement in Bagatelles."

Redgrave's patent transformed a game played with wooden balls and pool cue-like stick to a spring-loaded plunger that sent glass balls around a course filled with pins. Primitive? Yes. But it can be considered the

progenitor of pinball.

The next step in the evolution in the development of pinball, was the 1892 patent issued to Charles Young for a "Coin and Slot Machine." It was the first device with a built-in nickel slot. In addition, a glass panel covered the playing field. The coin slot indicated the machines were intended for commercial installations.

For many years, understandably, Bagatelle was considered a gambling device found in unsavory places. Games were often relegated to the home. But, when the Great Depression came along, people were looking for diversion.

At the same time, changes were being made to the older designs. Metal, nail-like pins replaced the wooden obstacles. That improvement, along with a silver-colored ball led to the adoption of the name we now know and love: Pinball.

In 1933, the machines gained a considerable upgrade. Pacific Amusement Company introduced battery-operated, diversion gates and kick-out mechanisms. By 1942, pinball machines had gained negative notoriety as gambling devices that "corrupted youth and adults alike. New York Mayor Fiorello La Guardia banned pinball in his city saying that they, "robbed school children of their hard-earned nickels and dimes."

Other cities joined the bans that continued until 1974 when the U.S. Supreme Court concluded that pinball was not a game of chance, but skill. Once again, the popularity of pinball exploded, until that is...about 1999 when the novelty of video games attracted more public attention.

Then, COVID-19 hit in 2020, once more leading to the additional disappearance of pinball machines. But, like vinyl records and other abandoned technologies have gained a nostalgic revival. Interest in vintage pinball has never been greater.

In essence, vintage pinball machines are mechanical wonders, a feast for the senses, their colorful aesthetics and lively mechanics capturing the joyous spirit of the arcade and offering a nostalgic journey back to a simpler, more exuberant time.

This revival is an indication of the cyclical interest in the long past, or more recent past, that will always keep antique dealers scrambling to keep up with an ever-demanding market.

There is a message in all this, especially for the collecting community. The best way to predict a new craving in the collecting community is to consider salting away that which was recently discarded.

A GOOD BOOK: The Pinball Compendium: 1982 to Present by Lay Flat, Schiffer Publications, focuses on the modern era of pinball. Pinball – The Lure of the Silver Ball by Gary Flower published in 1988 covers the early era of pinball.

VALUE: Owning a pinball machine takes a couple of things – lots of space, and lots of money. Vintage machines start at about \$1,000. But super rare and, super desirable games can top \$20,000.

Virtually an antique himself, or maybe a collectible, Jay Mark, is now in his second half-century of experience in the antiques business. He owns Those Were The Days!, an online specialty bookstore. A recognized historian, he also teaches, lectures and frequently writes about antiques and history. Reach him at jaymark@twtdbooks.com © 2024



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Cindy Jacobs**

Paint and create! That pretty much sums up everything Cindy Jacobs loves to do. As a designer, Cindy thinks it's so much fun to decorate homes, faux paint walls, make jewelry, and to refinish or refurbish furniture and cabinetry. As an artist, Cindy loves to dabble in graphic arts and calligraphy and thinks that designing fonts is super fun! Cindy loves photography and enjoys painting in both watercolor and acrylic. Cindy also creates artwork with pen and ink and three-dimensional paintings with plaster, metal and wood ornaments or any combination of all of the above! Cindy appreciates every different texture, medium and subject!

Cindy's inspiration comes from fond recollections of growing up on the farm in Nebraska. The long summer days of her childhood and winter fun building snow forts and going on exciting toboggan rides behind the tractor created unforgettable pictures in her mind. Family was a big part of Cindy's life; aunts, uncles and cousins! The love of family, farm and her strong faith is reflected in the verses and images of her artwork.

Cindy's mother and both of her grandmothers loved flowers and flower gardens and she couldn't help but be caught up in the beauty of it all. Cindy also has a devoted aunt, Cheryl Postlewait, who loves art and has instilled the same passion for art in Cindy. Cheryl has invested much time and love in art lessons, art museums and patiently answering endless questions! Thank you hardly seems enough when someone is so devoted to helping others around them.

A small part of Cindy's portfolio includes a collaboration of art and photography from her brother, Robert Winholtz. Although he has a doctorate in engineering and is a total left-brain guy, he has a gift for seeing things in the world around him that others pass by.

Cindy has four amazing grown children who managed to pick out four super-amazing mates! From that gifting she has been blessed with seven grandchildren, five with us and two who are in heaven with Jesus. Cindy is surrounded by the love of a family who all have servant's hearts, Cindy feels so richly blessed! "There is nothing better than family time shared around a birthday gathering or a holiday meal. And a big highlight of any week is always reading books and doing creative things with the grandkids! When all is said and done, it will be about people and the bonds that were shared over meals and artwork. "Material things" will pass away but treasured memories live on in the heart forever." Cindy says.

Cindy loves creativity and believes it is something that comes from within, a gift given by the Lord. Cindy prayed for the "work of her hands" from Proverbs 31:31 and you will see this particular scripture reference by Cindy's autograph as a thank you and tribute to THE Author of all art! (Think nature and all its grandeur!)

Last but not least, Cindy would like to say, THANK YOU to all those who have supported her crazy "art-ness" through the years. The support of friends and customers has made Cindy consider all of you "Family"! Cindy is so grateful to those who have purchased art as gifts and placed it in their homes to encourage one another, lift up one another and put a covering of scripture on their walls. "Blessings heaped upon blessings to each of you." Philippians 1:3

To view Cindy's art prints, go to www.PennyLaneFineArt.com or call Penny Lane Fine Art at 800-273-5263 for more information.

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Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

Summertime Taste Sensations

It was a dream come true when my husband and I traveled to New Zealand many years ago. After our very long flight, we boarded a cruise ship and visited many towns on both the north and south islands. We found the country to be as beautiful as we had imagined and the New Zealanders were exceedingly friendly. We enjoyed all of our shore excursions, but I was especially excited to sign up for a visit to a sheep ranch which included lunch with the family who owned the ranch. In addition to getting to watch the trained shepherd herd the sheep, I was eager to get to visit and see inside of a typical home—and taste a New Zealand home-cooked meal.

New Zealand seemed like a perfect place to live. The weather was wonderful and reportedly moderate year around. One very surprising feature was that homes don't require screen doors. There's no need. They don't have bugs or flies. In warm weather they simply leave their doors and windows wide open. As an added bonus, they also don't have snakes.

Our visit was in January, but because the seasons are reversed, we were delighted by the summertime taste sensations our hostess served picnic-style in their backyard. Along with a variety of barbecued meat offerings, the menu included a couple of simple salads that combined ingredients I never realized could be so complimentary. I am sharing these recipes because they were simply sensational—and perfect for serving at any backyard gathering!

WATERMELON, CUCUMBER & ONION SALAD

Watermelon, cut in chunks	Cucumbers, sliced
Sweet Onion, thinly sliced	2 Tablespoons Salad Oil
2 Tablespoons White Vinegar	1 Tablespoon Brown Sugar
2 Tablespoons Mint, chopped	1/4 cup White Wine

This recipe as given to me did not indicate amounts for the watermelon, cucumbers or onion—but don't worry about it because the recipe is flexible. The watermelon is primary, cucumber is secondary, and onion is complimentary. Play with the amounts as you prepare and combine them.

The remaining ingredients should be mixed together, poured over the salad and tossed. The dressing is adequate for a medium-sized salad.

STRAWBERRY & MUSHROOM SALAD

Fresh Strawberries, sliced	Fresh Mushrooms, sliced
French Salad Dressing of choice	1-2 Tablespoons Mint, chopped
Fresh Lemon Juice	Sour Cream

Again, this recipe is flexible. Simply slice the strawberries and mushrooms into a bowl. Mix together the French dressing, mint, lemon juice and sour cream according to taste and toss together with the strawberries and mushrooms.

©2026 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: Black Sheep Books, 11250 Glen Canyon Drive, Peyton, CO 80831

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Etched Depression Glass vs. Depression Glass vs. Elegant Glass

Confused by the terms in glass for sale? Wonder what “Etched Depression Glass” is? Is your glass “Depression Glass”? Let’s look at a few terms to make buying safer and more enjoyable.

Depression glass was made roughly from the late 1920s to about 1941, covering the Great Depression of the 1930s. Glass makers developed mass production techniques that allowed them to make attractive glass cheaply and without hand work, making it so inexpensive that companies used depression glass as premiums and giveaways in everything from oatmeal to soap to flour. Movie theatres gave away glass each week and patrons could accumulate sets over time.

Glass companies such as Federal or Jeannette developed pretty patterns and designs and colors such as amber, topaz (yellow), green, blue, aquamarine (turquoise), rose and red. Much of the glass came in a wide variety of shapes, often including dinner sets, lunch sets, serving pieces, decorative bowls and plates. This glass was not high quality; glass was not as clear as fine crystal produced by firms like Heisey or Fostoria and the seams were often raised. Many pieces had little bobbles or wrinkles.

The term “Depression Glass” refers to glass made from about 1928 to 1940, mass produced, and available in colors and often in crystal or white. Depression glass is particularly popular to collect because it is beautiful and it is fun to select a pattern, and then seek out all the pieces you need to have a full dinner set or one of every item.

The term “Etched” means a recessed design on glass. Etchings apply a design to glass where the glass is coated with wax and a design is traced through the wax. The glass is treated with acid. The acid can eat through the glass where the design was traced on, but it cannot dissolve the wax. When the wax is removed the design shows as inset into the glass surface. There are many ways to make the designs. The common point is that the design is recessed into the glass.

Some depression glass patterns have fanciful raised designs, such as Hocking’s Mayfair or Jeannette’s Cherry Blossom. These pieces look etched at first glance, but they are actually mold-etched. Remember, depression glass was mass produced by machines that pressed molten glass into molds. To make the pretty designs, the glass companies coated the molds with wax, and then applied a design on the mold – not on the glass - treated the molds with acid, then removed the wax. Just as with etched glass, the design was inset into the mold.

With the design being inset in the mold, the finished pieces of glass will have the designs raised above the surface of the glass. One way to distinguish “depression glass” is to check whether the design is above the surface. If it’s above the surface then you have “mold etched depression glass.”

Not all depression glass is mold etched. Some patterns had geometric motifs like spirals, raised diamonds, dots and ribs that were pressed designs. The molds were shaped to quickly produce these by normal pressed glass techniques. Examples are Hocking’s Waterford/Waffle or Jeannette’s Windsor. These

patterns also came in sets for dinner or lunch and are collected as patterns.

So to summarize: Depression Glass was made during the Great Depression, came in patterns that may be mold etched or geometric, was made in dinner or lunch or other sets and came in colors such as pink, amber, blue, green or purple. It was mass produced, inexpensively made and generally lower quality.

What is Elegant Glass? Elegant glass is “good glass”, made by companies such as Cambridge or Fostoria, that was finely detailed and often included significant hand work. Often elegant glass will have ground base rims that were finished by hand. Elegant glass may be etched, cut or simply pressed. The glass is better quality, more transparent and usually better finished with less-visible seams and fewer imperfections.

Let’s look at some common myths about depression glass.

Myth: All depression glass is colored. Not so. Many patterns were made in crystal as well as colors. Clear depression glass is called “crystal” although it is certainly not fine quality lead crystal! Crystal depression glass can be very attractive as it gathers the light and sparkles on your table.

Myth: All colored glass is depression glass. Unfortunately not. Hand houses such as Cambridge or Fostoria made beautifully colored elegant glass during the depression. Although this glass passes the test for date, patterns, sets and colors, it was hand made and expensive at the time. Also, people like colored glass and it has been made at almost any time period since the depression. You may find pink glass in a spiral pattern that was made in France by Arcoroc during the past 30 years. This is definitely not depression glass although people may unknowingly list it under that category.

So what do glass sellers mean by “etched depression glass”? Read the listing and look at the picture. You may find a hidden gem! Sometimes they mean “mold etched” depression glass and sometimes their glass is actually high end elegant glass with detailed acid etches. And sometimes the glass is decent quality but more modern with etched, cut or pressed designs. If you can’t tell from the picture or description then ask questions.

Buying glass is a lot of fun, and it’s fun to figure out what you have. Many of us have glass that was handed down and has a family history. Wouldn’t it be nice to have a full set or enough pieces that you could use them? With the advent of online antique stores like Cat Lady Kate’s Elegant and Depression Glass and auction sites it is possible to complete almost any pattern.

Your best assurance of having fun buying glass online is to educate yourself and know a little about the patterns you like. There are good reference books available on depression glass and elegant glass. Your library can probably get books by Gene Florence, which are excellent to start learning about glass. Or look online at sites that specialize in glass and compare patterns and pictures. eBay and TIAS are good places to find many patterns and glass pieces from knowledgeable sellers.

—reprinted with permission of: Cat Lady Kate’s Elegant and Depression Glass



Melbourne, Sebastian

Back Porch Break

by Nancy Brummett

Salon Sagas

I had my first manicure in a nail salon when I was in my late fifties. I only went then because my two little granddaughters who were visiting one summer wanted to go. When the woman who answered the phone said she would give the girls a “free flower” I thought that was very kind and expected them to come home with a long-stemmed rose or a carnation but no, it was a daisy painted on each small thumbnail.

That was about 30 years ago, but since then I’ve become a semi-regular client at several different nail salons. You may think that the best “people watching” may be found at airports, malls, or ER waiting rooms, but I assure you, the clientele at nail salons can be most bemusing and amusing.

People become very loyal to their nail technicians, and I’ve followed my favorite to three different salons as his job changed, but I’ve noticed many similarities in terms of clientele at the different locations. It always warms my heart to see a faithful daughter or caregiver bringing in an older woman to get a manicure or even more rejuvenating, a pedicure for her ailing feet and hard-to-cut toenails. I also like seeing men getting pedicures to make their wives happy!

But you can see some strange things in nail salons, too. One time a fortyish business woman was on her phone the entire time she was getting her pedicure. She also had her laptop open on her lap and was conducting business as if she were seated behind a mahogany desk in a high-rise office building. I actually overheard her offering a job to someone. They were negotiating salary, vacation time, job title, etc., and everyone in the salon could follow along with each discussion point. In the end the fellow on the other end of the phone evidently said he’d talk to his wife and let her know, so we were all left wondering if he took the job. It’s been a while since I was in the corporate world, but is this the new business etiquette? I hope not.

Keeping up with the life events of manicure seekers is entertaining as well. You overhear that someone wants bright orange because they are headed to Mexico on vacation, or you witness a giggly bridal party coming in to get their nails done for the wedding. Recently two little girls proudly held out their hands to show me the ice blue polish they got because they were to be flower girls in their aunt’s upcoming wedding. Much of life can be witnessed in a nail salon, and seeing those two little girls reminded me of two others many years ago. I guess salon sagas can be sentimental, too.

Nancy Parker Brummett is an author and freelance writer in Colorado Springs, CO. Follow her on Facebook, Instagram and Linked In or subscribe to her blog posts at www.nancyparkerbrummett.com.



GIRLFRIEND WISDOM

God makes everything BEAUTIFUL in its time.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

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Beauty is often only thought of as external, like a person, a landscape, a moment of grace, but it is clearly connected to the mind, heart, and spirit.

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM: True beauty goes beyond what we see because it shines through in our actions, and our kindness. Let that smile come into full expression the next time you “feel” a thing of Beauty!

Joy & Blessings, Jody

Girlfriend Wisdom is written and illustrated by Jody Houghton®.
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Sorting Stash Summer

by Janet M. Bair

This April I was fortunate to attend the AQS (American Quilter's Society) show in Hartford, CT. Since it was only an hour away, many from our quilt guild attended. It was certainly much closer than going to Paducah, Kentucky for their main show.

Seeing the amazing craftsmanship of quilters from all over the world was inspiring and intimidating. I could only imagine the thousands of hours that went into some of the stunning quilts. The "art quilts" that show a picture very close to a photograph amaze me. My friends and I were there for seven hours and we still didn't see everything. With over 100 vendors, it was hard to choose what to buy. I restrained myself and only bought ten fat quarters from out-of-state shops.

The following weekend was our own guild quilt show sponsored by the 150 members. I was very happy to see my first queen size quilt "Seaside Dreams" on display. Two years ago when I first walked into Colchester Mill Fabrics, I fell in love with several turquoise seashell prints. After I walked around the whole store which has amazing selections, I went back to the first bolts of beachy themed fabric and created my quilt from them. While I can't swim all year round in New England, I can dream about the beach while sleeping under my quilt.

At our show, there were four quilt shops selling fabric. I selected a fat quarter bundle of five coordinating beachy fabrics, plus an unusual piece of batik that I couldn't resist. Oh, and I bought a fat quarter of donut fabric for a doll's dress. Our guild sold a lovely variety of handmade items besides "mystery bags" of fabric. I just had to buy two of those.

April turned into May and at our last guild meeting, they held a huge sale of donated fabric for \$5 a bag. The collected money went towards purchasing child oriented prints for our Comfort Quilts that we donate to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Of course, I stuffed a bag.

The following week, I went to a Quilt Auction where you bid on baskets of fabric. The competition was fierce but I managed to win the bid for one basket. There were 150 baskets of fabric to bid on but the prices quickly went up higher than I wanted to spend. But it was a fun event.

This is going to be a stash sorting summer, as I lay fabric out on the two spare beds, the card table, and the rug, looking to see what pieces will go together and trying to decide what I am going to make. For starters, I was able to already sew a quilt top from a jungle print with borders of green, grey and a bright yellow.

I usually have between 5-10 projects that I am working on at once. The piece of "glow in the dark" fabric I bought at AQS will make a cute pair of doll pants for my granddaughter. Several other doll dresses are in the works plus two requests for aprons.

I'm trying out various star designs using patriotic fabric for a wall hanging. The fat quarters I bought for this project are: white background with red stars, navy background with a 1776 drum print and a pale blue with a ring of small white stars print. I am still working out the sizing of my wall hanging.

My fabric stash is not very large compared to other quilters. Most of my past sewing was clothing which left very few scraps and in 2020 I managed to sew every spare piece of fabric I owned, when we couldn't go shopping. I want to be a good steward of my resources and to use up the fabric I've already acquired in the past four years of quilting. One of my goals is to start cutting three inch strips to make a "scrappy" quilt. I have plenty of blue fabrics and my leftover pieces of yellow will coordinate well, along with green accents.

It's a lot faster to buy material than to sew it! Hopefully, I can sit outside and do some sorting and organizing this summer. What are your fabric plans for the summer? Whether they are big or small plans, I wish you a Happy Fourth of July and a super summer!

© Janet M. Bair of Ansonia, CT. You may contact her at librarybair@hotmail.com



David and Grace on a recent trip to Peru.

Orzo and Pine Nut Salad

A delicious side dish, full of flavor, texture, & crunch. ♥

2 c. pine nuts	1/3 c. green bell pepper
2 Tbsp. butter	1/3 c. red bell pepper
1/2 lb. orzo pasta	1/4 c. fresh lemon juice
1 c. black olives, sliced	1/4 c. olive oil
1/2 c. parsley, minced	freshly ground pepper
1/2 c. green onion, minced	Parmesan cheese, to taste

In a large skillet, lightly toast the pine nuts in the butter; drain on paper towels & cool. Cook the orzo in boiling water; drain & rinse in cold water. (Be extra careful not to overcook the pasta.) Very gently, mix together all ingredients; cover & chill. ♥

From *The Summer Book*, by Susan Branch, with Love ♥ www.susanbranch.com



Show us your finished projects!

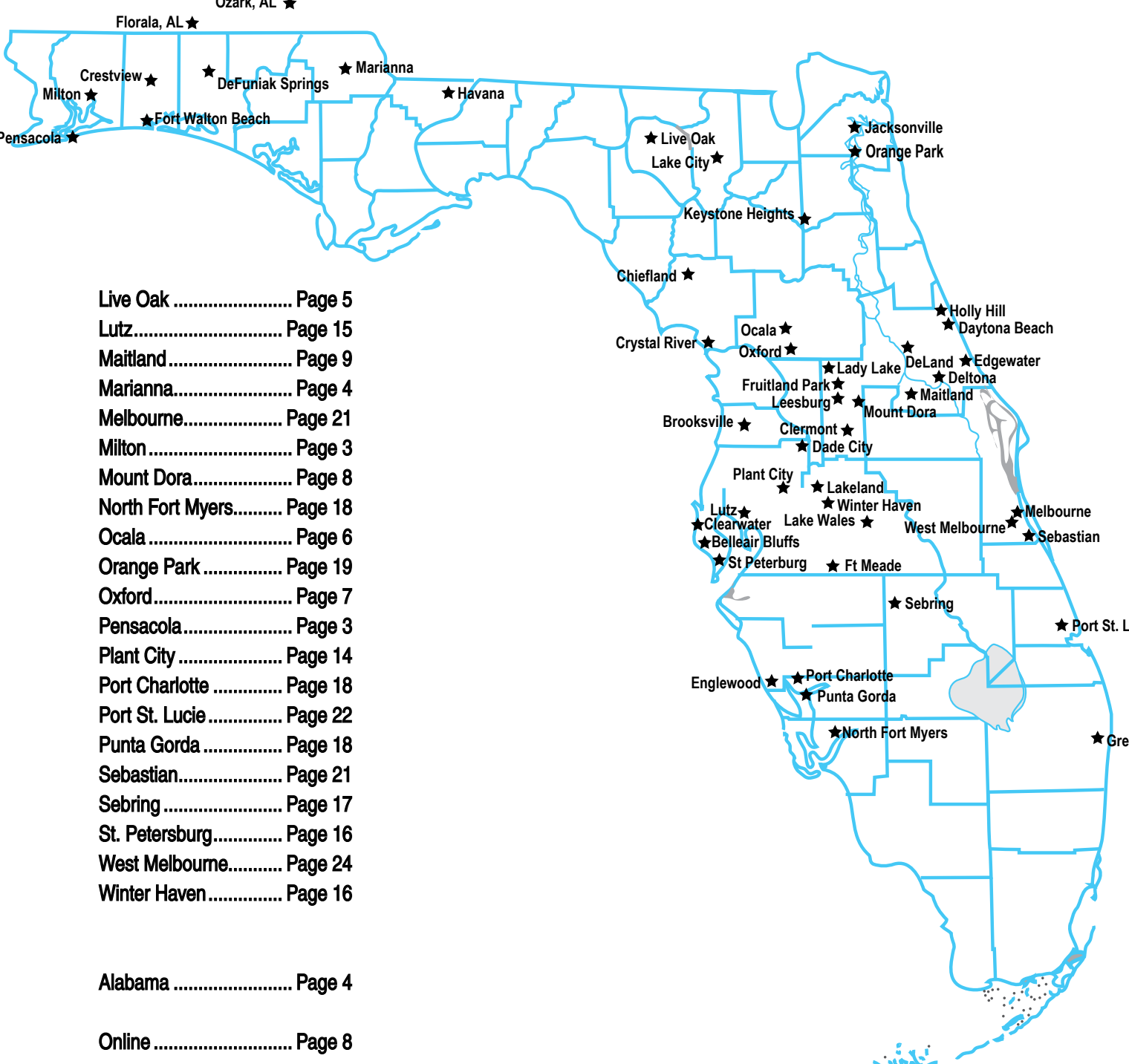
Send us your photos of a completed project for a chance to be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Register*!

Project photos & details can be digitally submitted to:
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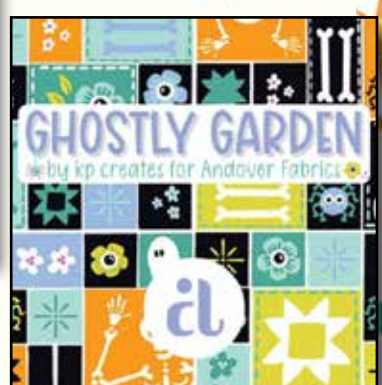
"Summer is here, and so are exciting new arrivals at Sew Much Fun - including Halloween fabrics arriving daily! We're also having a great time sharing our love of quilting, sewing, machine embroidery, and bag making through our classes. As we celebrate our 1-Year Anniversary on July 7, we want to thank this wonderful community for the warm welcome and support you've shown us throughout our first year. Your friendship and encouragement have meant more than we can say."

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Happy Sewing, Beth & Kelley

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