

WHERE CAN I FIND?

Through reader feedback, this interactive column is dedicated to helping readers locate retail merchandise that's difficult to find. If you know where a product is sold or service is available, call (248) 901-2555 and leave a message with your name and phone number. Please be patient about your requests and feedback; we receive an overwhelming number of phone calls. Also, please spell any uncommon items. If you don't see information about your request, we couldn't find it. Requests are published twice.

A store that sells Heinz tomato soup for Ell.
 A store that sells fresh phyllo dough (not frozen) for Beverly.
 A store that sells canned bacon from Hungary for Sue.
 Kim is looking for glass lids for Guardian coolware.
 Maybelline Ultra Brow brush-on color in brown for Linda.
 A store that sells the Subtract giraffe for Anne of Livonia.
 A business that buys used 78 records for Judy of Westland.
 A store that sells fluoride for nails for Anne.
 A cookbook "Still Sizzling in the Kitchen" distributed by the National Council of Jewish Women for Joanne.
 A store that sells a paint-by-numbers kit for Marilyn.
 A store that sells Maybelline tinted instant summer self-tan for West of Westland (formerly sold at Kmart).
 A business who purchased old platinum and gold rings to use in repair of other items.
 A store that sells Pancez (formerly sold at Kitchen Glamour) for Phyllis.
 A store that sells fresh phyllo pastry for Janine.
 Someone to repair costume jewelry for Eleanor.
 A store that sells canvas material to make awnings for Joann of Troy.

WHAT WE FOUND

Horlick's can be purchased at the Hiller's Market on Five Mile.

FIND AND SEARCH

A reader has a power ride exercise bike to donate to a charitable organization.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

A store that sells yarn used in making pot holders (to be used on a small loom) for Mackenzi.

Margaret wants a store that has replacement cushions for a glider three for the back and three for the seat.

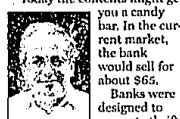
Carrie wants a store that sells AFTA by Mennen men's after shave product.

A store that sells Disposal fresh citrus beads to be put into a garbage disposal for Cindy.

By Sandi Jaracka

Still banks can be bought for less than \$500

This 4-3/4-inch cast iron "still" bank (*see photo*), manufactured by Hubley, could hold enough coins in the 1920s to buy something of value.



Test Your Antiques IQ

Terry Hamburg

Today the contents might get you a candy bar. In the current market, the bank would sell for about \$65. Banks were designed to promote thrift in children in the early 1870s, little animals with slots in their backs were soon perched on bedroom dressers across America. Cast iron proved to be the most popular material and garners the major collector interest today. Still banks have no moving parts. Mechanical banks perform when you put in a coin. True or False?
 A. At least 3,000 different still banks have been identified.

B. The first cast iron banks were manufactured as commemorative items for the Spanish-American War of 1898, and featured "Remember the Maine" and Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders."

C. Still banks were made before mechanical banks, although both were widely produced from the 1880s through the 1920s.

D. Contrary to their appearance, cast iron banks are brittle and can break into pieces if dropped on a hard surface.

Answers: A, C, and D are true. In the era of cast iron banks, mechanical models were costlier and less plentiful, and the same is true, only exaggerated, in the current antique market. Few mechanicals sell for less than \$500, while the vast majority of still banks can be purchased under that price.

There is a great variety of still bank subjects, representing a cultural and political tableau of the times. Because of their special appeal to children, certain themes dominate,

such as animals, sports figures, and cartoon-like characters. Patriotic, military, and architectural banks were also popular.

Reproductions can present a problem. Original cast iron banks, both mechanical and still, were sculptural works of art with excellent detail and casting. Copies are generally of lesser quality, although Hubley and the Grey Iron Casting Co. sold original patterns that were used to make reproductions.

A cast iron still bank was usually manufactured in two parts held together by a screw, so it could be separated to remove the coins. Old banks are joined neatly and tightly. They have naturally worn, clipped, and faded paint—this effect is difficult to fabricate.

Be suspicious of rough, granular finishes, too much rust, and brownish hues (created when pieces are fired to achieve the look of age). Reproductions tend to be heavier and thicker than originals, and are often smaller. Also beware of so-called "conversions": items not



intended as banks, containing an added coin slot. In cast iron, this is most commonly done with toys and parts of toys.

Condition is a very important factor in price, and condition means original. Never be tempted to touch-up old paint or remove rust with an abrasive. Even hot water should be used with caution. The best advice about restoring an old bank is don't.

By the 1950s, cast iron banks were regarded as old-fashioned, replaced by plastic, aluminum, and pot metal models. By the 1990s, even the idea of a coin bank appeared obsolete.

Terry Hamburg is a writer and antiques dealer in the San Francisco Bay Area. He can be reached at tcham@pacbell.net.

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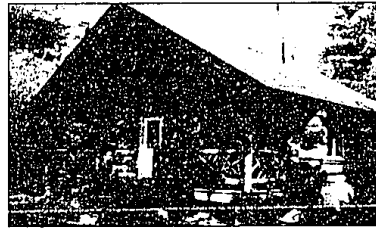
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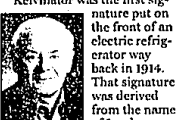
www.askyourneighbor.com



Michigan is the only state which has an annual statewide log cabin festival. The last Sunday of June of each year is considered in Michigan to be Log Cabin Day.

Say goodbye to the nation's second-oldest brand

The nation's second-oldest brand name, Kelvinator, will be retired from the appliance industry within the next few months.



Appliance Doctor

Joe Gagnon

Kelvinator was the first signature put on the front of an electric refrigerator way back in 1914. That signature was derived from the name of Lord William Kelvin, an English mathematician who determined the exact temperature reading of absolute zero.

The company went on to be purchased by the Nash Motor Co. in the 1930s. Nash's successor, American Motors, took them over and later sold them to White Consolidated Industries. WCI was acquired in 1999 by AB Electrolux of Sweden, the current owner of Kelvinator and many other brand names.

The only other appliance brand name older than Kelvinator is Hotpoint, a name first seen on electric irons in 1903. Fridgidaire falls third in

line, having first appeared in 1916, and is incidentally another of the AB Electrolux companies currently on the market.

Add on to these names White, Westinghouse and Gibson and now you can understand one of the reasons that Sweden is such a rich country.

While I was reading about this history lesson I was thinking about my grandmother's refrigerator. She passed on years ago but that Kelvinator refrigerator is still running in my uncle's home in northern Canada.

I worked on many Kelvinator refrigerators when I first took interest in fixing appliances, and that continued well into the 1990s. I would consider them as probably the most simple of refrigerators to repair and the best at keeping food absolutely cold. I bet that many of you reading this are thinking about your old refrigerators as well.

We just celebrated the centennial anniversary of what Henry Ford did for the human race and it makes me think what a Hotpoint iron did for the appearance of those who drove a Ford. Many folks drove their Ford products of old here from across the country. So simple to repair, they were fixed right there on the highway. These old cars were made to last and many will agree that today's vehicle is not something you fix along the highway.

Neither is today's modern refrigerator compared to the old Nash-Kelvinator. You can't even throw it into the scrap yard without paying for a qualified government certified technician to tap into the sealed system and remove the refrigerant gas.

Needing service means just that today, you can't even find the defrost timer to replace, because it doesn't have one.

The units have computer chips that not even qualified repair people can understand. Today's marvel of a new refrigerator can't even keep the milk absolutely cold.

I have such great thoughts about the Kelvinator. Too bad it will no longer be around.

Joe Gagnon is host of Ask The Handyman on Infinity Radio AM 1270 B a.m.-noon Saturdays and Sundays. You can hear his tips on WR 950 on weekdays. You can call him on his show at (248) 356-1270.

CABINS

FROM PAGE C1

Joy Smith, president of the Waterford Historical Society, is hoping more than 2,000 people will visit Waterford Township's log cabin at 4190 Hatchery.

Built in 1930, the cabin was originally slated for demolition before being restored and moved to Hatchery Park, where it now serves as a

museum. In the past, the cabin has been used as a gas station and a sign shop.

"There is so much character in log cabins," Smith said. "They really are ageless, and when I go in I just get this warm feeling. They're welcoming buildings."

For more information, contact the Log Cabin society at (269) 925-3836.

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