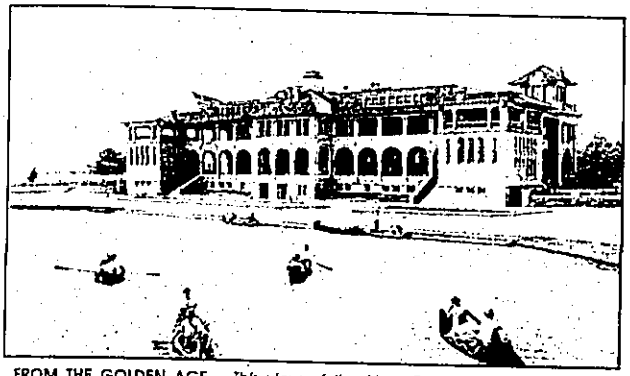

FROM THE GOLDEN AGE— *This view of the New Casino, Belle Isle, Detroit, (author's collection) dates from the early part of the century, the period most sought after by post card collectors.*

Beginning collectors might like to browse through what he terms his "junk box" of 25 or 50-cent items. Look for him - unless it's raining. He doesn't take his collections out then.

Last December, he reports a successful sale of his Michigan memorabilia at the Ann Arbor Winter Antiques Market promoted by Nick Easton in the University of Michigan Sports Coliseum.

Stevens says other post card dealers have told him that it is almost impossible to be successful by selling only post cards. Therefore, he is branching out and including books and other local history materials.

One of his most unusual offerings is a handsomely framed colorful map of Ann Arbor.

The maps originally were sold in 1925 and 1926 to help finance the building of the Michigan League on the University of Michigan campus as the women students felt they should have a facility similar to the Michigan Union of the men students. The maps included the old University of Michigan seal used from 1817 until 1837, Stevens points out.

The maps were reproduced in 1975-76. Stevens notes that he has both an original and a reproduction. It is the reproduction that has been framed and is for sale.

A true collector, Stevens confides that he "can only part with duplicates" and would like to see the creation of a museum for Ann Arbor memorabilia. Stevens doesn't mind being contacted by collectors or sellers at his Ann Arbor home. He may be reached at 313-662-5438.

As post card dealers know, almost everyone has cards from the past, sometimes treasured by parents as scenes of their childhood.

After interviewing Wystan Stevens, I recalled a leather-bound volume of Detroit scenes that had belonged to my stepfather. It was exciting to pull out the views of *Detroit in 1912* that visually portray another era. And, sure enough, the cards required one cent postage.

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A new antiques show, the Birmingham Antiques Festival, makes its debut April 11, 12 and 13 at the Birmingham Community House 380 S. Bates, as a benefit for the community house, a not-for-profit facility.

It sounds like a nice size show with 45 dealers coming from eight other states - Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois and Ohio. Several well-known Michigan dealers will be participating, including Danbury Antiques from Suttons Bay, Leonard Berry of Birmingham, Marcia Petrillo of Troy and the Wolfs of Flint.

Offerings will include samplers, quilts, linens, pewter, 18th and early 19th century furniture as well as children's collectables and English "smalls." (I love this term, which is an accepted way of describing just that, small British accessories.)

Preview night from 6-10 p.m. Thursday, April 11, will be $30 a person; Friday, April 12, hours will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday April 13, hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with admission on these days $5. Managing the show is the Jennings and McMillan Network. The Bates Street Cafe in the Community Building will be open during the show.

Jean Day is a journalist and free lance writer who retired as editor of the Northville Record, a weekly newspaper in Michigan. She and her husband are lifelong collectors, filling their Northville home with decoys, samplers, silhouettes, copper and pewter molds, brass candlesticks and paintings.

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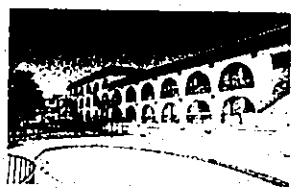
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