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Survey: Which old-time sodas should RFTC bring back?

Raccoon Forks Trading Company is getting ready to place an order with Homer Soda Company, a distributor of glass-bottled, vintage sodas.

Homer Soda offers an excellent and vast selection. With so many choices, RFTC needs your help deciding which sodas to order. To cast your vote, please click here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZLCW7ND>. See any of your old favorites?



Subscriber special: 10% off cameras and film equipment

Raccoon Forks Trading Company is offering its newsletter subscribers 10% off RFTC's selection of cameras and film equipment. To claim the discount, please show a printed or e-version of the newsletter to the cashier. Each month RFTC rewards its loyal newsletter subscribers with an exclusive discount on select RFTC inventory.



Optimae, RFTC to host East Village social on May 17

Optimae LifeServices will host the Historic East Village association's monthly social on May 17 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Raccoon Forks Trading Company (621 Des Moines St.).

The social will feature complimentary food and beverages from Plain Talk Books & Coffee and Railroad Bill's Dining Car, which, like RFTC, are Optimae microbusinesses. The event will also include tours of Optimae's East Village campus.



Optimae LifeServices provides comprehensive, customer-driven services that encourage choice, empowerment and community integration for individuals with mental illness and disabilities. The microbusinesses create job opportunities for individuals served by Optimae.

The Historic East Village association leads the effort to preserve and develop the East Village and ensure the East Village is a welcoming, diverse, and prosperous community.

The social is free and open to the general public.

Wapello Jim's pick of the month: Carnival Glass

Wapello Jim ("The Agent"), a direct descendant of the Indian Agent Joseph Street, who traded with the Winnebago Indians of Wapello County, specializes in select "smalls" glassware, pottery and china. Each month, Wapello Jim highlights an intriguing item in Raccoon Forks Trading Company's carefully curated inventory.

In 1907, Fenton Glass Company of Williamston, W. Va., produced the first Carnival Glass, a style it referred to as "iridescent ware." Fenton called its first line Iredell and labeled it "Venetian Art." The idea was to mass produce a beautiful product that could compete with expensive, iridescent art glass made by Tiffany and Steuben.

This new kind of glass did not catch on as brothers Frank and John Fenton had hoped, but other manufacturers followed in their footsteps, employing the same iridization techniques, also called doping. The process involved spraying a pressed glass piece with metallic salts when hot from the mold and then re-firing it. Even though Carnival Glass was made in molds, it was often hand-finished by artisans—those pieces are more sought after today.

Since iridescent ware was cheaply made, most consumers didn't see it as quality glass and refused to pay much for it. As its value declined, iridescent ware, often in the form of vases, pitchers, goblets, tureens or candy bowls, was given away as prizes at carnivals.

Such giveaways created a new market for Carnival Glass, which was a boon for

Fenton. Carnival Glass was sold for pennies at five-and-dimes, and could be bought in lots for cheap. Movie theaters and grocery stores the ware as a promotional item. For example, Imperial struck lucrative deals with companies like Woolworth's and Quaker Oats.



By 1925, Carnival Glass fell out of favor in the U.S., and many companies ceased production during the Depression. European glass makers continued to produce it until the 1940s. Sometime after WWII, this once-dismissed ware was named Carnival Glass and became collectible.

Later in the 20th century, glass companies began to make Carnival Glass again, although these second-generation pieces do not interest collectors. The most sought after Carnival Glass pieces are from the ware's heyday (1907-1930). Thus, collectors should be wary of these reproductions, which mimic the original patterns and colors. Today Carnival Glass is very collectible, and many people collect it according to the companies that made it, such as Fenton, Imperial, Northwood, Dugan and several others.

New inventory video: Concert roller organ

Submitted by Hank Hemingway

The concert roller organ was an ingenious invention mostly used by street performers. There were many styles of organs, with the smaller ones placed in parlors and on tables and used as home entertainment.

The Dutch were credited with the invention of the first organ in the 15th century. A smaller version, known as the barrel organ, was invented in the 1870's. The concert roller organ in stock at RFTC was made circa 1925.

The sound in the concert roller organ is generated by a cob made of a cylinder of wood with staples that when cranked hits keys and produces sound (please click the image below to see a demonstration). Cranking the handle at a fast

speed is required to produce a clear sound, which is deep and raspy compared to modern day electronic music. Introduction of the phonograph diminished the organ's popularity, but antique organs are in high demand among modern collectors.



New inventory video: **Square Shooter Polaroid camera**

Submitted by Leroy Laredo

Edward H. Land briefly attended Harvard before dropping out and starting his own laboratory, where he studied light polarization on his own. In 1926, he filed a patent for synthetic light polarization, and by 1937, the lab had become the Polaroid Corporation.

The technology had a wide range of applications, like production of sunglasses and color animation. During WWII, it facilitated the refinement of night-vision goggles and a viewing system called the Vectograph, which revealed enemy camouflage. After the war, it contributed to the development of the U-2 spy plane.

The inspiration for the Polaroid camera came from Land's 3-year old daughter. One day in 1943, Land was asked by his daughter why she couldn't see right away the picture that was just taken. Land thought about it and was inspired to

create the instant camera, which he first demonstrated publicly in 1947.

The instant camera was a near instant success. The cameras sold out during the Christmas season of 1948, and in 1956, was available for sale in 45 countries. By 1972, Polaroid was producing 5,000 camera a day.



Founded in 1812 by Emile Dobby (a French Canadian-Scots Irish fur trader) at the forks of the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers, our mission for over 200 years has been to bring choice goods in from the wilderness to trade with the local population for whatever valuables they possess (including cash, checks, and credit/debit cards).

Emile immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1800s after being driven out of Scotland for his rogue and wile ways, which had led to charges that included horse thievery. After spending many years fur trapping in the American West, he started the original RFTC near our current location, at 621 Des Moines St. (in the NE corner of the East Village).

In our present incarnation we pledge to provide our loyal customers with high quality, carefully researched and curated antique and vintage furniture, furnishings, art, prints, etc., etc., etc.



Raccoon Forks Trading Co. is an Optimaе LifeServices small business. Optimaе creates jobs for individuals with disabilities and mental illness by developing and operating small businesses that provide high quality goods, services and economic benefits to communities. For more information, please click here:

<http://www.optimaeliveservices.com/our-services/raccoon-forks-businesses/>



<https://www.facebook.com/RFTCo/>



Forward

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Store hours:

Sun: 12 pm to 6 pm

Mon: 10 am to 6 pm

Tues-Sat: 10 am to 9 pm

Our mailing address is:

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