

AMERICAN HOMESTYLE & GARDENING

MAY 2000

Tag Sale 101

Finding the Good,
the Fabulous, the Affordable
America's 12 Top Flea Markets

Kitchen & Bath Bonanza!

The Best in Sinks, Paint,
Super Appliances

FOREVER FURNITURE

New Designs,
Timeless Looks

GARDEN FRESH

Flower-Filled Ponds,
Blooming Pots



Born-Again Bargains Leslie Allen spun our \$1,000 (leaving some over for shipping costs) into these items that she took home and transformed into design "gold." On the trail of the "road warriors," those hardy antiques dealers who travel the show and flea-market circuit around the country, she hit Lakewood's 117 acres of goods, sprawled over seven Spanish Mission-style exhibition halls, and shopped up a storm.

\$65

Tall French basket, mint condition,

\$40

Four enameled-metal pails with handles, at \$10 each

\$150

French folding iron table

\$18

Three '50s embroidered cotton hand towels

\$180

Set of 4 green folding chairs, iron and wood

\$50

Green '30s Acro agate towel-bar holders, without the bar

\$20

Two Belgian resin plant pots, with blistering glaze

\$20

Red-and-white vintage-fabric cushion

\$65

1920s Beacon blanket, damaged condition

\$125

Round table base; underneath the rust, a solid copper rim

\$125

Pair of Adirondack lawn chairs, not in mint condition

\$75

English green enamel, covered bread box

BREAD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMES BAIGRIE (THIS PAGE)

Finds, anyone? We gave shopper
extraordinaire Leslie Allen \$1,000 to
spend at Atlanta's fabled Lakewood
flea market and spot decorating gems
in the rough. Here's what she snagged

treasure hunt



End result: A vintage-fabric cushion now nestles among its cousins on a rattan sofa on the porch of Allen's Connecticut home. A good flea-market scout, Leslie says, keeps eyes peeled for whatever pops up that may be useful. Canvass a few rows of stalls to get a sense of local price ranges.

WRITTEN BY BARBARA COLLIER

PRODUCED BY LESLIE ALLEN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MIKI DUISTERHOF



Where Leslie's buys led: Four iron-and-wood folding chairs (left) were stripped down and repainted in Essex green and white stripes for use on her outdoor patio, while the table base was sandblasted, polished, lacquered, and topped with glass. **BELOW:** A hallway-alcove bench sports a checkerboard-covered cushion fashioned from the Beacon blanket, with its damaged part tossed out.



ANY BARGAINS LEFT? YOU BET!

Flea markets and tag sales have changed dramatically in the past few years. Thanks to online auctions and media attention, like PBS's *Antiques Roadshow*, it's getting tougher to stumble on real bargains. But we polled our panel of expert collectors for ideas on categories that are still affordable and rising in value.

Mary Randolph Carter, author: What else? Junk!

Heidi Ferayorni Pettee, decorator: Deep-sea fishing rods.

Ted Jones, writer on antiques and design: Black-and-white photography (especially industrial or sporting subjects), women's vintage clothing and costume jewelry, anything handmade.

Leslie Allen, designer and editor: Small paintings and artwork, rugs, frames from icky artwork, wicker.

Christopher Coleman, decorator: '50s-era children's furniture and adult bedroom sets (but don't use all the pieces together)!

Pamela Fritz, antiques merchant: I'm still a chair-aholic.

Cheryl and Jeffrey Katz, designers: '60s and '70s pottery.

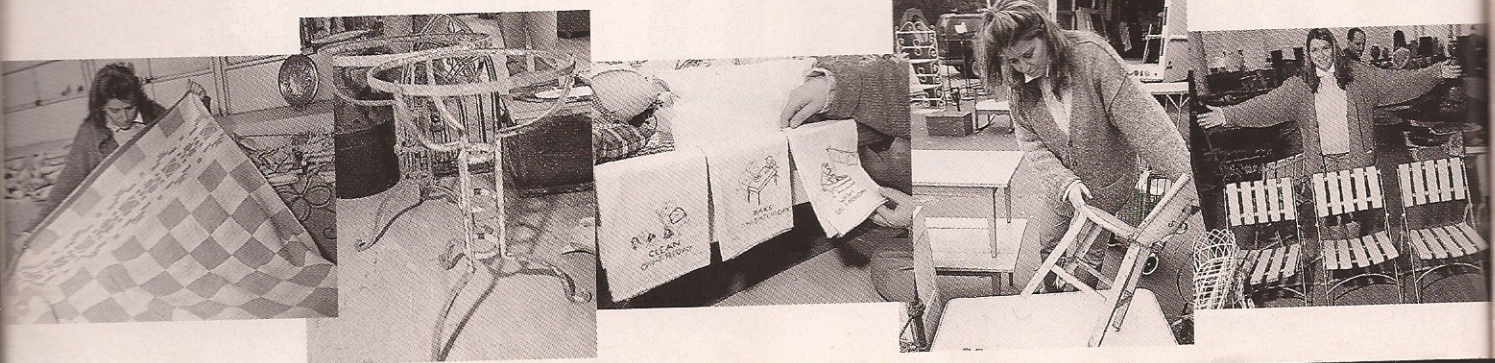
Kathryn Precourt, editor: Ephemera (like product packaging) is hot—especially in the area of cosmetics from the '20s and '30s.

ALL-TIME FIND #3

"Last August I got a 19th-century gilt-frame mirror for \$125. It was just appraised for \$2,500."

CHRISTOPHER COLEMAN, interior designer

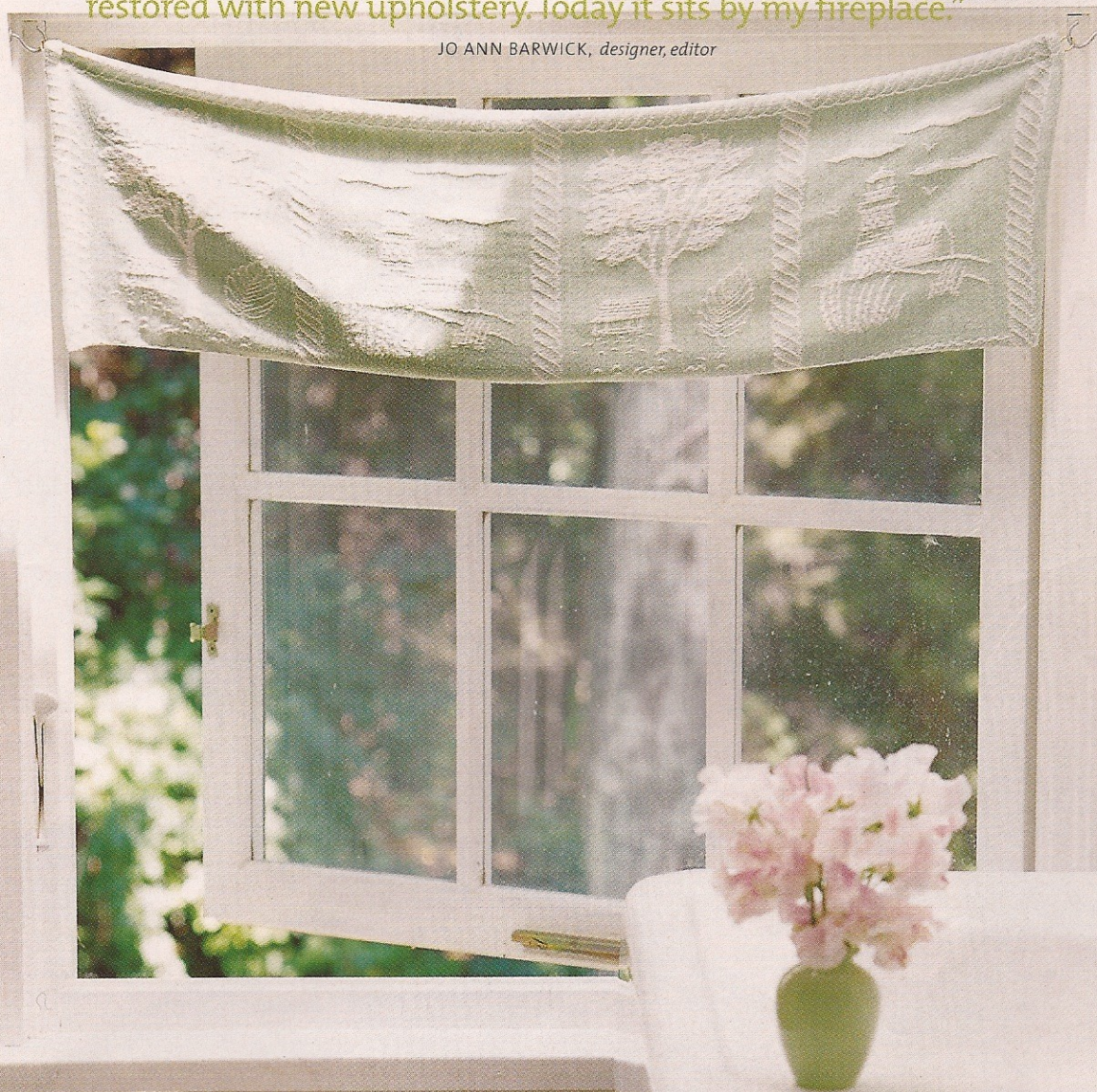
PHOTOGRAPHY BY EVAN KAFKA
(BLACK AND WHITES)



ALL-TIME FIND #4

"Keep your eyes open! I'm still proud of the reproduction Martha Washington chair I found years ago on the street and restored with new upholstery. Today it sits by my fireplace."

JO ANN BARWICK, *designer, editor*



An old glass rod, spotted in a Connecticut hardware store, completed the '20s Acro agate towel-bar holders in the children's bath—a perfect site for displaying embroidered hand towels from the '50s. Charming the eye with bits of nostalgia adds up to big design impact. Even the sweet peas seem fresh from the past.

Blueberries and hydrangeas are set out on the newly stripped and repainted iron table for a backyard lunch. Allen found familiar vendors on her trip to Lakewood, confirming her notion that it was a destination for road-warrior dealers. The market is open on the second weekend of every month and boasts 1,500 dealer spaces.

ALL-TIME FIND #5

"We paid \$50 for an old, hand-colored seed catalog of over 200 varieties of apples, pears, and grapes. We covered a kitchen wall with the framed engravings and gave away dozens to friends."

CHERYL AND JEFFREY KATZ, *interior designers*



GREAT

In most schedules, some of the pros' favorite spots are found along Route 20, north of the town of Thursday, Kane County, 64 and 30, afternoons. Antiques of every kind are found in November.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EVAN KAFKA (BLACK AND WHITES)



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Son Sam holds Sassy on a newly painted lawn chair. Leslie's trip was accomplished in a day. With her went a wicker cart, business cards, a pen, labels, cash, a calculator, a bandana, and water. Her trophies were shipped home.

A pantry closet off the kitchen houses the lidded English enamel bread box, in jadeite green with black stenciling. Here, it's been redefined as a storage bin for cat food. Allen keeps the door ajar for Sassy's access.



The new French basket joined the vintage-fabric cushion on the porch. Heaped with potted flowers, it plays comfortable consort to both a wicker armchair and a rattan sofa piled with bright red-and-white-striped and '40s floral pillows.

GREAT AMERICAN FLEA MARKETS

In most parts of the country there are a number of regularly scheduled flea and/or antiques markets—some are scheduled weekly, some monthly, and others are annual affairs. Here are a few of our pros' favorites: **Brimfield Outdoor Antiques and Collectibles Shows** Route 20 in Brimfield, MA. A weeklong event in May, July, and September; 413-283-2418. **First Monday Trade Days** two blocks north of the town square in Canton, TX. The century-old market starts on the Thursday before the first Monday of each month and runs Thursday through Sunday and Labor Day Monday; 903-567-6556. **Kane County Flea Market** Kane County fairgrounds, between Routes 64 and 38, St. Charles, IL. First Sunday of every month and preceding afternoon. As many as 1,400 dealers; 630-377-2252. **Lakewood Antiques Market** 2000 Lakewood Way, Atlanta, GA. Second weekend of every month; 404-622-4488. **Olde Hadley Flea Market** Route 47, Hadley, MA. Every Sunday from the end of April to the first week in November, with everything offered from antiques to fresh produce;

413-586-0352. **Rennigers #1 Antiques Market** Route 272, Adamstown, PA. Every Sunday, year-round; 877-385-0104. **Rose Bowl Flea Market** corner of Rosemont Avenue and Aroyo Boulevard, Pasadena, CA. Second Sunday of every month; 323-560-7469. **Round Top Antiques Fair** FM 237, Round Top, TX. April 7-9 and October 6-8. The epitome of the old-fashioned "country" antiques show; 713-493-5501. **Springfield Antique Show and Flea Market** Clark County Fairgrounds, next to exit 59 off Route I-70, Springfield, OH. Friday through Sunday, usually the third weekend of every month except July; 937-325-0053. **Stormville Airport Antique Show and Flea Market** Route 26, Stormville, NY. One Sunday a month, April through November; 914-221-6561. **26th Street Flea Market** Avenue of the Americas, between 24th and 27th Streets, New York, NY. True believers shop between 4 and 6 a.m.; the official hours are 7 a.m.-6 p.m. every Sunday, rain or shine; 212-243-5343. **Wellfleet Drive-in Flea Market** Route 6 toward Provincetown, Truro, MA. Great linens and ceramics to be found alongside tube socks and Pokemon cards. Every weekend; 508-349-2520.

—L.F.

