

Mostly about People

By Wally Trabing



I was just one guy among all these dolls, hundreds of them, and I was calm as a cucumber, or radish if you prefer.

These dolls were assembled in a tight little room above the Goodwill Industries work and sales room. They were rescuees.

Mrs. Laura Pahl and Mrs. Ada Jane Leamy are the rescuers. They have been trained to spot rare dolls from the thousands donated to Goodwill for resale at the annual Goodwill antiques show, June 15-17 at the Riverside.

Now, maybe the boys down at the poolhall won't fight to read this bit of intelligence, but there are more guys interested in dolls (this kind) than you think.

Immediately, when I started staring at my finger nails in this room filled with cuddle tops, Mrs. Leamy reeled off these statistics:

"Doll collecting in the U.S. is second only to coin collecting, and, listen to this—most of the serious collectors are men."

In fact, the person who trained these women to spot a Barbi, a Bisque, a tin head, the tortoise trademark, et cetera, was Lewis Sorensen, the wax artist of Scotts Valley who claims the best doll collection in the country.

He has 600 and values his collection at around \$2000.

Both women are very devoted to this project. They often come here to work in this tiny garret.

To the rare visitor they have to yell "duck your head" because of a rough low beam in the entrance hallway. A dull thud means you didn't pay attention.

They are excited over an early celluloid Negro doll which they believe was made in Germany for the Congo trade. It should bring \$50 from a collector.

"Colored dolls are in demand," said Mrs. Leamy. "For some reason they're always snapped up at our sales."

The Bisque dolls make a collector's eyes roll. Their faces and hands are made from a kind of china. The girls have found two of these.

They can bring up to \$500, especially those made in France.

For the fastidious collector, there are two Terri Lee dolls with the "n" prined backward in "patent pending."

For the still more fastidious the sexy Barbi dolls have "patent pending" tattooed on their fundamentals.

Other finds are Kewpies, Rose O'Neill, covered wagon dolls, celebrity dolls such as Shirley Temple, Emmett Kelly, Diana Durban, Charlie McCarthy, and a Poor Pitiful Pearl (squeals from the collectors).

The two women are wont to hide out other items for the antiques sale that catch their eyes

as they make their way to their doll garret.

Like the opium pipe sitting innocently on a shelf near the miniature dolls.

Some of the dolls arriving here without a thing to wear have been fabulously re-outfitted by Sorensen.

Others have taken an inglorious route to the cardboard box morgue. Once nuzzled to the breasts of their young mistresses, talked to by the hour, and guarded in warh bers, they now lay broken in a grotesque pile of pink limbs.

Only a snobbish trade name could have checked their fate. The women have done well—helping to bring about \$1000 in doll sales to the Goodwill during the past two years.

I wouldn't like this job, though. One doll's enough for me.

"Watch your head, please," said Mrs. Leamy when I left.



17-Safety Habits



CHILDREN wear life jackets.

By Ted Jones
Marine Designer

Safety habits afloat are as easy to form as bad habits. To find your safety I.Q. ask yourself these questions. Do you—

Step carefully into your boat, or do you jump in haphazardly?

Periodically check the condition of your anchor rope, the security of mooring bitts, the serviceability of extinguishers?

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