

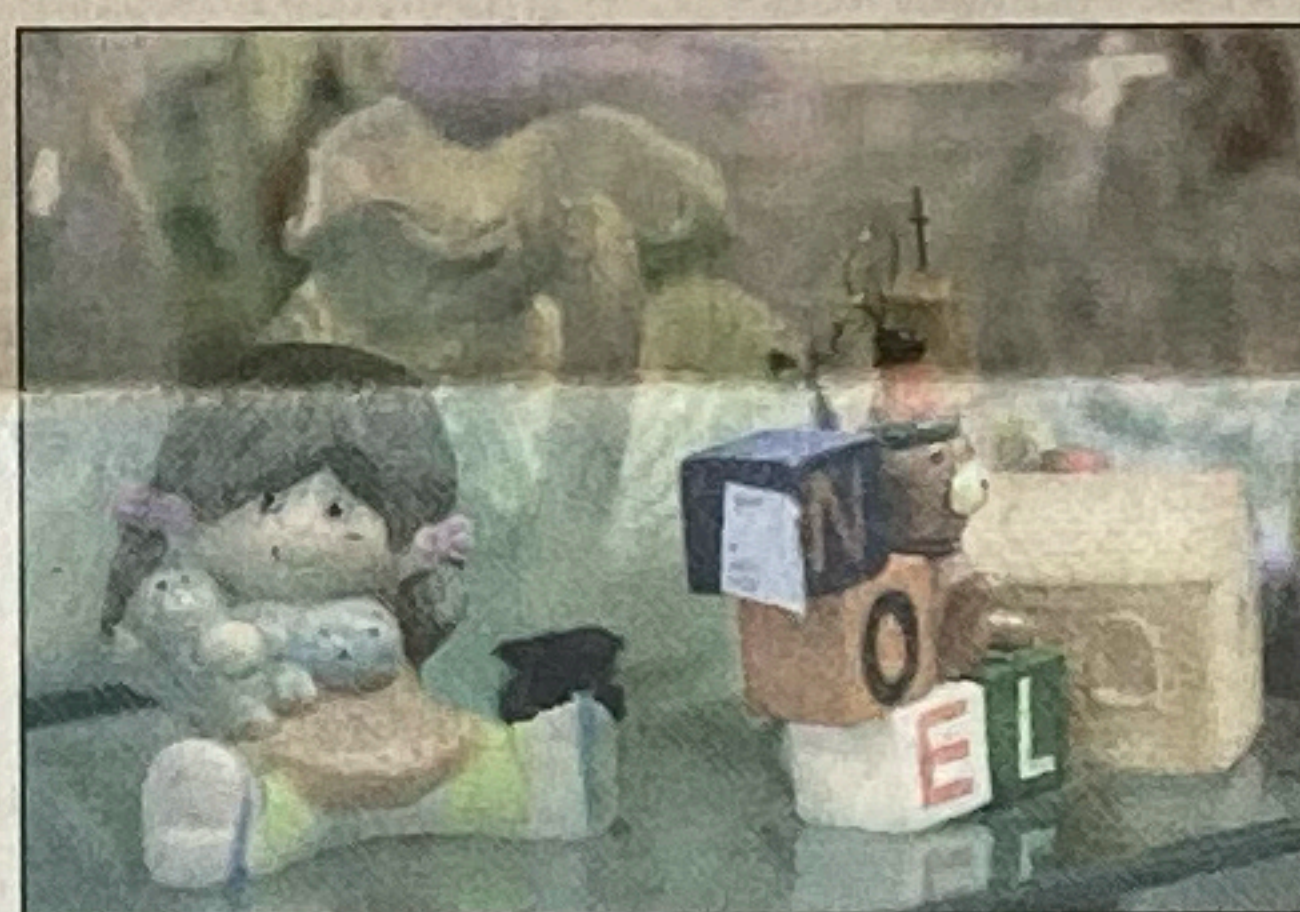


Mike McCoy/DAILY REPUBLIC PHOTOS

Goodwill Center employee Mike Maroulas inspects and sorts through clothing, before the items are delivered to Goodwill stores.

Thanks but no thanks

Thrift stores
struggle with
throw-away
donations



Goodwill tries to sell every possible donation because it wants to use that income for its programs.

By Shawn Miller
DAILY REPUBLIC

If you have a broken TV or an old ratty couch that you're just dying to get rid of, don't give it to Goodwill or the Salvation Army.

They don't want it because, well, you wouldn't want it either. That's why you're giving it away.

It's not that these organizations are ungrateful or excessively finicky — both, of course, gladly accept most donations — but certain unsalable items actually end up costing them money. Quite a lot of it.

Terrance Fitzpatrick is the senior vice president of Goodwill Industries of the Greater

East Bay that serves Contra Costa, Alameda and Solano counties. Fitzpatrick said East Bay Goodwill pays \$400,000 a year in garbage fees. This figure doesn't include the cost of sorting and hauling the donated but useless items, just the landfill costs.

"That's a lot of money that could be put into employment and training," Fitzpatrick said during a tour of the Cordelia Goodwill distribution center. "If we could cut that in half, that would increase our employment and training budget by 15 percent."

"We try and sell every possible donation for two reasons; one, we want the income because we want to

use that income for our programs. Two, we don't want to have to pay to trash those things. Garbage is very expensive," said East Bay Goodwill's Vice President of Community Development Barbara Reed.

Goodwill is a nonprofit organization founded in 1919 whose main purpose is to provide "transitional employment, workforce preparation and job placement services for local people who are vocationally disadvantaged," according to its mission statement.

Goodwill's clientele consists of parolees, recovering drug addicts and people having a hard time generally, Fitzpatrick said.

"With the trainees, what

we're trying to do is build their work ethic, working on their soft skills — attitude, attendance, tardiness. Those are things a lot of us take for granted, but some people need help understanding the expectation of the work place," Fitzpatrick said.

The Salvation Army has a similar work therapy program.

The programs of Goodwill and the Salvation Army are supported by reselling public donations. If the donations aren't worth anything, they can't sell them and are saddled with the responsibility of disposing of the offending item.

"As a rule of thumb, after our quality sorts, we can ship to our stores about 50 percent of what our donors give us. The balance either ends up in the recycling bin, in textile bins sold overseas, and as a last resort it ends up in the landfill," Fitzpatrick said.

About half the donations to Goodwill are of little or no value.

The list of items Goodwill doesn't accept includes televisions, microwaves, infant car seats, cribs, hot water heaters, automotive products, bicycle parts, food, magazines, computer monitors, broken electrical equipment, chemicals, oils, toxic materials, pesticides, mattresses, box springs, bed pillows, office furniture, waterbeds, all building materials, venetian blinds, shutters and gas-powered yard tools.

The Salvation Army's donation policy is a little more lenient, according to



Rob Buckless sorts through donations as they are taken out of a trailer.



East Bay Goodwill pays \$400,000 a year in garbage fees. That doesn't include the cost of sorting and hauling the donated but useless items, just the landfill costs.

Getting down to the nuts, bolts and glue gun

By James and Morris Carey
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When we get ready to tackle a project, the first thing we consider is what will be used to hold everything together — nails, screws or nuts and bolts.

Will we need a hammer, screwdriver or socket wrench? Although the tools and fasteners we've mentioned are the most common and most popular, there are other options.

Here are some alternatives to popular fastening methods and a look at specialty connecting devices. When it comes to fastening there are more choices than you might think. We aren't suggesting you run down to the hardware store and add the list to your tool box. Specialty tools are just that — for special projects. Our alternatives to nails, screws, nuts and bolts follow:

- manual stapler (upholstery stapler)
- electric stapler
- hammer stapler (hammer tacker)
- rivet gun
- glue gun

A manual stapler is not like the one used at an office desk; it is big and bulky and has a d-ring grip with a firing lever (trigger) that is as long as the tool. Considerable force can be exerted with this tool making it excellent for upholstery work. Use one hand to stretch and hold the material, and the other to grip and fire the stapler which spits the staple in place holding the fabric tightly

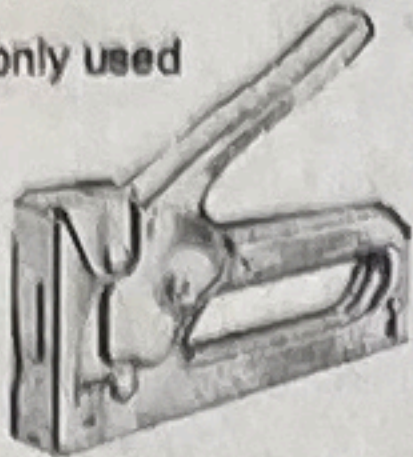
Getting it together

Nails, screws, and bolts are the most commonly used fastening devices, but aren't the best choice for every fastening situation.

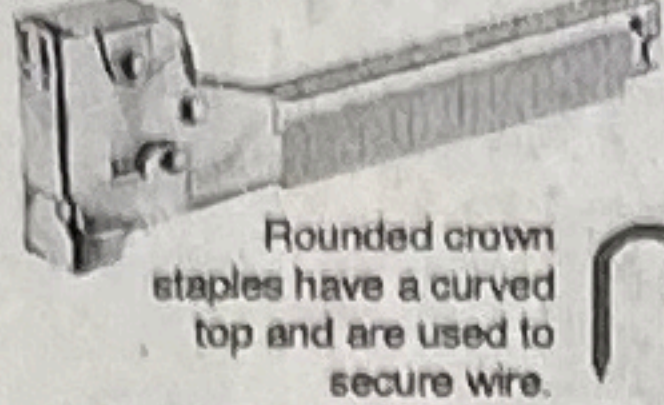
Manual staplers are good tools for upholstery, screening, installing ceiling tile or any other project that requires heavy stapling.



Electric power staplers perform all the functions of manual staplers. Some even shoot small brads. The major benefit to an electric model is its ease of use. Electric staplers are more user-friendly for large projects than manual models.

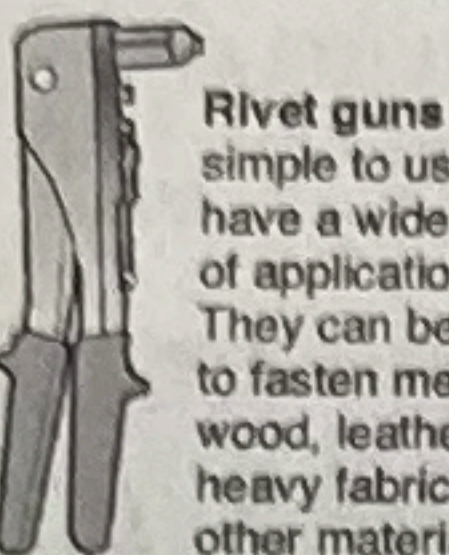


Hammer staplers The operator holds the stapler low on the handle and swings it just like a hammer to drive staples quickly and easily. They are good choices for securing house wrap, roofing felt and other applications where speed is more important than precision.

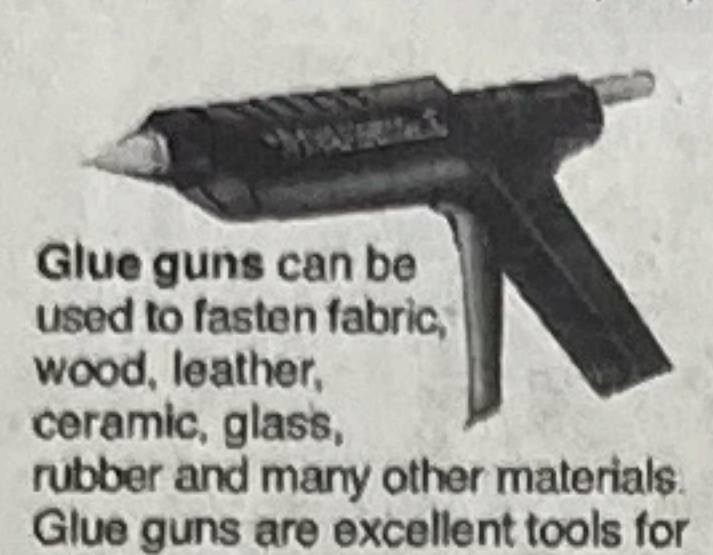


Rounded crown staples have a curved top and are used to secure wire.

Flat crown staples have a flat top or crown and are used for general fastening.



Rivet guns are simple to use and have a wide variety of applications. They can be used to fasten metal, wood, leather, heavy fabrics and other materials.



Glue guns can be used to fasten fabric, wood, leather, ceramic, glass, rubber and many other materials. Glue guns are excellent tools for craft projects.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

in position. Want to cover dining room chairs? You can use upholstery tacks, but the manual stapler will make the job faster and easier.

A strong, well-driven staple

holds like glue.

Want to install a new screen at the kitchen door? Nothing holds screen material like a staple. Whether you have copper, steel, aluminum or fiber-

glass screen material, staples work well.

For years we've had an electric stapler, yet we prefer the manual kind. For some reason the electric stapler just doesn't seem to have the oomph of the manual stapler. However, for lightweight projects the electric stapler is easier to use and requires a lot less elbow grease.

No carpenter would be caught at work without a hammer stapler (hammer tacker) in his toolbox. It is used to apply siding paper (house wrap), window flashing, corner flashing and roof felt (underlayment) and is used when accuracy isn't important. The hammer tacker looks like a desktop stapler with the bottom section missing. It is held at the end opposite the tip and swung like a hammer. When the hammer tacker hits, the staple is fired. Staples can be shot out of a hammer tacker as fast as its operator can move.

Note: The most common staple has a flat head and is used for general purposes. There are some staplers that shoot round-head staples. These are special devices made specifically for attaching wire. They even have a guide on the end near the tip that holds the wire in place so it won't be accidentally penetrated by the staple.

Staples aren't the only alternative. Rivets and glue are excellent fasteners, too. When it comes to sheet metal, leather and heavy cloth (like

canvas), rivets are the best alternative. Many sheet-metal contractors use rivets and liquid sealant to join metal gutters. Where soldered joints often fail (expansion and contraction between heat of day and cold nights) on rain gutters, riveted joints just don't come apart. With a riveted joint, a flexible sealant can be used that will expand and contract with temperature changes.

And rivets are easy to remove; just drill out the center. It takes only a few seconds. Then, a new rivet can be added. Rivets are available in several different diameters and lengths. A complete rivet kit of good quality can be bought for about \$40.

Neither of us knew anything about glue guns until Morris' wife Carol decided to decorate a flower pot. She was attaching plastic, glass, fabric, leather and stone to a ceramic pot. There doesn't seem to be anything that you can't assemble with a glue gun. Carol once purchased a box of sea shells and covered the frame of a mirror. As the trigger is pulled the glue gun feeds a stick of glue into a heating chamber. A hot sticky liquid that dries almost instantly comes out from the other end.

Faucet leaks and drips

Has the steady drip, drip, drip of a bathroom faucet been keeping you awake? For a temporary solution

that will bring you blissful sleep, cut off about a foot of ordinary string and tie one end around the spout. Allow the other end to hang under the leak, down into the sink, so water can trickle silently down the length of the string and into the drain.

This will allow you to grab 20 winks before you look into a permanent repair.

How to shop for carpet

When shopping for new carpet, don't consider price alone. Think about the traffic the carpet will encounter and where the carpet will be placed.

Carpet in a hallway, for example, gets far more wear than that in a dining area or family room, and style — meaning nap and weave — affects both wear and ease of care. Type of fiber and construction determines how well carpet performs and keeps its original appearance. Carpet density, the amount of yarn used, also governs performance. The more yarn per square yard, the heavier the carpet and the better it wears.

Here's a simple density test for any style: Bend the carpet and note how close together the tufts are, and how much backing is exposed. Good carpet will be tight and full-bodied; cheap carpet will be light-

For more home-improvement tips and information visit our Web site at www.onthehouse.com.

Turn colorful blankets into valance

Home & Garden Television

A continuing compendium of tips and tricks from Home & Garden Television:

Blanket decor

Add color and warmth to a room by fashioning blankets into valance toppers or hanging them across a decorative rod and using them as curtains. The fringed ends of throw blankets can be knotted and used to hang the blanket/curtain.

Birdbath

Make sure your feathered friends always have a source of water, both for drinking and bathing. Replace this water often during the winter months to prevent freezing.

Coat care

When drying out your jacket after coming in from the rain, remember to hang the coat away from the radiators or heat vents so that you don't shrink it.

Electric blanket storage

Vacuum and launder an electric blan-

ket (if it's washable) before placing it in storage.

Mood vases

Perhaps one of the easiest ways to change the feeling of a room is grouping vases in similar shapes or color tones. Fill them with flowers from your garden or a local nursery. Place these vases around your home, light a cluster of candles, add your favorite music and your home environment will be instantly transformed!

Shopping for bulbs

When shopping for flower bulbs, inspect the bulbs carefully and select only those that are solid and heavy. Loose skins are OK, but steer clear of those that have mold or show signs of rot.

Lively lampshades

A quick, inexpensive way to liven up your living room is to buy new lampshades for your table lamps. The local department store or home furnishing dis-

count store will most likely carry a good variety of styles and materials.

Remodeling with cork

Cork is practical for use on floors in the home since it reduces energy cost, is an excellent insulator from sound and has a rich surface texture that is very attractive.

Fitness tips

Walk a couple of flights of stairs each day to burn fat, boost your circulation and increase your energy level.

Redecorating

If you want to create a "lodge look" for your bedroom but have a limited budget, spend money on the two most important elements in the room: the headboard and fabrics.

Safe pet food

To prevent ants from getting into pet food, make a moat for food by placing the food bowl inside a baking pan or skillet (nonstick pans won't rust) and fill it with 1 inch of water. Ants won't cross the water.

Thanks

From Page D1

Dave Harrison, the director of production for the Salvation Army Sacramento Adult Rehabilitation Center.

"As long as it's in a box or a bag and it's not trash, we'll take it," Harrison said.

A call to the Salvation Army's (800) 95-TRUCK number — the organization's pick-up service, which is available in Fairfield and Suisun City — reveals that drivers won't accept king-sized beds, anything not in working condition, appliances that require installation or items with rips or stains.

The rationale for turning down pesticides and other toxic chemicals and materials is clear enough, but why decline mattresses and refrigerators?

"Mattresses have to be sterilized by state law and we don't have the facilities to do that. With refrigerators, we stopped accepting those many, many years ago because most of the ones that were donated were in disrepair and we don't have the capacity to rehab refrigerators," Fitzpatrick said. "Another reason refrigerators are such a big issue is that they contain (the chemical) freon. There's all sorts of hazardous waste that ends up on our doorsteps."

One such item that Goodwill began to decline about a year and a half ago is televisions and computer monitors because they contain lead and must be specially disposed of as well.

"So right now, if we get a TV and it doesn't work — and most of them don't — it's like a \$25 price tag for us to take it to the dump. Per TV,"

ITEMS GOODWILL DOESN'T ACCEPT

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| × Televisions | × Magazines | × Mattresses, box springs |
| × Microwaves | × Computer monitors | × Bed pillows |
| × Infant car seats | × Broken electrical equipment | × Office furniture |
| × Cribs | × Chemicals | × Waterbeds |
| × Hot water heaters | × Oils | × All building materials |
| × Automotive products | × Toxic materials | × Venetian blinds, shutters |
| × Bicycle parts | × Pesticides | |
| × Food | | |

Fitzpatrick said.

Since Goodwill's work programs are dependent upon the goodwill of donors, donation guidelines aren't completely inflexible.

"We'll always have that situation where a donor will come up and they might have a carload of really excellent stuff and then they have a TV. Well, how do you handle that? If they really want us to take the TV, we'll take it," Fitzpatrick said.

Both Goodwill and the Salvation Army try to control what donations they receive, but clandestine donations after hours are impossible to control. According to Fitzpatrick, Reed and Harrison, many donors drop off unwanted items at donation sites in the dead of night.

"I'll be honest with you. There are some problems, one of which we call good citizen dumping. This is where people, whatever their intentions are, want to donate now even if the site is closed," Reed said.

Many items donated in this way add to the \$400,000 trash bill East Bay Goodwill pays out each year because an attendant isn't there at the site to turn down

unwanted items.

"The ones who donate just to get it out of their garage, I doubt we'll ever reach them," Fitzpatrick said.

Sometimes items are donated by accident.

"I spent a number of years at the San Francisco Goodwill and there were some cross-dressing items donated once and the guy came back and said his wife had donated it and he wanted it back. It was an awkward moment for all of us," Fitzpatrick said.

"Occasionally we get frantic calls from people saying, 'please can you find my coat, I left my wedding ring in there.' We try real hard to track those things down and to get those things back to people but things run through the system — this processing system — and into the store in about 24 hours," Reed said.

And even if an item is donated on purpose and with the best of intentions, it can still be of little use to Goodwill.

"I do believe that there's a lot of well-intended donors that give us a lot of stuff thinking that we're still operating in the way that we did 50 years ago. Fifty years ago this (ripped and stained) sofa

might have been in a Goodwill that was refurbishing furniture as a skill that they were trying to train their workforce in because there were a lot more people doing reupholstery back then," Fitzpatrick said.

"There were a lot more shoe repair shops, more people did furniture refinishing. Or repairing a toaster. Many years ago we used to do all that stuff, but now the jobs aren't out there if someone learns that skill. And even if the jobs were out there, the cost to replace a cord on a toaster costs more than what we can sell it for in our stores today."

Goodwill is both the victim and beneficiary of the modern throw-away society in which it's cheaper to purchase a new vacuum cleaner, say, than to repair a broken one. While the disinclination to fix things means Goodwill gets a lot of donations it otherwise wouldn't, the low cost of many consumer goods makes fixing the items inefficient.

So off to the dump it goes, at Goodwill's expense.

The Cordelia processing center alone receives more than 17,000 individual items — shirts, toasters, coffee cups, vinyl records, toys, shoes, you name it — in one week.

"I always tell people, if it's ever been manufactured, it's probably come through a Goodwill," Fitzpatrick said.

The question is: Can Goodwill use it?

Shawn Miller can be reached at smiller@dailyrepublic.net.

Doll

From Page D4

used in making lighting fixtures until 1925, when the company decided to add a giftware line.

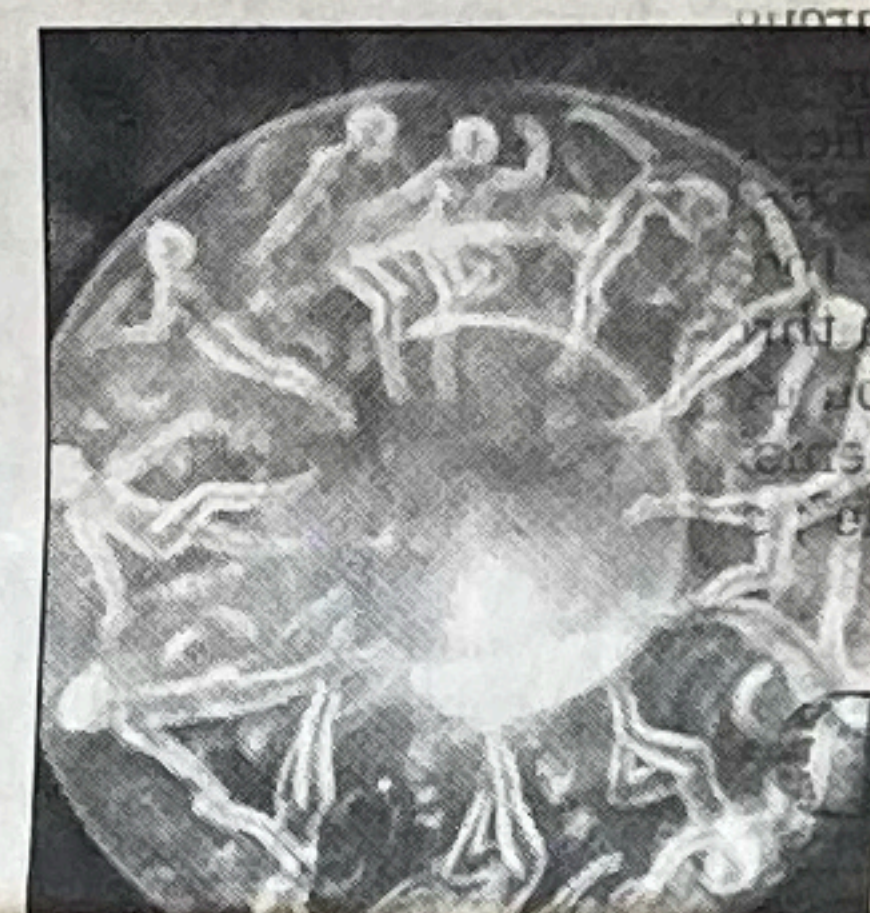
One of the chief designers of Consolidated's new lines was Reuben Haley, who was greatly influenced by the glass displayed at the Exposition Internationale des Arts et Industriels Modernes held in Paris in 1925.

In particular, he was enamored of the work of the famous French jeweler and glassmaker Rene Lalique, and several of the pieces he designed for Consolidated were based on Lalique's work.

In 1926, Consolidated introduced their "Dancing Nymph" line, which was very much in the French Art Deco taste. It was designed by Reuben Haley's son Kenneth, and originally there were only a few different shapes made.

In the initial production from 1926 to 1932, the "Dancing Nymph" salad plates like the ones belonging to G.U. were often decorated with ceramic colors and had beveled and polished edges. The plant closed in 1932 and reopened in 1936, and the "Dancing Nymph" plates made after that date do not have the beveled and polished edges.

"Dancing Nymph" pieces can be found in a variety of



SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE

These "Dancing Nymphs" pattern salad plates were made by Consolidated Lamp and Glass Co.

colors — amethyst, green, yellow, blue and pink as well as in frosted, clear and "French Crystal," which is a combination of clear and frosted. "Dancing Nymph" pieces are highly desired, and a set of eight frosted salad plates sells as these are not easy to find. The insurance replacement value for this grouping is currently between \$1,000 and \$1,250.

Helaine Fendelman and Joe Rosson are the authors of *Treasures in Your Attic* (HarperCollins, \$18). Questions can be mailed to them at P.O. Box 12208, Knoxville, TN 37912.

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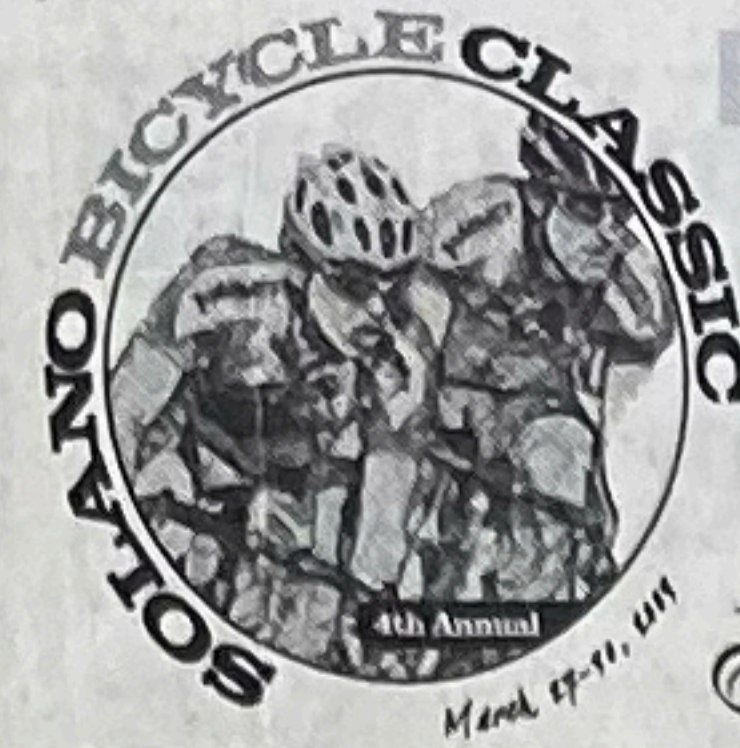
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