Antique or Junque: Sewing machine still stitches some value

by Anne_McCollam

Q: I am sending a photo of my parents' Singer sewing machine. They purchased it when living in Vermont in the early 1940s. I have had it since the mid-1980s. The cabinet is made of oak, and both the cabinet and the machine are in excellent condition. I still have the instruction booklet, which is dated 1937.

Could you please give me an idea of its current value?

A Singer sewing machine, created by Singer Sewing Machine Co., would probably be worth $200 to $275.

A: Founded by Isaac Singer in Boston, Singer Sewing Machine Co. started in 1857. There were multiple factories that produced machines and cabinets in the U.S. and Europe. One of the Singer cabinet factories opened in South Bend, Ind., in 1868. The decal design on your machine is often referred to as the "Red Eye" design.

The value of your machine would probably be $200 to $275.

Q: I inherited a set of china that was given to my grandmother in the 1950s. It is a service for eight and in very good condition. The enclosed mark is on each dish. The letters and numbers (C 54 N 8) are also included with the mark.

Could you please tell me the history of my china?

A: Homer Laughlin China Co. located in East Liverpool, Ohio, made your dinnerware. "Virginia Rose" is the name of the shape. They used decals to decorate over a dozen patterns that appeared on this shape. "C 54 N 8" shows your dishes were made in March 1954 at Laughlin's East Liverpool, Ohio, Plant N.

The value of your china set would probably be $300 to $400.

Q: This pinball board game, "Poosh-M-Up Victory Bomber," has been in my family since the 1940s. My parents bought it during World War II. Measuring 13 inches by 23 inches and used as a table, it was manufactured by Northwestern Products in St. Louis.

Can you provide its approximate value?

A: Northwestern Products manufactured several pinball games with different themes in the 1940s. Your game is a "one-in-5" that includes the five games, Bagatelle (pinball), Put-N-Take, Baseball, Twenty-One and Big Score.

Your wartime table game would probably be worth $200 to $300.

Q: I have a steel toy truck with a flat trailer that has been in our family many years. It is dark green and has a label with the words "Le Tourneau, Ny-Lint Tool Mfg. Co., Rockford, Ill." The overall length of the truck is 41 inches and the width is 7 inches. It has a built-in loading ramp and hand winch.

Could you tell me how old it is and its value?

A: Ny-Lint Tool Manufacturing was founded in Rockford, Ill., in 1937. The toy trucks were inspired by real

construction trucks and cars. Your truck is one of their "Tournahaulers," which was modeled after equipment made by B.R. LeTourneau Manufacturing in Peoria, Ill.

Your truck was made around 1953 and it would probably be worth $300 to $350.

Address your questions to Anne McCollam, P.O. Box 247, Notre Dame, IN 46556. Items of a general interest will be answered in this column. Due to the volume of inquiries, she cannot answer individual letters.

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