

Outlook on Lifestyle

Would you throw a \$100 bill in the trash can?

Stuffing \$100 bills into your trash can sounds silly, says author Tony Hyman, yet he asserts that "most Americans throw away things worth five times that much without giving it a thought."

In their hurry to clean house, Hyman says, a surprisingly large number of people have thrown away items worth a fortune.

A Pennsylvania couple recently found some of those tossed-out treasures while moving into their newly purchased \$38,000 home. Former owners had cleaned house thoroughly, and left a trash can containing old photographs worth \$93,000!

All mistakes aren't that dramatic, Hyman says, but nearly everyone throws away items they could sell for \$50 or

more. It's easy to make mistakes, Hyman points out, since items don't have to be old or expensive to have value.

Almost everything more than 15 years old is sought by someone, according to Hyman, who for the past eight years has been compiling directories of people who buy everything from shrunken heads to old Girl Scout uniforms.

By contacting nearly 10,000 collectors and dealers, Hyman has discovered that nearly everything made by man or woman is collected. A market exists for some very unlikely items.

Arkansas native Bob Alexander pays top dollar for old tin cans. Because of fierce competition among can collectors, tins which were throw-away items in the 1920s and '30s today bring more than

\$1,000 each!

Grandpa's briars may stink up the room, but don't toss them out without calling Fred Gilbert in New York first.

Hundreds of ordinary looking used pipes, especially brands like Dunhill, Comoy, Charatan and Caminetta, are worth \$20-\$200 these days.

Another hot collectible frequently thrown away is old fishing tackle. The record price for a single wooden plug is \$9,000, with many plugs from the 1920-40 era bringing over \$50 apiece. In Hollywood, Hyman found collector Rick Edmiston, who will evaluate your plugs, and pay cash for the good ones.

Phonograph records are particularly

deceiving for the amateur seller, since many early ones are valueless while some from the 1950s and '60s are worth \$30 or more. Houston's Les Docks wrote the most popular price guide to phonograph records and is only a phone call away.

Other items to pay particular attention to include duck decoys, cigar boxes, wooden carvings, advertising signs, old photographs, wind-up toys, phonograph records, magazines, old radios, wrist watches, carnival glass, musical instruments, depression glass, Barbie doll accessories, pin back buttons, coin operated machines, baseball cards... and much much more. There are even old paperback books worth \$50!

Worth \$50 to how many people? Probably fewer than a dozen. That's why most things can be sold locally for only a fraction of their real value, according to Hyman.

Selling over the phone and through the mail is almost always more profitable, Hyman vows, telling the story of a Bakersfield, Cal., man who was told by local dealers that his item was worthless. "He was so happy when he used my book to find a New York man who gave him \$1,500 for his 'worthless' stuff that he called the local radio station and told the story over the air," Hyman happily reports.

"I began compiling directories, because top buyers are scattered over 50 states.

Before I started writing these directories, it was nearly impossible for the amateur seller to make the best deal," he says.

Hyman's latest buyer's directory, *Cash For Your Undiscovered Treasures*, has 1,500 entries providing names, addresses and phone numbers of expert buyers ready to pay cash for more than a million different items found around homes and businesses.

It includes 350 pages of what collectors want to buy, where to go for free appraisals, and numerous tips on how to get top dollar.

Cash For Your Undiscovered Treasures is available only by mail. Send \$19.95 plus \$3 shipping to Buyer Directory, Box 699, Claremont, CA 91711.

Mention the name of this newspaper when you order and Hyman will include a free 5,000 item price guide and a pad of form letters to use when writing to buyers. For credit card orders, call toll-free, 1-800-543-7500 and a 30-day money back guarantee will be given.

Expert advice is essential, Hyman emphasizes, before disposing of anything. A Los Angeles family threw out \$500,000 worth of old letters because they didn't think they were important.

"The saddest part," Hyman says, "is that they were in bankruptcy. One phone call to any one of a dozen buyers listed in my book, and they'd have been rich instead!"

Miniature roses in containers: A beautiful and rewarding alternative to conventional gardening

For the many people who have neither time nor space for a conventional garden, outdoor container gardening offers a compact, but rewarding, alternative.

One of the most satisfying and fun-to-grow container plants is the miniature rose. With all the beauty and charm of full-sized roses, minis are the perfect accent plant.

They'll add a splash of color and style to a deck or balcony, and can be moved about to suit your mood.

Best of all, miniature roses are hardy and undemanding. Thanks to recent advances in garden technology, like self-watering containers and specialty soil mixes, growing them is easier than ever before.

Miniature roses come in all shapes and sizes. An average mini, like the old favorite, "Tom Thumb," grows 12 inches tall or less in containers.

"Macro" minis reach two feet tall or more, and may bear blossoms two inches across.

There are climbing minis that will grow to six or seven feet, and tree minis under two feet tall.

Minis come in colors to complement any decor, from red, lavender and pink, through salmon, apricot and bronze to bright orange and yellow, to white and even green.

Garden centers usually offer several varieties, or you can order minis from a mail-order nursery like Jackson & Perkins of Medford, Oregon.

Miniature roses are sold potted at garden centers or shipped through the mail with the rootball protected in a moisture-retaining wrapper.

Mail-order plants should be planted as soon as they arrive. Plant them slightly deeper than their nursery level to encourage new roots along the stem.

Any container that provides at least six inches of soil depth and good drainage will do for minis. The new self-watering containers, like Rubbermaid's Anywhere Garden, are excellent.

Choosing the correct soil mix is critical. Roses need a lightweight mix that drains quickly yet retains moisture well.

A.H. Hoffman's Container Gardening Soil Mix is ideal for pot-grown roses. It's available with the Rubbermaid kit, or separately for use in clay pots or other containers.

Culture: Place containers where they'll receive at least six hours of morning or afternoon sun daily.

Keep soil uniformly moist, but not soggy, and feed regularly with a complete fertilizer for roses, such as Hoffman Rose Food.

Indoors: If you want to display your minis indoors, allow them to remain outside until they come into flower. Then bring them inside and place them in a sunny spot. They should continue to bloom for several weeks.

Keep soil moist and provide added humidity. If your planters do not have a water reservoir, set the pots on trays of

pebbles and water. When blossoms fade, it's time to return containers to their outdoor locations.

Most roses bloom heavily in June and

again in September, with some flowering in between. Blooming-size minis planted in containers this spring should be in full bloom by early summer.



CONTAINER-GROWN MINIS offer all the beauty and fragrance of their full-sized cousins, but require less time and effort to care for. The self-watering planter and special container soil being used here are ideal for miniature roses grown outside or indoors.

Welcome Wagon Bridal Party

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