



Photos by Brett Blocker

One Little Theatre, 10 big voices...

Heather King (above left), owner of Flyleaf Book Shop, hosted her long-running New London Story Show last Sunday afternoon at the Little Theatre. A total of 10 writers from the lakes area shared stories centered around the theme of "Pilgrimage," from John Hanson's European travels, to Hamdi Kosar's journey from the Dagahaley Refugee Camp to the United States. Above right: Jeff Vetsch provided musical accompaniment to the show and its 110 attendees.

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to which he has installed a gooseneck lamp tastefully wrapped in the 8mm film from its original reel.

wasn't able to find much." Alongside the recorder sits its cousin – a Kodak Brownie 6-20. Made in the 1940s, this camera was simple enough for the average photographer to use with little training, and apparently simple enough for

a seasoned tinkerer to tack on a dimmer switch and 5 watt lightbulb.

Purchased from a vendor on Ebay, Noeldner said the Brownie initially sold for \$4.25 at the time of its release. Then, in 1946, Kodak rebranded the camera to the Brownie Flash 6-20, increasing the price to \$5.90.

Despite Noeldner's modifications, most pieces found throughout the home are easily identifiable; cameras and projectors retain their original lenses and reels of film, "blenders" maintain their original glass pitchers. Alien among them, however, is a long-discontinued Tanglefoot "Diffusor" from Michigan.

Initially, Noeldner believed the piece to be an outdated coffee pot. Though its mechanics are similar to a standard percolator of that era, advertised throughout the '40s as an "electric insect destroyer," the machine produced a concoction with a bit more kick than a standard cup of joe.

"People used to put chemicals in here," he explained, gesturing to a hollow canteen attached to the gadget's fore-end. "Then you'd plug it in, add water, and that water would boil the 'coffee pot' so that a mist would come out of the spout to kill bugs."

In reconfiguring the Diffusor to emit light instead of

noxious fumes, Noeldner removed the heating coil, but opted to retain the original plug-cord

and fumigating spout. "It's got an interesting history behind it," he said of the piece. "The guys who started the Tanglefoot company back in the late 1800s originally made flypaper out of a hardware store in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

I never knew this, but back when you used to buy flypaper, they used to make up a batch for you right there in the store. So they figured there's got to be a better way..."

Today, Tanglefoot still maintains a foothold in the pesticide industry, albeit with more eco-friendly alternatives including tree wraps for protection against invasive bugs, and other chemical-free pest management products.

Like most pieces, the history behind the Diffusor is as interesting as the modified end product. For this reason, Noeldner prefers to keep as many original parts as possible, dings and all – especially with his telephone series.

Of the numerous rotary phones Noeldner has col-

lected from vendors across the country and repurposed into lamps, virtually all contain their original centerpiece dials, complete with home-area codes ranging from Colorado to Madison, Wisconsin.

For his next venture, Noeldner aims to add 612 area code morphs his child-family phone novelty lamp.

"I've had it in our house forever," he said. "Our kids used to play with it all the

ber and telephone exchange information within the dial.

For those too young to deal with the salad days of long-distance charges and collect calls, Noeldner explains the dialing process of childhood phone calls as an expensive luxury.

"Back when we were little, if you wanted to call out here from the cities, it used to be something like 59 cents a minute."

It was a price his wife Naomi remembers all too well.

"I was not in trouble often, but one of the times in my life I got into real trouble with my mom was the big phone bill from me calling Jon in college. I think the bill (from Madison, MN to Minneapolis) was something like \$200... Back then you could talk to each other, but man, you had to make it quick."

While it may not have been as cost-effective as modern phone plans (and without any of the bells and whistles of texting and internet access), the sturdiness of these classic models continues to impress Noeldner.

"It's crazy to me this stuff still works," he said.

And though it will no longer serve its original purpose as a device for communication, once complete, this reconfigured phone, even in death, will continue to rack up charges, albeit for the affordable cost of powering a pair of low-wattage lightbulbs.



A Tanglefoot "Diffusor" from Michigan, which once emitted the fumes of noxious pesticides now radiates a pleasant gold hue from a 5-watt lightbulb.



time."

Although the years have dulled its frame from a retro pastel yellow to a muted mustard shade, the phone still retains its original phone num-



"A Beautiful Buteo"

A red-tailed hawk showed off its plumage from a tree along the north shore of Calhoun Lake in Hawick in late September, illustrating clearly how the bird came to be named. Found throughout North America, the red-tailed hawk is one of the most common members of the genus "Buteo," which consists of relatively large, wide-ranging raptors with robust bodies and broad wings. Although sometimes referred to as a "chicken-hawk," this predator rarely preys on adult chickens, instead preferring to dine on small mammals such as rodents.



Photo by Terri Robichon, Little Crow Photography Club