

# Repairing an old Barbie doll will restore its value

BY CONNOR MCCRORY

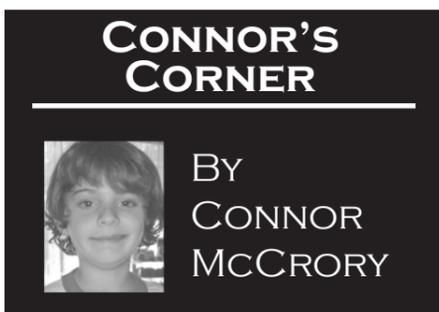
Garage sales and estate sales that are not advertised are usually the best because there aren't as many people and you can get better antiques.

At an unlisted sale this weekend, I found a 1961 vintage bubble cut Barbie with the rare pink lips. She had no green ear but a pin poke on her cheek. Dolls this old often have some flaws.

Because I was cute, the lady sold her to me for \$2. About an hour later I realized it had the head that was on the wrong body, and the doll in this condition was only worth about \$2 – what I paid!

It is important to be careful and check what you buy, even if it is only \$2; however, I was lucky because I knew an antique doll seller named Georgene, who had a collection of antique Barbie doll parts. I called her and asked her if she had the right body. She did and told me to come to her store (Georgene's Antiques, 448 S. Fair Oaks, Pasadena, CA 91105).

It is important to be nice to people and make friends with other antique dealers, so they can help you and you can help



them when they need it.

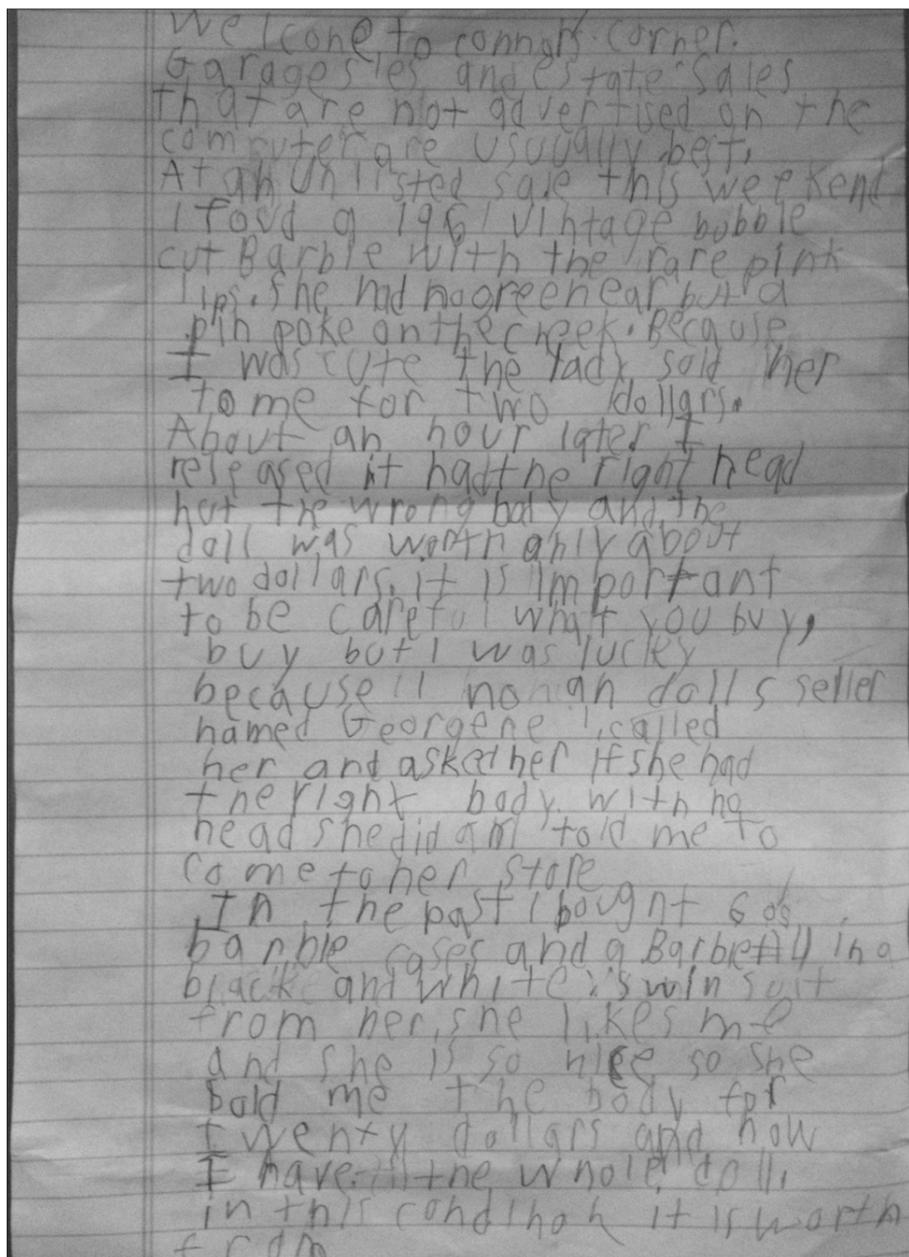
In the past I bought 1960's Barbie cases and a Barbie No. 4 in a black and white swim suit from her. She likes me and always gives me good prices. She is so nice because she sold me the body for \$20. Now I have the whole doll.

In this condition, a 1961 first edition White Ginger Hair Bubble Cut Barbie is worth from \$50 to \$100. One in mint condition is listed as sold on [www.worthpoint.com](http://www.worthpoint.com) for \$424. If you would like to buy this doll contact me with an offer at [americasyoungestpicker@gmail.com](mailto:americasyoungestpicker@gmail.com).

Please return for more antique adventures from "Connor's Connor" next month.

Connor McCrory, 8, "Youngestpicker", is a prodigy picker. Born with congenital heart disease, McCrory is vibrant and healthy. Because of his heart condition, though, he can't play sports like most kids; so at the age of 4, he began collecting vintage Lionel trains. At the age of 5, after watching *Auction Hunters*, *American Pickers* and *Storage Wars*, he decided that he was going to collect antiques and own an antique store or auction house when he got older. Check out Connor's Facebook page and a radio interview with Worthpoint Radio.

**Left:** It takes keen eyes to see the patent dates on the older Barbie dolls, but Connor keeps a step ahead of his older competitors. Among his inventory are several Barbie dolls, Roseville, a piece of Rookwood ... and many more "fresh" items coming in every week.



**Above:** For his first monthly *AntiqueWeek* column, Connor painstakingly printed his observations of the antiques market, and even some of his secrets to getting good buys. Although truly gifted as a columnist, Connor has already chosen his profession: "I will open an antique shop," he says. Connor plans to use the money he makes as an *AntiqueWeek* columnist and "plow" it back into his business, buying antiques and collectibles.

## Youngest Picker

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going to buy storage lockers when he got older. "You are the youngest picker that I ever met, who is for real," Weiss retorted. Then the 61-year-old Weiss dispensed some wisdom on a signed note, "Conner, please stay in school and out of the Storage Lockers!"

That advice failed to deter Connor. Within a year he was picking with Allen Haff from another television show, Spike network's *Auction Hunter*. Haff, impressed with the young picker's knowledge, filmed two days of picking with Connor as his apprentice. The network has yet to air the film.

But, Connor has little desire to quit school; that's where he spreads his enthusiasm for antiques and collectibles. During lunch, he can often be found talking with Linda Acuff, principal at Emerson Elementary School in Burbank.

"He's such an inspiring little kid," Acuff said. "Together we craft ideas for his buying and selling."

Connor, at the principal's suggestion, recently "cataloged" his collection. He's also teaching the principal how to buy vintage Art Deco diamond rings and what to look for in Bakelite jewelry. "Often, he will bring his

friends with him," Acuff said. "He just appeals to all the children in his age group. He is very compassionate and sensitive to others. But, they're all fascinated that he knows so much. He's very passionate about collecting, and he's such a little entrepreneur."

Adept at listening, Connor also picks the brains of much older collectors. Recently at a vintage art pottery show, Connor was seen discussing the various patterns and merits of Roseville and Weller pottery with one of the more acclaimed dealers.

"I have a lot of Roseville," Connor said. "I have a Rookwood piece. And, I have a \$2,000 Barbie from the 1960s ... you always look for the Barbie patents on their butts, they're very tiny ... hard to see. You've got to have good eyes."

Although Connor has grown up in an era in which pickers have nearly become a staple in reality television entertainment, the third-grader has little desire to become "a star." When asked about his future, Connor immediately replied, "I will open an antique store ... probably, when I'm 20 or 25."

By then, Connor McCrory – while disproving the old trope "there is no new blood in the market" – will have a good jump on breaking full-time into the antiques and collectibles industry.

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**Above:** Connor and his mother, Aime McCrory, make up a strong team. Connor has the "eye," and his mom "spells the big words" on the third-grader's eBay descriptions.

## Oregon gaming expo

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During the Atari 2600's lengthy run, from October 1977 to January 1992, more than 400 games were released for the console. To finish out his Atari 2600 library, Weis needs only four cartridges, four boxes, and three instruction manuals, making his collection one of the best in the world.

"It's a very expensive hobby," he said. "I collect for other systems, but once something comes up that I need for my Atari 2600 collection, I may need to sell something else."

If Weis is lucky, he may find one of those missing items on a vendor table at the Portland Retro Gaming Expo.

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**Right:** Vintage pinball machines set on free play is always part of the fun at the Portland Retro Gaming Expo.