

1950's medicine cabinet

1950's medicine cabinet represents a distinct blend of mid-century design, functionality, and cultural influence in home healthcare storage. This article explores the unique characteristics of 1950's medicine cabinets, their materials, styles, and the evolution of their use in American households. Mid-20th century medicine cabinets were more than just storage spaces; they reflected the era's design trends and growing emphasis on health and hygiene. Understanding these cabinets provides insight into the lifestyles and domestic priorities of the 1950s. Additionally, the article covers restoration tips for vintage collectors and how these classic pieces can be integrated into modern homes. The following sections will delve into the history, design features, materials, and contemporary relevance of the 1950's medicine cabinet.

- Historical Context of 1950's Medicine Cabinets
- Design and Style Characteristics
- Common Materials and Construction
- Typical Contents and Usage
- Restoration and Preservation Tips
- Incorporating 1950's Medicine Cabinets in Modern Interiors

Historical Context of 1950's Medicine Cabinets

The 1950's medicine cabinet emerged during a time of significant social and technological change in the United States. Post-World War II economic prosperity led to suburban expansion and increased homeownership. As families settled into new homes, there was a heightened focus on health, hygiene, and convenience, which medicine cabinets addressed. These cabinets were designed to organize and store medications, first aid supplies, and grooming essentials, reflecting the era's rising medical awareness and consumer culture. The 1950s also saw advances in manufacturing and materials, influencing how these cabinets were produced and styled. Medicine cabinets became standard fixtures in bathrooms across America, symbolizing modern living and domestic efficiency.

Design and Style Characteristics

The design of the 1950's medicine cabinet was influenced by mid-century modern aesthetics and practicality. These cabinets often featured clean lines, simple geometric shapes, and minimal ornamentation, blending seamlessly with the bathroom décor of the time. The style varied from built-in recessed units to wall-mounted options with mirrored fronts. The use of mirrored doors served a dual purpose: saving space and enhancing light in often small bathroom areas. Additionally, the cabinet doors sometimes included sliding or hinged mechanisms, depending on the manufacturer and price point. The color palette was typically neutral or pastel, consistent with popular 1950s bathroom colors like mint green, soft pink, and light blue.

Popular Styles

Several styles dominated the 1950's medicine cabinet market:

- **Recessed Cabinets:** Installed flush with the wall, these saved space and provided a streamlined look.
- **Surface-Mounted Cabinets:** Projecting from the wall, often with a decorative frame or trim.
- **Mirrored Fronts:** Featuring single or multiple mirrored panels, sometimes with beveled edges.
- **Combination Units:** Incorporating shelves or towel bars beneath or beside the cabinet for added functionality.

Functional Features

Beyond aesthetics, 1950's medicine cabinets were designed for ease of use and practicality. Shelves inside were adjustable or fixed, made to accommodate bottles and boxes of various sizes. Some cabinets included small compartments or holders for items like toothbrushes, razors, or cotton swabs. Ventilation slots were occasionally incorporated to reduce moisture buildup, preserving the integrity of stored medications and supplies.

Common Materials and Construction

Materials used in 1950's medicine cabinets reflected both availability and the manufacturing technologies of the period. Metal was a popular choice for its durability and ease of cleaning, with steel and aluminum being common. These metals were often painted or enameled in pastel shades to coordinate with bathroom fixtures. Wood was less common but used in higher-end or custom cabinets, typically with a lacquered

finish to resist moisture damage. Glass, particularly mirrored glass, was a defining material for the cabinet doors and sometimes for internal shelving.

Metal Cabinets

Metal cabinets were favored for their longevity and resistance to humidity. They often featured:

- Powder-coated or enamel finishes
- Stainless steel or chrome-plated hardware
- Magnetic or spring-loaded door closures
- Built-in lighting in some premium models

Wood and Composite Cabinets

Wood cabinets, when used, were usually sealed to withstand bathroom moisture. These cabinets offered warmer aesthetics and sometimes included decorative elements such as moldings or inlays. Composite materials like early plastics began to appear in later 1950s models, providing lightweight, affordable options with molded shapes and integrated features.

Typical Contents and Usage

The 1950's medicine cabinet housed more than just prescription medications. It was a central hub for health and grooming items, reflecting the era's domestic routines. Families stored an assortment of remedies, first aid supplies, and personal care essentials inside these cabinets.

Common Items Stored

- Cold and flu remedies such as aspirin and cough syrup
- Topical ointments and antiseptics like iodine and mercurochrome
- Bandages, cotton balls, and gauze
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental floss

- Shaving razors and creams
- Perfumes and colognes
- Hair care products such as combs and brushes

Usage Habits

During the 1950s, the medicine cabinet was a family's primary resource for managing minor health issues and daily grooming. The emphasis on home care and self-treatment meant that these cabinets were regularly accessed and maintained. Proper organization within the cabinet was important to quickly locate items, and some households used labels or small containers to keep supplies orderly.

Restoration and Preservation Tips

Collectors and enthusiasts of 1950's medicine cabinets often seek to restore these vintage pieces to their original condition. Restoration preserves the historical value and functionality of the cabinets while maintaining their mid-century charm. Effective restoration requires understanding the original materials and finishes used during the 1950s.

Cleaning and Repair

Gentle cleaning with non-abrasive agents is recommended to avoid damaging enamel or paint finishes. For metal cabinets, rust removal and repainting may be necessary, using period-appropriate colors. Glass or mirrored panels should be cleaned with suitable glass cleaners and inspected for cracks or chips. Hinges and door mechanisms might require lubrication or replacement with vintage-style hardware.

Refinishing and Replacement Parts

When refinishing wood or composite cabinets, using moisture-resistant sealants and varnishes ensures durability. Replacement parts such as knobs, shelves, or lighting fixtures should match the original design as closely as possible. Authentic restoration enhances both the appearance and value of the cabinet.

Incorporating 1950's Medicine Cabinets in Modern Interiors

Today, 1950's medicine cabinets are appreciated for their vintage appeal and practical design. Interior

designers and homeowners often incorporate these cabinets into contemporary bathroom renovations to add character and a nostalgic touch. The blend of form and function that defined mid-century medicine cabinets suits modern minimalist and retro-inspired aesthetics alike.

Design Integration Ideas

- Use a restored metal cabinet as a focal point in a bathroom with neutral tones
- Pair a pastel-colored 1950's cabinet with matching tiles and fixtures for cohesive styling
- Combine vintage cabinets with modern lighting to enhance visibility and aesthetics
- Install recessed cabinets behind framed mirrors for subtle vintage accents

Functional Adaptations

To meet current storage needs, some 1950's medicine cabinets are retrofitted with modern shelving, LED lighting, or electrical outlets for convenience. This preserves the classic look while improving usability. Maintaining the cabinet's original dimensions and design details is key to retaining its authentic character.

Frequently Asked Questions

What were common items found in a 1950's medicine cabinet?

A 1950's medicine cabinet typically contained items like aspirin, iodine, mercury-based ointments, calamine lotion, castor oil, and homemade remedies, reflecting the medical practices of the time.

How did medicine cabinets in the 1950s differ from modern ones?

Medicine cabinets in the 1950s often featured glass shelves and mirrored doors, with fewer specialized products and more homemade or natural remedies compared to the wide variety of over-the-counter medications and health products found in modern cabinets.

Were antibiotics commonly stored in 1950's medicine cabinets?

Antibiotics like penicillin were available in the 1950s but were typically prescribed and not commonly stored in home medicine cabinets; most over-the-counter items were pain relievers and topical treatments.

What safety concerns existed with 1950's medicine cabinet contents?

Many 1950's medicine cabinet items contained toxic substances such as mercury and lead, and childproof packaging was rare, leading to higher risks of accidental poisoning and misuse compared to modern standards.

Did 1950's medicine cabinets include home remedies and natural treatments?

Yes, many 1950's medicine cabinets included home remedies such as castor oil, baking soda, and herbal tinctures alongside commercial products, reflecting a blend of traditional and modern medical practices.

How did the design of 1950's medicine cabinets reflect the era's style?

1950's medicine cabinets often featured sleek, minimalist designs with chrome or metal accents and mirrored fronts, embodying the mid-century modern aesthetic popular in that decade.

Additional Resources

1. *The 1950s Medicine Cabinet: A Cultural History*

This book explores the typical contents of a 1950s medicine cabinet, revealing the popular remedies, pharmaceuticals, and personal care products of the era. It delves into the social and medical context that shaped consumer choices and the marketing strategies used by pharmaceutical companies. Readers gain insight into how medicine and health were perceived in post-war America.

2. *Healing in the 1950s: Medicine, Home Remedies, and the Rise of Pharmaceuticals*

An in-depth look at the transition from traditional home remedies to modern pharmaceuticals during the 1950s. The book examines how families balanced doctor-prescribed treatments with over-the-counter solutions found in their medicine cabinets. It also highlights the role of advertising and emerging medical knowledge in shaping public health practices.

3. *Vintage Medicine Cabinets: The Forgotten Cures of the 1950s*

This title offers a nostalgic journey through the products commonly stored in 1950s medicine cabinets, including tonics, ointments, and patent medicines. It discusses the ingredients, uses, and sometimes surprising side effects of these remedies. The book also reflects on how medical regulations evolved to improve safety and efficacy.

4. *Pharmaceutical Advertising and the 1950s Medicine Cabinet*

Focusing on the powerful impact of advertising, this book analyzes how drug companies promoted their products to American households in the 1950s. It includes examples of print ads, radio spots, and packaging that influenced what families kept in their medicine cabinets. The book provides context on the relationship between consumer culture and medical treatment.

5. *Home Health Care in the 1950s: Tools, Treatments, and Traditions*

This work examines the practical aspects of home health care during the 1950s, emphasizing the contents and organization of medicine cabinets. It covers common illnesses, first aid practices, and the typical remedies used before visiting a doctor. Readers learn about the balance between self-care and professional medical intervention in everyday life.

6. *Cold War Medicine: The Medicine Cabinet as a Symbol of Security in the 1950s*

Exploring the intersection of medicine and Cold War anxieties, this book discusses how the 1950s medicine cabinet reflected broader societal concerns about health, safety, and preparedness. It looks at the inclusion of antiseptics, vitamins, and other products deemed essential for protecting the family. The book also situates these practices within the political and cultural climate of the time.

7. *The Evolution of Pain Relief: From Aspirin to New Drugs in the 1950s Medicine Cabinet*

This book traces the development and adoption of pain relief medications during the 1950s, highlighting what was commonly stored in household medicine cabinets. It covers the introduction of new pharmaceuticals alongside traditional remedies like aspirin. The narrative includes medical breakthroughs and their impact on everyday health management.

8. *Women and the Medicine Cabinet: Gender Roles and Health in 1950s America*

Focusing on the role of women in managing household health, this book examines how the 1950s medicine cabinet was a site of care and control. It discusses the gendered expectations surrounding health maintenance, childbirth, and child care products. The book provides insight into how women influenced medical consumption and family wellness.

9. *Safety and Regulation: The Changing Face of Medicine Cabinets in the 1950s*

This title addresses the increasing government oversight and safety regulations affecting pharmaceuticals and medical products during the 1950s. It explains how these changes transformed what was considered acceptable and safe to keep in home medicine cabinets. The book highlights key legislation and its effects on public health and consumer confidence.

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1950 s medicine cabinet: How Aspirin Entered Our Medicine Cabinet Steven M. Rooney, J.N. Campbell, 2017-02-17 This brief traces the story of one of our most common medicines – aspirin. On a journey involving science, diverse characters, shady business deals, innovative advertising and good old-fashioned luck, Rooney and Campbell describe how aspirin was developed and marketed on

a global scale. Starting at the beginning of the twentieth century, the authors explain the use of aspirin during the First World War, the development of competition drugs such as ibuprofen during the interwar years, and the application of aspirin to heart disease in the 1950s and 1960s. On a broader level, Rooney and Campbell show that the development of America's modern pharmaceuticals was a complex weaving of chemistry and mass culture. They argue that aspirin's story provides a way to understand the application of complex chemical formulas in medical results. This brief is of interest to historians of chemistry and medicine as well as the general educated reader.

1950 s medicine cabinet: *Bungalow Bathrooms* Jane Powell, 2001 This hands-on sourcebook shows how to create and restore a stylish bathroom in the Arts and Crafts spirit. Full color.

1950 s medicine cabinet: *Therapeutic Revolutions* Martin Halliwell, 2013-04-19 *Therapeutic Revolutions* examines the evolving relationship between American medicine, psychiatry, and culture from World War II to the dawn of the 1970s. In this richly layered intellectual history, Martin Halliwell ranges from national politics, public reports, and healthcare debates to the ways in which film, literature, and the mass media provided cultural channels for shaping and challenging preconceptions about health and illness. Beginning with a discussion of the profound impact of World War II and the Cold War on mental health, Halliwell moves from the influence of work, family, and growing up in the Eisenhower years to the critique of institutional practice and the search for alternative therapeutic communities during the 1960s. Blending a discussion of such influential postwar thinkers as Erich Fromm, William Menninger, Erving Goffman, Erik Erikson, and Herbert Marcuse with perceptive readings of a range of cultural text that illuminate mental health issues--among them *Spellbound*, *Shock Corridor*, *Revolutionary Road*, and *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden*--this compelling study argues that the postwar therapeutic revolutions closely interlink contrasting discourses of authority and liberation.

1950 s medicine cabinet: *The Hippies* John Anthony Moretta, 2017-01-26 Among the most significant subcultures in modern U.S. history, the hippies had a far-reaching impact. Their influence essentially defined the 1960s--hippie antifashion, divergent music, dropout politics and make love not war philosophy extended to virtually every corner of the world and remains influential. The political and cultural institutions that the hippies challenged, or abandoned, mainly prevailed. Yet the nonviolent, egalitarian hippie principles led an era of civic protest that brought an end to the Vietnam War. Their enduring impact was the creation of a 1960s frame of reference among millions of baby boomers, whose attitudes and aspirations continue to reflect the hip ethos of their youth.

1950 s medicine cabinet: *Minimalism and Affect in American Literature, 1970-2020* Oliver Haslam, 2024-09-05 Theorizes the development of a minimalist mode in American fiction since 1970, frequently seen to interrogate US postmodernity. *Minimalism and Affect in American Literature, 1970-2020* responds to existing studies of literary minimalism by pursuing three original and interrelated objectives. It provides a more inclusive and precise definition of minimalism that enables further inquiry into the mode. It also exposes the presence of minimalism beyond critical demarcations that attempt to limit the aesthetic to a particular school, medium, movement, form or decade. Finally, it argues that writers of American literary minimalism are uniquely privileged in their ability to formalize precarity and threatening cultural currents into the fragile construct that is ordinary life. Building upon theories of affect and the everyday, *Minimalism and Affect in American Literature, 1970-2020* analyses minimalist aesthetics within the works of canonical minimalists alongside writers more frequently associated with other movements. Through readings of Ernest Hemingway, Joan Didion, Raymond Carver, Paul Auster and Don DeLillo, among others, and cultural phenomena ranging from sedation to telephony, this book exposes the persistence and political importance of minimalism within American literature from the 20th century into the 21st.

1950 s medicine cabinet: *Entering the Picture* Jill Fields, 2012-02-27 In 1970, Judy Chicago and fifteen students founded the groundbreaking Feminist Art Program (FAP) at Fresno State. Drawing upon the consciousness-raising techniques of the women's liberation movement, they created shocking new art forms depicting female experiences. Collaborative work and performance

art – including the famous Cunt Cheerleaders – were program hallmarks. Moving to Los Angeles, the FAP produced the first major feminist art installation, *Womanhouse* (1972). Augmented by thirty-seven illustrations and color plates, this interdisciplinary collection of essays by artists and scholars, many of whom were eye witnesses to landmark events, relates how feminists produced vibrant bodies of art in Fresno and other locales where similar collaborations flourished. Articles on topics such as African American artists in New York and Los Angeles, San Francisco's Las Mujeres Muralistas and Asian American Women Artists Association, and exhibitions in Taiwan and Italy showcase the artistic trajectories that destabilized traditional theories and practices and reshaped the art world. An engaging editor's introduction explains how feminist art emerged within the powerful women's movement that transformed America. *Entering the Picture* is an exciting collection about the provocative contributions of feminists to American art.

1950 s medicine cabinet: The Estrogen Elixir Elizabeth Siegel Watkins, 2007-04-16 In the first complete history of hormone replacement therapy (HRT), Elizabeth Siegel Watkins illuminates the complex and changing relationship between the medical treatment of menopause and cultural conceptions of aging. Describing the development, spread, and shifting role of HRT in America from the early twentieth century to the present, Watkins explores how the interplay between science and society shaped the dissemination and reception of HRT and how the medicalization—and subsequent efforts toward the demedicalization—of menopause and aging affected the role of estrogen as a medical therapy. Telling the story from multiple perspectives—physicians, pharmaceutical manufacturers, government regulators, feminist health activists, and the media, as well as women as patients and consumers—she reveals the striking parallels between estrogen's history as a medical therapy and broad shifts in the role of medicine in an aging society. Today, information about HRT is almost always accompanied by a laundry list of health risks. While physicians and pharmaceutical companies have striven to develop the safest possible treatment for the symptoms of menopause and aging, many specialists question whether HRT should be prescribed at all. Drawing from a wide range of scholarly research, archival records, and interviews, *The Estrogen Elixir* provides valuable historical context for one of the most pressing debates in contemporary medicine.

1950 s medicine cabinet: Happy Pills in America David Herzberg, 2010-10-01 Valium. Paxil. Prozac. Prescribed by the millions each year, these medications have been hailed as wonder drugs and vilified as numbing and addictive crutches. Where did this “blockbuster drug” phenomenon come from? What factors led to the mass acceptance of tranquilizers and antidepressants? And how has their widespread use affected American culture? David Herzberg addresses these questions by tracing the rise of psychiatric medicines, from Miltown in the 1950s to Valium in the 1970s to Prozac in the 1990s. The result is more than a story of doctors and patients. From bare-knuckled marketing campaigns to political activism by feminists and antidrug warriors, the fate of psychopharmacology has been intimately wrapped up in the broader currents of modern American history. Beginning with the emergence of a medical marketplace for psychoactive drugs in the postwar consumer culture, Herzberg traces how “happy pills” became embroiled in Cold War gender battles and the explosive politics of the “war against drugs”—and how feminists brought the two issues together in a dramatic campaign against Valium addiction in the 1970s. A final look at antidepressants shows that even the Prozac phenomenon owed as much to commerce and culture as to scientific wizardry. With a barrage of “ask your doctor about” advertisements competing for attention with shocking news of drug company malfeasance, *Happy Pills* is an invaluable look at how the commercialization of medicine has transformed American culture since the end of World War II.

1950 s medicine cabinet: The Healing Herbs Michael Castleman, 1995-07-01 *The Healing Herbs* provides the information you need to use the earth's wonderful bounty of medicinal plants confidently, effectively, and above all, safely. It examines 100 of the most widely used, most easily available, most familiar, and most fascinating medicinal plants, tracing their history, folklore, and healing properties, and summarizing the latest scientific research on their many benefits. *The Healing Herbs* also explains where to find the herbs, how to take them, store and prepare them, even how to grow them. *The Healing Herbs* also includes an easy-to-use A-to-Z herb encyclopedia,

plus a section titled Prevention and Treatment: A Fast-action Guide to Using the Healing Herbs, including: Conditions--from ear infection to stress, A-to-Z conditions and the herbs you can use to treat and prevent specific symptoms and diseases; Healing Actions--from antibiotic to sedative, an A-to-Z list of medicinal uses with herbs as a natural alternative to certain medicines; Other Uses--some unusual uses for the healing herbs, for example as insect repellent or memory improvement. Both Conditions and Healing Actions include special precautions about certain herbs, whether in preparation, long-term use, or short-term effects.

1950 s medicine cabinet: The New Healing Herbs Michael Castleman, 2017-07-11 Straight from nature's medicine cabinet, the latest herbal discoveries that cure hundreds of health concerns without the dangerous side effects or high cost of prescription drugs. When compared to prescription drugs, herbal healing is both safer and more cost effective. In the fourth edition of The New Healing Herbs, you get access to the latest, most up-to-date information about herbal remedies for cures to nausea, the common cold, diabetes, cancer, allergies, back pain, and more. This new edition includes five new herbs, the result of author Michael Castleman's endless research and dedication to holistic healing. Taking a folklore-meets-science approach, you'll also explore the rich history of herbal medicine traditions. Featuring 135 of the most widely used medicinal herbs, including cannabis, The New Healing Herbs shows you which herbal remedy to take for each condition, how it's taken, what interactions to watch for, and where to buy the featured herb. The easy-to-use Cure Finder organizes herbs by health condition, healing actions, and alternative uses, guiding you to the right herbal remedy for your ailment. With The New Healing Herbs, you'll find nature's remedy for health, vibrancy, and happiness.

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1950 s medicine cabinet: Old House Interiors , 2007-07 National architectural magazine now in its fifteenth year, covering period-inspired design 1700-1950. Commissioned photographs show real homes, inspired by the past but livable. Historical and interpretive rooms are included; new construction, additions, and new kitchens and baths take their place along with restoration work. A feature on furniture appears in every issue. Product coverage is extensive. Experts offer advice for homeowners and designers on finishing, decorating, and furnishing period homes of every era. A garden feature, essays, archival material, events and exhibitions, and book reviews round out the editorial. Many readers claim the beautiful advertising—all of it design-related, no “lifestyle” ads—is as important to them as the articles.

1950 s medicine cabinet: The Age of Anxiety Andrea Tone, 2008-12-30 Anxious Americans have increasingly pursued peace of mind through pills and prescriptions. In 2006, the National Institute of Mental Health estimated that 40 million adult Americans suffer from an anxiety disorder in any given year: more than double the number thought to have such a disorder in 2001. Anti-anxiety drugs are a billion-dollar business. Yet as recently as 1955, when the first tranquilizer -- Miltown -- went on the market, pharmaceutical executives worried that there wouldn't't be interest in anxiety-relief. At mid-century, talk therapy remained the treatment of choice. But Miltown became a sensation -- the first psychotropic blockbuster in United States history. By 1957, Americans had filled 36 million prescriptions. Patients seeking made-to-order tranquility emptied drugstores, forcing pharmacists to post signs reading more Miltown tomorrow. The drug's financial success and cultural impact revolutionized perceptions of anxiety and its treatment, inspiring the development of other lifestyle drugs including Valium and Prozac. In The Age of Anxiety, Andrea Tone draws on a broad array of original sources -- manufacturers' files, FDA reports, letters, government

investigations, and interviews with inventors, physicians, patients, and activists -- to provide the first comprehensive account of the rise of America's tranquilizer culture. She transports readers from the bomb shelters of the Cold War to the scientific optimism of the Baby Boomers, to the just say no Puritanism of the late 1970s and 1980s. A vibrant history of America's long and turbulent affair with tranquilizers, *The Age of Anxiety* casts new light on what it has meant to seek synthetic solutions to everyday angst.

1950 s medicine cabinet: San Diego's North Park North Park Historical Society, 2014 Hip and historic, North Park fascinates with its commercial energy and Craftsman charm. The community has always embodied an enterprising spirit. In the 1870s, cronies of Alonzo Horton mapped neighborhoods north of Balboa Park in a patchwork of individual subdivisions. Four decades later, John Spreckels's streetcars finally brought investors, residents, and shopkeepers, creating San Diego's slice of Bungalow Heaven. Baseball great Ted Williams played on North Park's fields, and tennis star Maureen Connolly trained on its courts. The local shops served as a regional commercial center after World War II, and the Toyland Parade attracted 300,000 spectators. Although decades of decline followed the exciting 1950s, North Park is flourishing again in a renaissance initiated by the restoration of the elegant North Park Theatre in 2005. This pictorial history tells the classic story of a boom, bust, and boom.

1950 s medicine cabinet: Sitopia Carolyn Steel, 2020-03-05 'A visionary look at how quality food should replace money as the new world currency' Tim Spector 'Hugely ambitious and beautifully written...destined to become a modern classic' Bee Wilson How we search for, make and consume food has defined human history. It transforms our bodies and homes, our politics and our trade, our landscapes and our climate. But by forgetting our culinary heritage and relying on cheap, intensively produced food, we have drifted into a way of life that threatens our planet and ourselves. What if there were a more sustainable way to eat and live? Drawing on many disciplines, as well as stories of the farmers, designers and economists who are remaking our relationship with food, this inspiring and deeply thoughtful book gives us a provocative and exhilarating vision for change, and points the way to a better future. 'Utterly brilliant' Thomasina Miers WINNER OF THE 2021 GUILD FOOD OF WRITERS AWARD FOR BEST FOOD BOOK *Shortlisted for the Wainwright Prize 2020*

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1950 s medicine cabinet: The Ride of Her Life Elizabeth Letts, 2022-06-07 NATIONAL

BESTSELLER • The #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Perfect Horse* and *The Eighty-Dollar Champion* presents a “heartwarming [and] engaging folk-hero biography” (Kirkus Reviews) of a woman who fulfilled her lifelong wish to see the Pacific Ocean by riding her horse across America. “[Letts] vividly portrays an audacious woman whose optimism, courage, and good humor are to be marveled at and admired.”—Booklist, starred review In 1954, sixty-three-year-old Maine farmer Annie Wilkins embarked on an impossible journey. She had no money and no family, she had just lost her farm, and her doctor had given her only two years to live. But Annie wanted to see the Pacific Ocean before she died. She ignored her doctor’s advice to move into the county charity home. Instead, she bought a cast-off brown gelding named Tarzan, donned men’s dungarees, and headed south in mid-November, hoping to beat the snow. Annie had little idea what to expect beyond her rural crossroads; she didn’t even have a map. But she did have her ex-racehorse, her faithful mutt, and her own unfailing belief that Americans would treat a stranger with kindness. Annie, Tarzan, and her dog, Depeche Toi, rode straight into a world transformed by the rapid construction of modern highways. Between 1954 and 1956, the three travelers pushed through blizzards, forded rivers, climbed mountains, and clung to the narrow shoulder as cars whipped by them at terrifying speeds. Annie rode more than four thousand miles, through America’s big cities and small towns. Along the way, she met ordinary people and celebrities—from Andrew Wyeth (who sketched Tarzan) to Art Linkletter and Groucho Marx. She received many offers—a permanent home at a riding stable in New Jersey, a job at a gas station in rural Kentucky, even a marriage proposal from a Wyoming rancher. In a decade when car ownership nearly tripled, when television’s influence was expanding fast, when homeowners began locking their doors, Annie and her four-footed companions inspired an outpouring of neighborliness in a rapidly changing world.

1950 s medicine cabinet: Healdsburg's Immigrants: An Anthology of 24 Local Histories

Shonnie Brown, 2015-06-25 A collection of stories by immigrants to the United States who settled in Healdsburg, California. Collected and edited by Shonnie Brown. Immigrants from Italy, Cuba, Mexico, Central America (El Salvador and Nicaragua), Europe (Italy, Estonia, Croatia, East Germany, Russia, Canada, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Greece, England, France, and Bulgaria), Asia (Japan and Burma) and the Middle East (Iraq).

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