

Our Story began in the 1920's with my father, Carl Kann.

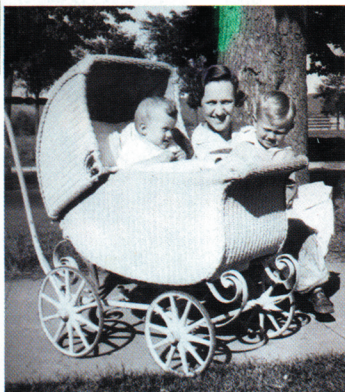
Dad was firstly a musician. There was no television for distraction in the 1920's when he was growing up. His father kept Dad and his brothers and sister busy playing music. Their living room was surrounded by glass cases filled with musical instruments. By the time Dad finished high school he could make music on just about any instrument you could find. Hum it and he could play it.



He was "saved" from the college experience with an invitation from an old friend to join the Vic Myers band on a cruise to the far east. Dad leaped at the opportunity.



Dad returned from the cruise an enlightened seventeen year old with a hand carved bamboo walking stick. Dad had seen ladies with bound feet in China. He had played music in the fanciest boudy house he'd ever seen in Shanghai. He had endured a ferocious ocean which had thrown their musical instruments from one side of the ship to the other and finally bounced them and the musicians on the floor again and again. **BUT** he had found his dream.



One of the first things Dad did when he returned from the far east was to marry Mom. Before long we were a family with my brother on one arm and myself on the other. Both pictures were taken in the park facing the Mississippi River right across the street from Kann Imports.



"The only place that success comes before work is in the dictionary."

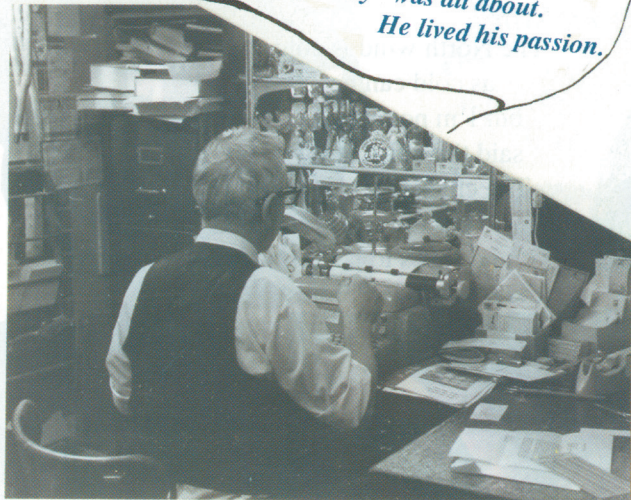
**GO ON,
"LIVE YOUR PASSION!"**



When you feel sea worthy there is an electronic ships clock that tips with each second.

Dad had found his dream on that far eastern journey. He wanted to bring that marvelous artwork, the intricate ivory carving, the magnificent wood carving, the precious stones.... he wanted to bring it home to the midwest where others could enjoy it with him. It took a few years for this dream to develop but it was planted way back then.

Dad passed away about the time the internet was developing. He could not have imagined its impact today. But he had good taste and knew what "quality" was all about. He lived his passion.



They started building shelves and painting walls in the old Clover Farm Store building in 1947. I was only a teenager and Dad kept me busy with creative enterprises. I always had the best typewriter around, because I worked on the advertising. I had my own multilith printer, because I printed our first mailing ads. I always had a pretty good camera, because I was taking pictures of merchandise and Dad in the store. It was a family affair.



I didn't realize I was working!

We had to invent ways to invite people into our new store and at the same time give them a happy memory of us. So we gave each of our new customers a set of Dutch boy and girl direct from occupied Japan. This was only a couple years after the termination of WWII.



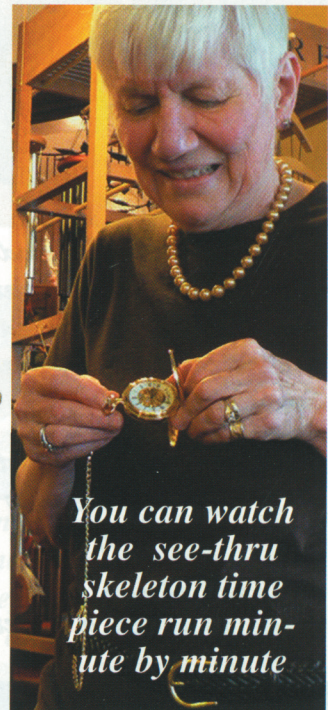
It was a touchy affair. If you had someone special in your life injured in the far east during WWII you probably didn't appreciate the word "Japan" on anything just yet. It took a few years.



We were always searching for value for the dollar. Mom liked to quote: **"Quality is like buying oats. You must pay a fair price. If you can be satisfied with the oats that have been already run through the horse, then that comes cheaper."**

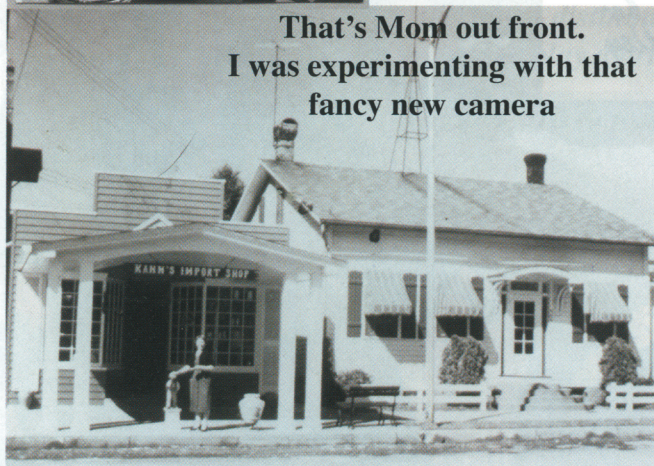
Just for fun we found this cuckoo clock necklace.

The skeleton watch is a piece of artwork.



You can watch the see-thru skeleton time piece run minute by minute

That's Mom out front. I was experimenting with that fancy new camera



Some of the first merchandise Mom found was this set of dishes for 4 persons (4 cups and saucers, 4 plates and 4 sauce dishes).

That was a lot of dishes for only \$2.95 back in 1948. Mom always claimed "at that price you could afford to throw a cup at him during a disagreement." Oh yes, the two of them had their tense moments just like we do today. Mom always had a sense of humor.

You'll find the colors magnificent and the combinations outstanding.

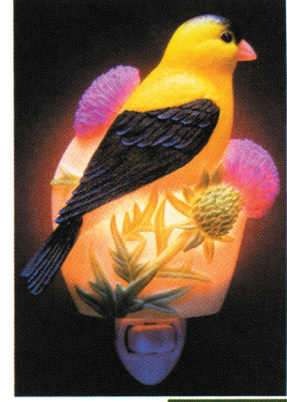


*I love the Suncatcher Welcomes.
Nothing gives a person as good a feeling as a note of welcome with your smile and "hello".*

"The North wind is cold, as cold can be but I'm not afraid," said the chickadee. The chickadee stays to see the snow and loves to hear the North wind blow."



Chickadee Nite Lite



The state bird of Iowa
Gold Finch Nite Lite

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."
Confucius

Along the way, Dad found the magnificent sculpture of the Black Boy on the Donkey by Rudolf Maison, a German sculptor of the late 1800's .

Come spend a delicious moment with us.



Today, with the modern camera, you can watch mother and father eagle care for their eggs and hatching eaglets.

Sometimes you just have to get into the nitty gritty of it.

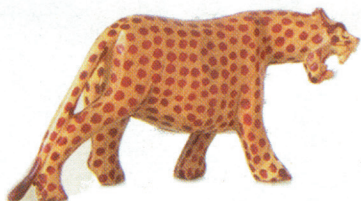


Because of our years of study and direction we have become as much a caretaker museum as a host of quality selections.

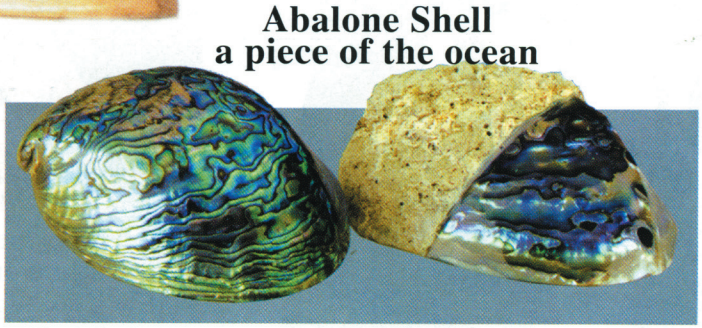




We found the animals of Africa hand carved in the countryside and we discovered how really precious wood was becoming.



The animal carvings from Africa are hand carved in the countryside in primitive conditions using raw wood growing locally. Before the explosion of plastics while we were living in the far east, these were the toys my boys grew up with.



**Abalone Shell
a piece of the ocean**

Master artists in the Phillipines laboriously cut and polish the abalone shells to find the shimmering lights in this natural magic shell.

The abalone shell is a one-sided shell that clings to underwater rocks. It is difficult for the untrained eye to distinguish them however when polished they display a brilliance of greens and blues all their own.



Kann Imports

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*Sometimes you just want to spend time
with something elegant.
We're here. Come enjoy with us.*



The Italian Gift Giver

"Befana,
the Italian
Legend"



"Father Frost"



"Santa and Friends"

"Father Christmas
Visits"



Today the legends of the
Santa figure encircle the
globe evoking personal
memories as diverse as
the Santas themselves.

"Pere Noel
of Paris"



"Joy of Skating Santa"



"Honey Bee Santa" "Pleasure of Reading
Santa"

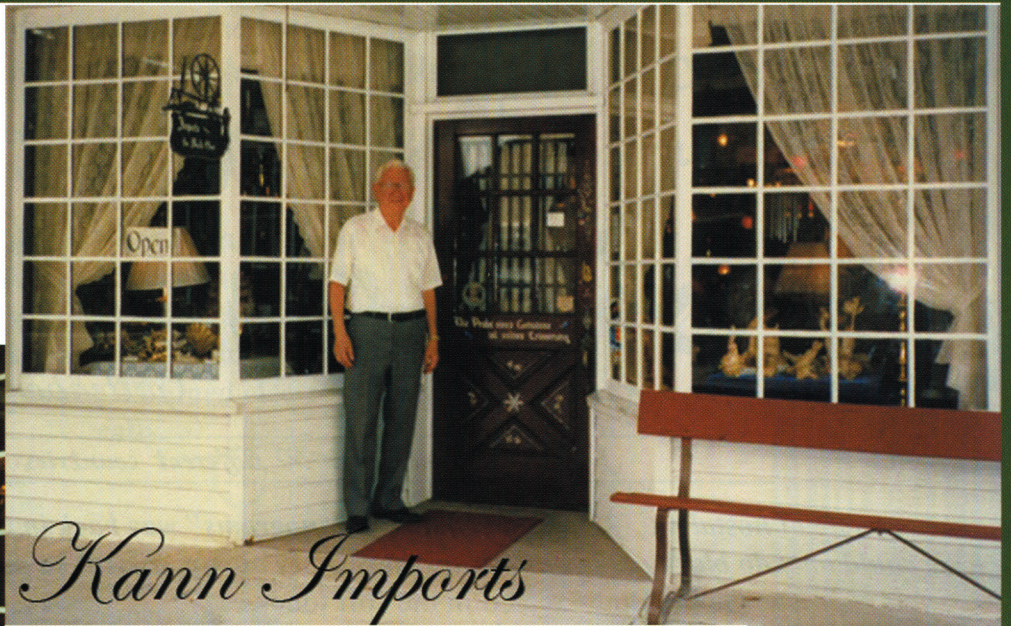


Something to remember
in Belleek of Ireland.

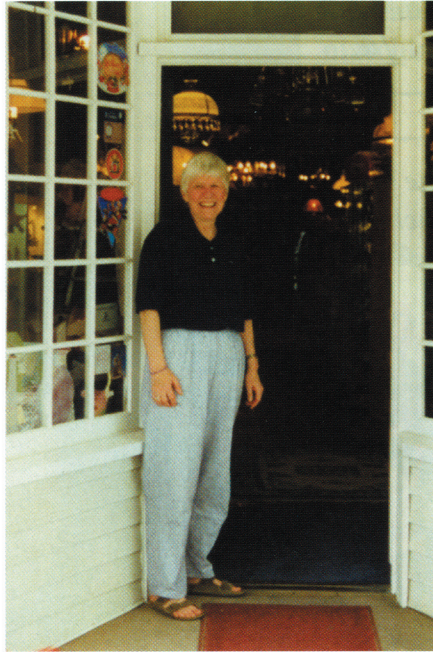


*"The bull can make money.
The bear can make money. But
the pig never does."*

Dad greeted his customers here at his front door for more than 55 years. Same door. Squeaks a bit more but I'll be there with a welcome and a smile.



Kann Imports



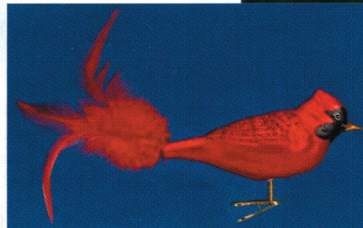
there can hardly be a Christmas without a pickle hidden in the tree!



from
Old World Ornaments
These ornaments are all hand blown



from
Nutcrackers to Smokers
We have the assortment.



find more of
everything
on our web site



www.kannimports.com

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"Renewal"

KANN O GRAM

Kann's Imports



Guttenberg, Ia.



"Traditions"

Vol. 3

Imports from at least 50 different countries.

No 2

A note of nostalgia. We developed the "Kannograms" way back in the 60's. We could only do black and white in those days. My oh my, color is so much prettier!

The Gentle Soul created in the soft tones of mother nature with copper wings.



"Care"



"Kindness"



"Fondness"



"Unconditional Love"



"Blessings"



"Reliance"



"Warm Hearted"

"Season of Happiness"



"Key to My Heart"



"Friends are Precious Gifts"



"Lovin' You"



"You Hug my Heart"

"Love Holds a Family Close"



"Love Keeps a Family Warm"



The Birch-Hearts can say it just right just for you.

"Building Friendships"



"Wishing you Peace and Friendship"

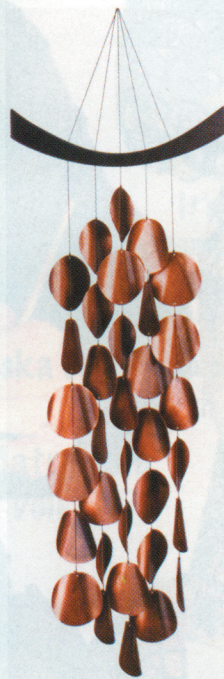
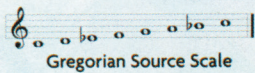
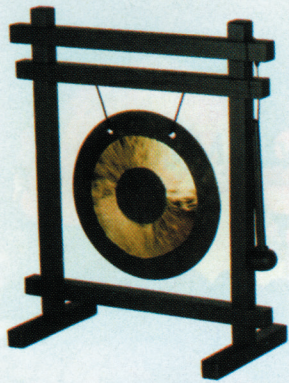


Somewhere along the way, we found this wonderful guy who understands music.

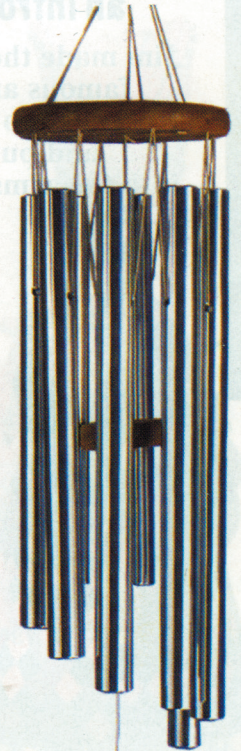
He creates these chimes and gorgeous melodious sounds that charm you right down to your toes.

Garry Kvistad has been creating wind chimes since the early 1970's. He is a first class musician and has created a system of chimes with matching tones, all tuned electronically.

Come ring our chimes!



"Cultivate good fortune and wisdom and you will find comfort everywhere"



What fun sounds like!!



Duck Call



Children learn logic through play oriented activities like music. You can see the gears turning when they sit down with a musical instrument whether they play a song or improvise something new.



How about a lollipop drum or a train whistle EVERYONE can have fun!

Jim Shore

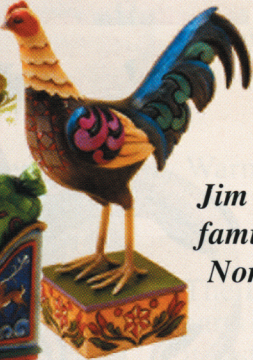
hardly needs
an introduction

Jim made the snowman famous and then proceeded to put kittens and puppies into the arms of santas.

Jim's angels have guarded everything from reindeer to birds

Jim's figures have a sense of humor, a sly smirk or a silly scowl.

Jim came from a family of famous North Carolina quilters.





Thomas Mosser began working with glass as a teenager under the guidance of his father. It was a bottom to top education.

He knew right from the start his driving force would be quality glassware.

Does your table need a "spooner" or a covered butter bowl?

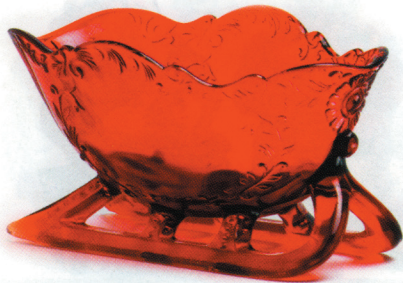
Today, Tom's wife, Georgianna, is an accomplished designer. His daughters can be found organizing the office. And his son is manager of the plant.



Pressed Glass developed by Thomas Mosser



It's an artistically accomplished family that produced this "art glass".



The **Matryoska Dolls** are a cottage industry carved in Russia. That means they are produced at home with each individual artist being just a little original.

The Matryoska Doll



Each doll is unique right down to the tiny tiny doll in the center.

Santa is always a favorite.



There may be **ICON** Matryoskas created in wood burned designs enhanced with gold, as mysterious as the middle east from which they come.

Many of the designs on the carved dolls show the characters from Russian literature and poetry.

"Ruslan and Ludmila" are epic characters from such a fairy tale.

The Matryoska Doll is a set of handcarved wooden figures in decreasing size, placed inside of each other hand carved and painted in Russia.



*Possible Dreams
at Kann Imports*



**We enjoy Christmas all year 'round.
It's the happiest time of the year.**



When you think of **Possible Dreams** -- hear the bells of Santa's reindeer; smell the peppermint and cinnamon wafting from Mrs. Claus' kitchen; tingle in the icy snow and cold on your faces.

Christmas means music and if it comes from a music box it's all the merrier. Sometimes they're even coordinated with chimes



The artists at Possible Dreams know how to make Santa smile and we can smile with him.

Santa Lives Here.....



This music box is coordinated with bells



Warm, loving faces; colorful clothing and accessories.

The subject matter may change over the years from wildlife to landscapes, still life to figure work. The romance of Santa is evident in every Santa.



As the shipping of crystal from Europe becomes more difficult, we found Thomas Mosser who creates pressed glass using antique molds. He also believes in "Quality First". This fits with us just right. Ask us about the "Eye Winker" or the blue opaline.

From the "eye winker" to the cherry thumb print, each piece is created with an eye for quality.

Tom's first factory was an abandoned chicken coop.

www.kannimports.com

To learn who rules over you, simply learn who you are not allowed to criticize. — Voltaire



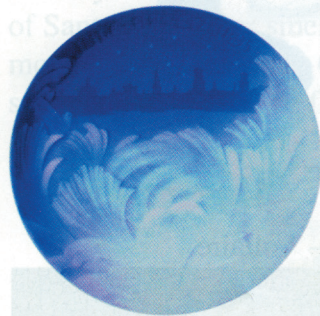
Mom, Juanita Kann passed away on Dec 13, 2000. Dad, Carl Kann passed away on Jan 2, 2001. They left us with wonderful memories and a magical place to meet and enjoy our many friends and customers.



Denmark created a legacy when first Bing & Grondahl in 1895 and then the Royal Copenhagen company in 1908 began producing a Christmas Plate each year.

We keep both collections on display in the store.

My favorites however are the Mothers Plates produced by Bing & Grondahl. I liked them so much I wrote about each Mother's Plate and put them together into a book. They feature a mother animal with one or more of their young in the design on each plate.



Jacqueline Kent from England grew up drawing faces and hands. Her mother must have wondered what would become of such talent, but look how Jacqueline has developed her talent. This old couple on the park bench is unsurpassed. She calls them "Love Letters".

The old couples love letters are packed in the suitcase beside them.



Jacqueline will add a wrinkle on the knuckle, a crease on the eyelid, an oversized nose, and her character comes to life.



**Mother's Day Plates
Collection Stories**
by
Bing & Grondahl
of Denmark
begun in 1969

as told by Kann Imports
Guttenberg IA

We keep the Mother's plate collection on display in the store also.

*Keep checking our web site.
We do it ourselves and try to keep it current.*

They couldn't do it back
in 1960.
But look what we have
today.

They can
make acrylics look like
crystal and
then light it
for brilliance.



The year
of the dragon

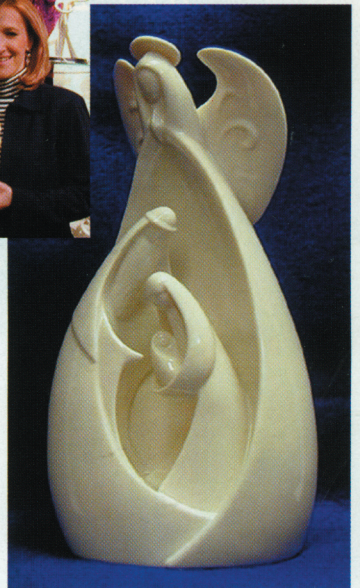
The Icy Acrylics are gorgeous. They come alive
with the small LED lights that are used inside.



Circle
of Love

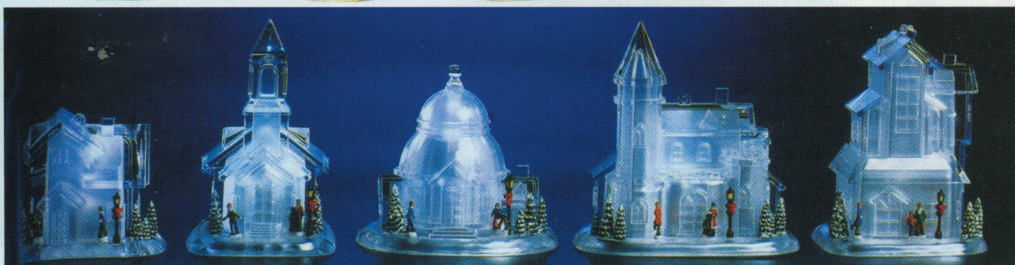
Kim Lawrence

produced one of the most popular nativity pieces we have ever found. The smooth lines in combination with the simple white color were a inviting shock to the Christmas season. It was a statement that everyone could understand.



Kim's Cake Toppers have touched the hearts of many and will remain in their memory books forever.

Temple of Happiness in Blue



Kann Imports

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Kann Imports

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