



## Muskrat love! See "Sound" Page 10

trustworthy  
loyal  
helpful  
friendly  
courteous  
kind  
obedient  
cheerful  
**THRIFTY . . .**

By Stew  
Magnuson

I'm a thrift—store junkie. That's very convenient because Lincoln just happens to be a thrift—store lover's paradise. According to the phone book, this medium—sized midwestern city has 17 thrift stores and consignment shops. That turns out to be one thrift store for every 17.8 people in Lincoln. Or maybe my calculator is busted. But there's a lot of them anyway.

I owe my life to thrift shops. The clothes I wear, the records I listen to, the dishes I eat off, the books I read, the mattress I sleep on and my precious red—and—white beanbag chair are all thrift—store finds.

Maybe I go to the thrift stores for the thrill of seeing what each new day brings in the form of other people's unwanted items. All the Lincoln thrifts have a constant turnover of items. Except for the poor, unwanted Shaun Cassidy LPs and the black velvet paintings of matadors, the stock changes from day to day and week to week.

Are there really that many people unloading that much second—hand junk on our thrift stores? Yes, and it comes in by the truckload at the Goodwill and Salvation Army, the two original thrifts which both maintain four stores each in Lincoln alone.

Why do people spend \$70 at a downtown clothing outlet just so they can look like Joe and Debby Greek when \$10 and a little luck can buy more clothes at a thrift store? Why do people spend \$500 on new furniture when there are perfectly good chairs and couches at the local thrifts? Sure, they're a little bit ratty and smell like someone's cat has been using them for a litter box. So spray a can of Lysol on the old couch and throw a blanket over it.

And if the economics of it all doesn't overwhelm you into running out to check out the thrift stores, here's my top 10 list of just some of the cool, hip, generally neat things I've found at the thrift stores. It's safe to say that not one of these things you could buy new.

● "The Way I Feel," Leonard Nimoy

Hear Nimoy, Mr. Spock himself, sing such favorites as "If I Had a Hammer," "Sunny," and "Both Sides Now." This album is a forgotten

classic.

● *Twister*

What a great stockin' feet game. But I use the huge four—color plastic game as a wall hanging. It's a nice conversation piece.

● *Pat Paulson for President sweatshirt*

Who remembers Pat Paulson's run for the presidency on the Smothers Brothers' Show in 1968? I don't, but I love the shirt anyway.

● "Johnny Cash's Greatest Hits"

The man is a genius. This is the only worthwhile country music in my opinion.

● *My red—and—white beanbag chair*

Sure, it's ugly, but it doesn't leak, and that says a lot for a beanbag chair.

● *Archie Bunker For President goblet*

Archie was narrowly defeated by Pat Paulson, if you remember your joke U.S. presidents very well.

● "Funkentelechy vs. The Placebo Syndrome," Parliament

Soon I will have found all the Parliament LPs in the thrift stores, and my collection will be complete. Why? Hey, I like the stuff, and I make no apologies.

● *Bugs Bunny coffee cup*

Self-explanatory.

● "Space Shuttle Fever. Catch it!" T-shirt

How can a T-shirt get any tackier?

● "Have a Happy Holiday," Lorne Greene

Yes, Ben Cartwright himself does a dramatic reading of "The Gift of The Magi." And if that wasn't enough, he sings a few Christmas carols! A

holiday favorite.

Now, after reading that list, you have to be convinced that the Lincoln thrift stores are where it's at. You won't have any problems finding one either. Remember, this is Lincoln, Land of a Thousand Thrift Stores. For starters, go to O Street between 17th and 18th streets where the Goodwill, the Disabled American Vets and the Community Thrift stores are located.

The best of the three is the huge Community Thrift Shop which recently expanded into the store next door. "Over 3,000 items added daily" a banner claims. If something sits around too long, the price is marked

down eventually. So if you think something costs a little too much, come back the next day and it might be a little cheaper.

But my absolute favorite thrift is the Salvation Army's main store in the Haymarket district. Just the book section itself is great. Everything is organized into categories like a real book store. The store itself is huge. Scads of books, records and clothes, the things I find necessary for existence on this planet. Be sure to check out the wonderful Matadors on Black Velvet Art Gallery upstairs.

Happy Hunting!



Linda Story/Diversions