

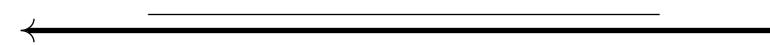
Just One

MEMORE

MORE

THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR A MUCH-LOVED COLLECTION IN JESSE LAUZON'S HOME. SEE WHAT'S ON HIS TOP 10 LIST.

Photos by Alex Lukey Styling by Christine Hanlon Words by Jody Garlock



1

Exercise Pins

Decades before kettlebells became a thing, people swung wooden exercise pins over their heads. Jesse has paid as little as \$5 for his pins—some marked for juggling. He chuckles at the thought of them being used in gym class. “Imagine a gymnasium of kids swinging them—what could possibly go wrong?” he asks.



How did this happen? That question pops into Jesse Lauzon's mind when he looks at the vintage suitcases stacked to the ceiling in a bedroom of his home near Toronto, Ontario, or when he returns from a flea market with another jadeite bowl. For Jesse (*left*), collecting is a way of life. “My mom loved to look for antiques, and it opened up a new world to me of seeing interesting and unusual things,” says Jesse, who earned a bachelor's degree in history and then detoured to culinary school (he's now food director of Springridge Farm, a tourist favorite in Milton). When he began furnishing his first house, Jesse's hobby came full circle. “All of my interests blended together—collecting, history and food,” he says. His collections are nothing precious—bowls he mixes in, tarnished trophies, food-splattered cookbooks. “With history, my interest was always about the culture and how people lived and coped,” he says. “So it doesn't surprise me that I now find myself collecting the relics of daily life.”

2

Jadeite

“It’s one of my happiest collections,” Jesse says of minty green jadeite dishware. He started collecting jadeite dishes—a midcentury favorite sometimes used as grocery store giveaways—before they rose in value; today, a set of bowls may cost \$200. While Jesse will treat himself when collecting, he also says he has his “happy zone price” in mind. “People talk about ‘Is the price right?’ but I’m about ‘Is the price wrong?’ I think you can feel when it’s wrong for you.”



3

Menswear

Jesse displays most of his collections en masse. One exception: boxes holding paper collars. He used just two to elevate a vintage top hat and help turn a nightstand into a dapper vignette.

4

Suitcases

"This is one of those collections I hemmed and hawed about because I knew I wouldn't use them for their intended purpose," Jesse says of the stack of well-traveled suitcases. "I needed to find a reason to have them." That reason: storage for Christmas collections. "I've literally hit the ceiling with suitcases, so now it doesn't even cross my mind to buy one," he says. "With collecting, there's the practicality of space and use, and also whether something will work with everything else and be something you want to see every day."



“When I was young, someone wise told me not to own anything I’m afraid to use.” —HOMEOWNER JESSE LAUZON



5 | **Platters** For Jesse, part of collecting is rekindling memories. Platters (many are transferware) remind him of family dinners. "You knew it was a celebration when Grandma's big green platter came out," he says. "I love that a platter is so celebratory." And, he adds, "Happiness is finding a platter for under \$25."

“I’m a big fan of impact. My strategy has always been to group things, not pepper them throughout the house. They make a bigger statement together.”

—HOMEOWNER JESSE LAUZON

6

Marmalade Pots

Jesse counts crock-like marmalade and food storage vessels among his favorites. “I love the old printing on them,” he says. He uses them to hold utensils, pens and flowers. He pays about \$10 apiece, though rarer English pots can cost \$30 to \$40.



7

Trophies

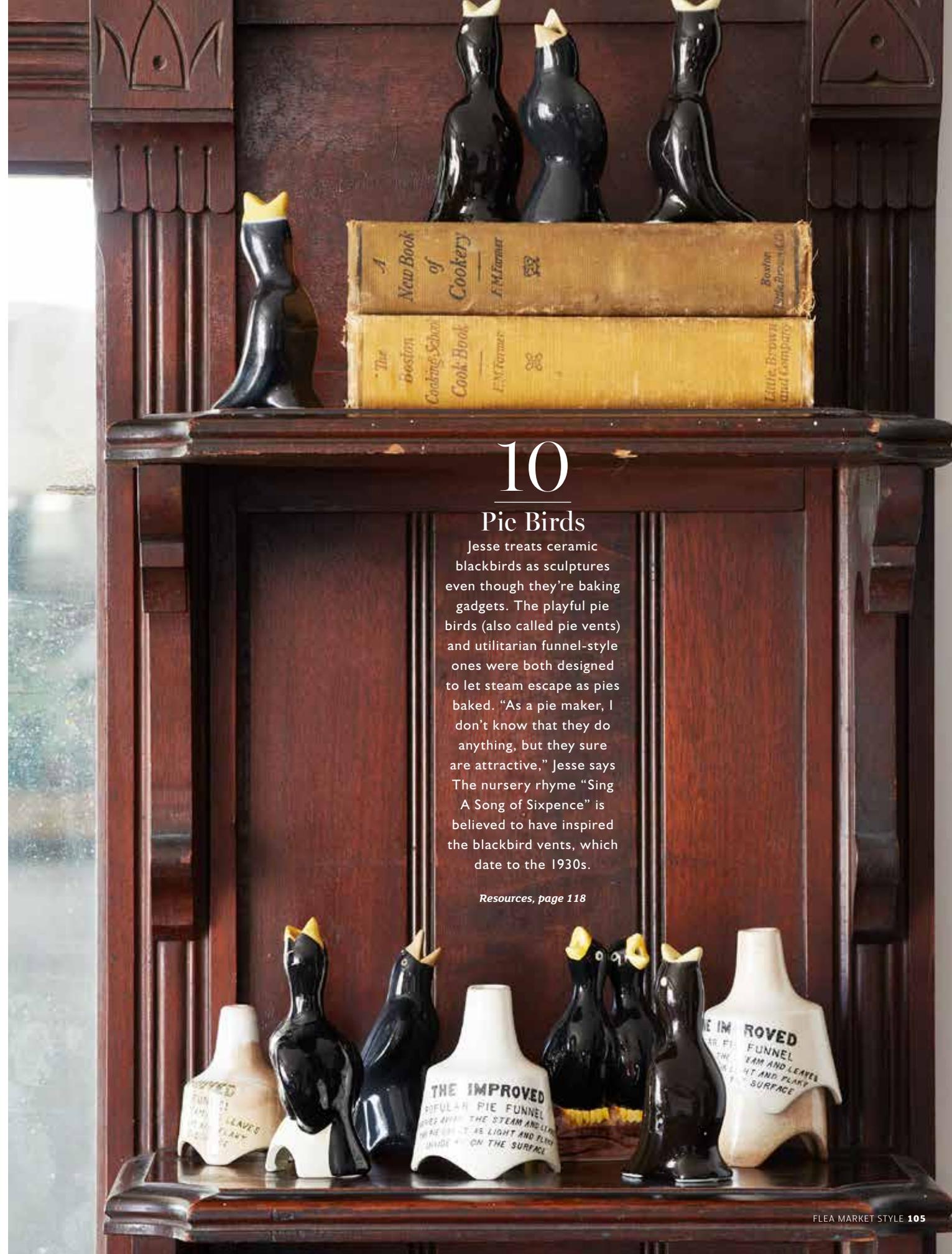
When Jesse branched out from kitchen collectibles, he was instantly smitten with tarnished trophies. “I love the sculptural aspect of trophies,” he says. He gravitates to “loving cups” (\$20 to \$90) and oddball events, such as dog races.



8 | **Yellowware** Earthy yellowware bowls were Jesse’s first serious collection. “I love how it feels, how it sounds when I’m mixing in one,” he says. He considers it a buyer’s market for yellowware dishes; big bowls that once fetched \$125 can now be found for half that—sometimes even \$20.



9 | **Cookbooks** “They’re little pockets of social history,” Jesse says of cookbooks with notes scribbled in the margins and some with recipes designed for using wartime rations. Jesse’s favorite rhubarb pie recipe came from one book, but otherwise he says he’s had “limited success” cooking from them. Mock turtle soup, anyone?



10

Pie Birds

Jesse treats ceramic blackbirds as sculptures even though they’re baking gadgets. The playful pie birds (also called pie vents) and utilitarian funnel-style ones were both designed to let steam escape as pies baked. “As a pie maker, I don’t know that they do anything, but they sure are attractive,” Jesse says. The nursery rhyme “Sing A Song of Sixpence” is believed to have inspired the blackbird vents, which date to the 1930s.

Resources, page 118