

Jack's 99¢ Stores

Are You Ready for Buck Shops Here!

Incredible Savings?(Now 2 Locations) Store #1

16 E. 40th St. (betw. 5th Ave. & Madison)

Sat-Sun 10:30am-6pm 212-696-5767

→Store #2 110 W. 32nd St. (betw. 6th & 7th Ave.) or 13 E. 39th St. (betw. 5th Ave. & Madison) or 115 W. 31st St. (betw. 6th & 7th Ave.) Store Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am-8pm Sat-Sun 10am-7pm 212-268-9962

BATTERIES

Only Jack's has it for

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Each Coupon Item Requires Minimum \$1.00 Purchase Per Coupon.







Only Jack's has it for BEACH BALL or

COW'S CANDY



All Coupons Redeemable at BOTH Locations

THE Silent Zoo

strong wall hangers, as many mounts apply a fair amount of leverage on the hook. Toggle bolts for sheetrock, sturdy anchors for plaster and brick.

Common sense takes the day in most cases, like not hanging a bear head so low that someone'll get beaned, not putting a pheasant where the family cat can destroy the tail. If you put them in the kitchen, they'll get coated in cooking oil. Put them in the bathroom, they'll get overly humid. And as noted previously, don't put them over radiators or in the sun, where they'll dry up.

Regular feather-dusting is recommended for keeping birds clean. Mammal pelts can be dustbusted, patted lightly with cornmeal to remove oily dust, dustbusted again and brushed. A light coating of Armor-All shines up lips, noses and real-skin fish mounts nicely. Eyes and fiberglass mounts can be cleaned with window cleaner. Horns and antlers take a nice shine from Pledge. The Van Dyke's catalog offers specialty potions like fur brightener, hoof polish, horn stain and cedar oil.

THE SOURCES

The mecca of used taxidermy is reportedly Rangely, ME, a million-hour drive from here. The best finds locally are at flea markets, and the best flea market in the Northeast is a five-day event in Brimfield, MA, that occurs the second week in May, July and September (413-283-0614).

Truth be told, auctions and estate sales are better than flea markets, but you have to compete with antiques pros and often purchase by the lot. They're listed weekly in the

If you check the Yellow Pages, you'll find

several taxidermy studios in the area that sell used mounts. Problem is, they also rent, and therefore tend to penalize buyers. One of them, a cowboy camped in upper nose-bleed Westchester, has a whole room of beat-up taxidermy. He once rented a bear or something to The Cosby Show for a small fortune and thereafter his prices went through the roof and into orbit. I'm sure Schoepfer Studios on 31st St. couldn't help but have more reasonable prices (736-6939).

But if you want to look for deals in Manhattan, there are several weekend Manhattan fleas, like the 26th St. one, where I've found the occasional piece. You can try the big antique shows, but my impression is that the dealers expect clientele with money falling out of their pockets.

Antique stores sometime produce. "U.S.E.D.," a store at 17 Perry St. near 7th Ave. (627-0730), usually has quite a bit of taxidermy, especially fish, though the prices are sometimes wildly uneven. And while some stuff turns up on Brooklyn's Atlantic Ave. antique row, the game is really a matter of keeping your nose in antique stores.

DIFFERING OPINIONS

To be sure, some find the collecting of dead animals akin to buying fur coats or perhaps hunting, thus objectionable if not morally wrong. I won't pretend to change anybody's inind on the issue, rather just state my own position. While I neither own fur coats nor hunt, I believe in a good steak, leather belts, fishing and taxidermy. I like animals a great deal, to the point that I enjoy perpetuating their remains, which is more than I'd do for any human. Buying used taxidermy from antiques dealers does not support the economics of hunting, rather that of flea markets, which are environmentally sound institutions that prevent waste by promoting reuse.



