

ROGER BONEWELL

CABIN FEVER REATIONS

Roger Bonewell was located in Leadville, Colorado, and he created unique thimbles from brass cartridge cases. Periodically you may come across these on auction sites or being sold from private collections.

According to an old sales sheet, Roger expanded the case, then added knurling and decorated the thimbles with applied wire using gold solder. Each thimble was composed of a number of hand-formed and fitted pieces so that the thimbles varied slightly from one another. The finished product was signed and dated, and then given a coat of metal lacquer to protect the bright finish.



Top row, left: “Gold Nugget” \$80.00. Band and the cap are adorned with Native Colorado Gold. The gold in this thimble was washed from the gravel of Colorado’s highest peak, Mount Elbert.

Top row, middle: “Scroll Band” \$40.00. Thimble is decorated with applied wire and capped with a selection of gemstones.

Top row, right: “Colorado Columbine” \$34.00. Thimble is capped with a porcelain columbine, the Colorado State flower and the word “Colorado” is engraved into the band.



Unknown stone.



*Marked R.B. 1978.
Moss Agate stone top.*



*Marked R.B. Leadville, CO. 1983.
Lace Agate stone top.
Photo courtesy of Wynneth Mullins.*



*Porcelain top with yellow rose.
Original photo courtesy of Sandy Plourde.*

The hand-sculpted rose on this thimble was created by Barbara Lindbloom. Thimble is signed RB 1988, Leadville, CO.