

**SALES.** April sales were up 18% over the same month last year. Both Snohomish and Centralia experienced similar double digit gains. Strong gains during the April Spring break suggest that we will have very strong traffic during the coming summer travel season.

**OPEN MEMORIAL DAY.** All malls will be open Memorial Day, Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

**SECURITY.** No items were reported missing during April.

**WEBSITE.** As we continue to review our Lafayette Schoolhouse operations we have created a website specific to Lafayette. The site address is **www.LafayetteSchool.com**.

**CAUTION.** Proposed legislation could make virtually all transactions involving elephant ivory illegal. We encourage our dealers not to bring more ivory into our mall. We further reserve the right to remove ivory from our sales floor without prior notice.

Sale of ivory framed Victorian era portrait art would be criminalized by the passage of Washington Initiative 1401 and Oregon Senate Bill 913.

*Item from Lafayette School house*



## **Antique Business at Odds With Historical Revisionists**

Just as the Taliban and ISIS destroy ancient icons to erase memory, our own leaders seek to sanitize, correct and erase parts of our own past. As antique dealers we try to conserve and preserve objects from the past, even when they are offensive.

Nazi memorabilia, racist cast iron toys, sexist pin-up prints find their way into our malls. We judge the authenticity of these objects. We pull fakes and reproductions. But, we do not judge political correctness.

Occasionally a customer complains about an object. But, until recently, no one has proposed denying us the right to sell authentic artifacts, art and antiques.

Earlier this year the Washington State Legislature tabled a measure to criminalize the sale of antique Ivory. Now billionaire Paul Allen has stepped in, financing Initiative 1401 to ban the transfer or sale of virtually all antiques made of elephant ivory. The Oregon Senate Bill 913 takes the Allen initiative a step further by criminalizing the sale of objects described as "ivory" even when the objects do not contain any ivory.

I don't doubt the good intentions of the promoters of this legislation, but I wonder if they understand that if we erase the evidence of our past, we may also be erasing memory; in this case of the horrible cruelty imposed in the harvest of elephant tusks. I wonder how we can learn from our past, when well-intentioned billionaires and legislators so righteously seek to destroy all evidence of it.

John Regan