

Retirees Collect Antiques To Benefit School

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
MOUNT JOY (Lancaster Co.)

— Always on the lookout for innovative ways to lure buyers to a benefit sale, of which there are hundreds, the committee at the Kraybill Mennonite School is capitalizing on the talents and interests of supportive patrons.

One of these couples is Wilmer and Ruth Nissley. With three grandchildren attending the school, the Nissleys are ardent supporters of Christian education. A Pioneer seed salesman for 33 years, Nissley and his wife spend much of their retirement spare time garnering public sales in search of select antiques, which they resell at flea markets.

For this reason, the couple was asked to gather a few antiques for the annual benefit sale to be held May 8-9 this year.

Previously the Nissleys had donated a few Winross trucks. But the demand for Winross trucks has dwindled in recent years. On the other hand, interest in antiques seems to be a growing trend.

Last year was the first time that the Nissleys were asked to donate their services in this way. Since they only had been asked in February, they had little time to compile items for the annual sale. But this year the couple has spent the year searching for items to pique the interest of collectors.

On some of the items they purchased, the Nissleys also have refinished them. Refinishing furniture is a hobby that both husband and wife share.

The couple also asked several other local collectors for donations. The Nissleys were pleased to receive items from Paul and Verna Brubaker, Cassel Mummau, and Ben and Bertha Brubaker.

Some of the items up for bids are a staw cutter made by Hench & Dromgold of York, a drop leaf table, blanket chests, dishes, Singer treadle sewing machine, old hand-cranked washing machine, Carnival glass, German china, and more.

"I'd still like to get four chairs to refinish," Nissley said. He and his wife have many that have been lovingly restored, complete with needlepoint padded seats stitched by Ruth's mother.

Ruth's dad (now deceased) was an accomplished refinisher of furniture. An interest in collecting antiques was sparked after they inherited some items from both sides of the family.

"Some items we bid on and others we wish we had," Nissley said. The couple, like many other collectors, often browse sales looking for items that stir memories from their childhoods so that they can replace family heirlooms sold or displaced somewhere along the years.

"It kind of gets in your blood," Nissley said.

Through the years, the Nissleys have zeroed in on their interest on wash stands, blanket chests, clocks, clothes trees, and other items to give to each of their five children for Christmas gifts.

"It's rewarding. We love going to sales and private auctions," Ruth said.

The couple are banking on the hope that many other bidders will show up for the benefit sale because they love auctions, too.

In addition to antiques, other items to be auctioned include fine arts, braided rugs, comforters, quilts, gift certificates, country crafts, handcrafted furniture, wooden bulldozer, plants, bark mulch, and garden tools.

The traditional Friday night southern-style pig roast will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. A country breakfast of omelet and home fries or pancakes and sausage will be held Saturday from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Plenty of food sold throughout the day include Gene Wenger's famous hamloaf patty sandwich, Baked potato with toppings, salad bar, fresh strawberry pie, homemade ice cream, and more.

The Kraybill Mennonite School 21st annual benefit Auction Days will be held May 8-9 on the school's campus located at Kraybill Church and Gible Road in Mount Joy.

For more information, call the school at (717) 653-5236.



Wilmer and Ruth Nissley show off the antique straw cutter made by Hench & Dromgold from York, which will go to the highest bidder at Kraybill Mennonite School Auction Days held May 8-9.



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Chester County Seeks Dairy Royalty

OXFORD (Chester Co.) — The Chester County Dairy Princess Committee is seeking girls between the ages of 13 and 24 to represent the dairy industry.

Applications are being accepted for dairy maids, dairy ambassadors and dairy princess.

The Pa. Dairy Princess Program works with local committees to promote the sale of milk and dairy products throughout the state. Working as a team, the girls involved with the program often make appearances at local schools, shopping malls, and agricultural events, among other responsibilities. In addition, they have the opportunity to attend training seminars that teach self improvement and public relations skills.

If you would like to know more information about the Chester County Dairy Princess Program, contact one of the following people: Charlene Ranck (717) 442-9008; Sharon Nolan (610) 593-7465; and Karen Allen (610) 998-0248.

Completed applications must be received by Saturday, May 9. The coronation ceremonies will be held in early June.