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Antiques Marked by Maker's Individuality

By ALICE E. MORGAN

Just what makes a piece of old furniture an antique is a question coming to the fore of these days with the approach of the DAR-antique show.

Jess Pavey, North Woodward dealer, has perhaps the best answer when he says: "An antique piece of furniture is not merely one which is old. It is one which is old because of its value, or valuable because it is old."

Thomas Thornton of Royal Oak, who with Pavey will be among the many exhibitors at the Oct. 3rd display at the Community House, will agree—only he will be speaking mainly of chinaware.

Both these men will tell you that the actual age of the piece is not the main factor in its worth as an antique. In some instances, not even the rarity of the item wholly controls this, for there are many which have numerous duplicates, all of which are valuable.

OF COURSE, rarity greatly influences the value of an antique, be it furniture, glass, china, silver, pewter or jewelry. However, the main factor is the workmanship in the item.

Pavey points out that furniture craftsmen devoted a lifetime to their trade. "The work was not done then as it is today," Pavey said. It was made by hand, and the first stroke of the design. The woods were carefully chosen, carefully cut and carefully finished to the need of the craftsman.

Every twist of grain or line had a purpose. Nothing was permitted which would weaken the finished product. No shoddy materials went into any piece of furniture.

"After the war of 1812, when Americans were bitter toward England and English potters were trying to build up a trade here, they decided to use a dark blue border to cover defects in their wares and sell them as tableware to the middleclass."

"This appealed to American patriotism, because prominent men and women were pictured on the pottery. Their trade was established."

IT MIGHT BE of general interest to note here that Ohio's potters say this original dark blue is now a lost shade.

Thornton went on to explain that each potter had a different border design.

The first to use American history and views was Andrew Stevenson of Cobridge, who used flowers and scrolls for his border.

Other FAVORITE designs, he says, included those of Jefferson, Mt. Vernon, Clinton and New York state's Erie Canal.

Contest to Assist City UF Campaign

An editorial contest among high school students of the Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin area on "The Social Significance of the United Foundation" was announced today by Elmer Sylvester, chairman of the United Foundation Torch Drive promotion committee.

The winning editorial will be published in The Birmingham Eccentric on October 8, with second and third place winners running in issues immediately following.

Details of the contest were worked out this week at school officials following conferences between Dr. Dwight B. Ireland, Birmingham superintendent of schools, Mrs. J. Rowland King, local United Foundation director, Sylvester, and members of The Eccentric staff.

The school program will be under the direction of Russ Campbell, of the drive's promotion committee, who also is a member of the Birmingham school board. Campbell said basic information on the United Foundation was being supplied to students in literature distributed in schools and school systems in connection with the campaign.

DEADLINE for the editorial is October 8th when all entries must be in the hands of homework teachers. The editorial should be limited to 500 words, he said.

Contest judges will be George Wm. Averill, managing editor of The Eccentric, Mayor Dean G. Beley and Campbell.

"We expect a great many fine editorials from students of the district, because the schools have done such an outstanding job of information on the work and meaning of the United Foundation," Sylvester said.

"The Torch Drive is the only solicitation permitted in the schools, and the social significance of the program is a part of the curriculum in classes in social studies."

AS TIPS for student writers, Sylvester cited the following United Foundation facts: The United Foundation is a non-profit organization to unify the raising of funds for the operation of health and community services—150 of them.

The Torch Drive is the United Foundation's annual campaign to raise funds "once for all" for a full year.

The Birmingham-Bloomfield-Franklin division is a part of the United Foundation of Metropolitan Detroit.

The United Foundation provides vital services for child care, help to the aged, the handicapped and the stricken, and a wide range of Community Chest activities.

IT LENDS AID to the following state and national health services: epilepsy, hearing, social hygiene, congenital blindness, heart arthritis and rheumatism, multiple sclerosis, polio and cerebral palsy. In addition to many other services participated in by residents of the district, the UF assists Family Day, Oakdale, Oakdale, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, YMCA, Visiting Nurses and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Free Clinic.

By uniting many fund-raising campaigns, the UF has avoided confusion and nuisance, and has made each dollar go much farther by eliminating wasted duplicate effort.

LAST YEAR, UF helped 50,000 families — outpatient service was provided in 11 hospitals . . . 39,000 patients were served . . . 207,407 visits were made . . . "Children's Hospital gave 72,785 days care to 1,444 patients . . . the Visiting Nurse Association made 153,159 visits to 26,502 patients . . . 17,000 children were placed in foster homes and institutions . . . education and recreation opportunities were offered to more than 185,000 . . . All of this was provided by the

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