

## 'Antiques Roadshow'-inspired furniture line to be unveiled

BY BARBARA A. HEINS  
Greenwich Times

During its seven seasons on public television, "Antiques Roadshow" has thrilled armchair collectors with the discovery of valuable pieces of furniture, artwork and decorative accessories.

PBS has forged an alliance with a Virginia furniture manufacturer to produce furniture inspired by pieces featured on the program.

The Pulaski Furniture Co. will unveil a 60-piece "The Antiques Roadshow Collection" next month at the International Home Furnishings Market in High Point, N.C. The line is to include bedroom and dining

room sets, grandfather clocks, curio cabinets and other accessories.

"They're not reproductions. They are more functional than antiques," said Laura Newman, spokesman for the Pulaski, Va.-based company. "It's more of a re-interpretation of the antiques. They are taking a motif of a carving from a Phoenix Furniture Co. dresser and using it as the basis for a bedroom set."

As collectors and dealers know, provenance is an important consideration when acquiring antiques. So each piece will come with a hangtag, and a photograph and the history of the antique that inspired it.

One of the bedroom sets

was inspired by a dresser (circa 1876-1885) made by the former Phoenix Furniture Co. of Grand Rapids, MI.

"They're not just getting a new piece of furniture. They're getting something that has some meaning and value," said Pulaski's executive vice president, Jim Kelly.

John Wampler, Pulaski's chief executive officer, describes the line as "authentic furniture based on real antiques, real people and real stories about home furnishings."

The collection is to be available by late August, Newman says. Although Pulaski hasn't finalized arrangements with retail outlets, it sells other furni-

ture lines in department stores, according to Newman. There also will be an arrangement to purchase via the Internet, she says.

While most pieces will be available in oak or cherry finishes, some will be hand-painted to replicate antique trunks or cabinets.

Smaller individual pieces will range from \$500 to \$1,500; bedroom sets, including a bed, armoire and dresser, \$3,000 to \$5,000; and a dining table, chairs, sideboard and country cabinet will cost \$4,000 to \$5,000, according to Newman.

The alliance between PBS and Pulaski Furniture includes an undisclosed portion of the sales being donated to PBS.

## Don't despair; just suck it up

BY ANNIE GROER  
The Washington Post

After the snow and rain, a wet-dry vacuum may be today's must-have appliance. Tony Mazzola, manager of Home Depot in Frederick, Md., offers the following criteria:

■ Capacity. Go for 16 gallons. "Two gallons is okay for the car, nine is a glorified DustBuster."

■ Horsepower. With a 2 to 6.5 range he urges at least 6, to pull moisture from carpeting as well as bare floors.

■ Construction. Choose a rust-proof plastic holding tank with a smooth interior surface; ridges and bumps hold dirt and water.

■ Weight. Some models can be quite heavy when full

of water, so move them around before buying.

Commercial-grade vacs often come with wheels.

■ Design features. A large drain plug makes for easier emptying; a "positive-locking hose" won't pop out as you drag the vac along; an automatic shut-off keeps water out of the motor and prevents electric shock when the container is full.

■ Accessories. Get a rubber squeegee wet nozzle to pull in moisture, even if it is sold separately. Choose a machine with a micro-filter for construction particles.

■ Convertibility. Models may have an attachment that turns it into a leaf-blower.

■ Price. 6 horsepower models range from \$79 to \$139.

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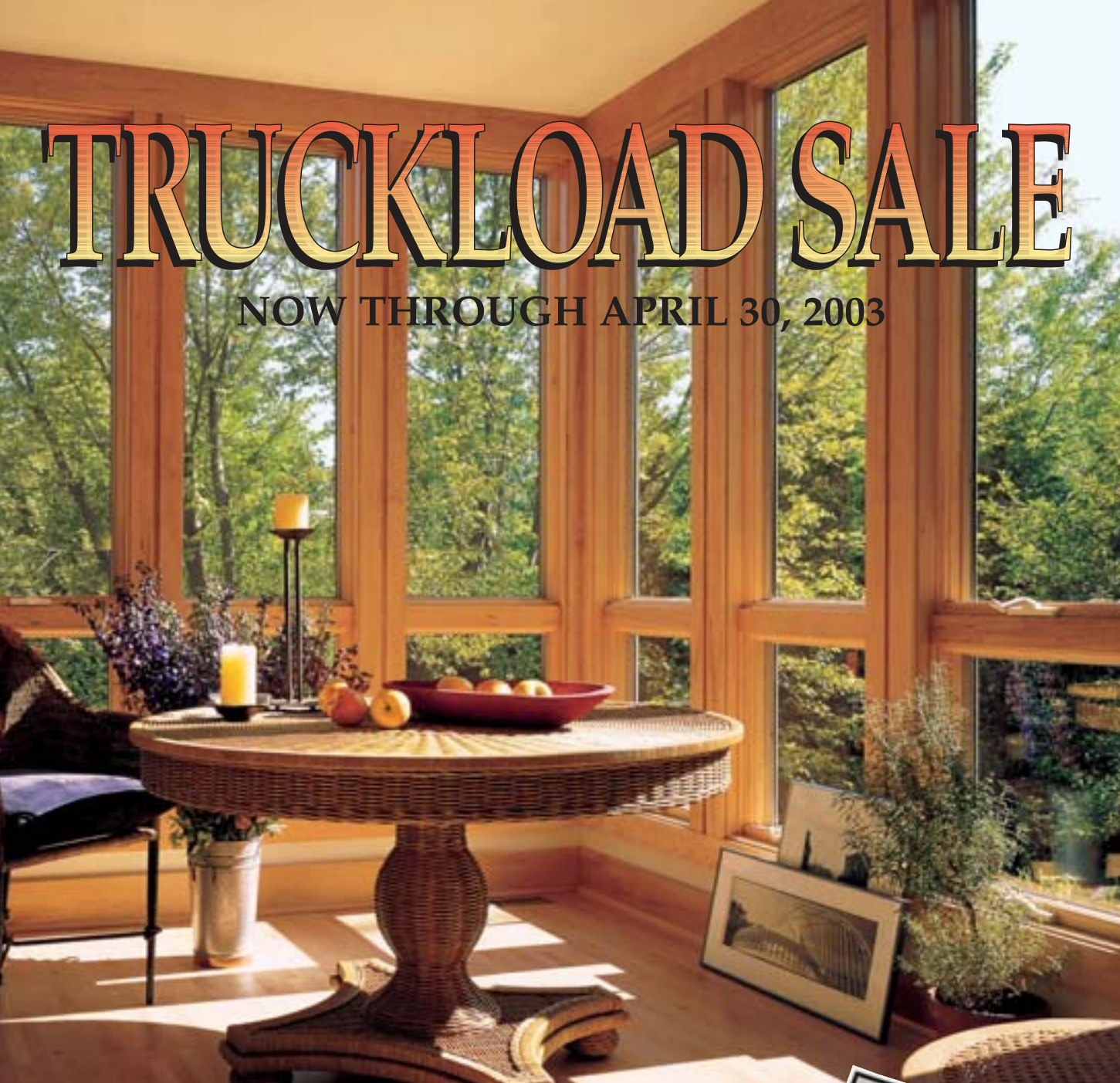


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