

## ANTIQUÉ GUIDE

Region is 'Mecca'  
for collectors

Q&A with  
antiques maven  
Marilyn Flaherty

BY MELANIE TACOMA  
Record-Eagle staff writer

Marilyn Flaherty has had an eye for antiques since she was a girl looking through her grandma's china cabinet on rainy days.

"She told me where everything came from, whose it was and what it meant," Flaherty said.

It is the stories behind antiques that draw people to them and give them a connection with the past, Flaherty said. As co-owner of Antiques at Railroad Place in Traverse City and after years as an antiques saleswoman, she has seen her share of antique collec-

tors and trends in the industry.

**Q. How popular is antique shopping as a way to spend part of a summer vacation?**

Traverse City is an antiques destination. I think people actually come here in the summer not just for outdoor activity; if you're an antiquer, this is a Mecca.

**Q. Are there certain items that people look for specifically in this area?**

At Cherry Festival time, they're looking for cherry things or things with cherries on them. It brings them into the souvenir realm without getting tacky things. Also, we carry railroad things (at Antiques at Railroad Place), and sometimes when they've been on the Dinner Train, people will come looking. Or (we get) people interested in old depots, especially men and boys.

**Q. What are the perennial**



**favorites for antique shoppers?**

Furniture is a mainstay. People look in antique shops for something to fit with their decor. People are tending toward old Victorian homes, and the old Victorian furniture

looks good in them. Then it becomes an investment and actually gains value over time.

**Q. What's the difference between antique and junk?**

If it was purchased over 100 years ago from the original retailer, it's an antique according to the U.S. Customs Service. If it was purchased over 30 years ago, it has a chance to be a collectible. A collectible is not mass-produced (no Cabbage Patch dolls or Beanie Babies) and is more refined. Something with an intrinsic value that will stand the test of time.

**Q. Tell us about the quirks that veteran antique shoppers in general have?**

They develop real skills as far as bargaining is concerned. Also, collectors are probably the best source of information on collectibles. They know them inside and out — when they come in and discuss what they're collecting, (antique dealers) can learn from them.

**Q. Are there certain vogues or trends in the antique world? What is the**



Record-Eagle/John L. Russell

**Top: Marilyn Flaherty among her many treasures at Antiques at Railroad Place in Traverse City. Bottom: Teacups for sale at Antiques at Railroad Place.**

**current fad?**

There's a push toward particular china now: Grimwades of England and Shelley of England. They're a very, very hot trend right now.

**Q. Why do these trends start?**

Often it's what we call a market trigger. It may be a

Author: ad\$  
Filename: 705843  
Description: COOP,  
THE  
Graphic Not Available!



Blue Ribbon Cherry  
Jams, Jellies & Salsa

Elderberry Jelly  
Corncob Jelly

Strawberry Rhubarb Jam  
Pecan Almond Pancake Mi

Available at Mary's Kitchen Port,  
Folgarelli's, Front Porch  
& Crystal Crate & Cargo

Traverse Area  
District Library



Mark your  
Calendar for...

**Professional  
Children's  
Entertainers**

every Saturday at 11 a.m.  
(not 7/12/03)

**KIDS!! "Get Carried  
Away with Books"**  
at the Summer Reading Club!

su6-27.705841

Traverse Area District Library  
610 Woodmere Ave. • 932-8500  
www.tadl.org

PLEASE SEE PAGE 33