

# Antiques become way of life for village couple

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Photos: LINDA SOLOMON

Franklin Village, recognized as a center of local history, is careful about being authentic, even in the antique shows sponsored by the historical society.

For the eighth consecutive year Franklin will host Poor Richard's Antique Fair. It will be held at the Franklin Community Church, Oct. 17, 18 and 19. There will be 21 booths of antiques in the upcoming show.

Margaret Dildilian, co-chairwoman of this year's event, along with Evelyn Plotnick, has a more than passing interest in putting on a quality antique fair.

She has a great love for antiques that is evident in every room of the Dildilian home on Carol in Franklin Village. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the home dates from 1843. Mrs. Dildilian and her husband, Edward, moved to the home about six years ago from Birmingham.

"We never thought we'd live in an historic home," she said, as she stood in her living room with its wide plank floors and rough beam ceiling.

"We feel it's a privilege to be here in Franklin and there's such a lot of community spirit."

She shies away from being termed a collector, explaining that nothing is just for show. "We use it all, we live with it, it's a part of us," she said, but also does have advice for young collectors.

"It's best to invest in one good piece and know your dealer. That's the one thing I regret that I didn't do from the very beginning."

However, she and her husband have since upgraded and refined their things to the point of being very satisfied with the pieces they now have. Because once an antique collector, always a collector, Mrs. Dildilian works part-time so she can buy, (often on time) pieces she can't resist.

Agreeing with people who comment on how prices for antiques have skyrocketed, she said, "But, they were never cheap, even a long time ago — they were still expensive in comparison to incomes then."

As far as worrying about mixing fine antiques and children, Mrs. Dildilian said, "When our children were growing up, they had a respect for our things and their friends did too. We never had any trouble."

She also is a proponent of buying a piece for a particular place in the home rather than acquiring pieces and trying to fit them in.

THE TWO FRONT rooms of the home are original, other rooms were added later — not uncommon. In the living room there are several country Queen Anne pieces, a refined Connecticut Chippendale chest, circa 1775-1800, at the base of the stairway, an American hanging cupboard, several country Queen Anne tables, and an American Centennial wing chair.

The rough ceiling beams in the living room were the original living room floor, since replaced by wide board pine. The woodwork, doors, cove molding and wood trim in the living room were painted a rich, medium blue by the Dildilian family, and the color enhances the blues in the antique Oriental rugs.

Mrs. Dildilian feels a particular commitment about the up-coming antique show. She said the two co-chairwomen who preceded her and Mrs. Plotnick, Nancy Hook and Janice Bloom, "were always careful about dealers."

Mrs. Dildilian added, "When the public knows there is better quality, you get better attendance."

Hours will be 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. There is an admission charge.



Margaret Dildilian sometimes still finds it hard to believe that she lives in the kind of historic home she always dreamed about.



Fireplace is located in the breakfast-dining area which adjoins the kitchen. Complementing the utensils around the fireplace area are baskets and drying herbs hanging from the rough beams overhead and many examples of antique cabinets, tables and chairs. The Dildilians acquire antiques as much for their functional aspects as their beauty. They enjoy using them and have seldom run into problems with damage.

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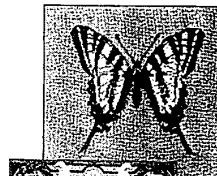


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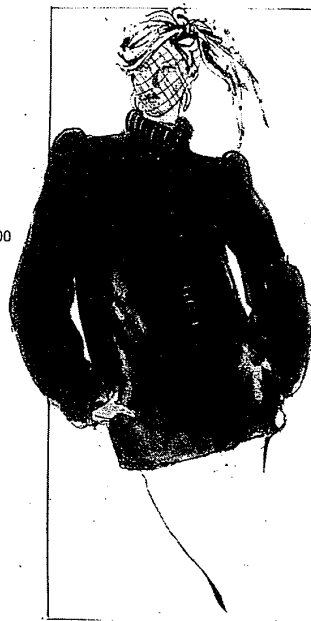
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