

Successful first year in Dumfries, Va., gave Antique Station reason to celebrate

by Orva Heissenbuttel
for *AntiqueWeek*

DUMFRIES, Va. — If George Washington were to pass through the old seaport town of Dumfries today, he would have great difficulty recognizing the bustling city it has become. Dumfries lies halfway between Alexandria and Fredericksburg, but unlike those 18th-century towns, Dumfries reveals little of its early history.

The Stagecoach Inn on the Old King's Highway, now Route 1, and Parson Weems' bookstore are all that remain from 200 years ago. Today's visitor will find the Weems' house (and the Botts family addition) restored and operated by Historic Dumfries, Va. Inc. The Weems-Botts Museum welcomes visitors and sells copies of Weems' famous biography, *Life of Washington*.

Also of interest is the Quantico Marine Corps Aviation Museum, housing more than 20 aircraft, ordnance and other aviation material from 1941-1945, located near the Marine Corps Air Facility at Quantico on the south side of town.

Although The Antique Station is located in a modern building, it seems right at home in the historic, but rapidly expanding commercial section of Dumfries. With more than 80 dealers, The Antique Station is the largest antique shopping center in northern Virginia.

The Antique Station capped its successful first year of operation with a two-day holiday celebration on Dec. 3 and 4. Dozens of door prizes were contributed by dealers, and were awarded to customers every 15 minutes during the weekend. With refreshments in Tiffany's Tea Room, and many booths attractively decorated for Christmas, the holiday season was fully launched with weekend sale specials.

Booths are identified by number, and often the owners have placed their business name on an interesting sign. I have noted a sampling of items I found during the celebration.

yellow June pattern bowl was \$45; old Fostoria leaf-shaped Victoria relish, sale priced \$21; Patrician amber cookie jar, \$60; handsome coffee service by J&G Meakin, English china, white with classic black-transfer border — coffee, sugar, creamer, six cups and saucers, \$85 the set; and Bybee blue pottery vase, \$10.

A-Bit-Of-Antiquity is a complete booth of lamps, and is also an authorized dealer for Aladdin lamps and supplies. A nickel-plated German student lamp, not electrified, was \$365; Aladdin Alacite Lincoln Drape, electrified, ready to use, \$140; piano lamp with marble and brass, \$450; and a Victorian hanging lamp, complete with prisms, \$425.

Virginia Traders specialize in good oak furniture in restored condition. A Larkin writing desk, fall front, drawers below, was marked \$595; Larkin chest of drawers, chiffonier #47, \$495; oak bookcase with four adjustable shelves, 1890s, \$265; and an office chair with a black leather seat, \$95.

About Antiques featured a pair of Pairpoint auroria (amber) glass candlesticks with engraved berries and leaves, a chip on the base of one, for \$525; pressed glass 10-inch compote, Jacob's Ladder, Bryce, Pittsburgh, \$75; Red Wing art pottery vase, ming yellow, \$45; Rookwood pottery tall blue candlestick, twisted column, three dolphins on the base, 1919, \$130; Greentown Cactus bowl, \$130; purple slag creamer, Flower & Panel, \$95; oil painting, ginger jar filled with violets, circa 1885, \$125; Torquay china cup and saucer, "Speak Little, Speak Well," \$35; collection of Goss china miniatures, \$9.50 to \$18; and two English teapots marked "EPBM," polished, ornate designs and ivory knobs on both, \$75 and \$95.

Meeting House Antiques showed a black Baltimore chair, circa 1825-1935 with its original gilt designs for \$125; and a plantation-style desk, circa 1870s, walnut finish, \$725. The Emporium Antiques had a cast-iron double bed, painted white, early 1900s,

Rosepoint goblets, \$28.50 each; Heisey Orchid large bowl, \$68, and goblets, \$40 each.

Wood 'n' Wares had an English ironstone china tureen, marked "W&C Corn, Burslem," priced \$50; Heisey custard tumbler, Ring Band, \$85; Single Bellflower flint glass open sugar, \$60; and a large copper apple butter kettle with a dovetailed bottom, on a wrought-iron frame, \$385.

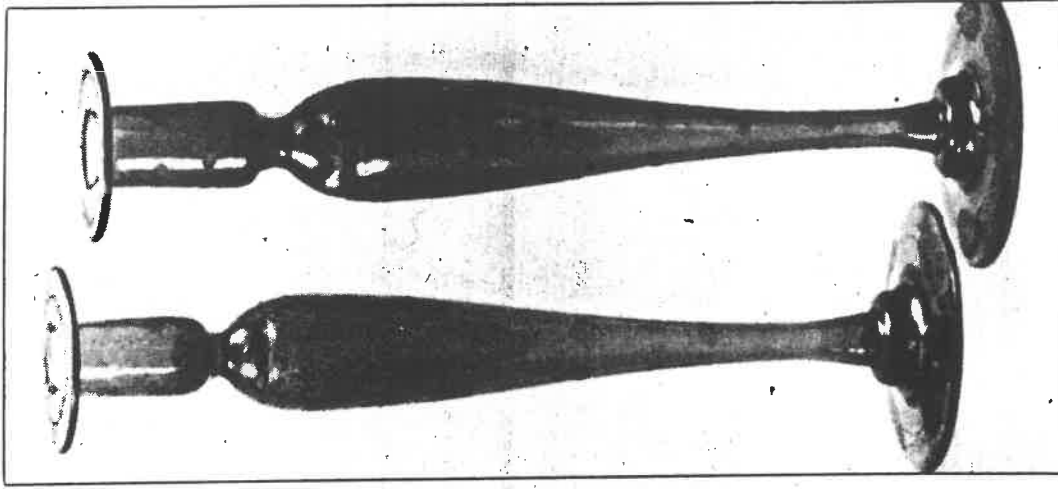
The Rafter's had a white opaque glass syrup painted blue with flowers, original lid for \$95; stretch glass Vaseline console bowl on a black glass base, and matching low candlesticks, \$82.50 the set; and Baltimore-style chair, black with original striping, \$82.

Time And Strike featured clocks including a wall regulator at \$160; and a Victorian shelf clock, also \$160. A collection of mechanical advertising pencils ranged from \$5 to \$30, and old fountain pens, \$25 to \$100.

In Booth #38, Dennis Stevens and James Falls offer restored church and parlor organs. If they're in their booth on the day of your visit, you'll be treated to a mini-concert. An Estey reed organ, golden oak, shown in a 1912 catalog, completely reconditioned, with an electric suction unit, was \$2,500; Estey Victorian parlor organ, Eastlake, walnut, \$1,257; and a golden oak parlor organ, circa 1890, \$1,495.

Furniture of all periods is a popular item at The Antique Station, and quickly moves out to townhouses and homes in the area. However, the center is also popular with dealers traveling through, and a haunt of astute collectors looking for — and finding — bargains, sleepers and sale items. Tiffany's Tea Room is cheerful and inviting; the food is good, and the service is quick.

The Antique Station is open daily except Wednesdays; hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. The Antique Station is located at Interstate 95, Exit 51, a short distance east on Route 234, one block south on Route #1,



ONE OF the many items found for sale during a recent trip to the Antique Station in Dumfries, Va., was this pair of Pairpoint candlesticks, priced \$525.

Frederick, Md. This mall features 100 dealers and the LePetit Cafe. It is open dai-

glass. Featured were an amber cake stand, Daisy & Button with Thumbprint, small chip, \$56; Cambridge Crown Tuscan nautical vase, \$85; Fostoria American squat pitcher with ice lip, \$65; and goofus fruit bowl with gold-decorated peaches, \$48.

Andee's Antiques had a small Chinese Celadon pitcher for \$18; and a Noritake china Azalea gravy boat, \$48. In the Grandmother Had One booth a Fostoria topaz

each side, \$220; and an oak piece for a rocker, ornate spindles and designs, \$239.

Ways With Wicker featured a wicker rocker in natural color, marked \$325; and a white-painted fernery with a metal liner, \$95. Happiness Is was selling an English hobnail glass bowl and candlesticks for \$145; large crystal Cambridge Gloria bowl, \$95; Morgantown glass "golf ball" stem sherbets in red, set of six, \$90; Cambridge

ager is Dale Gault for information phone (703) 221-7534.

The Antique Station is also located in

nesday. It is located just off U.S. Route 15 at the Motter Avenue exit. For information phone (301) 695-0888.