



M.H.B.

While browsing around Mr. and Mrs. Keith Barber's Antique Shop, King Street, on Saturday, the remark was passed that a great many people never appreciated antiques until they were "exposed to them". Think there's probably a great deal of truth in it, too. For we have never numbered ourselves among the "collectors" and yet, after chatting with two enthusiasts like Keith and Jean, looking at their collections, and their books on antiques of every description, we could easily see how fascinated a person could become with the hobby.

The actual collecting — going to auction sales — getting leads on where certain articles are to be found — is in itself exciting. The times when you make a real "find" usually in the most unsuspected places — and of course, the times when you get "stung". And that's why it pays to make a real study of collecting if you're going in for antiques.

The Barbars have become so engrossed in their antique collecting, that they are now making a career out of what was once merely a fascinating hobby. Last fall they hit upon the plan of converting the former boiler-room of the old Barber Floral Company, into an antique shop. This has now been completed, and has proven ideal for their purpose. One whole wall has been knocked out, and replaced by huge windows, which make a wonderful show-place for the smaller, colourful glass and china ornaments.

The Barbars first gained their experience in collecting, by buying old glass and china for an antique dealer friend, Cottam, near Windsor, who found it hard to get enough stock. During the war, while Mr. Barber was overseas with the Lorne Scots, he spent a good many of his leaves looking for beautiful antiques, buying them, and having them stored until they could be shipped to Canada with a reasonable degree of safety. And what lovely things he bought, and now has in their home. A beautifully inlaid French cabinet lined with wine velvet, and some very fine cut glass objects are among his English collection.

The difference between the really good glass, and ordinary stuff. Running your hand over the surface of good glass, it has a definite stippy, silky feel that ordinary glass has not. With all the bits of information we gleaned as we looked at things in the Barber's Shop, we're quite sure we'll be "looking" for things at the next auction sale.

There were scores of lovely antiques we could tell you about, but we'll limit ourselves to a few that caught our interest.

In their home, Mr. and Mrs. Barber have some bottles made of Siegel Glass. That means they were made in the 17th Century, by a man named Siegel, who was one of the earliest glass-blowers in the United States. A real thrill came the day they located an old sea-captain's liquor cabinet, full of Siegel glass bottles (empty), in Georgetown. Needless to say it is a highly prized item, as is another Siegel glass bottle, which the Barbars obtained from a farm near town.

"If it could only talk," said Mrs. Barber, as we stood admiring a very old sideboard, which at one time had belonged to an Imperial Army Officer in Aldershot, England. The sideboard, or buffet, was built so that it could travel with him to the remotest outposts. The top section and shelves all fold in, and it is sectioned so that it forms two large boxes when taken down. In these boxes, the officer would pack all his worldly goods when moved from station to station — his silver, linen and china, so that no matter where and to what primitive part of the world his army career called him, he would have something beautiful of his own to cherish and make his station a little homelike.

Then there were some framed tintypes. What frozen expressions, but no wonder. It took two hours of posing before the picture would develop properly. Guess we'd have a wooden expression, too, if we had to do that.

Were amused at the mustache cup collection. Imagine having to have a special "ledge" built into a cup to hold a droopy walrus type mustache, before you could enjoy a cup of tea. Some are really quite pretty tho' (the cups of course) and many people make a hobby of collecting them.

Mrs. Barber takes a special interest in collecting oil lamps, and says the variety in this particular field, is endless. She showed us some "little sparking lamps" — and they were sweet — miniatures of the larger oil lamps, and when the supply of oil ran out, all self-respecting boy friends were supposed to go out—the door—too.

The old candle moulds were interesting to see, and a pair of awkward looking single blade ice-skates that were about 100 years old. The fluting iron brought back fashions of old when ladies' dresses were made with many a fluted ruffle. The Swiss bells were lovely, each one with a different tone. A butter bowl, about two feet in diameter, moulded from cherry-wood. Elaborately beaded pinushions. Wondered who would buy these, and was told that Kate Smith, the famous singer, has a hobby of collecting beaded pinushions. In every city she visits, she hunts up antique shops, looking for pinushions to add to her collection. And plenty of other people make a hobby of collecting this particular type of pinushion, as well.

Another famous entertainer who "collects", is Gipsy Rose Lee — her hobby is coloured glass.

As well as china, glass, pictures, and so on, Mr. and Mrs. Barber also handle antique furniture, which when required, they refinish themselves.

Met Mrs. Col. K. M. Bourne of Linthouse at Barber's. Col. and Mrs. Bourne lived in China for a great many years, and have in their home a very fine collection of Chinese antiques. Mrs. Bourne described how the Chinese antique dealers would come around with their precious ware rolled up in cloth under their arm. Spreading them out before you, they'd ask

about three times their worth. Then you'd offer about three times too little, and finally you'd arrive at a fair price, with both sides giving in. She told us that some people in China collect items of the B.C. era, simply because of their age, but that in appearance these are rather colourless, so that Col. and Mrs. Bourne prefer the appearance of antiques originating after that period.

Incidentally, the Barber's antique shop is open by appointment only. The establishment only a short time, they are gradually becoming known to collectors, and one day this summer, had people from Manhattan Beach, California, to see their collection.

Looking about town these days, we note a good many improvements being made to houses. St. George's Rectory will look very nice when the new off-white siding has been completely applied.

New residents of George St. are Mr. and Mrs. Pat Gribbens and family, who are living in the house now owned by Bob Lane, which was formerly the property of Dave Cook. Mr. Cook is living with his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Bennett. The Gribbens formerly lived on Main Street North.

We welcome to town Mr. and Mrs. H. Ostrow, and their five children, who come from Vancouver, B.C. They have purchased a house on Emery Street, formerly owned by Art Scott, and last tenanted by the Moffitt family, who moved to Parry Sound. Mr. Ostrow is the new proprietor of the Credit Valley Lime Kilns, which business he purchased from Allan W. Norton.

A pleasant 25th Wedding Anniversary surprise was in store for Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Warnes, when their son, Fred and Edward Lapointe invited them to dinner at The Cottage Inn, Brampton, a week Saturday. The tables were set with flowers, and a big wedding cake was brought in at the end of the dinner, as well as a beautiful picture, a gift from the boys. Both Edward and Fred are waiters at the Cottage Inn.

To go from a very happy occasion, to a sad one — noticed that the Acon Free Press has started a fund to aid the wife and three

small kiddies of the late Rod Ryder, who met a tragic fate when his bicycle slipped on wet pavement and threw him under a Gray coach bus. Rod was well-known among the young people of Georgetown. The fund had been in operation only a couple of days and already totalled \$180.00.

Corey Herrington, editor of the monthly publication Feather Fancier, has received a letter from one of his subscribers, J. Tom Cox, of Vancouver, B.C., in which he tells of having his radio on Saturday, Sept. 17th, and hearing the broadcast from the Georgetown

Fall Fair. "Reception was good," wrote Mr. Cox, "and I felt as tho' I really knew the Georgetown people, just from reading the Feather Fancier".

At a christening service in St. George's Church Sunday afternoon, Beverly Ann Johnson, baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Johnson, was christened by the rector, Archdeacon W. G. O. Thompson. The baby wore her father's christening gown and shawl, and godparents were her only uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Stigger.

The same afternoon, Archdeacon Thompson also officiated at

the christening of Mary Judith, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob MacKenzie of Hamilton, with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Ian MacKenzie of Toronto as godparents. All members of the family gathered afterwards at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Syd MacKenzie for a family dinner, those present including also Mr. and Mrs. Larry MacKenzie of Erin and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce MacKenzie of town.

Rainbows can be formed from moonlight.

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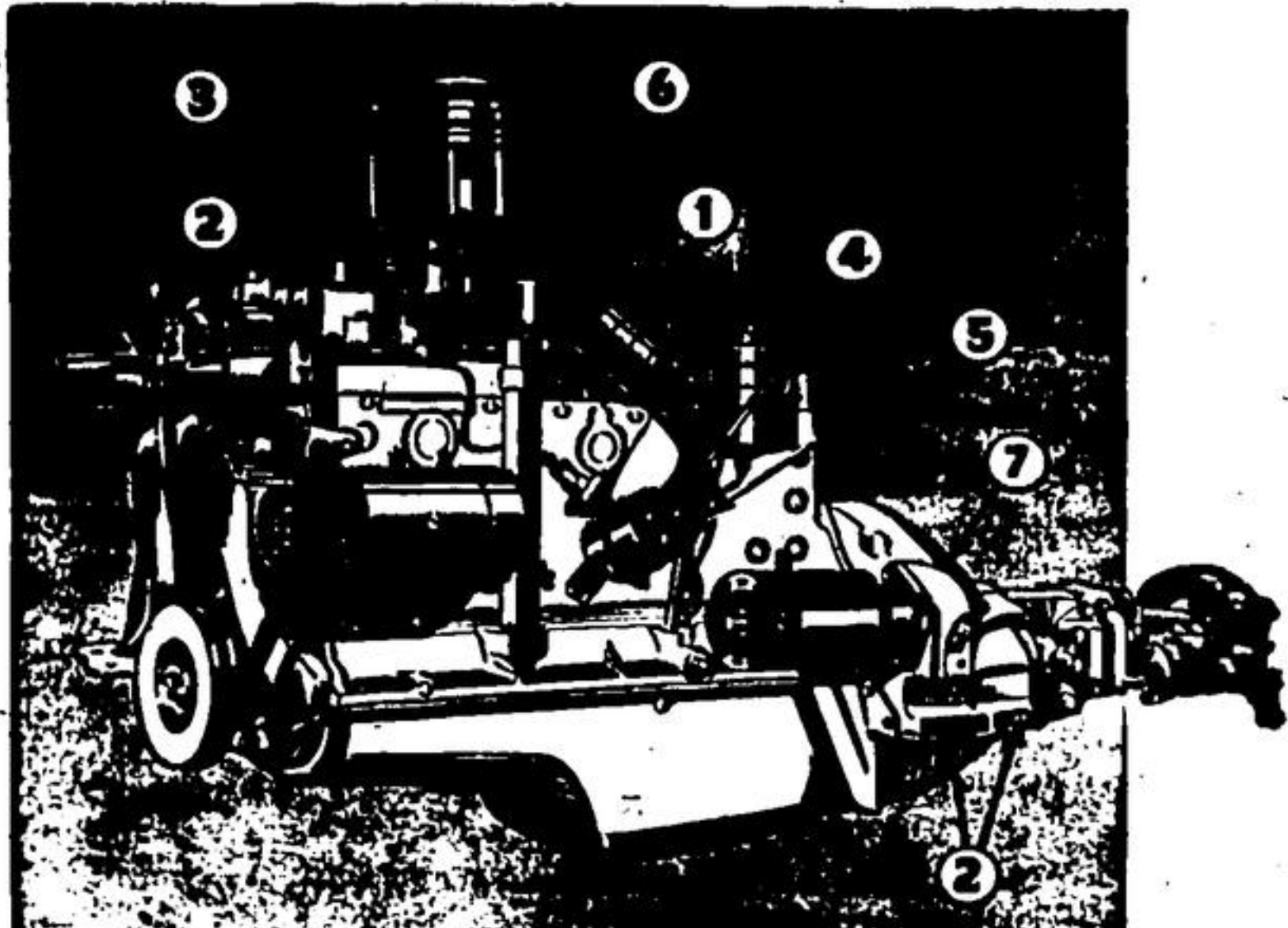
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