

Grandma's Pantry and General Store

Crafts, antiques featured at new store

By EDO VAN BELKOM
Craft makers in the Markham area have a new store in which to display and sell their wares.

Grandma's Pantry and General Store is a unique blend of hand-made crafts set among the antiques belonging to Carriage House Antiques in the homestead atmosphere of a country barn.

The new store, which opened Sept. 25, is run by Carolyn Dederichs and Barbara Jones in the 1917 year-old barn lovingly restored by Carriage House Antiques' owners. The two businesses seem to complement each other, says Lois Kay, owner of Carriage House Antiques. "Crafts show beautifully amidst antique furniture."

Grandma's Pantry is the first adventure into the business world for both women.

"We're both green," admitted Mrs. Dederichs. "We have to learn by trial and error."

The crafts on sale range from fruit preserves to stained glass and from soft sculpture to ceramics. Everything in the store is being sold on consignment at a mark-up of only 20 per cent. The mark-up may seem small for a business of this kind to survive, but Mrs. Dederichs said the craft makers, as well as the customers, are pleased with the prices.

"They (the craft makers) are pleased that the mark-up is not high. They don't like to think that

their work is making somebody else rich," she said.

Mrs. Dederichs adds that the most expensive item in the store, a pair of ceramic ducks, sells for \$95. Similar items in other stores go for as much as \$135.

One major obstacle the women hope to overcome is the problem of location. Situated on the 9th Line just north of Hwy 7, the store does not have what you might call a prime location.

"If we were located in a shopping centre we would have a lot more people coming in," said Mrs. Jones. "We're off the beaten track and people have to make a specific stop."

But despite the store's location, the two women said the response has been good. They currently sell the work of 17 area craft makers and have been approached by other people wanting to sell their crafts.

Customers seem to be impress-

ed by the low prices. The most popular sellers so far have been the quilted hoop wall hangings, as well as the pine wood folk art made by Anne and Bill Gunn.

It's too early to tell if the venture will be a long lasting success, but both women are cheerful under the pressure of starting a new business and making it go.

"If we make it go, we'll write a book on how to start a business for under \$2,000," said Mrs. Dederichs.

"We'll stay in business until we run out of money," added Mrs. Jones with a smile.

For now the two women are comfortable with the store and the friendly country atmosphere which greets customers visiting the store.

"I love what's in here. I feel comfortable selling the crafts and antiques," said Mrs. Dederichs. "It's like my own home in here. It's not that much like work."



Barbara Jones, co-owner of Grandma's Pantry and General Store in Markham, arranges a display. The new store is located on the 9th Line (with Carriage House Antiques) and offers a unique blend of hand-made crafts set in the homestead atmosphere of a country barn.

— Roberta Di Maio

Unionville restaurant featured in cookbook

Have you ever ordered Pork with Dijon Cream at Unionville House Restaurant and wished you could have the recipe? Well thanks to the Junior League of Toronto you can.

A cookbook, Jubilation, published by the League features the

recipe as introduction to the entire section, one of 11 food sections.

The book is part of a fundraising drive to support current projects such as a help manual for the terminally ill and the development of

programs for displaced homemakers.

Unionville House Restaurant is the only Markham area restaurant featured. The previous owner, Terry Cowan, submitted the recipe which was a specialty of the house — a tradition which the present owner, Paul Vasilovsky continued.

Mr. Vasilovsky, 29, bought Unionville House in partnership with his father and brother last November. The family also owns Pier 35 in the Beaches area of Toronto.

The new owners changed neither the name nor the specialties. One can still indulge in Bailey's Irish Cream Cheese Cake as well as Pork with Dijon Cream.

The business is a success. Reservations are nearly always required and the restaurant is frequently featured in national magazines and tourist publications.

Besides the homemade food, patrons seem to enjoy the 130-year-old house and its mellow atmosphere. Until 1974, it was a doctor's office and residence.

During the days prior to the bypass, two families became concerned that some of the quaint old houses on the main street would be demolished. Several residents bought up the old homes and turned them into businesses, an astute bit of foresight.

Unionville House was run as a tea room and stayed that way until bought by Terry Cowan. The original pine floor boards are testimony to the present owner's intention to leave a good thing alone.

The cookbook, Jubilation, can be purchased for \$15.98 at Stiver House Gifts Ltd. on Main St. Unionville, another original home-cum-business with a good dose of charm.

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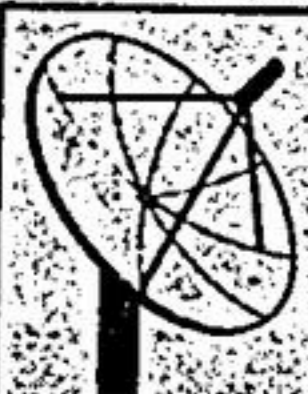
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