

Dear Klamath Falls AAUW Branch Members,

It is with great sadness that I find it necessary to write this letter. For 49 years we have held an annual Antique Show & Sale and we have found it to be a successful fundraiser for our branch and for the scholarships we have been able to give to deserving young women.

When Sally Kent and I agreed to be the fund raiser chairs – way back when - we knew we didn't want to do another rummage sale. Sally had heard about antique shows and we thought it would be definitely more fun than a rummage sale. So we looked into it, went to one in Jacksonville, contacted the Art and Antique Society of Oregon, wrote letters of invitation and found six antique dealers who were brave enough to come to Klamath Falls. Yes, we started with six Oregon dealers who carried good merchandise and knew their field. We obtained a suitable dealer contract form and we were off and running.

We held the show in the old wooden fairgrounds exhibit hall that stood where the parking lot is now. The show was in October - the roof leaked, the floors were uneven and the tables were wide boards atop sawhorses that Sally and I wrestled into place. A PEO chapter did the lunches for several years and a dinner that was not profitable for them or us, so we cut back to lunch only and started running it ourselves.

We held a table setting contest several years when we needed to fill the center of the room. Cut glass and Havilland china were popular while jewelry and silver were popular and continue to be so today. Furniture is always in demand but now Native American items are the stars.

Then the new exhibit building came into being. We knew we needed more dealers and we worried where we would find them! I contacted several California dealers when I went to a show in Red Bluff and that led to several Washington dealers and as they all had contacts we were able to attract Nevada and Idaho dealers. This gave our show a wider scope but a still balanced venue with 25 dealers. We have always been as selective as possible when it comes to our dealers and we were rarely disappointed. But each year it became more difficult to find suitable dealers and ones that we hoped would appeal to our patrons.

Our luncheon became a major undertaking with a salad buffet held in the front meeting room across from the exhibit hall. Waitresses went around the room with trays of desserts – it was a classy and dressy affair! Obviously we had a much larger membership than we have now. We had over 150 members at that time. Now we have 35 members.

The croissant sandwich and pie concession came into being by the efforts of Judy Dodson and Sue Fortune. That has been successful and profitable although a lot of work by a few people.

But life moves on and there is no one to step up to fill those shoes. You have to have a passion for an undertaking and both Sally and I did for many years. But now for us at least, it is time to say good-bye to running the antique show.

Thank you for all your year of supporting the show and all the other work that made the show a success. It's a very bittersweet time as we bid adieu to 49 years of AAUW antiquing.

Margaret Cheyne and Sally Kent