

THE COLLECTION OF GUY & JANE ESHELMAN



Guy R. and Jane (Peifer) Eshelman were both born in Lancaster County in 1933 and married in 1956. Their love for collecting antiques was borne of their deep respect for their Lancaster County, Pennsylvania heritage. Guy was an avid genealogist, tracing his and Jane's family histories to Hans Herr's settlement of Lancaster County through various maternal and paternal lines.

They preserved possessions handed down from three or more generations before them. If they had a plate owned by an ancestor, they delighted in building onto that to collect an entire serving set of the same pattern. Guy meticulously labeled the family provenance on a host of items, lovingly leaving tangible reminders of family heritage to his children and grandchildren.

As a lifelong potato farmer, Guy expanded the Eshelman's antique collection to primitive farm equipment and implements. Jane was the first female Pontiac dealer, and the couple's collection includes the LaSalle which Jane's father purchased when he was an early Cadillac dealer. Guy was quick to teach history through the antiques he and Jane collected. He frequently would pick up an item and ask a grandchild to "guess what this was used for." If it were a toaster, a fire would be built and there would be an object

lesson on toasting bread in a fireplace. Guy and Jane volunteered for *Ag in the Classroom* throughout Lancaster County and used items from their collection in their educational presentations. Guy hosted an elementary school "Farmer Boy" day—complete with collected antiques to teach local history and give demonstrations of early farm life.

Antique collecting was a hobby that Guy and Jane enjoyed together for decades. Their collection is varied and includes china, woodenwares, metalwares, Lancaster Co. furniture, stoneware/pottery and more. They were studious of what made an object unique and desirable and were known for collecting items in pristine condition. Guy and Jane frequented Conestoga Auction House in Manheim, PA, but also attended antique shows around the country.

Jane had an affinity for decorating in authentic colonial Williamsburg style and colors. She was a purist in this regard. Much of the auction is comprised of items intended to furnish and decorate the home which the couple was remodeling when Jane passed away suddenly in 1996. At that time, Guy switched from collecting to preserving the collection.

**In one way or another, the items being auctioned
are precious vignettes of family heritage.**

It is hoped that buyers will treasure the objects they acquire as well as the history surrounding those objects. More importantly, Guy and Jane would want it to be known that as special as their collection was to them, their greatest joy was not in storing "up for themselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy..." (Mathew 6:19).

Their greatest joys stemmed from their faith in Jesus Christ, the assurance of being together with God in Heaven for eternity, family, friends, and serving others. Until we shall meet again, Guy and Jane are greatly missed, and this catalogue is a tribute to them and their values.