



# The High Prairian

"All the news that's print to fit."

Volume Twelve, Number One and a Half

SPECIAL FIREHOUSE SALE EDITION

April 2012

Thirteenth Annual

**SPECIAL EDITION**

**HIGH PRAIRIE  
FIREHOUSE SALE**

Annual Firehouse / Community Sale  
May 19 and 20

## A PERSONAL WELCOME

Sharon Aleckson, Firehouse Sale Co-Chair

Hello everybody, and welcome to the thirteenth annual High Prairie Firehouse Sale! Every year, Spring arrives with singing birds, lots of wildflowers, and—yes!—the Firehouse Sale. Mark your calendars for the 19th and 20th of May. You know this is going to be the best one ever!!!!

Our most notable High Prairie event involves everyone in the community in one way or another, whether it's helping out behind the scenes, providing donations, or happily spending money at the sale itself. There's a lot to do to get the sale off the ground, but it's surprisingly fun when we do it together. And what a success we've made of it by pulling together that way. Since it started the Firehouse Sale has brought in over \$70,000, all for the direct benefit of our community. That's an impressive record.

Proceeds from the Firehouse Sale have gone to buy new

equipment and to upgrade facilities for High Prairie's volunteer Fire District 14; fund the programs of the High Prairie Community Council; provide money for finishing our new community center and installing a commercial kitchen in it; and, now that the community center is open for use, pay for its upkeep and operation. This year we have an added incentive. We're hoping that after the community center's upkeep and operation is covered, HPCC will be able to make a significant donation to the new Schilling Road Firehouse project.

There are lots of ways you can take part. Come and help, hang out with your neighbors, have fun, and feel good about helping make High Prairie the great place that it is. What could be better?

Here's how:

- Check out the middle pages of this newsletter for dates, times and places
- Come down to the sale site and join in the set-up or clean-up activity (and get free lunch!)
- Bring donations of goods to sell, sawhorses and plywood for tables, baked goods and diet or regular pop/bottled water for the food booth, etc.

- Sign up for a shift or two at the sale itself by calling Sharon at 365-4429
- Talk to any of the Committee Heads (listed inside) to offer your skills and talents

Call Sharon at 365-4429 or Penny at 365-2700 for specific jobs that need to be done

And when it's all over, pat yourself on the back for a job well done. Thank you to everyone over the years who have given so much to make the Firehouse Sale a success. High Prairie would not be the same without it.



Sharon Aleckson

## FIREHOUSE SALE ATTRACTIONS

**RUMMAGE SALE** — It started out as a rummage sale, and that's still the main event – only much bigger! Donations pour in from the community. They fill the Aleckson's haybarn and spread out around the perimeter. Something for everyone, at prices that can't be beat!

**FOOD BOOTH** — Great food and refreshments round out the shopping experience. Myrin Bentz's famous bratwurst tops the menu as usual, and a tasty vegetarian dish—Martha's Kluski—has become a regular offering. In addition, there are plenty of homemade pies, cinnamon rolls and other baked goods, soft drinks, coffee, and ice cream. YUM!!!

**SILENT AUCTION** — This is an opportunity to bid on nicer items and services donated by local businesses and individuals. Winners get treasures, for much less than market price. A "Buy It Now" board offers donated items or services for instant purchase at a discount. We couldn't do this without the amazing generosity and support of people and businesses in High Prairie and all the surrounding areas.

**QUILT RAFFLE** — The High Prairie Needlers continue to amaze us each year with their handiwork in their beautiful quilt. This year it's a full/queen size pinwheel quilt called HIGH PRAIRIE CAROUSEL. Tickets are just \$2 apiece or 3 for \$5. The raffle drawing will be held on Sunday, May 20, at 2:00 p.m.

**GARDEN/PLANTS** — Local gardeners see to it that we have a nice selection of plants to sell, also started early. We'll get homegrown tomato and pepper plants from Audrey Bentz and Bob Edwards, and others have plants to add to this area, too. We're lucky to have Master Gardener Rob Taylor in charge of the Garden/Plant department so bring your questions as well as your cash.

**FUN FOR KIDS** — The Fire District brings one of their big fire trucks for kids and adults alike to admire. Their popular "burning building" game gives kids a chance to try operating a real fire hose. Plus, a special booth for kids is bound to attract attention with face painting, games, and crafts.

**MUCH MORE!** — There's so much more, we can't possibly detail all the great things about the Firehouse Sale. You'll have to see for yourself. Come and help make it the best one ever.



## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Ted McKercher,

HPCC Board Member and Past President

"Where does the money go?"

That question is probably asked by every family at some time. Our "family"—our community—has asked that question numerous times over the past two years since our \$600,000 plus Community Center/Fire Hall became an actuality.

Based on expenses shared by Fire District 14 and the High Prairie Community Council (you) in the running and maintaining of the Center/Fire Hall over its first year of operation, it was determined that month-to-month expenses will total close to \$8,000 per year. The bulk of the big dollar expenses, the building and furnishing of the kitchen, is nearly completed, but there are several lesser areas that still need attention. Plus, over the last year HPCC has provided scholarships, supported the last print edition of the quarterly *High Prairian* newsletter, paid for half the cost of fencing the sump behind the Fire Hall, put on a splendid community dinner at Christmas, and more.

The bulk of that is being generated by "The High Prairie Firehouse Sale." Yes, there has been some money generated by rentals, activities and donations but not enough to offset much more than a month or two (maybe).

A copy of the expense account is available to any member of the community if requested.

Fortunately, as stated, the bulk of monetary needs has been met and hopefully will be met by the efforts of Sharon Aleckson and the cadre of volunteers who come out year after year to donate HUNDREDS of HOURS of their own time and sometimes their own expense to make this "Firehouse Sale" happen.

If you haven't been to the 'Center, come on by to a function or ask a board member to give you a tour and answer some of those questions you may have. Call me or any board member for a tour. Ted 365-9576.

If this High Prairie Firehouse Sale is the "biggest and best ever" maybe we can "make our nut" and then get back to supporting other projects in the community as we would like.

## SILENT AUCTION IN ITS 4TH YEAR

Gwen Berry

The 2012 Silent Auction committee has been busy talking to area businesses and individuals, seeking donations of items and services for the auction. Committee Co-Chairs Barb Parrish and Diane Cazalet say it's too early to be able to list all the goodies being promised, but here's a sampling:

Overnight at the historic Columbia Gorge Hotel in Hood River (\$199 value)

Birthday party for 10 at Beneventi's, complete with a visit from McGruff the Crime Dog and a ride in a White Salmon police car (\$300 value)

Truckload of crushed rock donated by the Amery family (\$200 value)

Services by Pro Window / Gutter / Chimney Cleaning (\$100 value)

Blooming hanging planter basket (\$35 value)

Four \$25 gift certificates for DJ's Repair and Rental in Bingen, WA

Lots more coming!

This year the Silent Auction will run for both days of the sale, opening at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and closing at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday (the same time as the Quilt Raffle drawing). Bidders will be encouraged to check back often and update their bids as the auction progresses.

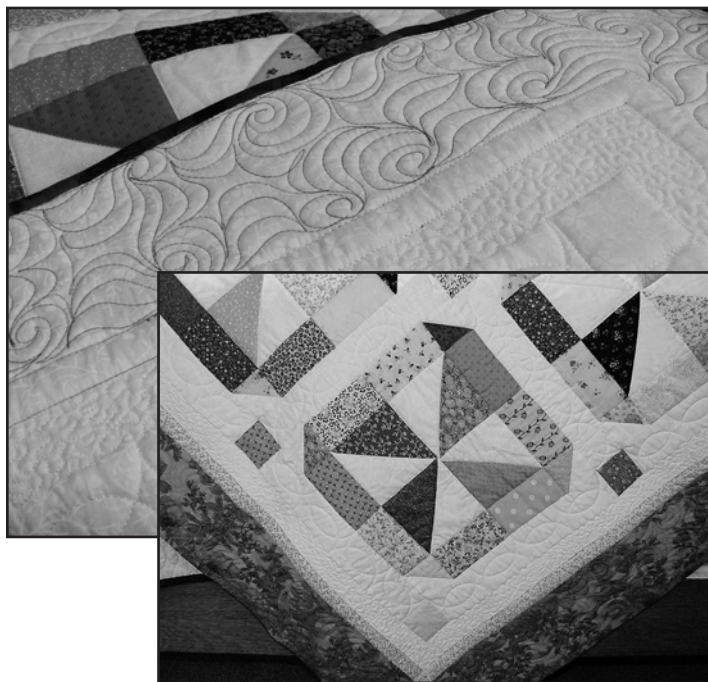
Returning this year will be the "Buy It Now" board, where shoppers can pick up donated goods and services at discounted prices, without having to wait.



## BEAUTIFUL NEEDLER QUILT TO BE RAFFLED

Carol Shuster

The High Prairie Needlers have once again put their skills to work and created a beautiful full/queen size quilt called "High Prairie Carousel." The ladies in the group chose the pattern after considering other options. We spent a day choosing the colors and putting them together. We chose a white background so that the colors would pop. After the



quilt was finished Linda Daughetee machine quilted it for us. The result was another masterpiece.

This lovely quilt will be raffled off during our Firehouse Sale on May 19th and 20th at Arlen and Sharon Aleckson's haybarn. The winning ticket will be drawn at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 20. The raffle tickets are \$2.00 a piece or 3 for \$5.00. Call Dona Taylor at 365-3424 for presales. The quilt will also be on display at Quilter's Delight at 406 E. 2nd Street in The Dalles, Oregon. You can purchase tickets there as well.

Hope to see you at our Firehouse Sale.

## THE 13TH ANNUAL HIGH PRAIRIE FIREHOUSE SALE IS A FEW BUSY WEEKS AWAY!

The Firehouse Sale is our one big fundraiser of the year. Everyone on High Prairie benefits from the Firehouse Sale, so please, support it in whatever way you can. "Many hands make light work" couldn't be more true, and it's a great way to meet your neighbors. There are lots of ways to help:

- clean out your closets and your barn and donate lots of good stuff to sell
- make and donate baked goods, or provide diet or regular pop or bottled water
- help set up sale area before the sale
- help organize and price donated items
- put up advertising signs
- help take a truck around to pick up big donations
- put in a three-hour shift as a cook, cashier, traffic director or "clerk" at the sale itself.
- help do a little clean up afterward.
- lots more — it's an equal employment opportunity!

You can call and ask where we need help, or check out the schedule below, then come on down to the site and pitch in.

If you can commit three hours for a shift during the sale itself, please call Sharon (365-4429) or Penny (365-2700). They need to know they have all the shifts covered .

The sale is at Alecksons' Haybarn again this year, at 783 Centerville Highway. See you there!

FIRST WEEK OF MAY		
MONDAY – May 7 & TUESDAY – May 8	All day	- Drop off <u>things to make tables</u> out of: SAWHORSES, PLYWOOD, doors, tables, fruit boxes, etc. <b>(Put items in haybarn and label them so you can get them back!)</b>
WEDNESDAY – May 9 & THURSDAY – May 10 (lunch provided both days)	9 – Noon & 1 – 4 p.m.	TWO WORK DAYS - Site preparation and basic set-up - Bring a pickup or trailer if you have one - Types of jobs: move things in from other locations (tables, chairs, fridge, freezer, trailer, etc.), move things out of sale area, set up and cover tables, put up canopies (weather permitting), begin organizing donations/supplies, etc.
FRIDAY – SUNDAY		MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND Enjoy your weekend, get ready to charge into the big week
WEEK OF SALE		
MONDAY May 14 (lunch provided for volunteers)	9 – Noon & 1 – 4 p.m.	- <u>Bring donations</u> to sale site - <u>Consolidate donations into barn</u> - Fine tune <u>locations of display tables</u> - <u>Sort donations</u> into sale areas - Set up <u>canopies and tents</u> (weather permitting)
TUESDAY May 15 (lunch provided for volunteers)	9 – Noon & 1 – 4 p.m.	- <u>Bring donations</u> to sale site - <u>Sort and organize</u> items in sale areas - Begin <u>pricing</u> sale items
WEDNESDAY May 16 (lunch provided for volunteers)	9 – Noon & 1 – 4 p.m.	- <u>Bring donations</u> to sale site - <u>Sort and organize</u> items in sale areas - Continue <u>pricing</u> sale items
THURSDAY May 17 (lunch provided for volunteers)	9 – Noon & 1 – 4 p.m. 4 – 8 p.m.	- <u>Bring donations</u> to sale site - <u>Sort and organize</u> that day's donations - Continue <u>pricing</u> sale items <b>OPEN LATE FOR THOSE WHO WORK and couldn't take part during the daytime. Bring donations or help organize &amp; price goods</b>
THURSDAY May 17	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Food worker meeting (anyone who will be working food booth)

FRIDAY May 18 (lunch provided for volunteers)	9 – Noon & 1 – 6 p.m.  NOON —>	- LAST DAY to donate rummage sale items <b>by 5:00 p.m.</b> (unless prior arrangements are made with Sharon: 365-4429 or Penny: 365-2700) - Bring <u>bake sale items</u> any time between 9 and 5 - <u>Sort and organize</u> that day's donations - Finish <u>pricing sale items</u> - FREE LUNCH FOR VOLUNTEERS – FOOD BOOTH PRACTICE RUN!
<b>SALE WEEKEND</b>		
SATURDAY May 19  <b><u>SALE DAY!</u></b>	7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.	- <u>3-hour shifts</u> for clerks, cashiers, cooks, traffic crew & other helpers - Bring <u>plants by 7:30 a.m.</u> - Bring <u>bake sale items by 7:30 a.m.</u> - FOOD BOOTH OPENS AT <b>8:00 a.m.</b> for “Wake-up” Menu – Full Menu (Bratwurst, etc.) available at 10 a.m. - SALE & SILENT AUCTION OPEN AT <b>9:00 a.m. (NO PRESALES)</b> - SALE CLOSSES AT <b>5:00 p.m.</b>
	5 – 5:30 p.m.	- Clean up, put away, get ready for tomorrow
SUNDAY May 20  <b><u>SALE DAY!</u></b>	7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.	- <u>3-hour shifts</u> for clerks, cashiers, cooks, traffic crew & other helpers - Bring <u>bake sale items by 7:30am</u> - FOOD BOOTH OPENS AT <b>8:00 a.m.</b> for “Wake-up” Menu – Full Menu (Bratwurst, etc.) available at 10 a.m. - SALE OPENS AT <b>9:00 a.m. (NO PRESALES)</b> - SILENT AUCTION CLOSSES <b>at 2:00 p.m.</b> - QUILT RAFFLE DRAWING AT <b>2:00 p.m.</b> - SALE CLOSSES AT <b>3:00 p.m.</b>
	3 – 5 p.m.	- <u>Wrap-up:</u> -move into barn, consolidate, & cover remaining items -pick up garbage, etc. -pack away food and supplies, clean food area -consolidate or remove plants -take down small canopies/tents -take down advertising/roadside/parking signs
	5 – ? p.m.	- <b><u>Relax and celebrate!</u></b> Casual get-together to celebrate our success (and the end of another sale)
<b>13-MILE SALE</b>		
<b>We're saving everything that hasn't sold <u>and taking new donations</u> for the 13-Mile Sale on June 9 &amp; 10</b>		
THURSDAY / FRIDAY June 7/8	All day	- Bring <b>new</b> donations to sale site (until 3:00 p.m.) - Uncover and set up sale items for 13-Mile Sale - Set up Food Booth and get barbeque ready - Put up 13-Mile Sale signs
SATURDAY June 9	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	- <u>3-hour shifts</u> for clerks, cashiers, cooks, traffic crew & other helpers
SUNDAY June 10	9 a.m. – 3 p.m. 3 – 4 p.m.	- <u>3-hour shifts</u> for clerks, cashiers, cooks, traffic crew & other helpers - <u>Clean up</u> and put away food booth; basic clean-up in other areas
MONDAY June 11	10 a.m. – noon	- Clean up; throw away; recycle; pack boxes for thrift store; etc. - Disassemble tables; finish cleanup; return whatever needs to be returned - Take remainders to thrift store, Habitat, etc. (as needed)

## DONATION DROP-OFF DATES

### DONATION DROP-OFF DATES

Remember: HPCC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so donations are tax deductible. Ask for a receipt.

#### SECOND WEEK IN MAY

Things to make tables out of – tables, sawhorses, plywood, doors, boxes, etc. (Put your name on them.)

Mon./Tues.      May 7/8      All day

**WE ESPECIALLY NEED SAWHORSES & PLYWOOD**

Rummage sale items, diet/regular pop & bottled water

A shipping container will be in place and available to hold donations after 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 6.

All week, any time      Place donations in shipping container

Wednesday      May 9      9 to 4 — volunteers will be working onsite

#### THIRD WEEK IN MAY

Rummage sale items, diet/regular pop & bottled water

Monday      May 14      9 to 6

Tuesday      May 15      9 to 6

Wednesday      May 16      9 to 6

Thursday      May 17      9 to 8

Friday      May 18      9 to 5

Baked Goods & Plants

Friday      May 18      9 to 5

Saturday      May 19      by 7:30 a.m.

Sunday      May 20      by 7:30 a.m.

#### JUNE (FOR 13+ MILE SALE)

Drop off new donations:

Thursday      June 7      Any time

Friday      June 8      Before 3 p.m.

13+ Mile Sale Hours:

Saturday      June 9      9 to 5

Sunday      June 10      9 to 3

For questions about either sale or to volunteer, please call 365-4429 (Sharon) or 365-2700 (Penny).

Thank you for supporting High Prairie's one big fundraiser for the year.



Following the collapse of the sale tent in a last winter's ice storm, volunteers helped Arlen Aleckson add a sturdier extension to the haybarn.

## YOUR FIREHOUSE SALE COMMITTEE HEADS

Co-Chair      Sharon Aleckson  
 Co-Chair      Penny Rutledge  
 Advertising      Gwen Berry  
 Baked Goods      Myrt McKercher  
 Kid's Activities      Rachael Carlson  
 Fire District      James Amery  
 Food Booth      Shannon Hess & Debbie McDonald

Gofers      Ken Weeks  
 Haybarn      Jocelyn Weeks & Cheri DeHart  
 Parking      Neil Shuster  
 Plants & Garden      Rob Taylor & Audrey Bentz  
 Quilt Raffle      Dona Taylor  
 Silent Auction      Barb Parrish & Diane Cazalet  
 Tools/Sports/Auto      Ted McKercher & Ben Parrish





## WHAT CAN BE BETTER IN THE SUMMER THAN A HOME-GROWN TOMATO!

AUDREY 'GREEN-THUMB' BENTZ is growing the following tomato and pepper varieties for our sale:

Beef Steak Heirloom: Large and meaty, old-fashioned flavor. Not a hybrid, so save seeds for next year!

Better Boy Hybrid: 75 days, over 1 lb, extremely flavorful, juicy but firm, disease resistant, indeterminate\*

Rutgers: 75 days, Red slicer, robust flavor, semi-determinate\*, the "parent seed" orbited earth!

Black Krim: 69 days, heirloom, dark reddish black, Russian, exceptional flavor, indeterminate\*

Chianti Rose Beef Steak: 80 days, big and tasty, old-time tomato flavor! indeterminate\*

Roma: 75 days, great for canning, ideal for salsa, pear-shaped, thick, meaty, few seeds. Determinate\*

Roma, Striped: 75–80 days, vertical orange stripes, also good for salsa and canning, Indeterminate\*

Brandywine: 85 days, Savor the flavor! Large, indeterminate\*.

Early Sun Leaper: Bears fruit in very hot weather, determinate\*

Jalapeno pepper: Great flavor, a must for salsa!

Cubanelle pepper: Early pepper, favored for frying. Long yellow, fairly pungent.

Bell pepper: Sweet, most common, great for summer salads and cooking

BOB 'BETTER-BOY' EDWARDS will be bringing these (mostly heirloom) tomato varieties for the sale:

Cherokee Purple: 80 days, deep pink with green shoulders, sweet flavor, indeterminate\*

Oregon Spring: 65 days, early tomato, large and tasty, disease resistant, indeterminate\*

Black Krim: 70 days, heirloom, dark reddish black, Russian, exceptional flavor, indeterminate\*

Mortgage Lifter: 83–90 days, large, pink-red fruits, meaty, very flavorful and have few tomato seeds, indeterminate\*.

Early Girl: 60 days, hybrid, medium size, bright red, sweet and tasty, dependable, indeterminate\*

Siletz: 65 days, early set, nearly seedless, large red fruit, mild slightly tart flavor, determinate\*

Legend: 68 days, early set, 3–4" smooth round red fruit, sweet flavor, few seeds, good for salad or canning, determinate\*

Siberia: 48 days, very early, sets fruit at very cool temps, flavorful 5 oz. bright red fruit, from Russia, determinate\*

Sweetie: 70 days, masses of super-sweet red cherry tomatoes all summer, vigorous and reliable, indeterminate\*

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*"Last year about this time, I called my sister, Gwen, to see if I could come for a visit. "Sure," she said. "I'll put you to work!" So I drove down, and... whoa! Did she put me to work! I helped put up signs, and arranged merchandise; I also got to pre-view all the goodies. Then, during the Firehouse Sale, I took orders at the food stand, and laughed and chatted, and reconnected with a few people I'd met on previous visits. I had so much fun, that I decided to put down roots here and stay—just down the hill in Lyle. See you all at this year's Firehouse Sale!"*

—Victoria Singer

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## SALE TALES

“The High Prairie Firehouse Sale is a true example of a community coming together to accomplish what seems to be the impossible. Because of so many people working together, though, they make it look simple. It is amazing what they accomplish and how well organized it is. What a great event to share with friends and neighbors – and the treasures you find are amazing!”  
—Linda Cox

“The Alecksons’ haybarn proved an ideal location, with plenty of covered space, lots of parking, and an added touch of country charm. And oh, that sunny weather! It charmed sellers and shoppers alike after a week of rain and chill. It was a perfect weekend.

Myrin Bentz’s bratwurst once again made a splash as the main course in the Food Booth, while pies and other goodies went like hotcakes at the other end of the counter. High Prairie home bakers provided over 50 pies, as well as cranberry bread, cupcakes, cookies, muffins, cinnamon rolls, herb bread, and biscotti to sell at the Firehouse Sale. Not one crumb was left at the end of the sale.”

—June 2009 *High Prairian*

“I bought those raffle tickets, then told myself all the way home to The Dalles that I never win anything.”  
—Carol Hayward, 2009 Quilt Raffle winner as she collected her prize

Unexpected treasures show up sometimes. While preparing for the [2011] sale, volunteers found a worn object that looked like a broken toy airplane. On a hunch, one of them called a friend. The “junk” turned out to be the pieces of an old airplane model mold and were worth \$40. Instead of trash, a nice profit, all because the right person saw it and knew the right person to ask!

—Story related by Jocelyn Weeks

“[The 2011 sale] was a weekend of bargains, food and fun. As if the rummage sale and silent auction weren’t enough, people loved the locally made bratwurst and other offerings at the food booth. The beautiful quilt hanging over the sale tables, the music, the home-grown tomato plants and kids’ activities all added to the country-fair atmosphere. The rain held off until almost closing on Saturday and didn’t return on Sunday. Volunteers had to scramble to keep things dry when it hit. It probably kept the Sunday crowd a little smaller than usual, but it had no effect on the good spirits. The winner of the quilt raffle was —Dona Taylor! She was grinning from ear to ear and everyone else smiled just as big. Dona’s a warm and generous mainstay of the High Prairie community and has been trying to win the raffle for years. Even the losers were happy!”  
—Gwen Berry, from a note to columnist Diane Notestine

Q. What’s your favorite thing about the Firehouse Sale?

Judi Strait: “Everybody working together. I enjoy working with and being with people, and I love the atmosphere of people being happy and helping each other.”

Patrice Archuleta: “One of my favorite Firehouse Sale memories is of the very first sale in [2000]. Icery Sheeran dressed up in a complete chicken suit, and there she was going out into the highway and directing cars in to the sale. It was so funny! What a crack-up!”

Jake Jakabosky: “My favorite parts? Good buys. I got a hell of a deal on a chop saw!”

Dona Taylor: “I like how fun it is. Getting together, the people that come and help, all the donations given freely. It’s really fun and the people are great!”

“When we think about the Firehouse Sale, we talk about how much work it is, how much time it takes, the effort of pulling it all together. What we don’t talk about much is that, despite all the effort, being involved in the sale is very rewarding and being part of the crew at the sale is a lot of fun. We’ve gotten to know each other better, worked side-by-side with a common purpose, and when everything comes together and the sale opens there’s an excitement and enthusiasm that catches us all up. It’s quite a delight.”

—Gwen Berry