

Historic Occoquan Plans Antique Sale in Street

By Dorothy Berger
Globe Special Writer

Drive along the banks of the Occoquan Creek, and you will find the charming, quaint but bustling town of

Occoquan. Here you will enter a by-gone era. Among rolling hills and an old waterway, you will see buildings dating back to the eighteenth century.

One of these buildings, now used as an antique shop, was a barber shop in years gone by. You can hear the sound of the creek under its floor. A trap door remains, a

reminder that once the barber swept hair clippings into the swift-flowing creek. The citizens of Occoquan have joined the growing ranks of communities

determined to preserve the historic landmarks of their area. They have recently formed an historic society to research, restore and promote the town. This Saturday, July 12, the society is promoting a sale of antiques. Area people will dig into their basements and examine their attics to find relics of the past. This fair will be a gala event, going on all day long. The ladies will bake cakes and refreshments will be available. A hay ride is planned for the visiting children.

The present owners of Rockledge are the Laurence Barnes family. Mrs. Barnes lived in the house until 1960 "when we had to leave it, due to the nearby quarries blasting the foundation loose and making it unsafe to live in."

Mrs. Barnes expressed a sentiment (in a Fairfax County historical publication) that might help explain one of the reasons that seems to attract people to the past. "When I entered it (Rockledge), no matter how tired, worried or plain lonely for our parents I might be, I always became relaxed and felt as though someone older, wiser and understanding was there to comfort me."

Now more than 200 years after this house was built, people are trying to get it in condition to be visited again.

Occoquan may be reached easily from Rt. 95 and Rt. 1 by taking the Occoquan exit and following Rt. 123 which passes this historic town.

Mrs. Carl S. Lynn, Jr., secretary of the society, mentioned that one of the first historic buildings the society hopes to restore is Rockledge. It is believed that this house was built by William Buckland who built Gunston Hall. This 11-room house stands on ground cut out of a rock ledge and overlooks the gorge below. It was built sometime in the 1750s for John Ballandine.

CLASSIFIED

57 - AUTOMOTIVE

57 - AUTOMOTIVE

57 - AUTOMOTIVE

57 - AUTOMOTIVE

Autos Used

Autos Used

Autos Used

Autos Used

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