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Antiquing With Susan



A Tiffany cylinder with a document. Courtesy photos

By **SUSAN EBERMAN**
 Herald-Times Homes
homes@heraldt.com

An upcoming exhibit, *The Tiffany Touch*, at the President Benjamin Harrison Home in Indianapolis will give Hoosiers a chance to admire works by Louis Comfort Tiffany.

The son of a wealthy jeweler, Louis Comfort Tiffany was born in 1848. After traveling extensively throughout Europe and North Africa, he returned to his hometown, New York City. In 1879 he joined friends to start a decorative company but soon left the partnership to form his own company, Tiffany Studios. This company is best known for its magnificent lead glass lamps, although it made many leaded glass windows and art glass pieces.

What: *The Tiffany Touch* Exhibit

Where: President Benjamin Harrison Home, 1230 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis.

When: Opens Oct. 23, tours begin at 3 p.m. with speaker at 4:45 p.m.

Cost: \$60 event ticket includes speaker and tour of house and exhibit; \$90 donor ticket includes event and tour plus gift from Tiffany & Company, Indianapolis; \$120 patron ticket includes event, tour, gift and copy of "Louis Comfort Tiffany and Laurelton Hall, an Artist's Country Estate." Reservations required.

Info: (317) 631-1888



An elegant oxidized Tiffany vase

Tiffany was fascinated with the look of centuries-old glass buried in ancient Greece and Rome. He loved the iridescent patina that came with age and did many experiments with oxidation as he sought to create it in new glass. He is credited with discovering many types of glass. Tiffany closed his factory in 1924 because the business was no longer profitable due to increased production costs.

His stores continued to carry many items designed by him, including jewelry, silver, and glass.

The Harrison House exhibit begins October 23 with a special program as part of the Mary Tucker Jasper Speaker Series. Donna Climenhage, curator at the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art in Winter Park, Florida, will share her expertise on the life and works of Louis Comfort Tiffany.

Tiffany items in this exhibit include items from the home's collection as well as treasures on loan from the Indianapolis Museum of Art and the Tiffany & Co. archives in New Jersey. Decorative arts on display include a peacock-patterned goose-neck Favrite glass vase, which was a wedding gift presented to the former President Benjamin Harrison and his second wife, Mary Lord Dimmick, in 1896. A circular clematis bowl executed in base talle enamel and a white wide-mouth, lidded jar decorated with

ANTIQUING WITH SUSAN,
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HOME SPOTLIGHT:



Sideboard leads to quest

Nancy's reproduction of the antique Arts and Crafts sideboard. Photos by Carrol Krause

By **CARROL KRAUSE**
 Herald-Times Homes
homes@heraldt.com

When cabinetmaker Nancy Hiller first laid eyes on Russ Herndon's antique sideboard, she had no idea that it would launch her on a fact-finding trip to England. What started as a simple task—to build a measured reproduction—ended up evolving into a research project and an article she's writing for *American Bungalow*.

The top of the sideboard is nearly two feet wider than the bottom, with a piece of crowning trim that resembles the overhang of eaves on a Prairie house. It has tapered, delicate feet, and a mirrored back with decorative panels and candle brackets on each side. Russ bought it from Chuck Johnson, who specializes in antiques of the Arts and Crafts era. It obviously dated to around the turn of the last century.

"I fell in love with it," Nancy explained. "Last summer I had time to do a measured reproduction, and Russ graciously agreed to let me do it. I went over and took measurements and traced the angles."

"It was represented to me as a Liberty piece," Russ remembered. "It's not as severe as American Arts and Crafts furniture. The pulls are in the style of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. It's one of my favorite pieces, and I have Stickleys and Roycroft pieces."

Liberty, the famous London department store that has offered beautiful objects for the home and wardrobe for more than 130 years, often sold items made by other manufacturers.

HOME SPOTLIGHT,
 CONTINUED ON PAGE D4



Above: A closeup of one of the copper and glass panels crafted by Anne Ryan Miller; below: A closeup of the cabinet doors, showing the copper pulls and the leaded glass windows.



Homes

FEATURE HOME



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Calendar . . .

• **Annual BRI Home Tour:** Next weekend, Oct. 18 and 19, enjoy Bloomington Restoration, Inc.'s 32nd annual home tour. Titled "Stroll Down Memory Lane," the tour will include eight buildings that include historic homes, a Sears kit house and the former Stinesville church. Tour headquarters will be the Hinkle-Garton Farmstead, 2920 E. 10th. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children.

• **The Art and Science of Sauté:** Indulge yourself with a great meal of sauté scallopini and fettuccini marinara with aged cheeses while learning the basics of sauté at this class on Monday, October 20 from 6 – 8 pm. The cost for this class co-sponsored by People's University and the Bloomington Cooking School is \$37 for city residents; \$46 for all others; register by October 15. For more information or to register visit www.bloomington.in.gov/parks or call 349-3700.

• **Knitting Skill Builder Workshop:** This workshop on Saturday, October 18 from 2 – 3 pm at Yarns Unlimited will help you take the struggle out of joining yarns. Never again will you worry about where to change yarn, in the middle of a row or at the edge, and no more weaving in of ends. The cost is \$10. For more information call 334-2464.

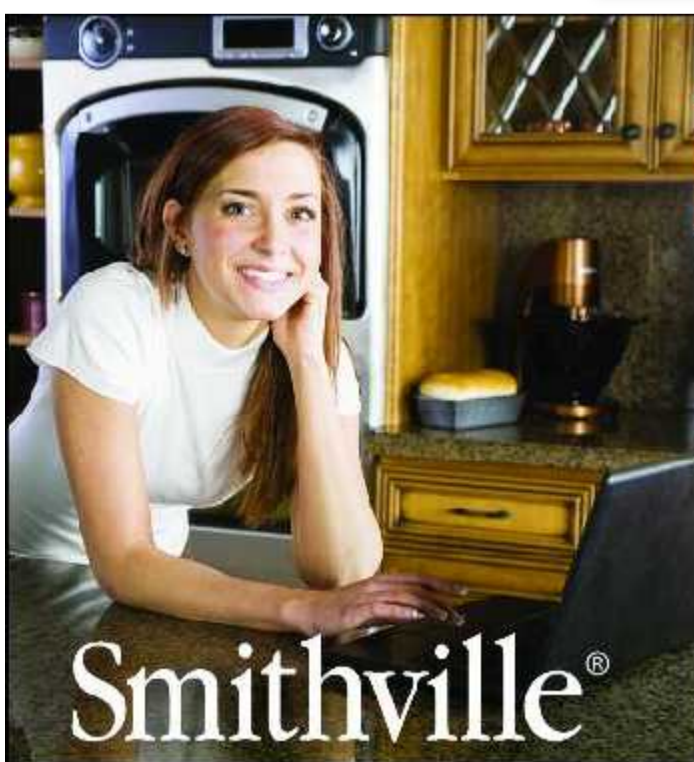
• **Eating Our Food: Agricultural Sustainability in Monroe County:** This class, co-sponsored by People's University and Bloomington, on Wednesday, October 22 from 6 – 8 pm will focus on the current challenges of local agriculture and the necessary ingredients for creating a sustainable local food system. The cost for this class is \$6 for city residents; \$7 for others; register by October 16. For more information or to register visit www.bloomington.in.gov/parks or call 349-3700.

• **Farmers' Market:** New produce this week includes winter radishes and blue Hubbard squash. Activities: from 9 am to 1 pm, A Fair of the Arts; from 9:30 to 10:30 am, Stella and Jane (Americana, Singer/Songwriter); from 10:45 to 11:15 am, Quarryland Men's Chorus; from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, the Not-Too-Bad Bluegrass Band. The Market is open Saturdays from 9 am – 1 pm in October and November. For up-to-date information about Market entertainment and product availability visit www.bloomington.in.gov/parks or call 349-3700. To view a video about Market vendors visit www.heraldtimesonline.com/media.

Compiled by Marcia Veldman

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY 101

Take a cue from the kitchen—conserve energy when, where and how you can

Content That Works

It can be a little overwhelming: Everyone seems to be riding that green wave, but you're still stuck on dry land. If your head is a jumble of carbon footprints and you're seeing Energy Stars, test the waters with a few of these energy-saving kitchen tips from the U.S. Department of Energy.

1 Rather than rinsing dishes to rid them of large food pieces and bones, scrape them before putting them in the dishwasher. Burned-on and dried-on foods generally require pre-washing, but for everything else, conserve the water.

2 If your dishwasher doesn't have an air-dry switch, manually turn it off after the final rinse and leave the door slightly ajar for faster drying.

3 Take your refrigerator's temperature. Recommended temperatures are 37-40 degrees F for the fresh food compartment, 5 degrees F for the freezer section, and 0 degrees F for long-term storage freezers. Test refrigerator temperature by placing a thermometer in a glass of water in the center of the unit. For freezers, place the thermometer between frozen packages. Check both after 24 hours.

4 If you have a manual-defrost refrigerator, don't let frost build up more than one-quarter of an inch. Frost buildup decreases energy efficiency, so manually defrost often.

5 Pressure cookers and microwaves use less energy by reducing cooking time; use them whenever possible.

6 When running small amounts of water, place the faucet in the cold position. The hot position will use energy to heat the water, even if that water may not make it to the faucet.



HOME SPOTLIGHT

CONTINUED FROM D1

"Russ contacted Mark Golding, an expert on English Arts and Crafts antiques," Nancy continued, "and Mark sent him a printout from an antique dealer's website, an auction catalog, showing an identical piece. The maker was identified as Harris Lebus. I'd never heard of this company. I spent an entire week-end going through thousands of entries on the Web for Harris Lebus. It turned into a fascinating story."

Russ's original dated to 1903. The Lebus company was founded in the 1840s by Louis Lebus, a Jewish cabinetmaker who emigrated from Germany to England. His furniture workshop thrived, and at his death in 1879 his son Harris took over.

"Harris made it into a company that claimed to be the world's largest furniture manufacturer," continued Nancy. "I was intrigued because the Showers company here in Bloomington had made the same claim, and they were contemporaneous with Lebus."

Harris Lebus was undeniably the largest furniture manufacturer in Britain, employing around a thousand workers. During both World Wars the company helped the war effort, manufacturing essential equipment and aircraft. They even built wooden replicas of Sherman tanks to fool German pilots flying over British soil.

The company declined after the death of the last active member of the family and closed in 1969 after more than 120 years in business.

Nancy trained as a cabinetmaker in England and received a City and Guilds of London Certificate in Furniture Craft in 1980. Her reproduction was built as an uncommissioned spec piece, the same way that a spec house is built without a particular buyer in mind. It's one of only four spec pieces she has ever crafted. The reproduction would not have been possible without help from several talented local craftspeople.

"The original cabinet has beaten copper panels on either side of the mirror," said Nancy. "But I didn't have any way to do that. So I had glass artist Anne Ryan Miller make interpretations of the original design in copper and glass panels, in the same style."

The original pulls are copper, with small square cutouts.

"The original pulls are one of the really wonderful features," Nancy noted. "They're a lovely Vienna Secessionist style. A jewelry maker here in Bloomington, Kailas McQueen, was able to make new pulls out of brass and copper."

The cabinet doors at the bottom of the sideboard have square leaded glass window panes crafted by Jamee Wis-sink. Russ Herndon's original cabinet has little rods inside the windows that would have held miniature silken curtains in place.

"The original was made of English brown oak, but I can't duplicate that," Nancy explained. "I used red oak, with a shellac and wax finish, dyed, stained, and glazed to make it look older. The original was plain sawn, not quarter sawn like so many Arts and Crafts pieces." Nancy matched the wood on the fronts of the drawers so that the wood grain creates an oval bull's eye pattern.



Nancy Hiller is reflected in the mirror of the beautiful sideboard reproduction she recently built. Photo by Carrol Krause



Nancy matched the grain of the wood so it creates an oval bull's-eye pattern across the front of the drawers. Photo by Carrol Krause



Russ Herndon's original 1903 Harris Lebus Arts-and-Crafts-style sideboard. Photo by Carrol Krause



Nancy's reproduction under construction in her shop. Photo courtesy Nancy Hiller

She recently traveled to England to delve deeper into the Harris Lebus story. The research triggered still more questions. Some time ago, she had built an Edwardian-style hall stand as a spec piece that was offered for sale through the local home furnishings store Relish.

"It occurred to me that there are stylistic similarities between this cabinet and the hall stand," she continued. "I wondered whether the hall stand might have been a Lebus product as well, but I couldn't find a single catalog from that period. One day I found a new Internet posting of an auction with that hall stand, and yes, it was a Harris Lebus! I've only made four spec pieces of furniture in my career, and two of them turned out to be based on originals by Harris Lebus!" She laughed.

"I just love the proportions of the original, that's what attracted me to it," she summed up. "It's so peculiarly British."

Watch next year for *American Bungalow* magazine (the date is not yet fixed) when Nancy will sum up her research into the Harris Lebus company. Contact Nancy Hiller of NR Hiller Design, Inc. at (812) 825-5872 or at nrhiller@bloomington.in.us.

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