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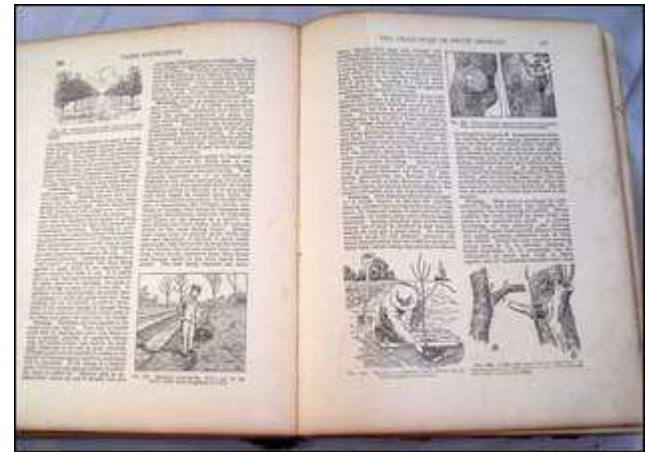
Friday, 11/09/07

Know Your Stuff: Old farm books hold personal treasures

By CONNIE SUE DAVENPORT
For Williamson A.M.

At the recent appraisal event to benefit the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities, Oma Heatherly of Hickman County brought her grandfather's four-book set of *Farm Knowledge* sold through Sears Roebuck and Co. in the early 1900s.

Although brittle and discolored, the set might cost \$100 to replace. While her daughter and grandbabies looked on, Oma and I discovered the ephemera or paper collectibles stuffed into the worn pages of the books. We shuffled through vintage school valentines, recipes, newspaper clippings and even her brother's report card.



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This book, part of a four-book set, was sold through Sears Roebuck and Co. in the early 1900s. (SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

This black and white Pigeon Forge Pottery vase was for sale at Tara's Antiques in Goodlettsville for less than \$15. (SUBMITTED)

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Other items appraised at the fair included prints, etched glass, textiles, farm implements, lamps, a Civil War document signed by Robert E. Lee and a copy of the Declaration of Independence.

Pottery made by artists for tourists visiting the Smoky Mountains is going up

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in value. Pigeon Forge Pottery was opened in 1946 by Douglas Ferguson. A skilled potter himself, Ferguson employed artists who created one-of-a-kind artwork and managed the production of handmade items. The company made figures of all the favorite mountain animals — think bears. They were quite successful in selling hostess sets with mountain motifs.



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Did we really serve juice from their very recognizable dogwood pattern pitcher and pottery mugs? I saw the sweetest set this week in a downsizing appraisal. Look for it at a Brentwood sale very soon for around \$25.

Pigeon Forge Pottery's crater-glazed pieces are gaining in popularity, although they are still affordable. The Pigeon Forge Pottery closed in 2000, when Ferguson died. Some pieces, signed (incised) in the base by the potter, can bring up to \$350.

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