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Friday, 04/14/06

Know Your Stuff: Grandma's slag glass lamp is worth quite a bit

By CONNIE SUE DAVENPORT
For Williamson A.M.

Dear Connie Sue:

I was excited to see your column in Williamson A.M. I have wanted the *Antique Road Show* to come to Nashville for a long time to show them Grandma's lamp.

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This lamp was inherited by my grandmother from our aunt, her sister-in-law, when Aunt Camille died. They actually lived together as long as I remember and when grandma died, I became the keeper of the lamp.

Attached are several pictures of the lamp. It is extremely heavy, glass and maybe cast iron. The metal surrounding the glass originally was painted. All of the metal is now a dark bronze color. The glass is like an old stained glass and it is held in place by metal tabs that bend into the glass. For some reason the rim of glass around the crown of the lamp was painted red when we got it.

As you can see, it is a beautiful lamp. It has a



This lamp is quite a treasure. It is worth about \$2,200.

enlarge

Contact Connie Sue Davenport with any questions about your antiques and collectibles, and we'll discuss them here. Send to conniesue@conniesueinc.com or by mail in care of Williamson A.M.

TODAY'S Sports STORIES:

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- Marathon is a Bridge to success
- Williams may rush to top of draft lists
- Double steal helps Sounds nab victory
- Pacman witnesses shooting
- Titans to assist in tornado cleanup efforts



with what looks like a brass plating. The lighted base and exceptionally decorated metalwork places the value at around \$2,200. The N.W.A.S. Co. mark indicates Northwest Aluminum Specialty Co. out of Oregon. This corporation owned Chicago Aluminum Castings Co., which has been casting decorative and industrial items since 1910.

Dear Ms. Davenport:

When we purchased these five chairs about 30 years ago, the lady told us they were given as premiums by the Larkin Soap Co. What can you tell us about them? And what are the prospects of finding at least one more of these chairs?

— **Jerry and Shirley Slatton, Franklin**

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Slatton:

Your chairs could well be a premium for Larkin's club secretaries (similar to Avon ladies) who sold through both neighborhood parties and door to door. Since these chairs were made by various manufacturers, it's difficult to identify them unless they still have the Larkin label, made of paper, attached to the bottom.

The Larkin Soap Co. included premiums in their soap products as early as 1881. The early premiums were gifts like a handkerchief, picture card or bath towel, but by 1920 you could furnish an entire home with Larkin products. Larkin Soap ordered from manufacturers all across the U.S. They set up a furniture factory in Buffalo, N.Y., around 1900 to assemble pieces produced in Tennessee. The master plan was to market directly from the factory to consumers. Premiums included piano lamps, dining chairs, pottery and glassware. The extravagant premiums encouraged consumers to buy a year's worth of products. Larkin ceased business in 1962.

A set of five chairs like yours sells for around \$600 in antique malls. To accommodate the need for an additional chair, you might consider a captain's chair with similar pressed back decoration to nicely

bulb in the stand and two bulbs under the shade. The base of the lamp has N.W.A.S. Co. stamped on it and also in another part of the base is the number 35.

I am 57 and the lamp seemed old to me as a kid.

We appreciate anything you can tell us about grandma's lamp.

— **Steve Cretin, Franklin**

Dear Steve:

Your lamp is made of marble glass often called slag glass. Some thought "slag" from the iron smelting works was added to cause the striations. The metal is aluminum sand cast iron

TODAY'S TOP STORIES:

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- Jury: March stole from law firm
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round out the set. Again, due to the different companies that supplied furniture for Larkin, it will be tough to find an exact match. But keep looking — that's part of the fun!



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