

Phoenix Antique Market reborn under new owners

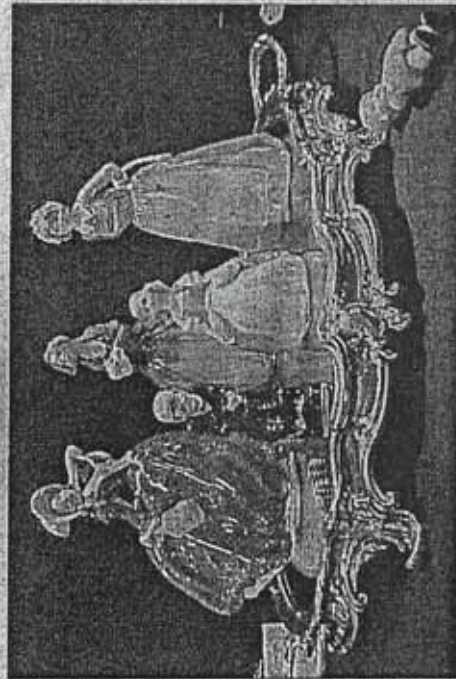
By Kellie Hwang
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You can find something one of a kind at this weekend's Phoenix Antique Market.

The show, which has been going on for more than 20 years, is run by husband-and-wife team Robert and Wanda Jones. The couple had been exhibiting since 1988 when, about 11 years ago, the owner of the Acorn Antique Guild asked them to buy out the mountain shows, which included Flagstaff and Yuma.

In 2003, they were approached by the owner of Blackjack Enterprises and asked to purchase the Phoenix show. The Joneses accepted, and have worked hard to build the event's reputation.

"In 2003 there were only 23 exhibitors, and the selection dwindled down to absolutely nothing," Wanda Jones said. "No one wanted to see it go away, so we started it up again, and the shows in the winter have about 75 to 125 booths



Those attending the Phoenix Antique Market can find items that range from \$20 to the tens of thousands of dollars.

now. It's back up to the thousands at the gate and we took it a step further, offering free admission."

Phoenix now has six shows each year, as well as shows in Flagstaff and Yuma. Jones said that the quality of dealers is very high and that visitors can find items that range from \$20

Phoenix Antique Market

When: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday.

Where: State fairgrounds, 1826 W. McDowell Road.

Admissions: Free admission, but parking costs \$7.

Details: 602-717-7337, azantiqueshow.com.

expert Kent Monken.

Although there is no official antique appraisal booth, Jones said, people can bring in their items because many dealers are willing to look at them.

"Dealers always loves to share their knowledge," she said. "People can bring their item to the show and walk around to the booths, ask different dealers, and they are always responsive and helpful about it. There is no charge for it."

The next show in the Valley is Nov. 15-16. Between this weekend's show and then there's a July 4-6 show in Flagstaff. Jones said the exhibitor list for the July show is full.

She said she hopes the popularity of the antique show will continue to grow.

"The show is considered very, very successful," she said. "Dealers that once worked shows under Blackjack quit working them" ... and now we have them back. The customers love shows, and the dealers love shows."

ports, she said.

The most popular antique trends in the Southwest are early American, mercantile and Native American items, Jones said. She said that a new interest has been popping up in the European market and that people have been decorating their homes with a Tuscan-inspired look.

Some of the premier antique dealers in attendance will include Pete Gonzales, who sells Brazilian furniture; Mike Kane, who specializes in Italian glassware; and estate jewelry