

Continued from Page 9

“She was a tough lady from Missouri,” Katy said. Her family plans to keep the pelt regardless of its worth because it was passed down.

### A ‘showstopper’

About 125 people are chosen per event to have their appraisal filmed; 30 will make it to air each episode.

A wooden rocking chair with carved gargoyles and two devils under each arm was among the items handpicked to be filmed by the PBS crew. Its owner, Robert, purchased it for \$60 at an auction.

To his surprise, the chair turned out to be from a Venetian furniture company, Fratelli Testolini, and could be worth thousands of dollars.

The chair’s appraiser, Karen Keane from Boston, said the item is a “conversation piece and showstopper.”

“It had this ‘Game of Thrones’ look,” she said. “In the early 20th century, people decorated wacky. In this item in particular, it has signature griffins, devil heads and mythical creatures.”

### Learning as you go

Forty to 70 appraisers travel with “Antiques Roadshow” each summer to film and participate. Most work as auctioneers and antique collectors in their spare time.

Katy Kane, an appraiser and textiles specialist from Pennsylvania, started buying and selling collectibles in 1978.

Kane holds a real tortoiseshell hair pin in her hands. Rotating it slowly, she explains the accessory originates from the late 1800s and can be sold for about \$200.

“You learn as you go,” she said. “Clothing has evolved so much. People used to be looking to collect clothing from the prairie days with high collars, and now people are searching for vintage from the ’70s and ’80s.”

While on the road and visiting each city, Kane said she wishes to see more French couture. “As an appraiser, you really want to see something that takes your breath away and is unusual.”

### ‘Smart reality television’

Eight and a half million viewers tune in to watch “Antiques Roadshow” each week, Executive Producer Marsha Bemko said.

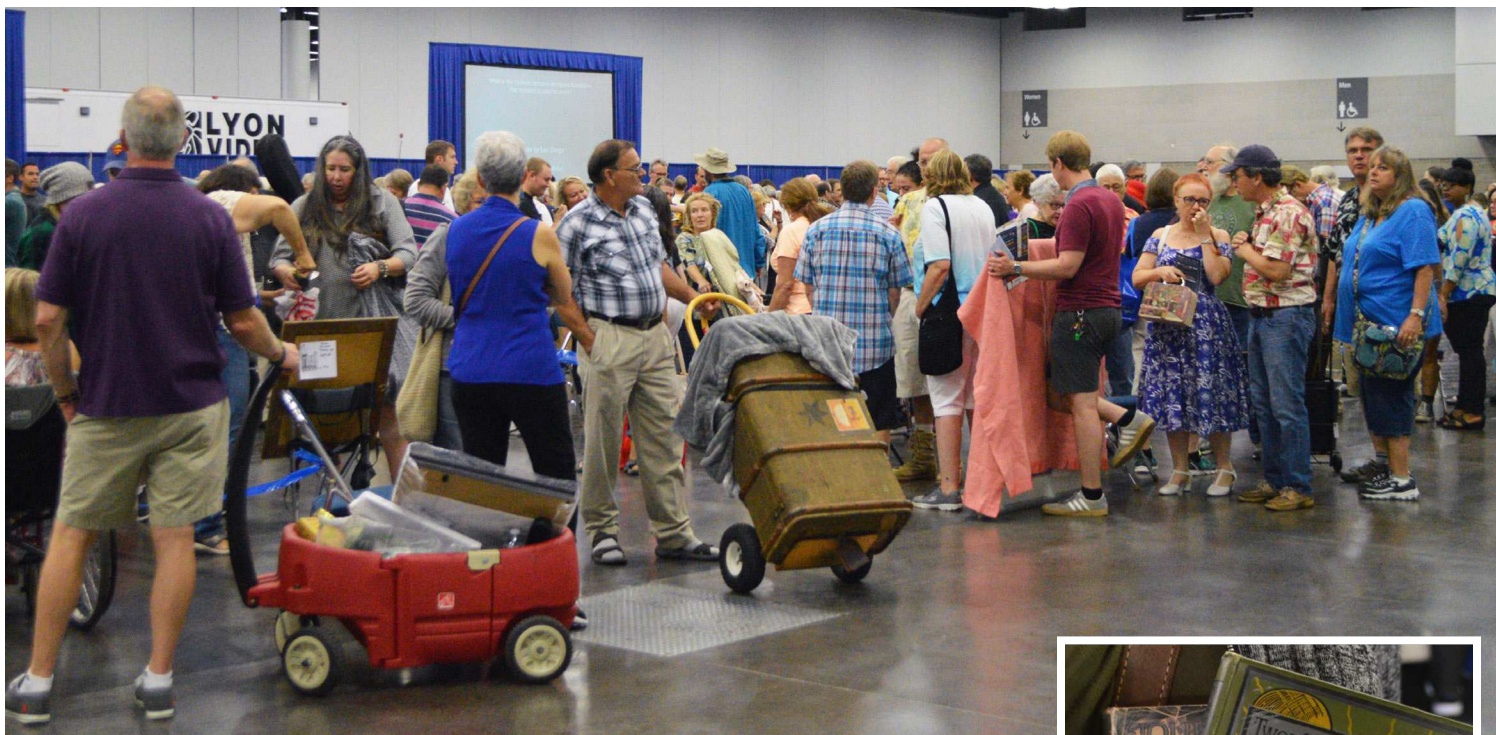
“Even beyond your beautiful city, there is something very special about Portland and its love of public television and education,” she said about returning to Portland after 13 years. “I want to ask residents: How do you get a town like that?”

Why does the show stand out from the reality television crowd? Its fun and educational content, she said.



PHOTOS BY JANA EASLON

LEFT: The rocking chair was chosen to be filmed by PBS crew for the Portland episodes of “Antiques Roadshow.” Originating from 19th century Venice, Italy, the Fratelli Testolini style of furniture can be sold for thousands at an auction. MIDDLE: Katy Kane, an appraiser from Pennsylvania, specializes in textiles. She holds a 1920s hair pin worth about \$90. RIGHT: Marsha Bemko, executive producer of “Antiques Roadshow,” has been with the program for 18 years. Previously, she has worked for the PBS series “Frontline.”



More than 3,000 people attended the “Antiques Roadshow” pit stop at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland on Saturday, Aug. 12, spending an average of two hours to meet appraisers and vintage experts from across the U.S.

“You learn as you watch the show; you’ll learn when the Civil War happened by accident if you tune in. You can’t help it,” Bemko said. “That is smart reality television. There are no actors on this set.” She said the immediate results and the connection with the guests make the show’s viewers return every season.

### Worth the wait


A man named Dave leans against a wall, guarding his item while his nephew stands in line for him.

The painting by N.C. Wyeth, titled “Alaskan Mail Carrier,” previously hung in Dave’s tavern he owned in North Bend. It

depicts a postman with a gun and snowshoes on a frozen lake, with eight dead wolves at his feet. It isn’t the original, but Dave wants to learn how who painted the copy.

Before buying the tavern in the 1970s, the previous owners had the painting above the bar since before Prohibition.

The painting is a reminder of his old business. “I still go to the tavern to shoot pool,” Dave said.

While the journey to “Antiques Roadshow” was long for some people, guests like Dave who entered many times over the years to win tickets said it was worth the wait. 



“Antiques Roadshow” attendee Jennifer clasps her Jules Verne novels she brought to be appraised by the Books and Manuscripts table on Saturday, Aug. 12. “The books are worth about \$30 each, but the chair I brought is only worth sitting in,” Jennifer said.