

Urban Archaeologist, Greg Van Antwerp



There are two ways you can get to know a town. Most people will drive through noticing the small shops, the picking farms and the town green. Once stopped, they will talk to the business owner or make small talk with the person working behind the counter as well as look at the people walking around town. It's a tourist's view - brief and memorable with a mental bookmark to return again.

When the opportunity arrives to visit that same town when a tag, garage, or estate sale is going on the experience becomes richer. Instead of passing by, a visitor has the opportunity to be invited in, as a welcome stranger to a private home. The chance to get to know a town's people and its history provides a lasting impression and a deeper sense of familiarity.

Several years ago I had such a chance to visit the home of a long time resident just around the corner from the public library in Bethlehem. The home was well maintained and its furnishings preserved in a way that gave the impression, when entering the parlor, as though one was truly stepping back in time.

In my quest to search for a story, I was lucky to find a couple things that reflect on the quaintness of Bethlehem, the importance of the annual fair to the community and some really wry humor that you won't find anywhere else. To see and hear these gems - come to the next presentation of Hidden History by passionate hunter Greg Van Antwerp. April 3rd at 7pm in the meeting room of the Bethlehem Public Library.