

BOB SWISHER

Short daytrip reveals great antique sites



You cannot duplicate this Saturday day trip to sites in Georgetown, Covington, Danville, Fithian and St. Joseph on just any Saturday because Forever More in Georgetown is only open on selected weekends about two or three months apart.

Jill Gladney has turned a very small, three-room house into a primitive cottage with more than a few quilts and lots of good taste, with reasonable prices. She actually has a good-sized garage behind the cottage with her changing inventory that is far bigger than her three-room bungalow.

I think this past weekend was only her second Saturday-Sunday endeavor. She is planning to do the primitive show this fall at the Otto Center in Arthur. Otherwise you will just have to watch the

papers for her selected openings. It was worth the trip.

Our intentions were to go to the Corner Store in Danville next, but we missed our entrance to the Bowman Street exit so we decided to go forth to Covington, Ind., and visit the shops on the square. House of Lions was good as usual, and if you are looking for old shutters they have a basement full. There were lots of changes since we were there last.

A couple of doors down is Summer's Timeless Antiques. My good buddy, Harry Hoagland, has moved from the corner location with his Back Home Again Antiques to the center of the block where he shares space in a building with Rosemary Rutledge who calls her space Antique Rose. Right across the alley is the 2-year-old Glorie Bee Antiques, a beautiful store with a world of selections. We even found something for my father-in-law, who

is in his late nineties.

The corner where Hoagland used to be is now occupied with two antique sites, Gray Bear Antiques on the first floor and Olde Ivory Antique Mall on the second floor. The constant rumor on the square is that changes are coming at the old movie theater, which would just add to the antique shopping opportunities on the square. Of course, we have to stop at the Covington Antique Mall off the frontage road on U.S. 136 just down the hill north of the Beef House.

We took U.S. 136 to Bowman Avenue and stopped at the Corner Store, which is always worth the trip. They are looking forward to a proposed garden park across the street on the site of the old Douglas School. A class from the University of Illinois has designed the garden park.

We went on to Fithian on U.S. 150 where we got to tour the old inter-urban station, not finished, but on the short end

of completion. We went a few doors down to Stone House Antiques, phone 249-0437, that is open on Saturdays only. It is another really small place with lots of good stuff. This owner, Sara Laker, just lives next door where her garage also serves as her inventory storage area.

We finished our trip by saying hello to Bob Miller in his area next door to Witchhazel Antiques owned by Charles Lumsdon in downtown St. Joseph.

We had left our home in Urbana about 10 a.m. and were home before 5 p.m. that day. You, too, can do this, except Forever More. Call 799-1995 for the open dates.

Bob Swisher has been a collector since he was a child. Questions or comments can be directed to Swisher by writing to The News-Gazette, P.O. Box 677, Champaign, IL 61824-677, or by e-mail at aacanabs@soltec.net.