

Collectibles has new owners

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Like a lot of native mid-westerners, Lee Hanes wanted to return to his roots. He and his wife, Siobhan, have been able to do that with the purchase of Route 36 Collectibles in Norton from previous owner, Sharolyn Bredemeier.

Both avid antique hunters, they want to bring their love and knowledge of all things old into a business.

Their story began in Florida. Even though they both arrived there under totally different circumstances.

He had been in the Navy from 1991 to 1995, stationed from Japan to China Lake, Calif. After his discharge, a buddy invited him to go to Florida, so on a whim, he moved there.

Mrs. Hanes came, via Canada. When she was a child her family would vacation in Florida and she loved it. As soon as she was old enough, she moved there on her own. She married and had children, but a divorce forced her to make a career choice. She chose to be an accountant.

In 2001, the Hanes' married. When her company down-sized they considered their options and decided to try Kansas. She said, "Florida is not a great place to raise our son. There is too much crime, too many drugs, and too much traffic. Her husband had family in the Phillipsburg area and they both fell in love with the little town of Almena. His parents are Raymond Hanes and Esther McKinley.

The Hanes' have purchased the Dale and Phyllis Volgamore prop-



erty on 40 acres of land near Almena and are in the process of renovating it. Mrs. Hanes is thrilled to know she has deer and wild turkeys in her front yard. She is also pleased with the Northern Valley public school system where her eight-year old son goes to school.

They purchased the Oak Shop in Almena from Jim Copper and kind of "fell into" the Route 36 store. They plan to operate both stores and are on the look-out for quality antiques, artisan work and quality crafts.

The Almena store will be called the Almena Mercantile, Antiques and Coffee Shop. They want to restore the store to it's original condition, tin ceiling and all, and

plan to use all of the 5,000 square feet of space for the antiques they have collected over the years.

The Norton store is bigger still with 12,720 square feet. Their plans there include getting the inventory organized and hiring a manager to operate that location while they concentrate on Almena.

You can see the ebay store at: stores.ebay.com/ROUTE36ANTIQUESANDCOLLECTIBLES.

Friendly and hospitable, Mr. and Mrs. Hanes welcome everyone to come to their store at 102 E. Washington. They set out the china and pour their customers a cup of coffee. Give them a call at 877-4219.



New owners of Route 36 Collectibles, Lee and Siobhan Hanes, (above) look at a piece of flow blue china in their antique store. Mrs. Hanes (left) admires antique jewelry in a display case at the store in downtown Norton. — Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

Forensics team takes sixth at tourney

The Norton Forensics team went to Dighton, Feb. 15 to compete in the 18-team tournament. The team placed sixth. Individual results were: Stephen Mizell and Andrew Ables, second in Improvised Duet Acting; Cyndie Milnes, first in Serious Solo Acting; and Jared Cox and Aaron VanDerWege, fourth in Duet Acting.

On March 4, the team competed in Ellis. The team only missed third place by four points. Individual results were: Heath Vincent, second

in Extemporaneous Speaking; Jared Cox and Aaron VanDerWege, second in Duet Acting; Andrew Ables and Ashley Maybon, fourth in Duet Acting; and Andrew Ables and Stephen Mizell, fourth in Improvised Duet Acting.

March 6, Norton hosted the League Tournament. It was another close tournament with Norton just one point out of second place. Individual placings were: Jared Cox and Aaron VanDerWege, first in Improvised Duet Acting; Stephen

Mizell and Andrew Ables, sixth in Improvised Duet Acting; Jared Cox and Aaron VanDerWege, first in duet acting; Stephen Mizell and Cyndie Milnes, third in Duet Acting; Heath Vincent, first in Extemporaneous Speaking; Bethany Wicker, third in Humorous Solo; Cyndie Milnes, second in Serious Solo; Ashley Maybon, fifth in Oratory; Heath Vincent, third in Informative Speaking; and Amie Richards, fifth in Informative Speaking.

Oberlin native to perform at The Gateway

Donna (Kump) Tucker, a 1969 graduate of Decatur Community High School, will present a vocal concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 26, at The Gateway in Oberlin. The program is sponsored by Western Plains Arts Association.

A vocalist/musician/songwriter, Mrs. Tucker is the daughter of Don and Jean Ann Kump of Kingman, but formerly of Oberlin. She began her career in Dallas as a jazz singer/painter, along with working as a television commercial actress, voice over narrator, and recording jingles.

She and her trio, which included Pat Coil, well-known jazz pianist and comper; Dan Groger, bass, and Tim Grogan, drums, performed at Arthur's a well-know jazz club in Dallas.

The Big Band sound became an important part of her work as she began performing and producing concerts that again included North Texas State One O'Clock Lab Band members.

In 1999, she began a long running contract with the Westin Tokyo in Tokyo, Japan and spends several months every year there performing

six nights a week. After moving back to Kansas to be near family, she was hired by Friends University as an artist-in-residence to develop a vocal jazz ensemble.

She said that one of her passions is to give to students what she has collected over the years as a singer and musician. "I truly believe that a student of jazz, whether it be instrumental or vocal, cannot learn unless they are exposed to those professionals out there 'doing it.'"

Admission is by season ticket or \$10 for adults and \$5 for students at the door.

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