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The Estate Sale: New antiques and collectables shop opens in Wasilla

By Jacob Mann Frontiersman.com

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The Estate Sale is located in the plaza near Wasilla Lowe's. For more information, call 907-357-7050 or visit their Facebook page.

Courtesy photo

WASILLA — Stan Mitchell and his wife Trudi recently opened the doors to their new antiques and collectables shop, The Estate Sale.

“We did really well our first month,” Mitchell said. “Everybody that goes out of Lowe’s generally goes right by the store. It’s just a matter of time getting people to know where we’re at.”

Mitchell said they opened the shop in Wasilla Dec 13, 2020, fulfilling a lifelong dream. He said that he's amassed a huge collection of vintage and collectable items that he's been working on for over 50 years.

"I've always wanted to do something like this," Mitchell said.

Mitchell has been a collector most of his life. He said that he's run other businesses in the past, including a consignment store in Anchorage, but this is his first time running this kind of establishment.

"I love antiques, and they're coming back. I mean, records are coming back, old radios, vintage tubes; it's all coming back; and I have it all," Mitchell said. "I started collecting when I was a young kid... I've got a storage unit, 14 by 44. It's all the way to the ceiling with stuff... You just never know what you're gonna' find in there."

The Estate Sale has a wide range of items spanning through various eras of history. Mitchell said they currently offer consignments with the plans to expand that service over time.

"Depending on what it is, we will consider consignments," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said that his large collection of items and ongoing efforts acquiring unique finds leads to a steady stream of quality and noteworthy items cycling through the shop.

"If I sell something today I'm gonna fill the hole with something else," Mitchell said. "It's not a thrift store. It's a cut above. It's antiques and collectables, so you're not gonna find 1980's computer cables in a bin somewhere."

Mitchell joined the U.S. Army in 1972, and served as an East Germany border guard. He noted that he has a wide collection of vintage vinyl albums along with various kinds of military memorabilia featured in his shop and personal collection. He said the vinyls are probably the most nostalgic and enjoyable items from his collection.

"They crackle and snap and hiss and that's just what you want from a vinyl. It sounds great," Mitchell said with a laugh.

Mitchell and his wife's parents both left behind a wide range of items after their passing. Mitchell said that one of his favorite and most meaningful things gained from the inheritance was his father's antique radio collection. He said that they plan to work with local families who are planning to hold estate sales after saying goodbye to their loved ones with the goal of saving the various gems behind and give them a second life for other people to appreciate.

"They can call us... I don't want them to go to landfills. I don't want them to go to kids who are gonna turn around and sell them for 15 bucks. I want them to go to people who appreciate antiques, and I want them to go to people that enjoy it," Mitchell said. "That's where we want to go, like the name says, the Estate Sale."

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