

Oakmont Antique Show, Oakmont, Pennsylvania

Show Benefiting Kerr Memorial Museum Shines in 15th Year

by Susan Emerson Nutter

The 15th annual Oakmont Antique Show was held Saturday and Sunday, March 9 and 10, with a preview party held on Friday night, at the Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont, Pennsylvania, and though the dealers are only 25 strong; there is nothing “only” about this show—be it the location, the participants, or the merch available for purchase. Let’s talk location. The Oakmont Country Club was established 116 years ago in 1903 and is regarded as the oldest top-ranked golf course in the United States. Think Augusta. Think Pebble Beach. Then think Oakmont. Pretty lofty accolades considering that Oakmont skirts the snow belt. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987, the club is tucked into the Plum and Oakmont suburbs of Pittsburgh.

Truly tucked in. Driving to the location, attendees found themselves in the tiny burg of Oakmont, climbing up a hill (no surprise there) in two-lane traffic. Single-family homes tightly packed together hugging the roadside as is typical of any Pittsburgh-area neighborhood made this driver question the ability of her GPS to locate a nationally ranked golfing mecca when suddenly the open gates of Oakmont Country Club appeared. Forget the preconceived notion that the Oakmont Country Club would be found after a long drive in the country. This destination is front and center, a thriving among-the-masses landmark. To keep it in perspective, the Pennsylvania Turnpike separates seven holes (numbers two through eight) from the rest of the course.

“Dealers do well here and are eager to be a part of Oakmont.”

However, once the threshold of the entrance has been crossed, the world fades away, and the beauty of the Oakmont Country Club shines. “The Oakmont show is the only non-golf-related event permitted to take place here,” stated Steve White of White & White Antiques, one of the dealer participants at Oakmont. “The show benefits the Kerr Memorial Museum, and the cochairs of the show are members of Oakmont. We are fortunate to have this beautiful, historical facility as the show’s location.” Jan Shoop, Joan Stewart, and Diana S. Thompson, the 2019 antiques show’s cochairs, were on top of things from go during the event’s preview party held 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Friday, March 8. This was a catered, well-attended affair that kept the cochairs busy shaking hands, giving hugs, and directing attendees through the show.

And all for a good cause. The Kerr Memorial Museum, located on Delaware Avenue in Oakmont, is “a representative house museum of the middle class at the turn of the 20th century,” the show catalog stated, adding, “The Antique Show serves two purposes: to raise funds to maintain the house, allowing us to grow the museum for future generations, and to publicize who we are and what we are about.”

Information, displays, and representatives of the Kerr Museum Junior Docent Program were also on hand. Dressed in period attire, the young people of the program serve as ambassadors for the museum while gaining knowledge of what it takes to sustain the house and collection.

Hmmm. Getting young people involved and interested in history, their town’s heritage, the importance of the past, and community service all while exposing them to the beauty of antiques—well done, Kerr Memorial Museum.

Paul Polce, the show manager again this year for this Oakmont Country Club event, pointed out how Oakmont is a bit out of the ordinary where the sellers are concerned. “All the dealers are back from last year,” he pointed out. “That’s unheard of. I did need



The U.S. Open was held at Oakmont in 2007. This rug was at the entrance to the show.



Eric Lausch of Eric Lausch Fine Silver, Indianapolis, Indiana, holds two of his favorite pieces from his display, Old Sheffield plate wine coolers priced at \$2695 for the pair.



This sign welcomed show attendees to the 15th annual Oakmont Antique Show at Oakmont Country Club.



The Fownes Foundation, dedicated to restoring and preserving the historical golf sites of America, hosts the annual Fownes Foundation Memorial, hosts the annual Fownes Foundation Memorial Tournament at Oakmont Country Club every fall. It is the foundation’s main fund-raising event.

Oodles of historical documents could be found in the booth of Neverbird Antiques, Surry, Virginia, including a Society of the Cincinnati appointment for Benjamin Heywood (1746-1816) of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. The Society of the Cincinnati is the oldest patriotic society created for Revolutionary War soldiers. This appointment signed by George Washington was tagged \$8500.