



Morse Museum of American Art

The Winter Park GAZETTE newspaper Historic Guide & MAPS



Rollins College
Historic Walk of Fame

Containing Personal Interviews, Historic News, Creative Tales
Pictures of Historic Sites and Houses

Pictures Old And New, Active Commentary About Winter Park And It's People Past and Present.
MAPS cross referenced of main streets in Winter Park - Orlando - Orange County - Central Florida

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just are not built to be an heirloom, or an antique, passed on to generations in you family or keep their value well. New furniture is also expensive for what you usually get."

What's it like to run a business like Flo's Bill? "We have a lot of furniture and several employees. There's something going on here all the time - often I feel we're going in all kinds of directions. People will ask you all manner of questions. I do my best to answer them accurately but sometime I simply don't know the answer. We try very hard to be kind and polite to those who come here. We



Bill Cayll Discusses Flo's

After 20 years at one spot, Flo's Antiques has moved to 1740 W. Fairbanks Ave. in Winter Park. Bill Cayll, owner, tells a little of his history and what Flo's is about. "We sell antique furniture made from about 1900 or before to the 1930s or 40s. Our main service is the restoration of good furniture. We do this to bring them back to their original condition or even better" Bill, that's an art and there's nothing easy about that. "During the early times, and before, the people who made furniture constructed it of solid wood. They were quality products, heirlooms, because they stand the test of time and ware. They believed in solid construction, and they did some excellent hand carvings on the pieces. The finer points the craftsmen were used to doing"

"Much of the furniture made after the 1940s were copies of what had been built years before. By having a piece of the earlier made furniture restored, you are actually getting a good deal. New pieces today are mainly made of partial board, not all of them - or compressed wooden chips. They

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are in business to serve and help people. We work to be a full service furniture center where we can do a wide variety of things in furniture. We do upholstery repair as well - complete restoration of furniture for a client. We'll do clean up of pieces. We secure most of our furniture from some of the northern states, and estate sales here. We are constantly learning new helpful things about restoring older furniture - dealing with exotic and rare woods. We also need to be very aware of what people want - what is selling. It's hard for me to pick out any one piece to discuss that was extremely difficult to do and there have definitely been extreme challenges."

"I have furnished complete homes for people. They want antiques, quality furniture, so they keep coming back until they have all of what they want. I'll do my best to restore any piece of furniture even something not so old but is a family piece and has much sentimental value. I advise them of the value of the piece - and exactly what it's going to cost them. Some persons are so attached to something they aren't concerned that restoring it will cost more than it's really worth."

"There have been times when we had pieces that were extremely difficult to restore. Some of these are pieces that we've never seen anything like before. Game tables are in this category. We had a dining room scissors table. It was a table that opened up on the sides like scissors. Then the leaves go in. It was from the 1700s. We just delivered a Windsor chair to a lady. I had to tell her even though it is repaired - as good as can be done - it's a museum piece and should never be used. I do enjoy working on challenging pieces."

"Yes, I was born in Winter Park in 1941, just before our big WWII. My dog's name is Angel - she's 4 years old. I do have a brother Philip and a sister Josephine Dittmer. I don't have children.

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Philip has one son Marshall, and Josephine has 2 daughters Kaya and Ivy. My dad's name was Richard A. Cayll and mother was Florence Newton. I'm 3rd generation Winter Park. My grandfather, Frank P. Cayll, came here in 1914 from WI. He and his wife brought 10 children with them. Their house is still standing on N Lakemont Ave. You can hardly see it from the street because the yard is so grown up. We don't own it. I'm not sure who does. It is a large, fine house. He put in all the original sidewalks on Park Ave., and in the area of the old Aloma Country Club (Winter Park Hospital). That was his business. He also helped layout some of the streets here from their maps."

"My father was in what I think of as a romantic job. He was a milkman. Everyone knew Buck Cayll; he delivered milk for 25 years for Datson Dairy. It was bought out by Borden. He retired after 30 years and went to work for Center Paper until he was 72 years old."

"Antiques are my hobby - my life - my job. We've learned a great deal about furniture and there's only one way to do this - from experience - by doing it. There's no book training for what we do. I learned all manner of important things by talking with my customers; so many are extremely intelligent and world knowledgeable. We try very hard to do the best restoration work in the area. Dealers send people to us. This name, Flo's, comes from my mother who was known as Flo. Here is a picture that might be on interest to Gazette readers. I'm on the left, the girl on the left is Ginger George, then Sam Snead the golf professional and Barbara Cayll my cousin. This was taken a long time ago at the Winter Park Golf Club. Ginger's father was head pro at the club. I think Sam was holding her hand behind their back. He was quite a guy." Yes, we know, we knew him at Pinehurst, NC. He's passed on now. Good luck Bill, thanks for sharing your world of furniture. □