

The Questers' Silent Auction At Heritage Of Hawk Ridge, Lake Saint Louis



Heritage of Hawk Ridge resident Linda Bextermueller is the proud owner of a beautiful handmade quilt.

The silent auction was sponsored by the Heritage Explorers Chapter of Questers International, an organization dedicated to the preservation of our American heritage. The proceeds benefited the chapter's Caboose Project, which is the restoration of a Santa Fe railroad car (c. 1929) that is located at the Frenchtown Heritage Museum and Research Center, 1121 North Second Street, St. Charles. The caboose was built by American Car Foundry, Frenchtown's largest employer at the turn of the twentieth century. The finished project, which will boast replaced railroad lanterns, rebuilt bunks, and a pot bellied stove, will provide a glimpse into the glory days of railroading.

Over the past few weeks upon entering the club house of the "55 or Better" community Heritage of Hawk Ridge (HHR) in Lake Saint Louis, one immediately became aware that something unusual was

underway. In the lobby, many eye-catching items were on display, all donated for a good cause. Next to each item was a bid sheet that several people had already signed in the hopes of staking a claim as the highest bidder. The bidding came to a close at the HHR St. Patrick's Dinner and Dance on Saturday, March 13. In addition to the fun connected with last minute bidding, attendees enjoyed a great corned beef and cabbage dinner topped off with HHR resident Jane Chassey's homemade scrumptious Irish soda bread. The party goers kicked off their shoes and danced to music provided by the Younger Brothers. "Elvis" also made a surprise appearance.

Among the donations open for bid in the silent auction were the following: a beautiful handmade quilt with cross-stitch embroidery work in the loveliest shades of blue and green; a certificate en-

titling the bearer to golf for four, cart fees, and lunch for four at the Sand Trap, courtesy of Whitmoor Country Club; a collection of ninety favorite photographs transferred to digital format and set to music.

The Heritage Explorers Chapter of Questers International would like to express their sincere thanks to all who helped make the silent auction a fabulous success. \$923 was raised to support the chapter's Caboose Project.

At the Questers International Convention, which will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, May 7 to May 9, the Heritage Explorers hope to be awarded a grant for \$4600. This amount added to the proceeds of the silent auction would be close to covering the projected cost of \$5700 to restore the interior of the caboose. Please contact Pat Goddard at 636-561-3563 for more information on the Questers organization.