

(The following story is an excerpt from a local radio show that Nellie did in Colby at KXXX. The story give a small insight to the woman behind the museum;s phenomenal collection.)

"We arrived in Calgary about the middle of the afternoon on Wednesday. And believe it or not, the stores were all closed. grocery stores, shops and everything. That was the Calgary's afternoon off. Since Calgary and Edmonton were the two largest cities that we would go through in Canada I was anxious to see what the antique shops had to offer. When we came to that part of the business district, I asked Joe to let me out, I just had to see the window displays anyway. Wandering along gazing into the windows I came to one shop where the door was wide open. The shop keeper said he had some work to do and he needed the air. I said I was from the states and I wished very much to look over his stock. He closed the door and locked it and said go ahead. He said if a policeman came by and see him selling anything he would be fined twenty-five dollars. I didn't want to get him into any trouble but I hastily scanned the shelves and selected a few things. A policewoman in uniform did come by and shaded her sight with her hands and gazed through the glass door. What didn't help the situation, Joe saw me enter the shop so he drove the car up and parked just in front and intermittently pounded on the door and gazed in to inform me that they were waiting ready to go on. There were so many good pieces direct from Great Britain, I had to look them all over and then decide hurriedly what to take and what not to take. The trip was young yet and I wanted some of my savings to spend at Edmonton. I decided on three pieces of Sheffield, sugar creamer and teapot in the lovely Queen Anne pattern. That is a pattern they are duplicating now but the modern is much coarser and not nearly as refined and beautiful as the antique. Then I selected an early Meissen figure, and early Chelsea figurine with the anchor mark, a Venetian individual salt and three pieces of Royal Vienna, Sugar and Creamer and a clock. The clock has the Angelica Kaufman painted medallion scene. I paid for them and helped the shop keeper wrap them up in as small as package as possible which I put under my arm and dashed out to the car so a policeman wouldn't see me. Joe had the engine running and we were off. To redeem myself for keeping them all waiting I proudly showed my new antiques. It was a hot wait in the car and none of them were very happy over it. Everyone who has seen the clock since has wanted to buy it. They say 'Oh, I'll give you that much for it if that is all you paid.' But there is more than just paying for it. I kept them all waiting in the hot sun while I dug around and found it. When I got it to the car, the car was already loaded. Our friends, Irma and Howard had a steamer trunk, two suitcases, a train case, a medicine case, a make-up case, a bag for the cameras, a zipper bag for all their dresses and suits and overcoats, a lunch box, two paper bags with handles for extras, two sleeping bags, two pillows and two blankets besides loose sweaters, top coats and hats. Joe and I had a little baggage but where was there any room for antiques. I figured there was a small space at my elbow and as a last resort I could hold them on my lap. Then there was the more than fifteen hundred miles of graveled hiway with constant ruts and dished out spots. So I re-wrapped each piece so carefully. Then when we got to Seward and the car was to be loaded onto the boat, the orders were that nothing could be left in the car, except in the trunk. So on top of the sixth wheel and tire we were taking along in case of emergency, I carefully planted my box of precious antiques in the trunk. Then when I stood at the window of the boat overlooking the loading and I saw them swing up seven cars one after another, a station wagon and a trailer and lower them down into the hold five levels below, then came our car, my heart literally sank. What if they set it down with a bounce that would send that extra wheel up through the box of antiques. I pictured them all crushed to bits and wished I had had another set of arms and could have carried them into the cabin with us. I was somewhat uneasy until they brought the car out of the hold and placed it on the dock in Seattle three hours after we got off the boat. I asked Joe for the trunk keys and I checked to see if the Royal Vienna and Royal Crown Derby had come through without injury. You remember our Kansas seal has a latin phrase around the upper edge, meaning 'To the Stars Through Difficulty' so there is an invisible line on each of those Canadian antiques which mean 'To this home through

Difficulties.'"