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Q&A

with Dick Patch
owner of Astonish Antique
Restoration



Q: What is your background and philosophy?

A: I've been in the business 27 years ... have a degree in wood finishing ... studied under a fellow of The Smithsonian Institute ... am a member of the American Institute for the Conservation of Historical and Artistic Works. It doesn't matter if you have an 18th-century object or a family heirloom. I treat each object as if it's priceless, because it is to you.

Q: What is the most impressive piece you've worked on?

A: A 1790s tall case clock. It was made out of most beautiful mahogany. There was no stain except of a clear coat. It was just gorgeous wood.

Q: Describe your work and dream job.

A: Very tedious but the best job in the world. You get instant gratification because you make people happy. They pay you real American money. I would love to work at the House of Representatives but I don't want to live in Washington [D.C.].

Astonish Antique Restoration

The late Isaac "Ike" Sutphin built a gray, two-story cinder-block structure about 58 years ago for his antique repair business on Old Cave Spring Road. And the building remains true to its fix-it-up roots today.

Sutphin was well-known in the area as a charter member of the Cave Spring Rescue Squad, former Cave Spring fire chief and for his antique repairs. After Sutphin's death in 1999, Dr. Dan

Porter purchased the building and Sutphin's adjacent home (now Porter's office).

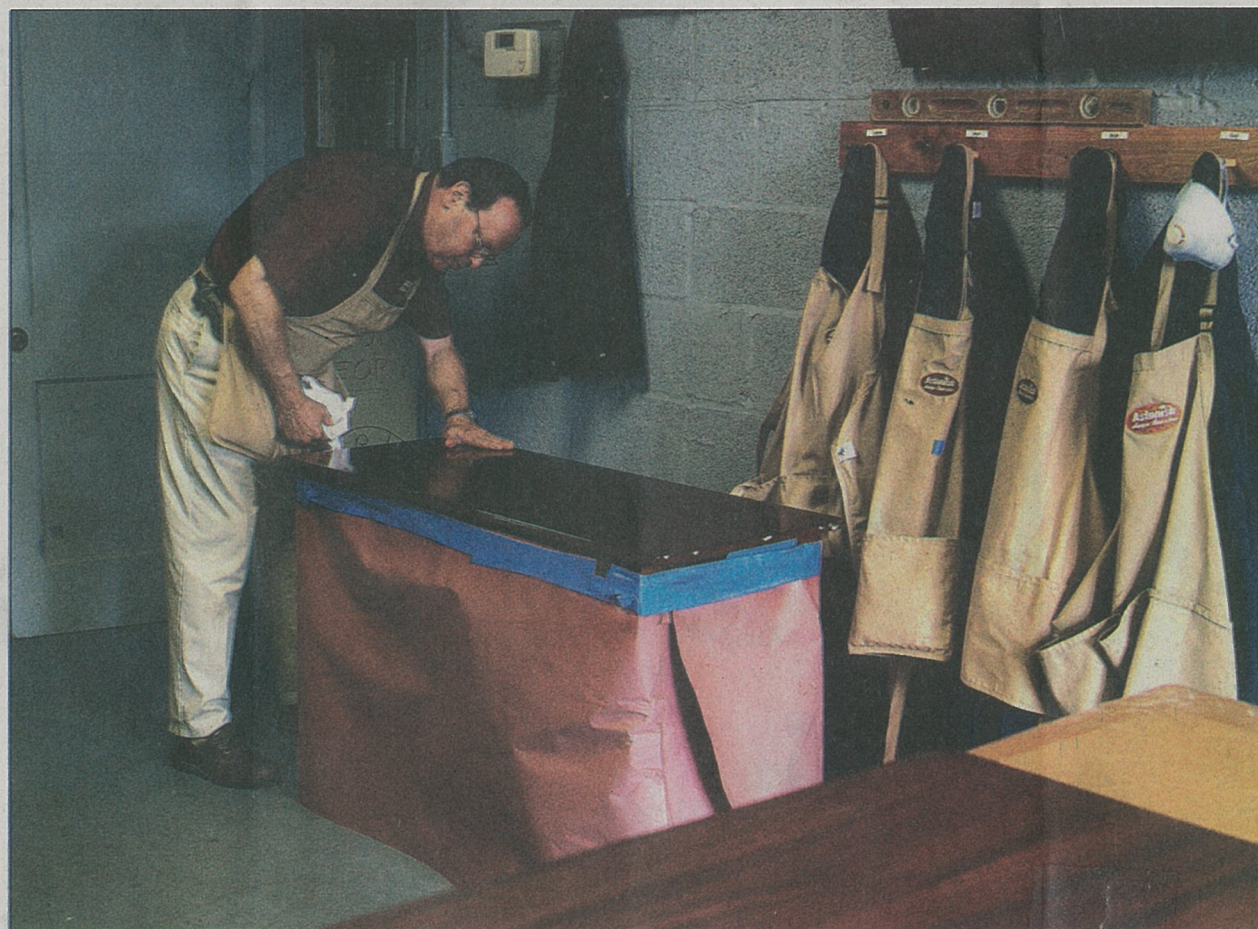
Porter initially leased the structure to a woodworker who also sold her crafts. When that business moved, Dick Patch moved in his Astonish Antique Restoration. His customers and frequent visitors remind him that the building, which is more than 3,400 square feet, has always housed companies working with

wood products.

Porter spent a year renovating the structure: removing an 8-ton cast iron oil furnace; putting in new ceilings, wiring and a roof; and painting and renovating an upstairs apartment.

Sutphin's name is still on the mailbox at the building that Porter once considered turning into a firefighter museum.

— JoAnne Poindexter



Dick Patch levels the finish on a drop-leaf table at his business, Astonish Antique Restoration, located at 2420 Old Cave Spring Road in Roanoke County.

JARED SOARES | The Roanoke Times



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Contact information

4240 Old Cave Spring Road
(you can't miss the 1957 Chevy panel van on the parking lot);
call 769-6070 or visit
www.astonishrestoration.com

Employees

Owner Dick Patch; Brian White and Mike DeVaughan. "We restore woodwork to its original condition," Patch said.

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