

## Jean Clayton on Antique Roadshow

Written by Jes-c Brandt

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Jean Clayton of Holyoke is a longtime fan of PBS television show *Antique Roadshow*. For years, she shared, her husband Mark has taken care of Monday night dinner so she could watch her 7 p.m. program. Since a young age, Clayton has been interested in antiques. She has spent many years building up her collections and researching items of interest.

Finally, on July 25, Clayton realized her dream of going to an *Antique Roadshow* taping. During the summer, the appraisers and crew travel to six towns, where individuals take in antiques of all varieties.

In order to attend the Denver show, Clayton said she had to apply for tickets in January. Much to her disappointment, she did not receive tickets. Trying once more to get them, Clayton looked into making a donation to PBS. Again, she returned empty-handed, as the tickets were sold out.

To Clayton's delight, she found two tickets on Ebay, and she and her husband were soon on their way to the Denver Convention Center for the show.

Each guest is allowed two items for appraisal. Clayton, of course, made use of both her and her husband's allotted antiques.

Hoping to catch the appraisers' interest with a uniquely Colorado antique, Clayton took her Coors pottery collection, dating back to the 1930s. Unfortunately, they did not receive the collection with the excitement Clayton had anticipated.

A \$1 farm sale purchase was Clayton's second item. The platter, the appraiser told her, is worth between \$150-200. Research done by Clayton herself has found the platter is originally from England, and the specific type was made until 1866.

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Hoping to learn whether it was a forgery, Clayton took a Grant Wood print to be appraised. In the end, however, she left without anymore information, as they couldn't say whether the print was real or not.

The final item Clayton took to the show was a tin box she'd always wondered about the worth. Getting a chuckle out of the news, Clayton learned it was worth \$10-15. The funny part: she paid \$17 for the tin.

While none of her antiques were the hidden treasures she often sees on the show, and she didn't make it on TV, Clayton said it was a truly enjoyable experience. An avid follower of the show and a fan of the appraisers, Clayton said she was 'starstruck' when she saw them, and even able to talk to one of her favorites, David Rago.

In the end, she is very glad she went. It was absolutely amazing to see the various antiques people took. Throughout the long lines, she shared, it was fun to look at the items other people had. Some were small, while others were large enough to be carted through the lines, she said. Notable items she saw that day include a cast iron stove, several paintings, a chair and a Civil War uniform.