## School's out for summer













## **Antiques**

**CONTINUED FROM 1** 

"She said she was listening to the radio. It is always on Sirius 60s Gold and Flash Felts was the announcer. He was getting ready to play the record 'Creeque Alley' and he mentioned our store," Susie said. "He said, 'By the way there is a Creeque Alley Antiques in Monroe, Iowa.' We hadn't been open more than a week. He found it on Google. We were pretty excited about that."

Susie even reached out to Felts through Facebook to thank him. She was surprised to hear that he would put them on his map to stop by when he is in the area.



Jamee A. Pierson/PCM Explorer

General store advertising, gas and oil items and much more fill Creeque Alley Antiques at 109 E. Marion St. in Monroe.

Creeque Alley Antiques has been a work in progress for several years for the Phifers. The couple purchased the building about five years ago and have done a complete renovation, from floor to ceiling. "People are surprised when

they come in," Susie said. "We've been collecting for 25, 30 years and always thought when we retired we could open up a shop."

The hard work paid off with a wide variety of items lining the walls from the front to the very back of the building.

"We like certain things, general store advertising items, gas and oil, model trains. And then it just grew," Ralph said.

While traveling to antique markets across the midwest, the couple collected unique pieces, many of which needed a little extra attention before hitting the shop floor.

"We kind of specialize in spool cabinets, which are merchandising cabinets for thread and sewing items," Ralph said. "We kind of got hung up on them and we have a lot that we restored. We restore a lot of it."

Open 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m Thursdays and about every other Saturday, Creeque Alley Antiques is a destination location for those who love great items from the past. "We'll start with that and see how that goes," Susie said. "We are around all of the time so if they get a hold of us, we can come in."

Whether it is the train cruising around the top of the room or the cabinets filled with colorful threads and ribbon, Creeque Alley Antiques is a one-of-a-kind stop.

"It has been a challenge and time consuming but we enjoy it," Ralph said.

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