

FURNITURE MAKING - ANOTHER USE OF THE TIMBER INDUSTRY

EVERGREEN FURNITURE SHOP

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Located two miles north of Flintstone, Maryland, off Flintstone Creek Road, is Evergreen Furniture Shop and the home of Gideon Petre, proprietor. The family owned business began in 1998, when Gideon searched for an appropriate location to build a business. “I was looking for a rural setting; that was more important to me than an existing commercial shop.” Gideon found what he was looking for in the picturesque Pennsylvania valley, complete with meadows and farm houses. A small stream and garden border the shop to the east while children may be seen enjoying outdoor activities on nearby lawns surrounding the facility.

Evergreen Furniture’s retail showroom displays a variety of items for customers to enjoy. The workshop, located behind the showroom, is complete with saws, drills, clamps and other tools typically used by craftsmen. “We use both modern and traditional methods to be efficient and cost effective,” explains Gideon. A self described “wood nut,” Gideon states, “If it’s wood, I like it. But we only stock hardwoods and good grades of plywood. I have an aversion to particle board.” The most popular woods for use at Evergreen are “Traditional Appalachian hardwoods, that is

where my bread and butter is—oak, cherry, maple. I use a lot of wood from Flintstone Lumber. They buy it from Leo Eby,” thereby keeping the Western Maryland forestry process in motion.

The Appalachian hardwoods are crafted into a variety of custom made units including desks, book cases, wall units, curios, kitchen cabinets, and bedroom furniture. The kind of wood, the style of the piece, and the color of the finish are determined by customers. Gideon notes that styles have changed since he began working in the valley. “When I first got into the business, country, heavy oak, and lion’s claws were popular. The trend today is towards Shaker-type pieces. Mission is also currently popular.”

Gideon is assisted by two workers. “We stay small so we don’t lose the personal touch. I have no desire to be a big corporation.” In further defining his craft and his philosophy of life, Gideon stated, “My work is a practical outreach of my faith. I craft items for individual customers based on integrity, honesty and simplicity of life.” Those qualities have paid dividends as business has grown to the point that paid advertising is unnecessary and a typical backlog of orders ranges from six to nine months. 🌿



Gideon Petre with a bed headboard he is crafting. Evergreen Furniture Shop builds entire bedroom suites and much more.