

SMALL TOWN

BIG HISTORY

Norton's American Story

Information Compiled by Cheryl Smith

To encourage learning by sharing and preserving Norton History

“Norton History”

Twice Sold Treasures

212 S. Kansas | Norton, Kansas

~1986
Twice Sold Treasures at 212 S. Kansas. Ribbon cutting in January 1987. Owners are Gloria Nelson, Connie Stromer, Ruth Hartman, Ada Arford, and Helen Bullock.

~August 1988
Twice Sold Treasures moved to 111 N. State. Present location will give better visibility and room to expand.

~January 27, 1992

Twice Sold Treasures, Inc. of Norton, a unique emporium featuring many types of antiques, collectibles and a bridal registry of fine china and crystal, recently celebrated its fifth anniversary.

Opening on December 1, 1986, the business was first located at 212 S. Kansas in one of Norton’s oldest homes near the downtown business district. Wishing to expand the business and gain better visibility, the owners moved the business to the present location at 111 North State in August. 1988.

The business is owned by five local women who were all good friends and experienced at conducting garage sales before they became business partners. Each partner brings her own diverse area of interest and expertise to enhance the business.

Owners of the business are Ada Arford, Sara Hartley, Ruth Hartman, Gloria Nelson, and Connie Stromer. Each partner signs up to work one day per week behind the counter. Estelle Hartman is affectionately called their “silent partner” and often works on Saturdays when the others are not available.

The owners all love beautiful things and are infectiously enthusiastic about the items they have for sale. They all share their knowledge of antiques avidly whether small, quirky antiques or elegant objects.

“Beautiful objects that were used and loved in everyday life in the past have become very special to us today,” said Hartman. “We have something for everyone, those who have already discovered the warmth that old things bring to their homes, as well as the newcomers to collecting.”

“We have learned what sells through osmosis,” said Hartman. “Coca Cola signs and memorabilia are currently popular with collectors.”

Other items selling well according to Hartman include old Fiesta dishes, old silver, jewelry, post cards, antique Valentines, oak furniture, quilts, old war medals, and biscuits and tobacco tins.

Over 450 area residents have brought in good quality used items they wish to sell through Twice Sold Treasures, Inc. on consignment. These items range from good used clothing, jewelry, antiques, collectibles, and linens.

The consignors may price the item themselves or rely on the owners (consignee) to decide on a suitable price based upon the condition and age of the item and the demand for the item in the marketplace. The owners take 25 percent off the top for their commission on each sale.

In February of 1988, the owners expanded the business to include some new items and a Bridal Registry. Local brides can select their choice of patterns in Gorham stainless

and Noritake crystal and china as well as Homer Laughlin Fiesta dishes.

Other new items are Bella’s Secret Garden fragrances, Howard Miller clocks, cotton woven coverlets, and specialty Christmas items.

The owners regularly attend the gift market in Kansas City to seek new products to enhance their current line of merchandise.

Twice Sold Treasures, Inc. also buys estates and has purchased estates from as far away as Topeka and Goodland.

“We will go anywhere to bid on an estate,” said Arford who handles the bookkeeping for the business. “We even clean up houses for the realtor when sorting and removing the items we buy for resale.”

Twice Sold Treasures, Inc. is listed in the 1991-92 Antique Buyers Guide and many of their customers are from out of town, according to Hartman.

“We draw from a wide area and hopefully our business helps attract new customers to other downtown Norton businesses,” said Hartman.

“Many other antique dealers visit our store on a regular basis,” said Hartman, “we’ve made many new friends from a wide area. This venture into the business world has been a valuable learning experience for all of us.”

Twice Sold Treasures, Inc. is open six days a week from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

~1994

Twice Sold Treasures moved to their new location at 105 S. State in downtown Norton.

~1997

The Norton Telegram

and the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce welcome

Twice Sold Treasures

to the business community

The new business is owned by Karen Templeton and is located at 105 S. State, Norton, Kansas open Tuesday-Friday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and closed Sunday and Monday. Twice Sold Treasures carries gift items, antique dishes and furniture plus has Bridal Registry.

PHONE (785) 877-5362

~January 2004
Twice Sold Treasures sold to Mary and Buddy Oswald

~August 12, 2007
Twice Sold Treasures sold to Janette Oswald

Twice Sold Treasures was already established by a group of local ladies many years before, but was purchased in 2004 by Janette’s Mom, Mary. It was something she had been interested in doing for a long time and out of all the businesses and towns they checked out, this one stuck out the most. The store had the room for possibilities, new ideas, and Norton seemed like it would be a nice change from the big city life as well.

When Janette’s Mom passed away in 2007, Buddy and Janette decided to try and keep the store going. They are happy to say that the store has been doing well and in the past three months they have gained many new vendors and have many more signing up.

When asked about her greatest challenge, Janette said, “Our name, Twice Sold Treasures, has been misleading to some. We’re not just a secondhand store. We have so much more to offer than one would think. We have new quality gifts and home décor items, to antiques and collectibles and many handmade items, and the list goes on.”

In answer to the question about what they would do differently, Janette said, “Through all the struggles we have gone through, I believe things happen for a reason. We have learned something from all of them, and I wouldn’t change anything.”

Janette’s vision for the future is to be a successful and well-established business in downtown Norton. She feels it is still too early to really know what will happen with the local economy, but she hopes to see the businesses of Norton County continue to grow and hopes to see more businesses established.

~2014
Twice Sold Treasures was closed in December 2014
The building was vacant until 2021.
~April 2021
Norton Mercantile
Jeff Hager is present owner of the building and it holds his framing business.



~January 27, 1992
OWNERS OF TWICE SOLD TREASURES, INC. WITH “CUSTOMER”
- The owners of Twice Sold Treasures, Inc., Norton, take time out from a busy day at the store to pose for the Telegram photographer with one of their best “customers”. Although her name has yet to be released to the press, this lady (third from left) is often seen peering in the window of their store at 111 N. State. Owners of the store are from left: Ruth Hartman, Connie Stromer, “Customer”, Sara Hartley, Ada Arford and Gloria Nelson.

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State of Kansas
Amendment
2025

Notice of Budget Hearing for Amending the 2025 Budget

The governing body of
City of Norton

will meet on the day of December 17th, 2025 at 5:45 p.m. at Norton City Hall, 301 E Washington, Norton, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed amended use of funds.

Detailed budget information is available at Norton City Hall, 301 E Washington, Norton, KS and will be available at this hearing.

Summary of Amendments

Fund	2025 Adopted Budget			2025 Proposed Amended Expenditures
	Actual Tax Rate	Amount of Tax that was Levied	Expenditures	
General	41.295	678,937	2,275,703	2,404,627
			0	0
			0	0
			0	0
			0	0
			0	0

Alex McKenna

Official Title: City Clerk



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