

# Mennonite Relief Sale

## gross near \$108,000

By **ROB STROUD**

Staff Writer

ARTHUR — In past years, Jane Wilson said she usually limited her purchases at the Mennonite Relief Sale to an angel food cake and a good meal.

This year, a six-piece maple bedroom set caught the Whiteheath resident's attention Saturday during the relief sale's auction. Wilson ended up buying the bedroom set, noting she had never bid at an auction before.

Wilson said she and her husband needed a new bedroom set and it will be nice to take handcrafted furniture from the Arthur area with them when they move to North Carolina soon. She also said the purchase of the bedroom set, like the angel food cakes and other food, helped a good cause.

"We support the Mennonite Central Committee because of all the good work they do around the world," Wilson said. She and her husband also helped their First Mennonite Church sell books at the relief sale.

Proceeds from the sale of furniture, quilts and other items at the auction go to the Mennonite Central Committee's relief efforts overseas and to help local charitable programs.

Preliminary figures show the relief sale grossed \$108,000, according to Steve Miller, a member of the executive board for the sale.

The rapid-fire speech of the auctioneers reverberated through the Otto Center as a large crowd of buyers made their bids.

Lunchtime visitors to the sale dined on chicken meals, taco plates, doughnuts, pretzels, ice cream and other homemade food.

"We come out every year to look around, buy food and, sometimes, buy other things," said Dough Beachy of Chesterville, adding he likes that the purchases help people in need.

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The other things he bought this year include a twin-size oak bed with a bookcase in the headboard for his son. The auction's staff quickly disassembled the piece of furniture and placed it in the covered bed of Beachy's waiting pickup truck.

Nearby, Danny Seaman of Champaign loaded a child-size wooden picnic table into his trunk while his wife, Nancy, and their grandchildren waited in the car.

The couple has family ties in Arthur and attends the relief sale on a regular basis. Nancy Seaman said the sale gives them an opportunity to catch up with family and friends while helping people in need.

"My father is a retired Mennonite minister, so I have a special connection to the relief sale," Seaman said.

Dick Storm of Arthur loaded an oak lamp table with a marble-like top into his truck.

Storm said he purchased the table because it just happened to match the counter tops in the home that he and his wife built four years ago. He said he likes buying locally made products at the relief sale.

"We have been in Arthur 32 years and we have been coming every year," Storm said.

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