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Estate sale gets golden touch

by the Cherokee Tribune staff
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A Woodstock company is handling what may be the largest estate sale ever conducted in the United States.

Golden's Appraisal, Auction & Estate Services on Friday and Saturday will open the doors to Dean Gardens in north Fulton for the public to see and bargain hunt.

The 58-acre estate on Old Alabama Road in Johns Creek, once known as the biggest house

in metro Atlanta, was sold in July to entertainment mogul Tyler Perry for \$7.6 million.

The 32,000-square-foot mansion soon will be razed - likely for a new home for Perry - and its contents valued at more than \$2 million will be sold this weekend.

The sale is from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Tickets are \$100 per person for Friday night's gala, which also includes admission to the continued sale on Saturday. There will be music, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and entertainment by GloAtl performance artists and Sonic Generator contemporary music artists.

Admission just for Saturday is \$50 per person and includes beer, wine and snacks.

Tours of the palatial home will be offered both days.

Proceeds from the sale benefit Luminocity Atlanta, a 360-degree performance art light parade company

W. C. Golden Sr. of Golden's Appraisal, Auction & Estate Services said the event not only is an opportunity to see behind closed doors, but also to find bargains.

"Many of the items will sell for 10 cents on the dollar," said Golden, a licensed auctioneer and antiques expert accredited by the International Society of Appraisers. "It's thought to be the largest estate sale ever in the country."

The home, previously owned by Larry Dean and former wife, Lynda, recently was featured on the TV show "How'd You Get So Rich," hosted by Joan Rivers.

It includes eight bedroom suites with names like the Egyptian Suite, a dozen other rooms, a carriage house, pool with cabanas, 18-hole golf course and a wedding chapel.

Hundreds of items for sale and their prices, which are subject to change, can be viewed in advance on Golden's website at answersonantiques.com.

The sale includes antiques, art, furniture, appliances and architectural elements.

The items up for grabs range from custom painted carousel horses in the nursery and an original Pac-Man video game in the game room to the contents of the home's Hawaiian art gallery and an array of antique chandeliers.

Some of the price tags are hefty despite being marked down - like \$60,000 for the outdoor sculpture or the catering kitchen appliances - but others are more feasible for shoppers looking to take home a souvenir such as \$250 for a bronze sculpture or an Oriental rug.

And some items are just wild like the Egyptian-inspired commode valued at \$3,950 and \$6,025 gold-plated sink - for these and other unusual items, you can make an offer.

For information about the sale, call (678) 743-4338. Information is online at answeronantiques.com, where advance tickets also are for sale.

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