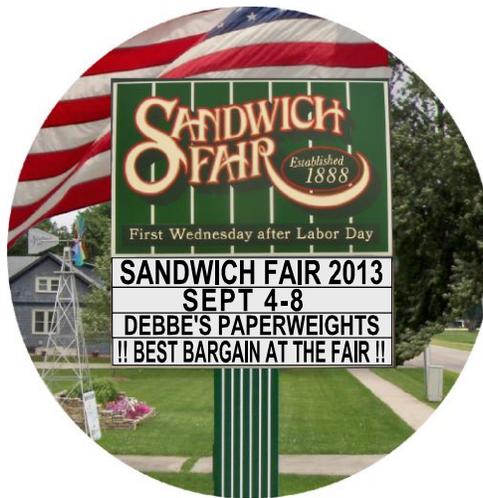




# DeBe's Souvenirs & Collectibles

*In 1999 DeBe's premiered the first Sandwich Fair souvenir Carnival Cane and Paper weight displaying the Round Office.*

*This inspired Sandwich Fair lovers to collect the unique, whimsical collection.*





**How did Debbie and Bevin become interested in carnival canes, and how did they come up with this grand idea?**

Debbie and Bevin went to an auction north of Leland, Herb Hazeman's, and noticed a very colorful stick, a cane with a nickel tip and a worn wrist cord. At the time, they didn't understand the significance of their find. Two brothers that knew antiques explained to them that they were carnival canes that were often won at county fairs by playing a game where the player would throw a wood ring around the colorful cane to win it. Was this something that had been done at the Sandwich Fair? Debbie and Bevin fell in love with canes immediately and began collecting them alongside one of their favorite companions G-Ma, Bevin's brother. As their collection grew, the uniqueness of the canes grew too. They found canes that were wood with colorful swirls, some with delicate porcelain painted tops, along with tops that had baseball, dice, and Debbie and Bevin's favorite of all the unique carnival animals such as the elephant and doggie heads.

**Why did Debbie and Bevin enter Souvenir Business?**

Bevin, Debbie and G-Ma always had a dream to start a cane game at the Sandwich Fair someday. Before G-Ma died the three of them took a picture of the round office, everyone's favorite building at the fair, with hopes of starting the cane game in the future. In March of 1998 Bevin's brother G-Ma died, to help ease the sadness Debbie and Bevin started to the process of creating carnival canes, feeling the presence of G-Ma laughing, developing and joining the fun creativity of the new fair canes.



**When did they start?**

In September of 1999 Bevin made a proto type of the first carnival cane, featuring the Round Office. They met with Don Bark and he was enthusiastic about the cane and gave them the green light to join the souvenir business. He was really happy to not have another food, hat or t-shirt stand.



**Why the name DebBe's?**

Deb is for Debbie  
Be is for Bevin

**How did they come up with DebBe's Shack?**

The first year Bevin made the shack from old barn wood. It is fun and exciting to round up the gang to put the shack up before the fair.

**How many canes have DebBe's created?**

A cane for every year from 1999-2011. In 2012 they took a break from the souvenir business while Debbie was recovering from cancer. They are back again this year with many blessings eager to display this year's cane and paperweight. The entire unique whimsical collection displayed together resembles a Sandwich Fair Village.

**What are the specialty canes?**

For a few years after the main cane was finished, Debbie would make a dice cane and Bevin would make a lady cane. Bevin enjoyed shopping at craft stores to find the perfect fabric for her dresses.

**How are they made?**



**Why do the canes have a Certificate of Authenticity?**

Chet, Debbie and Bevin's son, wrote some of the fair stories to go with the cane to provide the buyer with the importance and symbolism of the cane head and the Sandwich Fair.

**How are the Paperweights made?**

The paperweights are designed by Bevin. He takes several photos, including fair lovers who have posed for the photo, and combines photos into one photo for the paperweight. The photo is usually the subject for the fair cane.

***After 15 years, why are you still in the souvenir business?***

Debbie and Bevin have spent several hours each year sitting, standing and working on the canes. They talk during these times, laughed a lot and discussed life. They can look at each cane and remember something miraculous about each cane. Their studio is the old basement, dining room table, and card tables set up in their living room and the old big barn.

The fair has seen many things, children growing, grandchildren joining the family and lots of friends made. We are sad some friends have passed and miss them dearly. Don Bark and Bud Anderson both gave Debbie and Bevin lots of encouragement and advice.



***Thank You!***

Debbie and Bevin want to give a big thank you to all who have enjoyed their canes and paperweights. Long days at the fair DebBe's Shack has become a nice meeting place with good conversation and fun with great laughs, and always with a nice to see you, and enjoy some peanuts.



***How much longer will they come?***

Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise!



**Sandwich Fair  
2013**