



The Circuit Court for Queen Anne's County

Queen Anne comes home, again

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Thanks to a observant former Centreville resident, a small clay model of the statue of Queen Anne seated on the Court House Green, is back in the county and will be placed in a glass case in the historic Circuit Courthouse soon.

Properly known as a "maquette," a French word meaning small model of a sculpture, the 12-inch-high dark gray clay statue arrived at the courthouse Friday afternoon in the wooden case in which it had been placed some 33 years ago by nationally-known sculptor Elisabeth Gordon Chandler (June 10, 1913-November 29, 2006).

It was carried back, carefully, by Amanda Duffey Rutledge, who had moved north to New Jersey and later to Old Lyme, Conn.

This story unfolded with a couple unique twists, beginning with Amanda finding an old copy of a Cambridge *Banner*, the daily which at one time had an office in Centreville and had printed a special edition on the dedication of the Queen Anne statue here in 1977.

Amanda said she ran across it at home in Old Lyme recently. She said it had been saved because there was a picture inside with her mother chatting with Princess Anne, who came to dedicate the statue and had enjoyed a horse show given in her honor at Gunston School.

It was in 1975 that the late Arthur Houghton Jr. and Clarence Miles, two Queen Anne's County estate owners, had met with the county commissioners and offered to fund a life-sized statue of Queen Anne.

The two men had founded Wye Institute, a non-profit, philanthropic organization in 1963. They commissioned Ms. Chandler for the project from her studio in Old Lyme, Conn.

A prominent sculptor, she and her husband, also a sculptor, had founded the Lyme Academy College of Fine Arts, and accredited college where she taught for many years before

her death at the age of 93.

After finding the edition of the *Banner* at home, Amanda called the Academy and asked if they would like it for their records. When Amanda took it over, she found the building was filled with Ms. Chandler's effects that were being sold in an estate sale as designated in her will.

Looking over tables of articles, Amanda spotted a wooden case holding the clay model of Queen Anne. It was the miniature the sculptor had fashioned to bring to Centreville to show the county commissioners and Mr. Houghton and Mr. Miles prior to actual work on the full-size statue.

Amanda asked if she could buy it for the price noted on the piece at \$100. She was told the sale was to be held the following day, but if she wanted to come in early, she could have it. The next morning Amanda went to the Academy and found a SOLD sign on her statue and she was told it was hers.

Here's the other unique twist: As she was leaving the sale, a lady walked up to her and said, "Oh, you bought the statue. I wanted it. I'm from Centreville." Amanda replied, "Well, I'm also from Centreville and thought it should be back there at the courthouse or historical society." The two women had never met before. Carol Ann Ford Kent, daughter of the late Charles and Elizabeth Ford, had grown up in Centreville and married a naval officer and they were living near Old Lyme.

Last Friday afternoon at the courthouse, Amanda opened the case and pulled the still-damp clay model out to show it off to County Commissioner Paul Gunther, Clerk of the Court Scott MacGlashan, Historical Society President Marie Malaro and members of her own family, plus a most interested editor of the *Record Observer* who re-lived that warm, exciting day in June 1977 when the queen's statue was dedicated on the Court House Green by Princess Anne. Afterwards, the group gathered around the statue of the seated Queen with Amanda holding the model at the base.

There was one tiny difference: The model did not have the Queen's pet dog sitting beneath the chair at the rear as can be seen clearly on the finished statue.

In the lobby of the courthouse, a large glass case presently holds the original wooden gold eagle, which had been in the pediment at the front of the 1790's era building, but had been removed during a re-construction project in 2003 and a new one installed.

Both Judge Thomas G. Ross and Clerk Scott MacGlashan felt the small statue model can be easily placed inside the glass case along with the eagle for the public to see when visiting the courthouse.