

# After 35 years, Chase's still covers it all

## Upholsterers dedicated to diligent restoration market



by Chris McGathey

Chase's Upholstery can credit its phenomenal success to the foresight of its owners, Bob and Vivian Chase.

After 35 years the Warrenville business continues to keep ahead of the trends and the market in the upholstery trade. With the help of a good turn-around time, a great reputation, but at the same time keeping up with and supplying customers with new fabrics, the business continues to grow soundly.

By far the most obscure items they have worked on came from seats within a Pullman train car, said daughter and employee Robin Chase Carey. Others have submitted numerous antiques and collectibles. Other customers have upholstered headboards and family heirlooms.

However Chase's isn't catering just to the past. They have been known to work with major companies like AT&T as well.

"I think a lot of our success comes from the way my father set up the business," Carey said. "It's very efficient, it doesn't take long to acquire new trends or fabrics and our turn around time is good."

In her free time, Carey is a step ahead of trends and new fabrics always shopping in her free time for different methods, or customer requests.

"I like to shop for different things," Carey said. "We love to shop for furniture and see how things are made."

Chase's carries only the finest selections

of fabric, from Waverly to Schumacher, which are delivered directly from a mill.

Prices vary on the size of the piece of furniture and the fabric needed, however recovering a chair can cost around \$400 while couches and larger pieces tend to run a little higher at \$900.

Carey said the business is a perfect size, with just 15 employees scurrying around 3,000 square feet, handling sometimes hundreds of pieces. The love of the finished product make it all worthwhile, Carey said. Staple guns, fabric stretchers and many rolls of fabric are just some of the materials that may be seen at their facility.

"The people who work here generally have been here for a long time," Carey said. "They care about the work and we care about them."

"If we were any larger, you tend to lose control of the quality aspect," Carey said. "People who have been in here often refer to it as 'Santa's workshop.'"

Chase's has been known to work hand-in-hand with local refinishers as well to give a piece of furniture the ultimate final touch. Pieces are then delivered back to the customer within a week to 10 days depending on the project. The delivery fee is included within the costs of the fabrics.

For further information about Chases's upholstery or to get an estimate on re-upholstering a piece of furniture, new or old, call Chase's and manager Steve Paver at 393-1640.

### An upholsterers touch

Steven Paver, manager of Chase's Upholstery in Warrenville, and Robin Chase Carey work on a chair at their facility on Lorraine Avenue. The business is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year.

Press photo by Mark Busch