

Mail Tribune

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Posted Sep 17, 2010 at 2:00 AM

Updated Sep 18, 2010 at 2:54 PM



From quietly plying his trade as an antiques dealer and designer in rural Oregon to wowing national and international collectors with his fashion-forward creations, DeWayne Lumpkin is a local man on the move — although today he's not so sure about his destination.

Man on the Move

"That was a pretty proud moment," confesses Lumpkin, "because that was really the fly in the ointment. Looking back, it's pretty basic, and it also meant I could put 50 in a duffel bag and fly them to New York, and it's really rare to have a portable project in the antique business."

The breakthrough design kept Lumpkin on the road constantly through 2009, doing three or more coast-to-coast tours a month and getting lots of attention from designers, photographers and design publications.

Then, like most creatives, he got a little bored. As sales started to slow, he was struck with inspiration that became the "big switch" earlier this year.

"I'd been trimming and selling signs for eight years, and I saved every, single scrap," he says. "So I tried throwing them in the washing machine to see what would happen. It softened up the vinyl feel, and that allowed us to create a soft-goods line."

Launched at gift shows in Los Angeles, Seattle, New York and San Francisco, the line of timeless yet whimsical home-decor items has been featured in several magazines, design blogs and even the New York Times "Home" section. Lumpkin now employs a person to paint dowels, an upholsterer and seamstress. Prices vary from the low hundreds for a hanging sign or pillow to \$2,000 for a custom chair.



A centerpiece designed by Lumpkin complements a living room table.

