

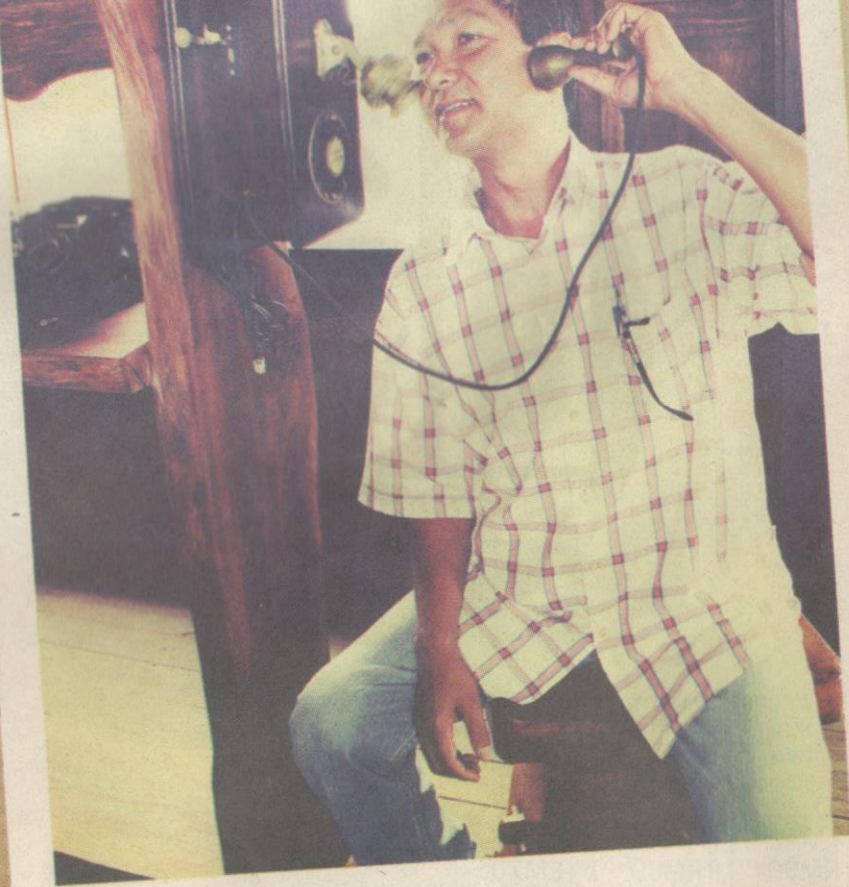


A collection of charcoal-powered antique flat irons.



One of the antique radios.





Yong showing how an antique telephone works.



One of the antique telephones in Yong's BM Antique gallery in Tanah Liat, Bukit Mertajam.

**Sharing
a passion
for antiques**

By Adie Suri Zulketli

BUKIT MERTAJAM: Antique collector Yong Kein Sun is sharing his interest with the public by opening up his private mini gallery to display his collections, including a nearly 100-year-old typewriter.

Besides the typewriter, Yong's antiques include a telephone, charcoal-powered flat iron, lights, vinyl records and players, radio, bicycle, trishaw, motorcycle, car and other items which were produced in the early 1900s.

The typewriter was manufactured in 1914 and the motorcycle, a BSA 250 model, was a 1941 edition.

The most expensive of his collections is a vintage car which he bought for RM25,000.

Besides his antiques, the public will also be amazed with the gallery itself in Tanah Liat, Bukit Mertajam, Penang. The building was built using recycled wood, without a single nail in its construction.

Yong, 50, said the gallery, which he has since named BM Antique, was built by builders using traditional building techniques to piece the woods together without using nails.

"My interest in antique collection began 30 years ago when I first started collecting old coins and cash notes. Unfortunately, the items were stolen when my house was burgled many years back.

"The incident became a turning point for me to start my collection of antique items," the father of five recalled.

The gallery is expected to open its doors to the public next month after receiving the certificate of occupation from the local council recently.

Yong said he had spent nearly RM100,000 on the antique collections which he

bought from shops all over Malaysia.

Besides making antique collection his hobby, Yong also finds the economic benefit by trading them at his own antique shop in Lebuhraya Campbell, George Town.

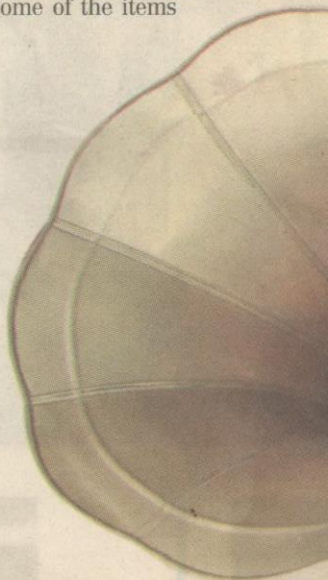
As his personal collections grew bigger in 2008, Yong decided to build a gallery to house them.

The mini museum completed last year at the cost of RM10,000.

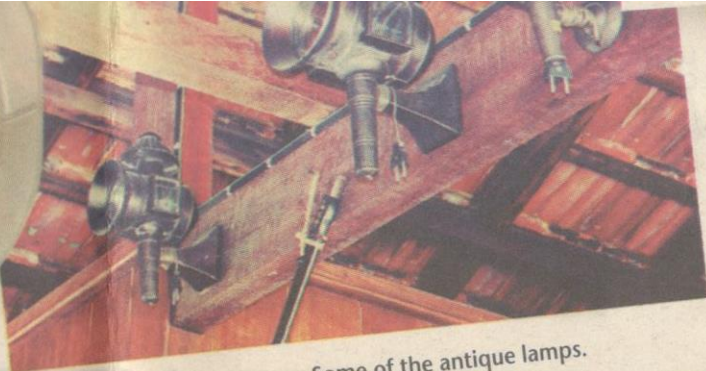
"The staircase of the gallery was built using mangosteen wood, taken from a tree that had to be cut to make way for the two-storey building.

"Even the switches at the gallery are from my collection to give the place a vintage feel," he said.

Yong hopes to share his vintage collections with the public, in particular the younger generation, who have never seen some of the items before.



An antique gramophone.



Some of the antique lamps.

