

'BAG' TO BASICS

Dina Dove, Columbus, has written a semi-autobiographical book titled "The Baglady's Guide to Elegant Living"

It sounds like a guide to decorating and economizing on a tight budget, but "The Baglady's Guide to Elegant Living" is something entirely different.

It's about finding personal contentment and joy, told from the point of view of a narrator who has lost a successful business and outwitted, and started life all over again.

"Some aspects of the book are autobiographical," said Dina Dove, Columbus, author. "A lot of people have a fear of losing it all and becoming a baglady. For years and years I had everything, then I had nothing."

She first came to Pittsburg to attend Pittsburg State University.

"Then I moved away and never thought I'd come back to Kansas," Dove said. "We lived in San Francisco and Houston, Texas."

Since the mid-1970s, she has founded several companies, and in 1974 she and her husband started McGeary Systems, Inc., a company which designed and manufactured high technology electronic test equipment. Its customers included Intel and Dell.

Dove also founded DINA, a design and manufacturing company that provided upscale accessories to the home furnishings industry. Its accounts included L.C. Penney, Sptogel and Wal-Mart, and DINA goes to be one of the top five U.S. companies in its field.

"We were in Houston, and my husband and I were excited to move our operation to Pittsburg," Dove said. "Our building was where Joe Smith Tobacco is now, and we moved our



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company office to Columbus."

In 1991 Dove was named Kansas Manufacturer of the Year.

But in 1992 she sold her company and got divorced. She had no job, no unemployment, was \$250,000 in debt and the IRS was knocking at her door.

Dove bounced back, and in 2002 co-founded a financial services and education company to guide people on the road to financial success. But in the back of her mind, was the title of a book she knew she would write some day.

"For all these years I knew I was supposed to write a book titled 'Baglady's Guide to Elegant Living' but I thought it would be about how to live on a shoestring," Dove said. "I was scary, so I found every excuse not to write the book. Then I decided I would get rid of my excuses."

She sold a business she had in Columbus, sold one of the two homes she owned, stopped working and got in front of a computer to write.

"I had over 80 pages done, but it was not going the way I thought it would," Dove said. "I took three days off writing, and when I was paying from

NOMINATE

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Triffin to Columbus, I was stuck behind a big truck. The license plate read 'new!!' and I knew it was a message to me. I turned out, when I could see it better, that this was an

electric truck and the tag really said 'new!!' but when I got home I deleted all 80 pages and started the book again as a parable. After that, it was a breeze to write. This was about October, and I got the book done about February or March."

In the book, the narrator Angela has lost it all — only to learn how to be happy under the guidance of Rose, the "baglady" of the title.

"The book is about learning to love the life you actually have," Dove said. "It seems we're going to be happy later — when we sell the house or when we retire. We're missing what's going on today. We're looking outside for something, and happiness is an inside job. The heart has to change — and we change our mind, nothing in our life will change."

"The Baglady's Guide to Elegant Living" was published by Health Communications, Inc. "I have one more book deal, and outlets for three more," Dove said. "My publisher hopes this will be a successful series. Their last series was 'Chicken Soup for the Soul' books."

Anyone wishing to learn more about Dove or her book may visit www.Baglady'sGuide.com.