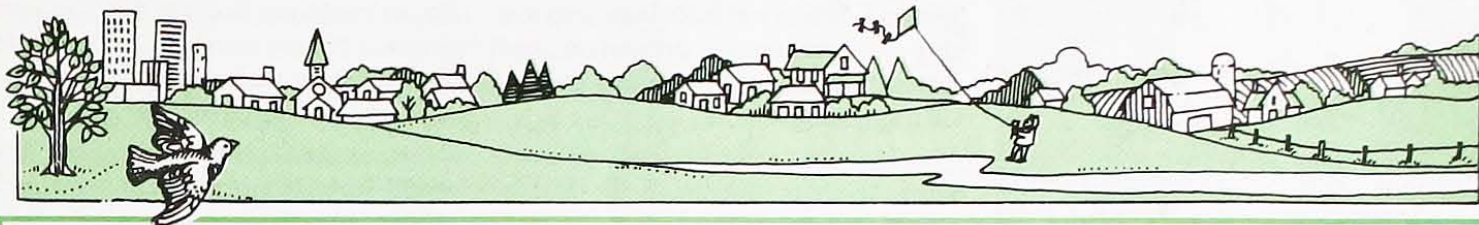


HOME & COUNTRY



Mar WI Recycles 'New' Material

Mar Women's Institute member Marion Clark had a kind of fairy godmother idea - how to turn Cinderella patches into handsome garments.

She discovered that Chris Enk, owner of Lion's Sportswear Mfg. in Lion's Head, regularly discarded unwanted scrap-ends of material, mostly soft 'sports' fleece. Chris agreed to give her the remnants (ten large plastic bags full) and Marion, along with Colleen Knowles, Mar WI President, fired up enough interest among the Institute's twenty members to organize a mammoth sewing bee.

About three months, and quite a few thousand stitches later, the women celebrated the completion of their charitable project at a ... WI meeting at the Mar Community Centre. The result of the work was "... 45 sweatsuits for kids, and 25 lap quilts for seniors," said Marion.

They gave the sweatsuits to the local Salvation Army for distribution to needy children in the community. The lap quilts, each about four feet square, designed with unique, colourful patchwork, were handed out as gifts to the [residents] of Gateway Haven over Christmas.

Colleen said: "Some of the women worked on them at home, and we used shared patterns." As well, there were regular sewing get-togethers at the Hall.

Marion, added Colleen, was one of the real creative wizards in the group.

The only thing needed in addition to the material (apart from thread) was ribbing for the necks and cuffs of the sweatsuits. Chris and Gabriele Enk kindly donated the needed items.

The sweatsuits were made in sizes 3 to 10. The women made a variety of colourful designs for them as well, including crew neck and turtle neck cuts. The finish and style was very professional looking.

Marion and the group hoped to "spread a little Christmas cheer." The first idea was to send the items overseas, but cost of shipping, they discovered, was prohibitive. "Besides, we decided there was as much need in this area."

The women agreed the project was a double benefit. It helped in the recycling effort, too. "It bothered me thinking about that material going to the dump," said Marion. Colleen added that the work was an enjoyable "communal



Colleen Knowles (left), President of the Mar Women's Institute, and Marion Clark (right), Mar WI member and project originator, display their group's handiwork.

Photo courtesy of The Warton Echo.

effort," reflecting the WI motto of charitable service - For Home and Country.

This article was reprinted from a December, 1993, issue of The Warton Echo. Mar is located on Highway 6 north of Warton.

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