

GOOFPY

Grandpa



Ken Clare collects a bit of everything, but his favourite collection is his more than 200 Goofy characters, trinkets and clothing

Ken Clare of Blackstock has been an avid collector of anything "Goofy" for about 30 years. To say Ken loves the Goofy character is an understatement; although Ken collects old radios, cameras and a wide assortment of other paraphernalia, it is to the beloved Goofy character that he has built a collection upon.

He now has approximately two hundred Goofy toys and products and from his enthusiasm for his collection I saw no signs that he will stop collecting anytime soon.

Ken does a daily mail run in Orono and he does not have a customer, a friend, an acquaintance or anyone who does not know of his penchant for Goofy toys and figures. His family, his wife, four daughters, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren have

indulged his every Goofy whim over the years.

From auctions, flea markets, the Goodwill, even the dollar store, if anyone sees a Goofy that Ken might not have, they grab it immediately and are guaranteed a smile from him.

Ken has a small room in his home dedicated to Goofy however, throughout his house the character seems to have encroached everywhere. In a bedroom is one of two working Goofy telephones; the phone rings and the Goofy character part of the phone starts talking and says he's asleep and therefore cannot answer the phone. A working telephone of this type has become quite rare so for Ken to have two of them in working condition is quite amazing.

There are Goofys that drive trucks, dispense Pez candy, pilot airplanes, give gumballs and then there are the stuffed animals, banks, bubble bath, sippy cups, watches, buses, race cars; the list is almost endless.

Although all his Goofy characters are special, Ken reserves a certain awe over one in particular. His prize possession is a gift from his oldest daughter. It is a Swarovski crystal Goofy and I must admit it is beautiful and not the least bit goofy. Ken handles his crystal Goofy with the kind of care only a true collector can appreciate.

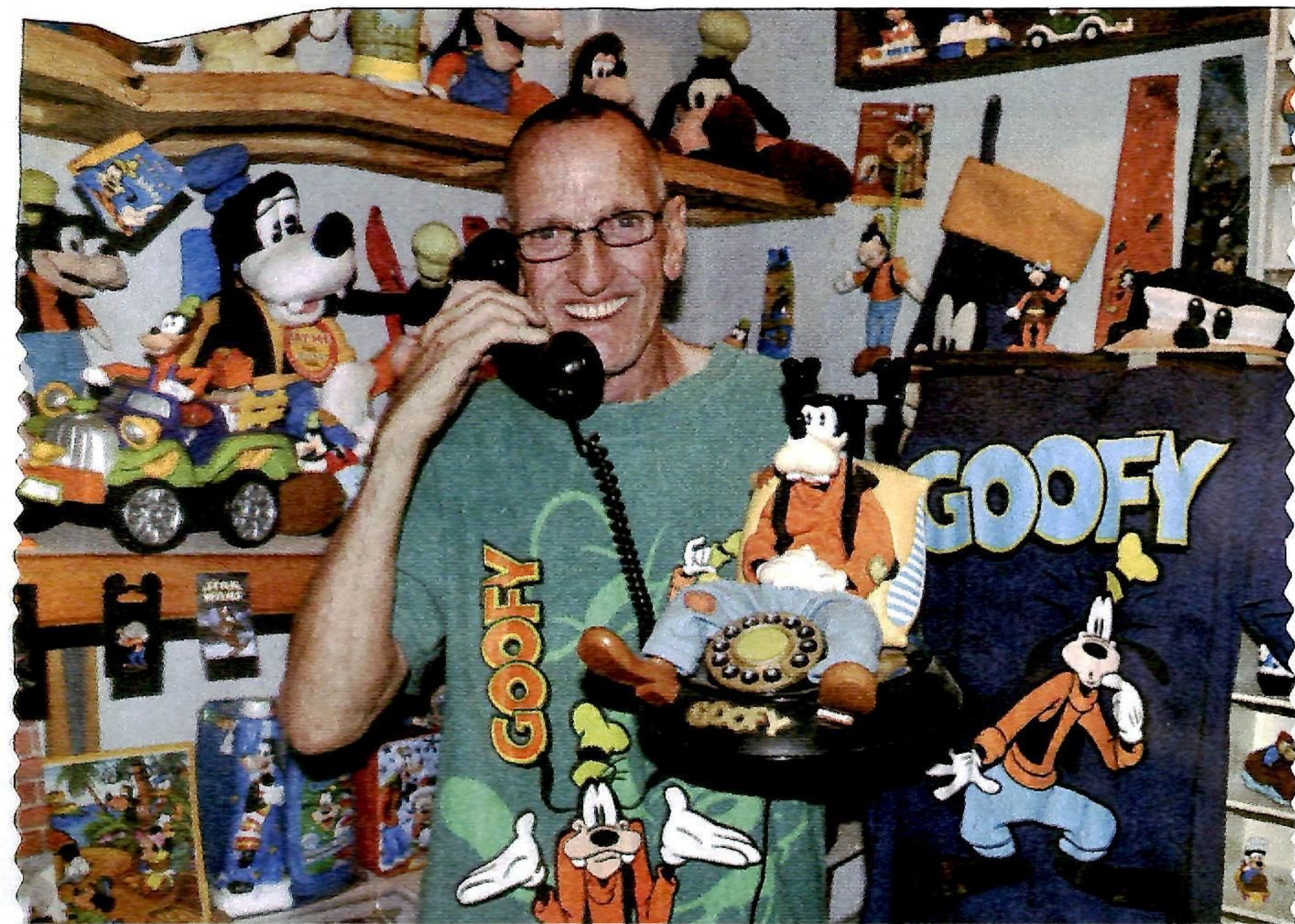
It was many years ago that Ken's granddaughter christened him "Goofy Grandpa." The name stuck and he will forever be known for it.

On his 65th birthday, his family presented him with a parchment scroll. With affection, the scroll begins "Goofy, known to us as Ken Walter Clare, was born at home a toothless wonder, much like he is now, and where are his teeth? Probably in his pocket."

The rest of the scroll is family members reminiscing about their dad. The whole scroll is a testament to Ken and his love of the Goofy character.

As I left, Ken said that his collection will never be for sale. He will simply pass it on to his children and grandchildren. "It's my hobby. I am not interested in knowing value. I know some of the toys are scarce but selling does not interest me. I just love having them."

He loves having them so much that he is now indefinable from what he collects - he is "Goofy Grandpa" forever in the eyes of everyone who knows him.



Ken Clare dials out on his Goofy rotary dial phone while standing amongst some of the more than 200 items he has in his collection.