

Hobby and Craft Fair

“Biggest and best yet”

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July 8, 1976

The sixth annual Hobby and Craft Fair was a huge success. Jean Fenton, of the Bruce Centre District Women's Institute said the July 8 fair was the biggest and best yet.

Eighty crafts men, both local and from as far away as Hamilton and Grimsby took part in the event.

Three thousand paying visitors attended as well as about 1,000 children.

One of the shoppers at the fair said "Everything was there but the kitchen sink."

The leatherwork booths offered an assortment of hand tooled belts and purses. There was a display of leather tie tacs, brooches and even rings. Leather pitchers and trays were unusual items.

Fans of the movie Jaws could buy jewellery made from shark teeth set in lucite.

The children weren't forgotten. Dolls of all kinds could be seen. They ranged in kind from the traditional Raggedy Anns to television characters like Sesame Street's Cookie Monster. There were apple head dolls favoured by adult doll fanciers.

Wooden cars, trucks and trains were shown at one booth.

Early Christmas shoppers

could buy Santa dolls and ceramic Christmas trees before the December rush.

Many booths had fine examples of knitted and sewn work. Quilts and afghans were popular.

Lorne Hambly of Warton displayed miniature Bibles chained to small wooden pulpits, a sight seen in old English churches. Mr. Hambly is familiar to many for his bird houses and spoon racks.

Sea creatures were used in many crafts. Exotic shells, sea urchins, coral and sand dollars were made into ornaments and unusual animals.

The collector of nostalgia items could find old calendars and post cards--some dating back to the turn of the century.

Jean Fenton of the W.I.'s Hobby and Craft Fair Committee said the ladies of the Institute are to be commended for the meals, lunches and refreshments served and for "...just being there to do whatever task there was to be done."

She also expressed her appreciation to those visitors who came by bus from Meaford, Highgate and Tillsonburg.

Mrs. Fenton also extended

"...a great big thank you to the arena boys and the town of Port Elgin for helping with the parking and to just everyone."

A raffle for a Rose of Sharon quilt was won by M. Wilton, 24 Queensdale Crescent, Guelph, Ont.

