

80 craftsmen show work V2.5 in WI display

By ANN KELLY
Family Living Editor

PORT ELGIN — There were friendly dragons, mini mice, cookie monsters, super snoopers, mighty mites, spotted deer mice, baby bunnies, critters-on-coral, urchins on-the-half-shell, sharks teeth, sand dollars, scarecrow dolls and mother goose, all vying for attention at the sixth annual Hobby and Craft Fair held in the Port Elgin arena on Thursday.

The Fair, sponsored by Bruce Centre District Women's Institutes, drew 80 craftsmen from points as distant as Grimsby and Hamilton. Attendance exceeded 2,000 paid patrons with children admitted free. The fair involves about 350 institute members from 12 branches. Mrs. Maurice Gowanlock was convener.

Each year the Hobby and Craft Fair grows bigger, each year more and more exhibitors are turned away, due to lack of space, and each year there are more unusual craft items.

Crocheted flower arrangements in rich shades of pink, orange, purple, magenta, blue, red and yellow were finding ready market. Some of the flowers were arranged, with static, in natural gathering baskets. There were authentic looking deep purple African Violets in pots, and exquisite wall hangings some of which had crocheted floral arrangements on ratan discs. They were the work of Mrs. Georgina McCallum of Grimsby.

There were plates and bowls, vases, hot pads, cups and saucers hand painted in delicate fruit and floral designs. Necklaces, bracelets, brooches and earrings, many of them with an antique look with roses and daisies in subtle shades, were also done with the hand-painting on china.

English wire jewellery was done in unusual necklaces, bracelets and rings with petit point jewelry and pictures also popular.

Also leaning to the unusual were bread dough roses, daisies and assorted other summer flowers in clusters, tiny floral vases or sold individually with short or long stems. The craftsman, Mrs. Janis Martin, demonstrated the making of the roses as she chatted with interested spectators.

Well known for his spoon racks and bird houses, Lorne Hambly of Wiarton had miniature pulpits with chained Bibles for sale. According to history, chaining of single books in churches originated in the Injunctions given by Edward VI to the Clergie and Laities in 1547. The Injunction was repeated by Queen Elizabeth in 1559 although nothing was mentioned about chains.

There was an unclock mounted on barn board and made up of a collection of buckles, horseshoes and horseshoe nails. The clock is battery operated.

One craftsman had wooden toys for children ranging from boats to trains, cars and trucks to planes.

There were braided rugs, apple head dolls, doll furniture, ceramic figurines and Christmas trees with twinkling lights, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause sets in red velvet, doll furniture and doll clothes.

Leather wook in tooled purses and belts, brooches and rings, tie pins and coasters were unusual. There were even leather pitchers and leather trays.

There was an assortment of old postcards. They ranged in price from about 20 cents to \$5 for one dating back to 1890.

A booth was offering stoneware for sale in coffee mugs, spice bottles, hanging planters and decorative wall brackets.

Scarecrow dolls, looking as though they stepped from the Wizard of Oz film, were keeping company with



CRAFT EXHIBIT — Six-year-old Karen Fenton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Fenton of Port

Elgin, examines a 1948 calendar on display in Women's Institute hobby and craft fair Thursday.

Mother Goose done in gingham and patterned cottons with eyelet or organdy aprons and co-ordinated sun bonnets.

There were stuffed toys, quilted pot holders, aprons, quilts, afghans, knitted articles, women placemats and aprons, cushions, unusual shell critters, many of the shells from the Indo Pacific, picture frames, real bread

centrepieces, reedwork trays, planters, wastebaskets and chairs, crocheted ponchos, hats, doll cradles, pen and ink sketches, water color hasty notes, glasses cut from bottles, copper tooled pictures, cotton flowers in assorted polka dots and patchwork fabric, gloves, moccasins, picture frames, with the selection almost endless.

Sun-Times photo by Wib Schwichtenberg