

Hobby fair has grown in its first 5 years V2.6

By ANN KELLY
Family Living Editor

Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus paid a premature visit to Port Elgin this week and undoubtedly felt as at home there as in toyland amid dolls, stuffed animals, scented soaps, and jewellery.

The occasion was the fifth annual hobby fair sponsored by the Bruce Centre District Women's Institute with members from 13 branches involved.

The Santa Claus dolls, complete with red velvet suits trimmed with white "fur", white hair, with Santa sporting a red velvet pack and Mrs. Claus the traditional granny glasses, shared the limelight with Miss Tucker, the sewing lady.

Tucked under the bustle of her old-fashioned gown were spools of thread. A thimble was in her hat, a tape measure in her purse and scissors in her umbrella.

There were serviette dolls, for special occasion table decorations, dream dolls with ringlets and many others to warm a child's heart.

The hobby fair has grown and flourished since its inception five years ago. This year's fair, which filled the perimeter and centre aisle of the Port Elgin arena, drew craftsmen from such distant points as Hamilton, Welland, Kitchener, Toronto, Breslau, Lambeth and Glanworth as well as the twin counties of Grey and Bruce.

Demonstrations were ongoing throughout the afternoon and evening. Perhaps the youngest craftsman demonstrating was Sheila McCurdy, 10, of Petrolia who was kept busy hooking a rug.

Beautiful one-of-a-kind oil paintings, depicting scenes and flowers were displayed in a booth adjacent to small forest animals in natural settings. The taxidermy represented the work of Phyllis

Gowanlock and included a tiny fawn nestled amid forest ferns.

Jewellery included porcelain earrings, amber beads, marble and African trading beads, sandstone, sterling silver earrings, zodiac chokers, shell pendants, filigree rings, wire earrings and rings as well as a wide range of jewellery in delicate petit point and Bruce County tartan. The petit point was also effectively utilized in pictures mounted on barn board and on coffee spoons.

There were scented candles and soaps ranging from orange and cucumber to lavender, strawberry and even new mown hay.

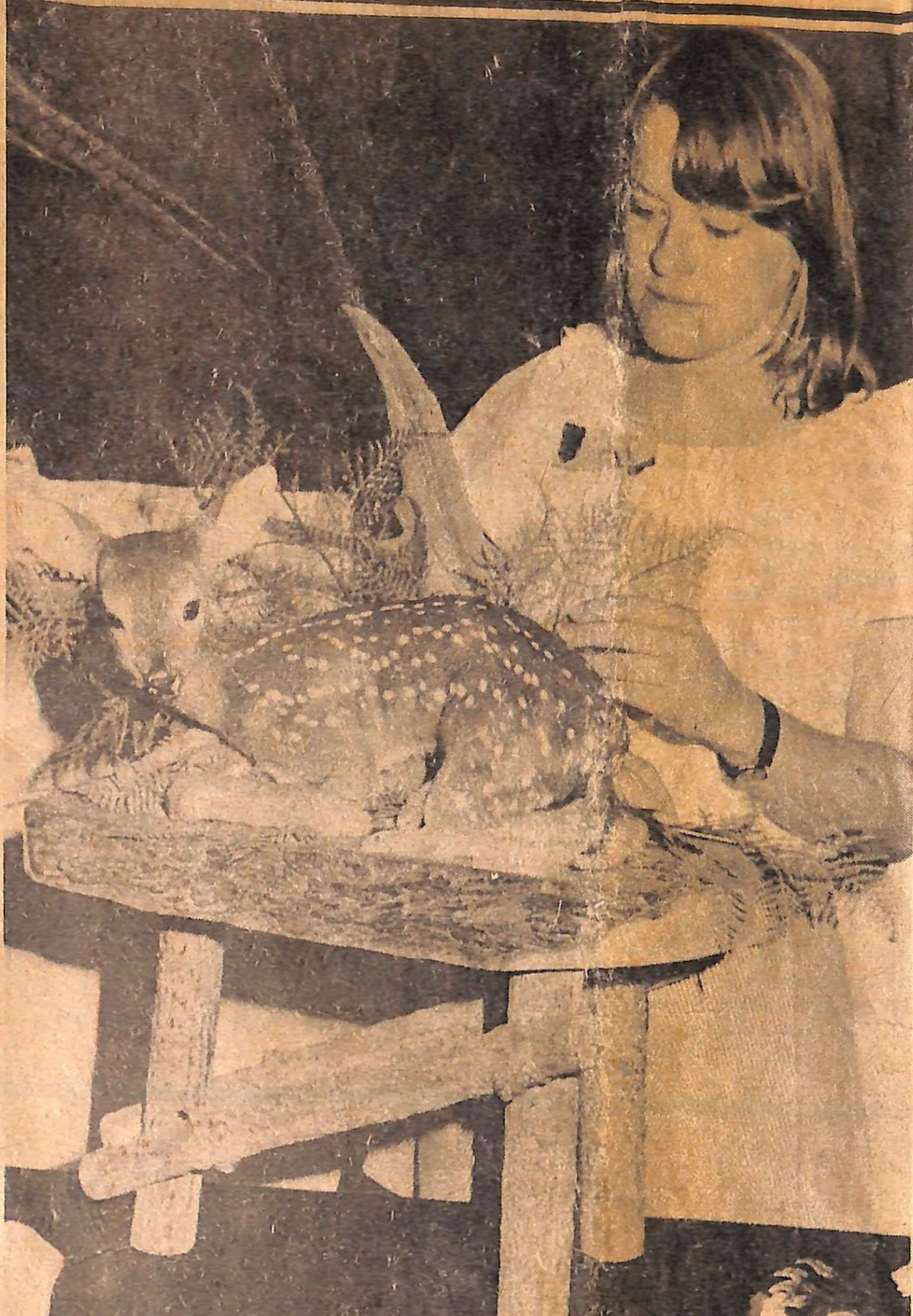
There was a Martin palace, a replica of an old castle, violin-shaped spoon racks, maple syrup and maple sugar products, screen printed pictures, appliqued and liquid embroidery bibs, children's and adults' quilts, transart wall hangings and leather work ranging from clips, pins, wallets and brooches to purses and moccasins.

Plaudits for the most unusual crafts exhibited could go to a hand-crafted, battery-operated "unclock" mounted on 100-year-old hemlock barn board, to spotted deer mice or tree snail terriers from Hamilton or else to an old-time threshing machine, the model-built on scale one-half inch to the foot.

The model has been in the making since 1960 and doesn't yet suit the builder, Robert Thomas of North Bruce.

Barn board pictures, using walnut shells, toadstools and driftwood, painted eggs and outstanding examples of macrame were also unusual. There were several attractive examples of china painting.

During the afternoon Al McGuire of Southampton, was performing at top form. In the evening there was a fashion show of Bruce County tartan garments.



Sun-Times photo by Wib Schwichtenberg

HOBBY FAIR — Phyllis Gowanlock of Palmerston arranges her taxidermy display at the annual hobby fair in Port Elgin Thursday. Area Women's Institutes have been sponsoring the fair for five years.

Hobby and Craft Fair 4th

The Bruce Centre District Women's Institute Hobby and Craft Fair and Sale on Thursday, July 4th in the Port Elgin Arena was one of the outstanding events of the Homecoming week of the Port Elgin Centennial celebrations.

The creative work of the 40 craftsmen, 13 Institute branches, the Country Sisters and the Bruce County Tartan items were viewed and bought by over 3,000 people of all ages.

Miss Phyllis Gowanlock of the Prestige Taxidermy Ltd., Palmerston had a display of mounted wildlife, tanned pelts, raccoon and wolf skin hats. She demonstrated the skinning and mounting of an American Golden Eye Duck.

Mr. Geo. Myers of Hanover with his large display of hand-carved horses and wagon house and miniature people, moving waterwheel had an interested audience at all times.

Miss Barb DeVisscher and Mr. Daryl Ball of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Walkerton were in charge of the informative 4-H display. Mr. John Caké of Georgian College demonstrated using a Potter's Wheel. The Adult Opportunity Centre of Walkerton were given space to sell the articles made at the Centre.

The Bake Table was a busy

spot the earlier part of the day and the fish pond had many young fishermen. Many took advantage of the opportunity to sit down with friends and enjoy refreshments served by the Burgoyne, White School and Underwood branches.

The South Saugeen Institute's lemonade stand had a steady line of customers as the temperature soared. In the recreation room at noon the Tara Institute served salad plate with pie and beverage on placemats telling about Bruce County and the Tartan. Trays with lunch were delivered to the booths. West Arran Institute served dinner of turkey, potato and jellied salads, relishes rolls, cake and beverage.

At 9 o'clock Piper Roderick McGillivray of West Arran piped Mrs. Mel Black, Princess of the Centennial, Mrs. Geo. Pollock - President of Bruce Centre District and Mrs. M. Gowanlock through the arena and up to the platform where Mrs. Black drew the winning ticket on the 'Sail Ahoy' quilt made by Mrs. Gowanlock. Mrs. Thelma Belbeck of Port Elgin was the winner.

Mr. Lindsay Thornburn took pictures of the different crafts and displays and anyone interested in getting some should contact Mrs. Gowanlock, Public Relations Officer.

An event as successful has the hobby fair, held in Port Elgin under the sponsorship of Bruce Centre District Women's Institute, doesn't happen my accident. It represents a lot of time and effort on the part of many people.

From this corner a tip o' the hat goes to the convener, Mrs. Maurice Gowanlock and her two assistants, Mrs. Dick Fenton and Mrs. Harold McArthur. The fact that the fair was the biggest in five years, drawing craftsman from such points as Hamilton, Welland, Kitchener, Glanworth and Lambeth is a tribute to the untiring efforts of those involve.



Wednesday, July 14th, 1976



Andrew Ruxton and Mrs. Ruxton were on hand at the Hobby and Craft Fair exhibiting some of the fine caning and wickerware done by Mr. Ruxton. Shopping and picnic baskets were much admired by the buying public. (Photo by Mike Cannon)