

Over 3000 attend Fair



Some of the many fine exhibits at last week's Hobby & Craft Fair. The beautiful Rose of Sharon quilt is seen hanging at the right of the booth displaying rugs.

The Bruce Centre District Women's Institute Hobby & Craft Fair held last Thursday at the Port Elgin Arena was an unqualified success, being described as the "biggest and best Fair yet", with exhibits from all over Ontario, with the district craftsmen doing their share to add to that success.

There were over 3,000 paid admissions, of which about 1,000 were children. Busloads of people came from as far as Meaford and Dresden.

A nursery service was provided and there were drop-in areas on the arena floor where a cup of tea or a cool drink offered a refreshing break. South Saugeen W. I. served a smorgasbord noon dinner and Burgoyne W. I. a supper, which were both well patronized.

A miniature threshing machine, built to scale (and which really works) was exhibited by Robert Thomas, of R. R. 5, Paisley.

A booth featuring Bruce County Tartan items was one of the most popular spots throughout the day.

Maple sugar and syrup in plain and fancy containers was on sale.

The Country Sisters offered garden fresh produce and hand-made gingham and cotton items. There was also an area offering home baked pies, cakes, cookies and bread.

The popularity of pottery, macrame and clay items was evident in the large selection available.

Necklets, rings, 'worry' stones and earrings for all kinds of ears, filled tables at many of the vendors. Knitting and crocheting of shawls, etc., drew many eyes; rug hookers and ladies stitching fine petite point were the envy of many who do not share these talents.

An 'unclock' was a most interesting exhibit. Mounted on a piece of barn siding, enhanced with horseshoes and harness 'keepers', the numerals on the face of the battery-operated timepiece, as well as the hands, were from iron horseshoe nails.

There were shell 'urchins on the half shell' and for the kiddies 'The Cookie Monster' and Snoopy, along with handmade dolls and stuffed animals to entice all ages.

Bottle collectors admired the exhibits. There were many reminders for Christmas with pottery

Yuletide decorations of all sizes and shanes.

Andrew Ruxton of Port Elgin, who is known far and wide for his caning was on hand with many wickerware items, including wastebaskets. Feather and wool flowers as well as potted plants and quilts were offered at several stalls.

In the evening, "Bruce County Royalty" paraded the Arena led by Piper Bruce McLean. Mrs. Earl Busch introduced Ontario Queen of the Furrow, Dawn Brunton, Tara who exceed a short programme which was most enjoyable.

Greetings were brought by Warden of Bruce County Alex Lamont, Bruce County Queen of the Furrow, Sharon Gowland, Teeswater; Ontario Shorthorn Princess, Marilyn Wilson, Pinkerton; Miss Bruce County Jr. Farmers, Lynn Mills, Tara; Bruce County Dairy Princess, Shirley Irwin of Paisley and Bruce County Pork Hostess, Beth McKay (with Oscar under her arm). Mr. Alfred Brunton of Tara delighted the audience singing two Scottish selections, The Toorie on his Bonnet, and I Love a Lassie, as did a group of the Port Elgin Centennial Singers with Loch Lomond and All Through the Night. Miss Beth McKay warmed Scottish hearts with her graceful Highland dancing to the piping of Bruce McLean.

The beautiful Rose of Sharon quilt was won by M. Wilton, 24 Queensdale Crescent, Guelph.

The District W. I.'s are to be commended on their preparation of meals, lunches and refreshments, and "just being there to do whatever had to be done".

They extend a sincere 'thank you' to the Arena management for their services and to the Town of Port Elgin for their valued assistance in arrangements for parking.



Phyllis Stevens displayed the ever popular apple people. The dolls are made from carved apples which are allowed to dry and acquire a wrinkled, aged appearance. The dolls are handmade and are sought by serious collectors. Story and pictures on page 7B.



(Photos by Mike Cannon)



The South Saugeen and Burgoyne's Women's Institute provided lunch and dinner consisting of cold cuts, salads and an assortment of pies, cakes and home-made cookies.

