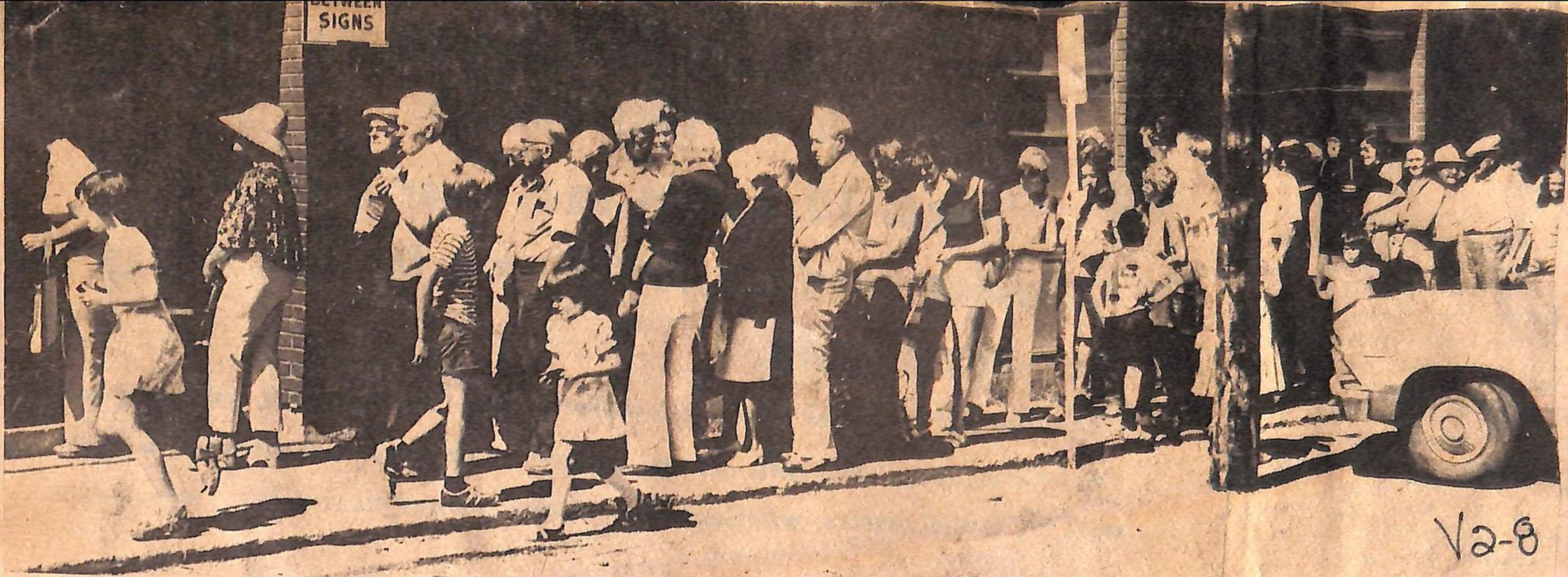


BETWEEN  
SIGNS



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The line-up was long as people waited to pay their 25 cent admission. The Sun Times, Owen Sound, Fri., July 8, 1977

# Dolls dominate annual craft show

by ANN KELLY  
Family Living Editor

Visiting the Bruce Centre District Women's Institute annual craft and hobby fair in Port Elgin Thursday was like visiting Santa's workshop just before his sleigh is packed on Christmas eve.

There were dolls of every size and shape, from Barbie to Pebbles and Bam Bam of Flintstone fame. They were complete with leopard-look clothes, a bone hair decoration for Pebbles and a similar bone holding the single strap of Bam Bam's "leopard" pants.

There were knitted dolls, pirate dolls, Indian and snowmen dolls, even one in grass skirt and beads. There were wooden toys, pull toys, hand-puppets, including Snow White, Winnie the Pooh, Red Riding Hood, pigs, rabbits, even an A and W Root Bear, there were finger puppets, string dolls with poke bonnets and ruffled aprons, "pop-up" dolls, doll beds, with canopies and without, rope dolls, corn husk mice, poodles made from Australian pine cones, toys for children of every age.

"Spike" the Ostrich was flying, dancing, and generally performing for the overflow crowd. He is the handwork of Irene Lutowicz of Poplar Hill, near London. She hopes Spike will find his way into enough homes to pay her tuition for a third year in music at the University of Western Ontario.

"It's a very interesting therapy that you pick up when you're tired and want something enjoyable to do," said Mrs. Doris Johnston of Carlisle, near Hamilton who was demonstrating Japanese embroidery. Mrs. Johnston, an arthritic, works with seniors at the Villa in Waterdown.

Before starting Japanese embroidery she said she was a nervous, ill woman. "It's your own type picture you create as you go." Mrs. Johnston was creating a mountain as interested spectators asked questions.

Men and boys in attendance at the Thursday show held in the arena were captivated by the engine display being demonstrated by C. G. Schneider of Hanover. There were steam engines in various sizes, a four-cycle hit and miss gas engine, a beam type steam engine and a laminated steam engine with all parts made from scrap metal.

An apple head doll, in dust cap and apron over her old fashioned gown, worked at embroidery as she rocked in her chair. Her husband managed to smoke his pipe and play his hand-covered violin at the same time. A visitor, complete with black velvet cape and tie bonnet, looked on.

There were 81 exhibitors in this year's show from points as distant as Niagara Falls, London, St. Thomas, Kitchener, Hamilton, Sarnia and Kincardine. By early afternoon White School Women's Institute had sold \$250.



Sun Times photo by Wib Schwichtenberg

**NICE DOLLY** — Seven-month-old Jodi Tomori reaches for one of the countless dolls displayed at the annual Women's Institute craft and hobby fair at Port

Elgin Thursday. Jodi is held by her mother, Jo-Ann, of RR 1 Southampton.

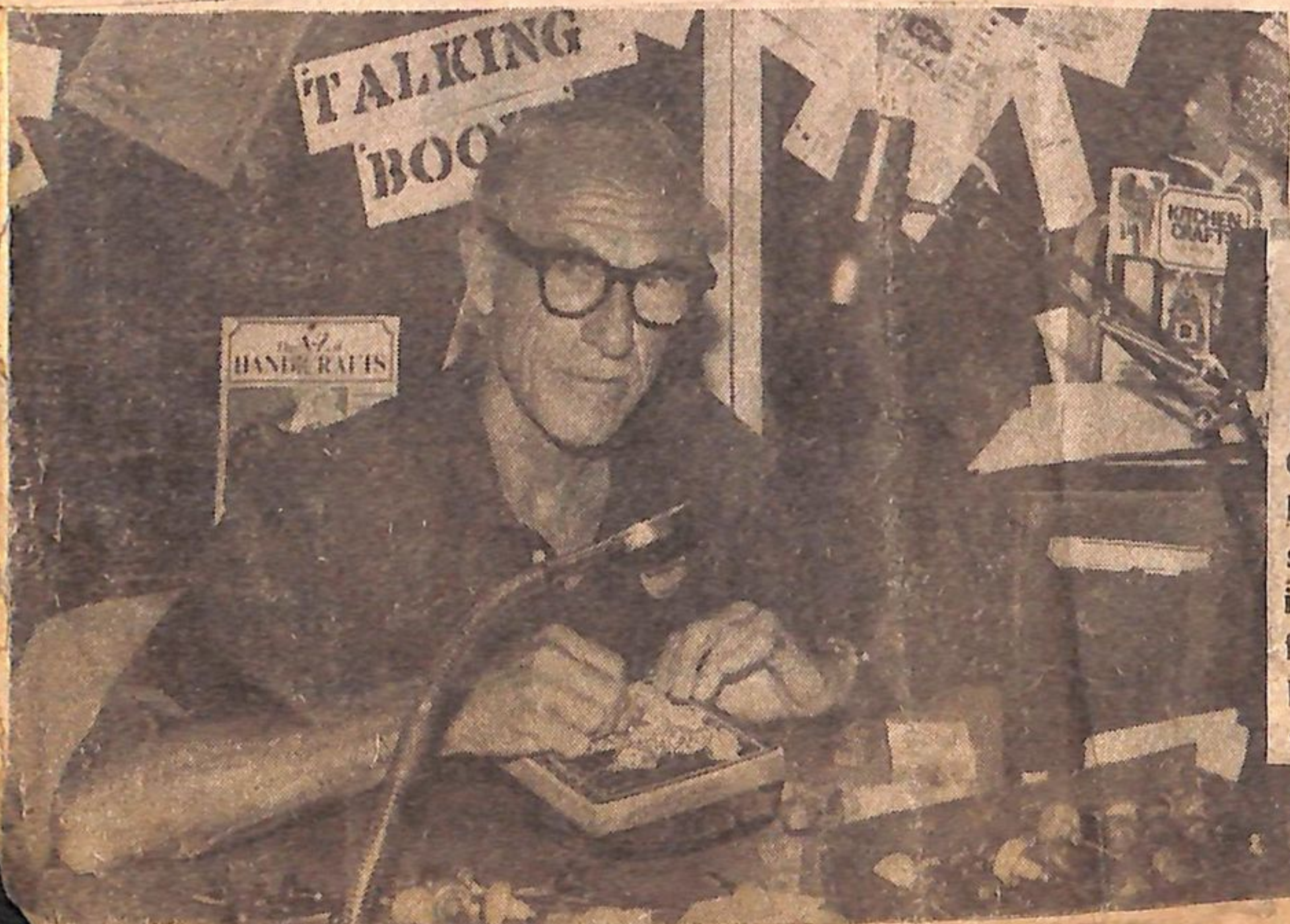
worth of homemade fudge which required a 100 pound bag of sugar.

Whether interests centred on leather work, oil paintings, crocheted tablecloths, water paintings, concrete lawn ornaments, wicker trays, baskets and planters, crocheted flower arrangements, jewelry, purses, stoneware, ceramics, candles, hanging planters, home baking, preserves, marquetry, even maple sugar taffy on "snow without snow", the crafts were there.

"We could have filled it three times with craftsmen, that's how many I've turned down," said Mrs. Maurice Gowanlock, overall convener.

Lunches were available throughout the day with noon and evening meals served.

Mrs. Gowanlock isn't convinced that a two-day show is the answer next year, despite the throngs of people arriving on bus, on foot, and in cars but thinks additional display space could be consideration.



Gordon Cross is one of the last wood block engravers in Canada. He said only about a dozen others like him are still working. The wood blocks were engraved for printing before modern photographic processes for books and newspapers made such illustrations obsolete. Mr. Cross said he began work in Toronto 50 years ago. His first job was to help prepare the blocks to illustrate the 1927 Eaton's catalogue. He said he remembers going to the Eaton's store every day and returning with armloads of linens and musical instruments to be copied in painstaking detail for the catalogue. The pay was \$5 per week. An apprentice had to work for five years before beginning to become proficient in the work. Mr. Cross says he is still learning and although he now wears glasses, his 50 year old tools are as sharp now as they were in his youth and his hands are still rock-steady.