

KIRK-KRAFT STUDIO GETS SOME NATIONAL PUBLICITY

ELIZABETH FETERAN
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Have you ever had afternoon tea in the choir loft of a church? This is exactly what you can do at the appropriately named Kirk-Kraft Studio on No. 7 Highway between Brampton and Norval in Ontario. Here you will find an unusual setting for a handicraft studio run by two enterprising women, Mrs. M. H. Moyer and Mrs. D. R. McLaughlin, both of Georgetown.

A project of this type can only grow from years of dreaming and planning. As both Mrs. Moyer and Mrs. McLaughlin are enthusiastic hobbyists, they know from personal experience the deep satisfaction that is gained through creative pursuits. Realizing that Ontario is sadly lacking in markets for her beautiful handicrafts, it has been their dream for several years to start a craft shop. With the opening of the Kirk-Kraft Studio their dream has come true.

This shop was originally the Mount Pleasant United Church and had been in disuse for several years. The church was bought, a well dug, plumbing, an oil furnace and modern kitchen installed.

Fifteen years ago, Mrs. Moyer and family moved from Toronto to a fifty acre farm near Georgetown, as she thought, for a rest. She did not realize that she was about to embark on one of the busiest and happiest periods of her life.

Their city friends soon began to make the farm a dumping ground for all their unwanted cats and dogs, until the place resembled a refuge for stray animals. Little did Mayme Moyer know that the addition of a small white angora rabbit to their menagerie was to start her on a hobby that has brought her great satisfaction.

One day as she exhibited the soft white Angora rabbit to a caller, her friend said: "Why don't you pluck it and spin the fur into wool?"

"Don't tell me this is where angora wool comes from!" Mayme replied. That woman, who nearly fifteen years ago didn't know that angora wool was produced from rabbits, is today an authority on spinning, weaving, and vegetable dyeing.

With her interest aroused in the production of angora wool, she began raising the little white animals. Soon she found herself shipping breeding stock all over the Canada.

She took a course in vegetable dyeing, spinning and weaving and began to spin and dye the wool from her own flock. When help became scarce during the war, she was forced to sell the rabbits. "They were a paying proposition," she said, "but they were a lot of work."

CHURCH RENOVATION

As Mrs. Moyer became interested in handicrafts she found a number of her neighbours had similar interests. As a result, about ten years ago, she founded the Georgetown Arts and Crafts Association, affiliated with the Canadian Handicraft Guild. From the beginning the Georgetown group were "eager beavers" and the organization grew in numbers and knowledge until it has become one of the most active groups in Ontario.

Mrs. Moyer admitted that the renovation of the church was a costly proposition. The choir loft has become the tea lounge. The comfortable furnishings are in shades of soft blue and rose, the walls lined with oil paintings — for sale. Here you can sit with a cup of tea, and from the slight elevation get a birds-eye view of the large room with its artistically arranged displays.

Mrs. Moyer and Mrs. McLaughlin do not serve afternoon tea as a money making scheme, but rather as a courtesy to their visitors. They try to serve unusual tidbits which have been made by local cooks. Their jams, pickled mushrooms and watermelon rind proved so popular that they installed a pantry-shelf where you may purchase small jars of these delicacies.

Members of Handicraft Clubs and Women's Institute often arrange to visit the Kirk-Kraft in a group. On these occasions Mrs. Moyer demonstrates on the spinning wheel and the loom, while Mrs. McLaughlin demonstrates rug-making.

As you stroll around the airy room every craft seems to be represented. There are dress lengths and suit lengths of finely woven wool. On a nearby loom is a piece of exotic material that Mayme Moyer is making for an evening jacket. Its black lachness is interwoven with a design in gold thread to produce an effect of sheer loveliness.

Not far from the loom is an exhibit of tooled and carved leather bags, belts and buttons. Many of the belts and buttons are gathered to complement the woolen dress materials.

Mrs. Wes Beatty of Acton supplies the metal work, ranging from small copper buttons and earrings to heavy brass bracelets.

The local potters have developed their own glazes to suit this particular type of clay.

When asked who was responsible for the unusual driftwood bric-a-brac, Mrs. Moyer answered: "A chap called Alan Dawson from Glen Williams brings that in. He has turned a barn into a studio and he supplies some of the leading furniture stores in Toronto."

On another table was some unique jewellery, the work of Daphne Lingwood, of Caledon East. The original pins and earrings were hand-styled, of hand-painted leather.

Of the many oil paintings exhibited, two that stood out particularly were the work of Stewart Shaw of Streetsville. Although badly crippled with polio in his youth, this artist has traveled across Canada in his specially equipped car, on sketching trips. His cleverness in painting figures has won him an outstanding reputation. He not only paints the pictures, but he makes the beautiful hand-carved frames that complete them.

Complimented on the diversity of the displays, Mrs. Moyer answered proudly: "Everything is made in Ontario. While the majority of the articles are made within a radius of fifty miles, we have some weaving from Niagara Falls and St. Catharines and aluminum trays from Hamilton."

A visit to the basement revealed a modern kitchen, and a huge work-room housing 10 looms. Here instructions are given in spinning, weaving, vegetable dyeing, design and fine rug hooking. Eighteen weavers are also working in their own homes. In response to amazement expressed at the fineness of the hooked rugs, Mrs. Moyer explained: "They are made from old woolen materials, dyed with vegetable dye."

The rug-making is Mrs. McLaughlin's field. She has taken courses in the New England states and in Cape Breton Island, and is considered an authority in the history of rug-making. Although she gives lessons in this craft, her own handwork is not for sale. She says — "After putting hours and hours of loving work on a canvas, I cannot bear to part with it." She uses her work to beautify her own home, not only as floor mats, but as wall decoration.

When questioned about the financial success of their venture the ladies replied that they were well pleased. "We sell on a commission basis," they said. "We opened in October, 1951, and remained open for two months. Before we closed the shelves were practically bare. However we did not feel that we could depend on such a continued patronage because all our acquaintances came at least once through curiosity."

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FARM NEWS

Gold Ribbon Certificate Famous Bingham Holstein

Katherine Mercedes Dutchland (V.G.) owned by Harold Bingham & Son of Georgetown has reached the peak of her remarkable career by winning the highest of all breed awards, the Gold Ribbon Certificate. In 13 lactations, Katherine has produced a total of 203,592 lbs. of milk 7.15 lbs. B.F. with an average test of 3.69 per cent. She is the second highest living life-timer in two times milking. That represents a total of 2,545 cans of milk. Now 18 years old, Katherine was an Honour List producer on at least two occasions during her illustrious career. Among her many noted offspring one son spent four years in the herd of Dr. Paul Beer of Georgetown; and then two years in the herd of V. J. Lawrence, Oakville, before being exported to the state of New Jersey. Another son was purchased by Ross Segsworth of Burlington and may be recalled as the grand champion at Halton's great Holstein Show — later he was nominated for All-Canadian 3 year old before being sold to the Western Penn. Artificial Unit.

Her record today is only exceeded by another Halton bred cow, Snowball Sylvia Alcartra (Ex.) This great cow, 17 years old on July 31st, was bred and produced her first four or five records in the herd of Morley Watson, of Tansley. Back in 1943 as a 7 year old she was just right and took the grand champion award for

females at Milton. The same fall Morley entered her in the All-Canadian Sale where she sold for \$1650 — a tremendous price at that time. To date she has out in 13 milk lactations a total of 212,143 lbs. of milk testing 4.05 for a total of 8589 lbs of fat.

Woody Glen Queen Mazie
This great cow bred by W. W. Thompson of Hornby, was All-American cow in 1952 and up until the recent International Show at Chicago, was undefeated. Right up

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to the last moment she stood at the top of a great string of 86 aged cows. However she eventually got second — and while she was defeated by another Canadian Maple Lea Sunset Sally, bred and exhibited by Lorne Reid of Ripley, comments we have heard to date would indicate that it was a tight fit and the Canadians on the ringside were a little surprised to see Sally get the top award over Mazie, now owned by Forsgate herd in the USA.

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