

Paula knits with fur



DURHAM REGION—What do you do if you're a lady, six foot, three inches tall and have difficulty finding the right fit? If you're Paula Lishman, have expensive tastes and a flair for fashion, you outfit yourself. Not only that, you do it with furs, including such items of apparel as hats, coats, vests, jackets, muffs, scarves and leg-warmers.

And you employ 50 people (in the peak season) as well, to help turn out these amazing garments, which are cut out in spiral fashion from a pelt, their fur converted to yarn and then hand-knit.

That's right, knit with fur, beautifully styled and patterned by, what you might say, this "designing" woman, who has established this amazing industry within the past three years.

Her creations make the most of the fur pelts she works with, employing the ultimate in style and colors—both natural and dyed—and ease of wear. As with any knitted garment, what you see is what you feel—snugly and warm inside and out. Unlike most furs, however, they don't have the same weight. Some of the lighter pieces, in fact, have an ethereal quality to them; were it not for the color and feel of the fur, you might wind up sometime taking a shower wearing a mink scarf.

The pieces are also unique. The hat, for example. It can be worn inside or out, and readily converts into a toque, collar, headband and muff. At least it can if you're Paula. With some of her larger garments, such as capes, which can also assume various roles, a set of illustrated instructions is included for those with less flexible fingers.

Paula's business, happily ensconced in a bright and well-made-over schoolhouse at Blackstock, followed after she had been working with leather for some time. "I felt if I could knit with leather I could knit with fur," she says.

It soon took off, and now does 80 per cent of its business in the United States (Bergdorf-Goodman and Neiman-Marcus in New York) with the rest in Japan and Europe.

Canada, ironically enough, is where she does the least.

Prices range from \$65 for a fur hat, to \$2,200 for a mink evening cape, and \$3,000

for a New Zealand opossum blanket, the only fur imported.

Somewhere in between is a muskrat sweatshirt—"just what everybody needs." Throughout her shop are some of husband, Bill's sculpture works. He also has one at Canada's Wonderland near Maple. Which gives him two top places of display—Maple and Paula's own wonderland at Blackstock.

Bethesda 4-H Project

BETHESDA—The Bethesda 4-H Club, under the leadership of Hetty Lowe and Jean Yake, is working on its spring project. The 1983 enrollment includes 17 girls.

Members are learning recipes and food customs of various nationalities residing in Ontario. These range from mid-eastern Europe to the British Isles to the Orient. Achievement Day is April 30.

Bethesda 4-H meets every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m., at the home of Jean Yake. Members are—Ellen Dunn, Janet Lowe, Sally Timbers, Heidi Hirsch, Juliette MacMillan, Sherri Howes, Kelly Rae, Josephine Gray, Laurie Pugh, Gloria Hall, Denise Duggan, Theresa Yake, Melody Farr, Marcy Pyke, Susan Stewart, Tammy Yake and Bonnie Stewart.

Files appeal

YORK REGION—A book store proprietor, convicted recently in Newmarket Court of selling and possessing obscene publications, will appeal the \$500 fine handed down by Judge A.E. Charlton.

North American News, distributors of the magazine police found in the store, have retained a lawyer for Betty Sharkey, operator of the establishment.

Three other proprietors, facing similar charges, will also be represented by solicitors when their cases come to court.

Paula Lishman, formerly of R.R. 2, Claremont and now of Blackstock, produces beautiful fur-knit fashions including coats, hats, vests, jackets, muffs, scarves and leg-warmers. The majority of items are sold in the United States and

the remainder in Japan and Europe. Paula employs up to 50 people. She carries on her business in a renovated schoolhouse. Here she models one of her own creations.

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