

# Simplicity marks life of local couple

One of the nicest things about writing is that you get to interview interesting people and ask them all sorts of questions that are really none of your business, and they still don't ask you to leave.

Last week I met a fascinating couple who have been happily married for 60 years and whose warm, welcome, old-fashioned courtesy and canny insights restored my flagging faith in human nature.

When I arrived at their beautiful old farmhouse, I admired it extravagantly.

The husband, who had lived there all his life, cheerfully described the mid-19th Century building as "a bit of a dump really" and admitted that he was stumped when "city folk" made such a fuss over it.

As far as he was concerned it was simply a roof over his head.

I asked him about his beautiful woodwork, and he was equally dismissive of his considerable talent.

"I'm not very proud of what I do, but a lot of people seem to think it's acceptable." It was just that people nowadays liked almost anything as long as it was hand made, he explained.

None of this was said apologetically or with false modesty; it was, for him, a simple statement of fact.

He talked about his school days and how, even then, you were defined by what you wore.

The affluent parents would send their children to school in tailor-made clothes, he said,



kate's corner

kate gilderdale

while the poorer kids had to make do with denim overalls and a lot of teasing.

He and his wife were quietly amused that nowadays only denim would do, the more battered and ripped the better.

Unnecessary possessions seemed unimportant to both of them; she had recently won a baking contest for which she'd used a rolling pin received at her pre-wedding shower more than 60 years earlier.

The new one which was presented to her as Grand Champi-

on Apple Pie Baker was still carefully wrapped up, and I got the feeling that it would never actually be used.

Conservation is in these days; but these two have been practising it without a second thought all their lives.

In the fall, he takes a stainless steel spoon, sharpens the edge and uses it to cut out the pulp from the small gourds that grow on the farm.

When they're completely smooth, he leaves them to dry in his work room and then var-

nishes them. He gives them away or keeps them as decorative containers.

He has made dozens of walking sticks from tree branches whose shapes take his eye and finished them to retain the natural contours of the original wood.

He doesn't know why he makes them, but it obviously gives him great pleasure.

As I took my leave, he presented me with a newly-dried gourd, the walking stick I most admired, and a trunkful of squash.

In a week which was blighted by more than its share of sad news, this charming couple provided a welcome touch of hope, gentle humor and kindness.

## Claremont Lioness Club keeping busy

The Claremont Lioness club is in scary form these days for its Scarecrow Contest, held in the village to promote a sense of community during the hairy, scary days of Halloween.

The Claremont Lioness group, which has been in existence for 12 years, is also active in a number of other community events, and always welcomes new members.

Currently, there are 11 active members in the Claremont club, which hosts an annual Halloween party for local children, as well as a monthly Lions Club dinner.

Other events the Lioness group is involved in include a home decoration contest during the Christmas season, the Christmas concert, bingoes and skating parties during the annual winter carnival, and a strawberry social every June.

For this year's Scarecrow Contest, cash prizes will be awarded to residents who design the best creations.

Meanwhile, the Claremont Lioness Club distributes its Yellow Page to newcomers in the village which lists groups and businesses in the area, and donates each year to a number of charitable causes.

The club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Claremont Community Hall. Anyone interested in attending a meeting or joining the Lioness club is welcome.

For more information, call 649-2744 or 649-2342.



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## CORRECTION NOTICE

RE: MacIVER DODGE AD

(Appeared in 'Super Wheels' Section published Wed., Oct. 24, 1990)

10.9% financing is available on selected models only.

The 48 month payment prices advertised are based on Gold Key Lease Plans and are not based on conventional financing.

We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

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