

Super achiever does everything but sit still

By CORINNE ABATT

The Orchard Lake home of Lois and Ernie Scott is like a continuous one-woman art and crafts show.

No matter where you turn, what wall or corner you face, Mrs. Scott's work is there—tastefully and interestingly displayed.

She is perhaps the epitome of what all readers of Scott publications hope to become.

Some years back when Ernie Scott was in the advertising business he noted that there were only two

national magazines in which to place ads for ceramic materials, and one of them was floundering. He and his wife decided to gamble—they would publish a national magazine by ceramists and for ceramists. He became publisher and his wife managing editor, positions which they both still hold. The Livonia-based company has flourished and grown considerably since that initial leap into the unknown.

"Ceramic Arts & Crafts" comes out monthly, and a quarterly publication, "Ceramic Teaching Projects & Trade News" is going well along with a num-

ber of books on related subjects.

And Mrs. Scott has expanded her own art world across many borders. Her high level of competence goes from macramé, weaving, spinning, china painting, oil painting, water color, sewing, natural dyeing, sculpturing, glass bending, needlepoint, embroidery to wheel ceramics, knitting, crocheting and writing.

She designs and crafts furs, designs and makes her clothes—just about anything that falls into arts and crafts she has tried and mastered.

The secret to all of this activity, in addition to skill, is the lady's seemingly unlimited source of energy.

"I'm never still for a minute and I'm never idle," she said hoping to explain the incredible production.

"I do any sewing late in the evening when I'm tired and watching TV," her longtime friend Jane Krebaum verified that Lois Scott is always working on a project—saying that even during an evening with friends Mrs. Scott will bring her sewing or another portable project.

Mrs. Krebaum recalls the summer day she found her friend in the yard with steaming pots of dye—she was spinning, weaving and stirring "pots of gypsy" (dye) all at the same time.

Another secret to success is so many fields in her record keeping and documentation. She has extensive files and notebooks on the things she does. One notebook, for instance, contains her formulas for dyeing wool from natural materials—which naturally, she collects herself. Along with the recipes, she has samples of various materials to show how each takes the dye as well as notations on the flowers or herbs the dyes they were picked, dried and used. The same flower picked in June and again in September will color differently.

"You can't go back and repeat it if you don't keep a record," she said.

Another notebook, complete with fiber samples, is a color code of the way her dyed fibers mix.

When-camel hair and wool or wool and silk of various colors are spun together they form particular combinations. For instance, Mrs. Scott flipped to a page showing natural gray wool spun with a shade of red that came out looking like a Harris tweed. She particularly likes to spin and weave the wool for a suit or dress, use one of the solid colors for a trim, pick up the colors for an embroidered design for a complimenting blouse and even do a macramé belt from the same yarn.

She is making herself a black mink boa, but it will have white mink flowers sewn in the black, much like wood inlay. She bought a plain black purse which she is covering in black mink and intends to pair these two with an all black ensemble to set them off.

For a seven-year period Mrs. Scott said she was the only one in the firm who traveled. While she does less now than before, she will be going to India next month to prepare for an issue of the quarterly on India and from time to time to other countries to gather material and ideas.

She continues to edit all the copy for publication, has in the past been a ghost writer and now has some grandchildren who love the stories and songs she writes for them.

Mrs. Scott is not one to live in a world created for her for someone else. She jumps in and customizes it to her artistic specifications and manages to carry her organizational talents, her art and craft skills and an incredible eye for color and detail readily from one area of concentration to another.

Photos by Cynthia Abatt



Well-documented notebooks are one of the keys to Lois Scott's creative output. Another is incredible, raw energy.



A favorite for buffet entertaining, this ceramic piece is as close as possible to a real cabbage color. The top lifts off to reveal a serving piece. Mrs. Scott rolled out the clay with a rolling pin and prayed a lot when it was placed in the kiln.

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