

# A book for everybody with a doll memory

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Author Iris Sanderson Jones describes her story of dolls in the United States and Canada "like a giant jigsaw puzzle slowly pieced together with the help of several hundred museums and doll collectors." Research did not come easy for the Farmington woman's book, "Early North American Dollmaking," which contains a history of dolls from primitive man through mid-nineteenth century when dolls were first manufactured in the United States.

"I found a lot of books written by doll collectors for doll collectors and a lot of how-to books but no history," she said.

During research she found a museum in Rochester, N. Y. with 27,000 American dolls "with absolutely no information on any of them."

In a search through diaries she discovered that "the people who wrote diaries were the people who could write and they apparently were not the people who were making dolls."

SO FAR AS SHE, and her publisher, ISI Productions in San Francisco, know, the book is the first of its kind.

The idea stemmed from stumbling upon the fact that there were long waiting lists of persons who wanted to get into Greenfield Village craft classes and the whole overall revival of learning ancient crafts.

From there she gleaned that doll collecting is one of the most widespread hobbies in the world and collectors were often adding their own hand-crafted dolls to personal collections.

Bears, Weiss, or Smokey the Bear, or Snuggly Temple dolls are not a part of Mrs. Jones' book.

She agrees in only on the women of early North America who wanted to give her child a doll.

If she didn't happen to live on a main route where a caravan happened to be passing, she had to make one, she said.

Depending on where she lived, and what was immediately available, she used whatever materials were on hand.

If she lived in Massachusetts she probably made a cornucopia doll, in Montreal, a doll from a tree branch in Pennsylvania, an apple head doll, in Georgia, a doll made from a darning egg.

Mrs. Jones tells these stories in fictional series based on fact.

THE SIGNIFICATION of that entire section of the book is that a doll can be made out of absolutely anything: twigs, grass, wood, even spoons, clothes pegs, milk, potatoes, cloth, even handkerchiefs.

She begins her book with dolls made by the first Indians and Eskimos in North America. She continues with dolls that children make, dolls that adults make, and concludes with instructions for making 13 dolls from natural, inexpensive materials.

As for the dolls children make, she says, "They project their imagination on the subject."

As for dolls adults make, she says, "They take something in the adult world and make it smaller."

The big difference is that "the children will produce and be satisfied with something an adult would not be satisfied with."

MRS. JONES began her writing career with a newspaper she wrote for her neighborhood in Vancouver, Canada when she was 16.

She followed this with summer jobs in newspaper offices beginning at the age of

18, then for her college newspaper where she met her husband, Micky.

Since then she has done literally hundreds of features for magazines and newspapers, some with her husband working as a writer and photographer team.

She is a member of the American Society of Journalists and Authors, Women in Communication, Detroit Women Writers and Midwest Travel Writers.

"Early North American Dollmaking" is her first book. Photographs in the book are the work of her husband.

Art work in the book is done by Catherine Clator-Becker, a Birmingham resident who took her master of fine arts degree in printmaking from Wayne State University and now teaches drawing there.

The book is being distributed in the United States by Charles Scribner's Sons and is in bookstores now throughout the metropolitan area.



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IRIS SANDERSON JONES



A drawing from "Early North American Dollmaking," done by Birmingham artist Catherine Clator-Becker.

## New term, new roster at Community Center

Farmington Community Center's winter program is ready to begin in January, with a smattering of new offerings and some old favorites back for another term. Registration begins at 10 a.m. Jan. 6, when participants may drop in at the center, or call 677-8404. All classes are filled on a first-come first-served basis, with registration continuing until class loads are full.

Film buffs will applaud a new Saturday night feature when Louise Seader, movie critic for the Observer & Eccentric, will show four outstanding feature-length films.

Followed by discussion over coffee.

"The Black Windmill," with Michael Caine and Donald Pleasance; "Southern Star," with George Segal, Orson Welles and Ursula Andress; Bruce Dern in "Silent Running," and "Summer Wishes, Winter Dreams," starring Joanne Woodward and Sylvia Sydney are the movie selections.

All provide a wide range of conflict and adventure for meaty discussion.

ANOTHER NEWCOMER to the center is

Iris Jones, a travel columnist with hundreds of articles published, who will share her knowledge of writing and publication techniques. She calls her class a "Round Table Writers' Workshop."

Wine tasting with Joseph Gane will be a three-session experiment, using preferred wines, both domestic and European.

Tile painting on metal or wood, including articles of furniture, can be done effectively with little experience, said Betty Jackson, who heads those classes.

Niki Fritz will conduct a jewelry class in which all basic procedures will be covered: sawing, soldering, filing, bending, chain making, and stone setting.

Mary McIndoe calls her pottery class "Naturally Stoneware," and will place emphasis on using natural materials to achieve a high fire finish on mirror frames, candleholders, wind chimes and planters.

Batik, the wax resist method of fabric design, can be used to produce completely original purses, clothing, wall hangings, or whatever fancy dictates, with Denise McIney instructing.

Roe Choma will conduct an antiques seminar, which will cover china, silver, art glass, jewelry, primitives and dolls. Investment aspects will also be explored by participants in the seminar.

A course in "Parenting," led by Joyce Paape and Gloria Strazewski, will help uncover how attitudes are structured by upbringing and how parenthood can be a more comfortable occupation.

THIS SEASON'S stock market class with William Pilchak will go back to the basics and will be tailored to meet the needs of its members with particular attention to investment objectives.

Teens with some training in modeling can learn additional make-up and style show techniques from Marlene Coffey in Modeling II. Modeling I will take all newcomers.

Tattooing, in all its varieties, will be offered by Edith Walker.

For the dance-minded, a highly popular disco class will be repeated, as well as a ballroom dancing class, taught by Ricky Dove. Or, adults may join a tap dancing class this season with Shirley St. Mary.

With a nod toward spring, "Fly Tying and Fly Fishing for Trout" will be taught by Dale Crawford. Members of this class will construct their own rods at a fraction of their retail cost, and learn the tricks of fly tying.



Chuck and Helga Mann take tips on ballroom dancing from Ricky Dove, a popular dance instructor in the center.



Kathleen McKenna gives her tap shoes a weekly workout in the center with instructor Shirley St. Mary. A new class for beginners, and another one for adults will be offered this winter.



Marquetry, the art of inlaying wood with patterns and designs, will be the subject of a two-session winter workshop in Farmington.

Community Center. Betty Jackson displays some of the impressive results that can be achieved even by the beginner.