

Note the labels on the boxes. They are detailed to replicate life size labels. (Staff photo)



Down to the finest detail, hobbyists interested in constructing doll house furniture can go wild. Rooms can be completely coordinated with colors and period furniture. Even the wallpaper can be chosen especially for a room. The lights work, too. (Staff photo)

## Fantasy World of small furniture is big hobby

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Victorian chairs offer opportunities to spend a cozy afternoon in their maroon warmth. A fieldstone mantel holds promise of glowing fires for autumn evenings.

In the small world of Country Miniatures almost any dream can come through without the aid of wishing on a star.

All the prospective miniature collector needs is a kit, patience and the knack for falling in love with tiny reproductions of expensive antique furniture adults dream of owning.

"It's living out a fantasy," said Cindy Wile, partner in the miniature shop which recently opened in the Village Mall, Grand River near Farmington Road.

"You can decorate as you like to. You can pick the most expensive wall paper and it costs only \$3 for a room. You can pick the most expensive couch and there aren't any children to mess it up."

"It's a very organized world." Together with her husband Jim and friends Dee and Ed Rimer, Mrs. Wile runs the shop in a comfortable down home style. The shop itself is a fantasy come true for Mrs. Wile and Mrs. Rimer.

For several years they pored over miniature furniture catalogs and

dreamed of opening their own shop. Finally after an evening devoted to wistfully looking through another catalog, someone suggested they start their own shop.

THAT WAS the impetus they needed. "We sent away for catalogs long enough," Mrs. Wile decided.

After a year of talking about their plans, the two women spent the last few months before their opening day staying up until 2 a.m. discussing their shopping list for the new store.

Once they opened, they put in a few more late nights arranging the small furniture in the store.

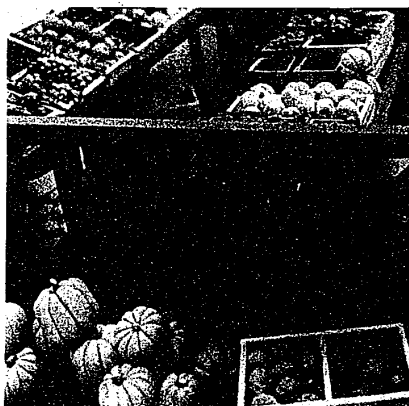
"Inventory. It's hard to take inventory of so many small pieces," Mrs. Rimer chuckled.

Much of their preparation time was spent searching out suppliers that other stores didn't use.

The expertise they needed to run a business was honed in the antique trade. Mrs. Rimer and her husband still operate their shop, "Dee's Antiques," on 10 Mile between Middle Belt and Inkster.

Mrs. Wile kept an antique booth in various flea markets. She cheerfully confessed she would often keep the re-

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An intriguing aspect of this hobby are the fruits and vegetables. Although they look real, they are actually made of bread dough. (Staff photo)



With the miniatures in the background, Dee Rimer (left) and Cindy Wile go through the inventory of the hundreds of little objects which make up their store. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)

## THE INSIDE \* ANGLE

JUST WHEN YOU thought it was a safe bet that Angles would never return to its favorite spot next to the ad on page 3A, IA gleefully makes its fall return. For the past month Angles has been taking a much needed vacation on beautiful Square Lake, playground of geometric figures. It's nice to be back in Farmington for the election and hayfever season. In keeping with the spirit of the new season, Angles salutes its readers with a common fall greeting: KEERCHREW, Gesundheit.

PERUSING through some back issues recently, Angles came upon an error it wishes to rectify. (Better late than never, you know.) In the story "Youth Center's popularity is FYA's expansion headache," the wrong telephone number was included. The correct number is 476-3840 for those who want to volunteer time to the center. The center is receiving calls from 80-90 youths a day. That was a larger number than anticipated when the Farmington Youth Assistance made out its summer of '79 budget.

FARMINGTON, say hello to an old friend who misses you. For many years in the old Farmington Enterprise, Marie Long wrote a column called "Local News." Now Mrs. Long needs some local news of her own. She called IA and asked it to pass along her new address: Beverly Manor Convalescent Center, 24500 Meadowbrook Road, Novi 48050. Mrs. Long, for those of you who do remember these things, was the 1974 Sequicentennial Queen in our city.

As Dean Martin used to say to his Goldiggers on TV, "Just keep those cards and letters coming."

BY THE WAY, Mrs. Long's granddaughter, Tracy Karp, married Stanley Mach in July. Congratulations (belated but heartfelt) from IA as well as an appropriate bouquet: ♡♡♡♡

IT'S THE PITTS That's the key to Anita Chermello's gardening success. The Farmington Hills resident planted a peach pit in her back yard about five or six years ago. For the past three seasons, the tree has been bearing cling and freestone peaches. How's that for a green thumb?

CHILD FIND staff members are looking for handicapped pre-school age children to place in fall classes that will give them a head start in getting ready for kindergarten. The program will take children from infancy to 5 years old with mental or physical handicaps which can be aided before they enter regular classes. Staff members can be reached by calling Fairview Early Childhood Center at 626-8335.

THAT OLD Players Barn on Twelve Mile in Farmington Hills was hoppin' recently when the Farmington Players combined an open house with

the presentation of an old-time melodrama. Before you can sneer "Curses, foiled again," the Players added six new members and moved off to summer hiatus. In the fall the Players will cast their presentation of "Prisoner of Second Avenue."

AHHH, AUTUMN: it's the time of year when thoughts turn toward football and antique hunting. Angles doesn't know Pauline Work's thoughts about the latest gridiron champs but Ms. Work is an expert when it comes to antiques. Recently, Ms. Work, who's been participating in antique shows around Farmington for years, was a hostess for the international convention of Associated Antique Dealers of America in Greenfield Village. That's quite an honor, according to proud and pleased daughter Jackie, who is following in the antique expert footsteps of her mother and grandmother.

IN PREPARATION for the upcoming primary election circular madness, Farmington Postmaster Ken B. Harris reminds all candidates and their committees that political circulars can't be placed or attached to a customer's mailbox unless postage is paid. Unpaid circulars found inside a mailbox or attached to the box will be picked up by the postal carrier and the distributors will be billed for the proper postage. Continued violations will be reported to the Postal Inspection Service for further action. Advertising circulars are also covered under this regulation. (At first Angles was sure the regulation was made to keep candidates from passing out bound volumes containing their collected speeches and writings. Then, on second thought, there's always the odd candidate who could print his (or her) collected thoughts on a 15 cent stamp.)

YOUNG FASHIONABLES can catch up on the latest trends at 7 p.m., Sept. 19 in the Farmington Hills Community Library on Twelve Mile. Fashions will be provided by Brands in the Downtown Farmington Center. The library's Young Adult Department is sponsoring the event. There is no charge for the show. (Haute couture for the blue jeans set?)

ATTENTION book lovers of the area: American Association of University Women (AAUW) is back with their used book sale. The 12th annual sale is scheduled for the Livonia Mall during regular shopping hours on Sept. 20-23. About 10 tons of books were moved from their storage at Bond School to the mall with the help of Community Living Center residents and employees of New Horizons. (OK book lovers: ready, set, read.)

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