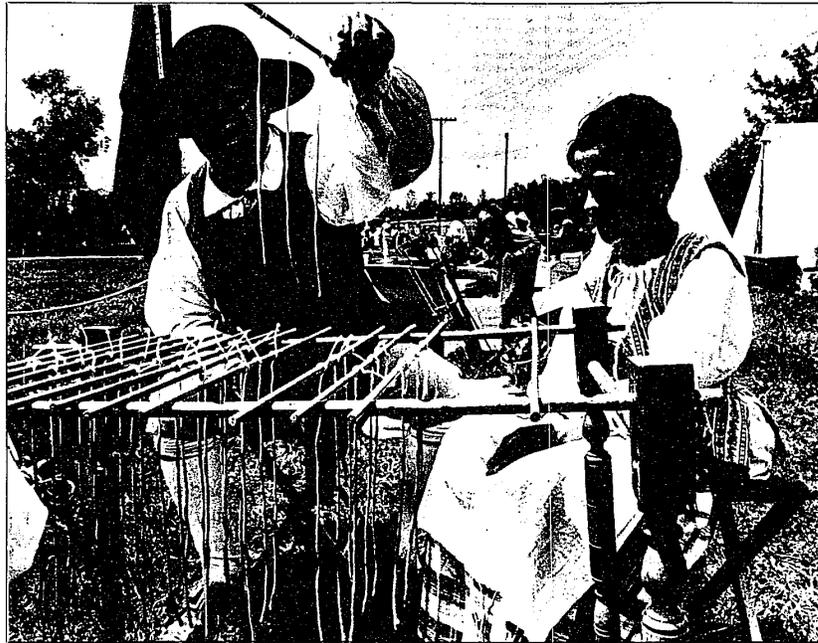


As she gets an 18th century drink, Carol Bulgarelli reveals her 20th century Snoopy watch.



Greg Bulgarelli of New Baltimore and his daughter, Cara, make candles during the Heritage Festival in Rochester.

Weekends in another century

Story: KATHY PARRISH
Photos: DAVID FRANK

His mother thinks he's a bit old to play "cowboys and Indians."

"It happens to be Revolutionary War games," insists Tim Barkhaus, who forsakes his Allen Park home every weekend for the rough life of an 18th century soldier.

As part of Campeau's Company, he and 90 other Detroit area residents travel around Michigan and to nearby states re-enacting the Revolutionary War. With families in tow, they live as much as possible like French farmers fighting the British in the late 1700s.

"It's a 24-hour history lesson," says Barbara Bulgarelli, whose New Baltimore neighbors have been surprised to find her family making soap and tanning hides in the backyard.

One of 32 Revolutionary War units belonging to the five state North West Territories Alliance, Campeau's Company started out in 1974 as a discussion group. With the Bicentennial celebration, it expanded into an outdoor display and teaching group.

Because the original founders had large families, the company is one of the few military encamp-

ments which include wives and children in the travels.

"IT'S A GREAT life for kids," said Carol Hines of Garden City. Her family became involved when her oldest daughter became a lifer in the group.

"They can run around, fish and not wash."

The expeditions start in May and run through October, with more hardy members making winter rendezvous in teepees.

An important part of the weekend outings are bicentennial re-enactments, which include battles. "Around the campfire, the men discuss why someone lost and plan the next day's battle," said Mrs. Bulgarelli.

But the group's main goal is to share information about life in the 18th century. They have researched thoroughly militia units which existed around Detroit in 1779, the time period the group has chosen.

Many members have chosen identities which agree with their family background. Ken and Carol Hines, a Garden City firefighter and nurse, portray a French voyageur and his Indian wife.

"We are Indian. I'm part Sioux and he's part Cherokee," said Mrs. Hines, whose family has been with the group four years.

"As a French voyageur it would have been in character for him to have an Indian wife. It also would have been in character for him to have many wives — but he doesn't."

Ron and Mary Ann Rees of Monroe sell spinning wheels in both the 18th and 20th centuries.

"WE DO WHAT we like to do," said Mrs. Rees, one of the few merchants with the group. "They all have our spinning wheels."

At events like the recent Heritage Festival in Rochester and the coming Old French Town Days in Monroe, the families spend most of the weekend demonstrating crafts. Their variety of skills include lace making, rug hooking, soap making, candle dipping, carpentry, spinning and weaving.

"It's a real delight to work with children, who have never seen wool from a sheep. It's fun to give them a new dimension," said Nancy Davidson of Warren, who enjoys the crafts herself.

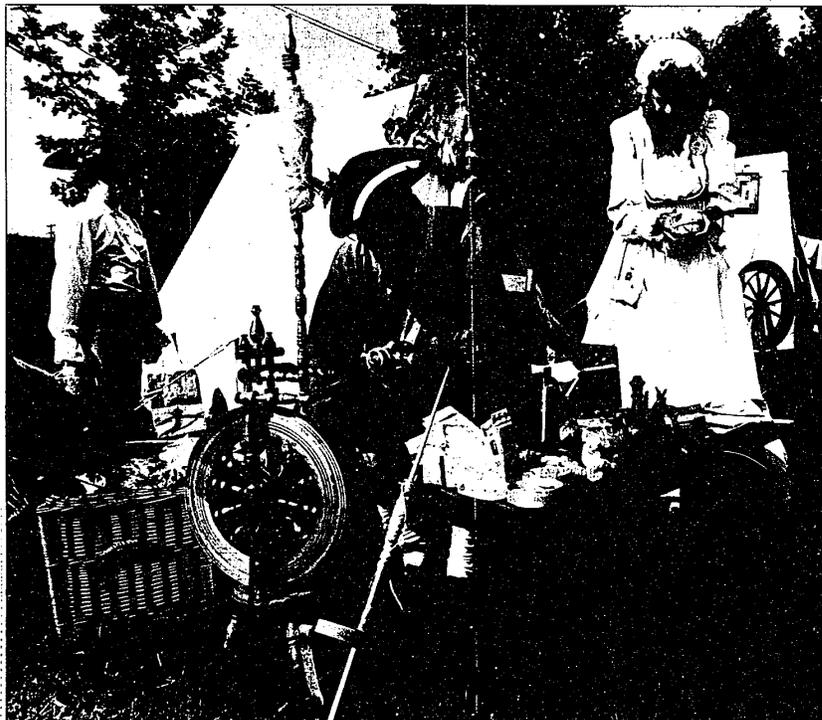
"How often do you get to sit all day and do crafts?"

Even everyday chores become history lessons. A turkey cooking on a tripod draws large crowds at area festivals. "You'd think Bob Hope was telling

(Continued on Page 4C)



Ken Hines checks his rifle after firing. The Garden City firefighter plays the part of a French voyageur.



On their weekend jaunts with Campeau's Company — as well as during the week — Ron and Mary Ann Rees of Monroe sell spinning wheels. Son Chris, 11, helps demonstrate their wares.