

Antiques market helps the handicapped help themselves

By LORAIN MCCLISH

The 1981 Antiques Market and Sale will be staged Friday through Monday, Nov. 7-10 in Dearborn's Fairlane Manor.

The event is sponsored annually by Junior Group League-Goodwill to raise money to help the handicapped help themselves.

"It's our biggest fund-raiser," said Mary Jane Watkins, a Farmington Hills resident and co-chairman of the sale. "We work all year on this. The chairmen of the 1981 sale will start their job the day this sale closes."

The 350 members of Junior Group League-Goodwill are now working toward the \$2-million mark in money raised through the market days that offer antiques and a country store of homemade foods and handmade items.

A total of 58 dealers will be exhibiting quality antiques from the 18th and 19th century. The list runs from primitives to nautical accessories, from toys to pewter and tin.

"Many of them are specialists," Mrs. Watkins said. "One shop specializes only in antique leaded glass. Another woman's entire booth will be stocked only with candlesticks."

SOMETHING NEW for the market this year is the Monday Specials. The firm of Stalker & Boos, Inc. will have representatives on hand to appraise antiques. And the House of Renew from Birmingham will have representatives to repair chipped glassware.

Both firms will be on the show floor from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday only. The Goodwill booth set up during market days stocks items that are collected by Goodwill throughout the year, then refurbished by the members to go up for sale.

"We call that committee our strippers," Mrs. Watkins said, speaking of the women who strip down furniture, paint, varnish and revamp the antiques, collectibles and other items of quality for the market days.

The Country Store will carry some unique Christmas ornaments this year, along with candies, cheeses and nuts, homemade jams, jellies, pickles, salad dressings and pastries.

"WE'RE NOT a social group," Mrs. Watkins said. "The purpose of being a member is to work. We netted \$72,000 on our sale last year which put us over the \$1 million mark in money we've given to League-Goodwill."

Though the group was founded as a money-raising arm of the organization, and that remains its basic purpose, many of the members work in varying capacities directly with the people they serve in the St. Ambrose and Taylor-Bodkin homes.

The homes are halfway houses for mentally handicapped men and women working their way to self-sufficiency, which the Junior Group League-Goodwill supports.

"Most of our money goes for the little things that make life so much easier, things that the league just doesn't have in its budget," Mrs. Watkins said.

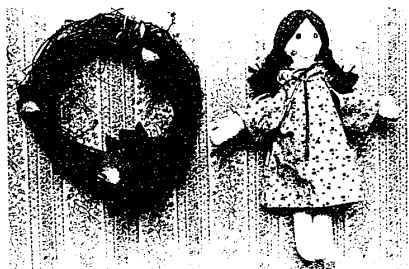
The little things this past year included some remodeling, modernizing a phone system, and updating bathroom facilities for the handicapped, in both the Brush Street and Ash Street Goodwill plants.

THE MARKET opens with an invitational champagne preview from 7-10 p.m. Friday. Donation is \$20 with advance tickets only.

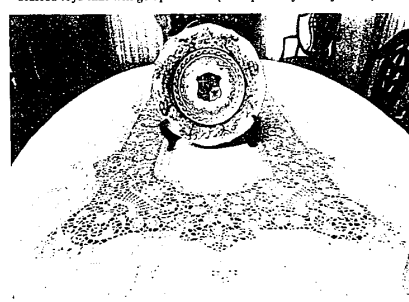
Fairlane Manor is at 19000 Hubbard Drive, Dearborn.



Mary Jane Watkins takes to her job as chairwoman of the Antique Market naturally. The mail scale in her Farmington Hills home once served in a Massachusetts railroad station. The Bible and portrait are both family heirlooms. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)



The market's country store will carry everything from homemade pickles to unique Christmas ornaments. The holiday wreath at left is made from fresh grape vines. The doll is one of many one-of-a-kind stuffed toys that will go up for sale. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)



Six Capri diMonte plates from the early 19th century and a Belgium linen banquet cloth with 12 matching napkins are but two of the dozen antique items in the antique market's Wishing Well. The Wishing Well drawing will be held Sunday afternoon. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Computer service opens

By LORAIN MCCLISH

Pam Prichard, Miss Farmington in 1978, is now the owner and operator of Farmington Computer Service, the first service of its kind in the area, at 23829 Liberty Street.

She caters to small businesses doing payroll-check writing, financial statements for CPAs and mailing labels. She says also can design any kind of a computer program to meet an individual firm's needs.

Ms. Prichard studied accounting at Oakland Community College, but says most of her knowledge came from on-the-job-training, stemming from working with accountants since high school.

"I was never a problem for me. I enjoy it," she said. "But I never knew how much there was in opening up my own company. I am my own salesman, my own promotional man and jack-of-all-trades. I do everything myself and can't see a weekend off ahead of me for a long while."

EVEN SO, she says she is anxious for her business, which is in effect working out someone else's problems, to grow. "I know I've benefited quite a few businesses by saving them the worry of doing what I can do well and for less money," she said. "If I didn't believe that I wouldn't be in the business."

"I'm working now to destroy the myth that the computer is costly. I have one client with 130 employees

that cost him 30 hours to do his payroll. I can do it in four hours and I'm saving him money."

When Ms. Prichard opened Farmington Computer Service she thought she would be doing only financial statements and payrolls, but has been approached since to design individual programs.

One of those programs involved mailing labels, and she now has 1,200 addresses in southeastern Michigan in a file that has turned out to be useful to several clients. That is now a regular part of her service and she is ready to design more programs when the requests come.

"I don't think there is anyone else in town who is doing that," she said.

MS. PRICHARD says she isn't too sure she would have been capable of opening up her own business if it hadn't been for the experience she gained while she was competing in the Miss Farmington and Miss Michigan pageants.

"Being a salesperson or being competitive was certainly a long way from where I was when I was in high school," she said. "I just studied and worked part time and went to dance class."

The pageants taught me so much about myself, and then there I was competing."

She competed well enough that year to take the first runner-up position in



PAM PRICHARD

the Miss Michigan Pageant, with its poise, beauty, brains and talent requisites.

She hasn't had too much time of late for dancing, which helped her tally up those judges' points, but she has registered for workouts at the ballet barre again because she says it's the best way she knows to release stress.

"I'm not sorry I opted for my own business instead of a 9-to-5 job," she said. "My hope is to be so busy I'll be hiring people and one day doing my own payroll."

Mary Samples takes BPW award honors

Mary Samples, an employee of Trane Co. of Farmington for the past 15 years, was honored with the distinguished woman award from Farmington Business and Professional Women's Club for the year.

The award was given to one of the members in each of the organization's District 9 to mark National Business Women's Week. The awards dinner was given in Botolph Inn.

Mrs. Samples has been a member of the local club for the past eight years and its president for the 1974-76 seasons. When she took the post of membership chairman from 1976-80, the

club's membership increased by 50 percent.

She has served as editor of the club's monthly newsletter and served as treasurer of the District 9 BPW clubs for two years.

Mrs. Samples will be moving to Florida soon but she will be taking her BPW membership with her where she says she will continue to actively support the objectives of the group's national federation.

She and her husband have opened a patio and pool furniture store in Nokemia, Fla., near Sarasota.



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ideas

ROUND			REGULAR	SALE
QUANTITY	5	30" round w/chrome base	\$174.00	\$113.
	5	36" round w/maple base	\$232.50	\$151.
	7	42" round w/maple base	\$302.50	\$197.
	7	48" round w/maple base	\$352.50	\$229.

RECTANGLE			REGULAR	SALE
QUANTITY	4	24"x60" w/maple counterheight trestle	\$255.00	\$166.
	2	30"x48" w/maple trestle	\$255.00	\$166.
	3	30"x60" w/maple trestle	\$295.00	\$192.
	6	36"x60" w/maple trestle	\$312.50	\$203.
	3	36"x72" w/maple trestle	\$352.50	\$229.

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