

Arts and Crafts show on tap

By Kathleen Moran
staff writer

It wasn't so much a question of whether to buy as what to buy as Christmas shoppers armed with their lists jammed the 18th annual Hand and Eye Show Saturday.

And buy they did. Some of the more than 200 exhibitors were nearly sold out by the end of the all-day show.

Behind the layers of people were tables filled with Christmas wreaths made of herbs and dried flowers, hand-sewn raggedy Ann dolls, hand-tooled wooden trunks and trunks, brightly-painted children's mirrors, unique hand puppets — more beautiful items and unusual crafts than many shoppers could take in.

More than one shopper was overheard remarking on finding gifts that were "just perfect" for friends and relatives, said Mary Meyer, vice president of the Troy Historical Society which sponsors the show. Others were there to find collectibles — folk art, according to Meyer.

Each year its reputation has grown, to the point that this year the historical society estimates nearly 10,000 people came by in an eight-hour span. "A long line of people were there longing to get in before 9 a.m.," said Allison Nunney, who handled publicity. "I think people were all very pleased with what was sold."

THE EXHIBIT is Troy's first juried arts and craft show and the fact that exhibitors are screened first has guaranteed quality items and helped build the reputation of the show, said Meyer.

She credited its success on the exhibitors. "The success is so credit to us, if you don't have good crafts, people won't come back. They (the crafts people) do absolutely fantastic things. We heard

nothing but good things about the quality of items for sale."

The show is never wanting for exhibitors. About 98 percent will be back next year, plus others have indicated they'd like their work considered for inclusion.

"We're growing by leaps and bounds," said Meyer.

This year, parking wasn't a problem for those who used a shuttle bus set up between the Troy Center office building and Troy High School. "This is the way to do it," remarked one shopper heavily laden with Christmas presents as she hopped the bus for a quick ride over to her car.

OTHERS, HOWEVER, combed the lots at Troy High looking for parking and then fanned out to park in a church lot across the street or front yards of homes on Livonia.

The fair is a major undertaking which takes nearly nine months to plan. "We started in February this year," said Meyer.

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Unusual gifts can be found everywhere at the show — after shoppers elbowed through the crowds to the

booths. The exhibit proved a fertile shopping ground for visitors in search of Christmas gifts.



Which to buy, not whether to buy, was the question pondered by Mary Hastings as she examined two photographs.

Professional help needed

The help of professionals is needed by Farmington Youth Assistance (FYA). The service organization is sponsored by the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, Oakland County Juvenile Court and Farmington School District.

Its aim is to reduce juvenile delinquency and enhance family life.

Interested lawyers, teachers, CPAs and those with leadership qualities are asked to contact the FYA office, 478-3840.

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