

Their 'need to create' gives birth to shop

By LORAIN McCLISH

Two neighbors who became "tired of store hopping all over the place" for arts and crafts materials decided that Farmington was in need of a new shop, and this week opened up "This and That" for those who turn an artsy crafty hand.

"I once went to three dime stores looking for three different colors of Swiss ribbon and bought one color in each store," said Johanna Thomas.

"I've shopped in Birmingham, Northville and Plymouth to get all the supplies I needed for just one tinsel painting class," said Lynn Kocembo.

The neighbors and partners are well versed in the ways of craft classes. Each has been taking lessons from the Farmington Community Center, or high school adult education classes, or in private homes for long periods of time and each was adamant that the shop they were planning would have a strong assortment of "everything for everybody."

THIS AND THAT, located in the Village Mall, was in the planning stage for a little over a year. But the big push came just in the past few weeks so the shop's opening would coincide with the open-

ing of craft classes all over the city this fall.

"We had to find out what all the craft classes were doing this fall, particularly at the Community Center. They offer so much over there we had to be ready for them," Mrs. Thomas said.

During the making of the store, big sisters baby-sat for the little ones and brought in lunches and dinners. Husbands worked as painters and carpenters.

IF THE WOMEN had any reservations at all as they were in the throes of going into their first business venture, they were countered by their husbands.

"When you have just spent \$2,000 and what you have to show for it is thousands of bags of sequins, it gets a little scary," but, Mrs. Thomas said, speaking of her husband, "Earl was always my biggest morale booster."

When Mrs. Kocembo had any doubts, she quoted her husband as saying, "Just do it. Don't stand there thinking about it. Do it."

And now that they are doing it, they have both learned there are craft materials they didn't know existed.

Before the "We're Open" sign was up on the door at 23612 Farmington Rd., one woman stopped in to ask for a tack cloth, used in de-

coupaging; another asked for burlap ribbon.

"I didn't know there were such things but we'll get them. We said we wanted to be a complete store and that's what we'll be," Mrs. Thomas said.

According to Mrs. Thomas, the crafts the women had busied themselves with prior to the opening of the shop manifested "a need to create in both of us, I guess. We were both forever doing it."

HER TALENTS in this line were evident in any number of dinner dances and fund raising affairs for Our Lady of Mercy High School and Our Lady of Sorrows Church where she has served over and again as decorations chairman.

Mrs. Kocembo's creative talents came out mostly in homemaking, with baking, canning and gardening achievements.

In addition to carrying arts and crafts supplies in This and That, the partners have lined up several local women to come into the shop to give both afternoon and evening craft classes.

Ellen Wallis will give macrame lessons there, Julie Darian will offer a class in making cornhusk dolls. And Sally Hargreaves will give straw flower class instructions.



New shop owners Johanna Thomas and Lynn Kocembo

Members ready varied crafts for October garden club show

The members of the Farmington Garden Club are putting the finishing touches on a variety of crafts ranging from cornhusk dolls to Christmas decorations to prepare for an upcoming event.

The club will sponsor a salad luncheon and craft demonstration on Oct. 7 in Nardin Park Methodist Church, 29887 Eleven Mile, between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake. The event will begin at 10 a.m.

Guests may purchase finished products, or learn from the demonstrators how it's done and put together their

own.

They can learn how to make cornhusk dolls, wreaths, flowers, Williamsburg dried flower arrangements, citrus skin flowers, antiqued lace for trim, macrame decorations, as well as a number of uses for pinecones and potpourri.

There will be two seatings for lunch, one at 11:30 and the other at 12:45.

Tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased from Mrs. John Baessler, 23900 Pickett, by calling 474-2861.



Harriet Rheume uses toothpicks, scissors and a knife to carve out the intricacies of a rose from a grapefruit rind. She is one of a dozen Farmington Garden Club members who will be demonstrating special skills in turning natural materials into home accessories when the club holds its fall craft show.

EVERT PHOTOS