

50 artists and craftsmen set to market their wares

By LORRAINE McCLISH

Claudia Heinrich heads the Farmington Area Jaycee Auxiliary Arts and Crafts Sale this spring that will bring together more than 50 artists and craftsmen in Farmington High School on March 18.

The show and sale is the fifth of its kind, held twice a year to give artists and handicrafters a market for their creations.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Jaycees will furnish light refreshments and local Girl Scouts will baby sit for 25 cents.

Mrs. Heinrich follows the format set by the show's chairmen that preceded her, bringing a wide variety of arts and crafts to the show.

As word of the show has spread, so has the number of persons who request table space in the next showroom.

NEW TO THE show this year is woodcrafter Paul Hoffmeyer, who exhibited his wood pieces for the first time to the public during last year's Farmington Founders Festival.

Hoffmeyer began what is now his full-scale hobby by making an old-fashioned hand-made Christmas for his 4-year-old daughter, Gretchen.

"I built her a Christmas doll cradle, china hutch, a rocking horse—and found myself with an expensive hobby," he said.

Working out of his home at 24630 Orchard Lake, Hoffmeyer calls himself "an artist only in my soul. I had no formal training."

Even so, he found last summer's shoppers knocking on his door for custom pieces all winter long. One of the surprises that came from this is that he is selling as many or more of his rocking horses to people who use them as decorator items as those he sells to people who give them to children.

He uses pine to produce anything from small toy animals to adult furniture and describes working with wood as being able "to feel the flow of art in the texture."

His animal "woodies" sell for \$1.50 each. Rocking horses run \$85 to \$145, and no two of any item are exactly alike.

RENEE SIMON, another first-timer in the show, brings educational soft toys and hand-carved decoupage produced by using an ancient method of creating the craft.

Mrs. Simon, of 26244 Cornwall, Southfield, is a former teacher who worked with handicapped children in Detroit Public Schools.

The innovative methods she used in class for play therapy has all gone into the toys she makes now "that are soft and cuddly and you can still learn something by playing with them," she said.

Children can learn "numbers, colors and shapes and have a good time doing it," she said.

One piece she showed was a pillow, shaped like a barn, which had an insert for about a dozen felt animals.

DINA NADEAU, an officer of the Jaycees, and her husband, Rick, will show shoppers how a small favorite photograph will look when it is enlarged and placed on a canvas, producing the effect of an oil painting.

The couple will bring samples of



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snapshots that have been made to look like original oil paintings, and they will also have on sale scenic pictures and lithographs that have been impregnated onto canvases. Prices start at \$29.95 and run up to \$59.95.

POTTER MARY McINDOE restricts herself to one show a year, and chooses the Jaycees show because "it's the best around."

The Farmington Hills woman works in colored clay, which she mixes herself, to produce a modification of millefiori, an Italian inlay.

She also makes her own glazes, all lead-free, she says, "because so many customers want food containers and my own bag is functional pottery."

Her colors are muted, generally the earth, sky, water colors she sometimes uses with pieces of glass shards fired on the glaze as an accent.

She produces soap dishes, cheese skaters, "thing boxes," serving pieces, mugs and platters with prices that range \$5-\$15.

Mrs. McIndoe gives lessons out of her home at 29551 Muirland, takes special orders, and sells her things from That Something Special in Village Mall on Farmington Road and Grand River.

There is no admission charge to the show.



Renee Simon shows a soft mobile for a crib, one of many toys that are both fun and meaningful to youngsters.



Hand-made wooden toys and furniture will be brought to the spring art show by Farmington Hills resident Paul Hoffmeyer.



Mary McIndoe works in colored clay, which is a modification of millefiori, an Italian inlay, to produce both functional and decorative pottery.



Dina Nadeau will show shoppers how a small favorite photograph can take on the appearance of an oil painting.

Farmington Community Center fund drive is on

By LORRAINE McCLISH

March has been proclaimed "Farmington Community Center Month" by mayors of the two cities in recognition of the center's contribution to the area and in conjunction with the opening of its annual fund drive.

Letters asking for support for the center from residents, business, industry and other friends are in the mail.

Harold Gibson, chairman of the 1978 drive, asks the community to consider the center's value, before responding to the request.

The Farmington Community Center has long been a physical landmark in the area. As Longacre House, its history dates back to 1869. Surrounded by

a massive stone wall, the house was simply a beautiful estate until nine years ago when it became the center for many educational, cultural, civic and social activities.

GIBSON THINKS of the center as a community project.

"It exists without tax money or United Fund support," he said. "Many, many people still assume that it is funded in some way by the cities, the county or the state."

The house, a gift from a generous and civic-minded family, was renovated for use as a community center by individuals and organizations in the Farmington area. Hundreds of people pitched in to raise \$50,000 to repair, repaint, refurbish and decorate the house and grounds.

The center opened in the fall of 1969 with nine classes and 120 students. In the fall of 1977 the center ran 156 successful classes and workshops with almost 2,300 students.

Many other people took advantage of bus trips and social events on the center's seasonal line-up of offerings.

"THE CENTER'S programs are also, in a very real way a community project," Gibson said.

"They are planned for and by the people to a large extent. Suggestions and ideas for all activities are welcomed and implemented whenever possible."

Alberta Taylor, executive director of the center, said, "We are here to serve the needs of the community and every suggestion is checked out."

"If the class does not appear immediately in the curriculum, perhaps we

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Behind the massive stone wall, the Farmington Community Center serves as a base for a multitude of varied educational, cultural, civic and social activities. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



HAROLD GIBSON