

COLLECTIBLES

FROM PAGE C1

"Every time we go on a trip somewhere, I always try to get a souvenir," she said. "When we went to Branson, we got a boot ornament from there."

"This year, I won a trip to Niagara Falls from a local radio station. One of the attractions we took in was going under the falls. To do so, we had to wear yellow plastic rain parkas. In the gift shop after, we found a small Teddy bear wearing the same raincoat. He will be hanging on our tree this year."

"It's just a remembrance of our vacation spot."

Some memorabilia are to remember the past ("I have one that looks like a little Amish buggy") and some are from home sweet home ("We used to live in Wisconsin, so that one is special").

Weigel has other varieties of sentimental ornaments, including one for each anniversary and one for their birthdays.

"I have one for every



Linda Sutton holds one of her recently mounted puzzles as she stands next to her favorite, a Norman Rockwell Santa puzzle.

member of the immediate family, and a couple German ones," she said.

One of these German ornaments is white with red print that says *Frohlche Weihnachten*, which means *Merry Christmas*.

SHOW VILLAGES
Virginia Walker of

Farmington Hills collects snow villages, and to date has 85 houses and pieces on display.

Between October and January each year, about 200 of Walker's friends and acquaintances come over and take a tour of her house to see them, she said.

"I entertain a lot; a group from church, friends, the sports parties and people from my sing-a-longs," Walker said.

Walker found out what many collectors come to realize: Items grow as time flies.

"I started in 1986, when I lived in another condo," Walker said. "When I moved here, it seemed to get bigger."

She explained how it all began. "I went away for a weekend with several friends to Frankenmuth, and I just liked the villages they had all over, and the snow village I saw," she said. "Then I bought a three-piece village."

They all found a home at Walker's 1,800-square-foot residence. The five-level village, connected in an L shape, run along her living room wall, into the dining room and over the staircase of the living room



A moving angel figurine is the centerpiece among a variety of collectible Santas, angels and other Christmas ornaments in the home of Joe and Georgia Hartluck of Canton.

(about 15 by 25 feet dimension).

"It took six of us 4 1/2 hours to bring the boxes up from the basement, unload them and put them wherever we could put them," Walker said. "Then take the empty boxes back down, 'cause they each have their own boxes."

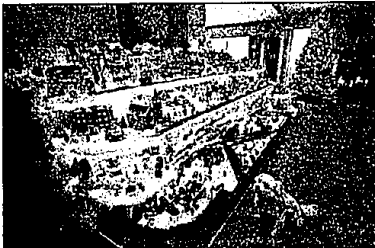
"I have a lot of (village) people and accessories."

In addition to Frankenmuth, Walker found these creations from Hallmark and The Plate Lady, and some were given as gifts from friends.

Or holiday token collectors include Linda Sutton of Plymouth, who collects Christmas puzzles and frames them on her wall, and Deb Wasiloff, who collects an elaborate variety of bells.



Louise Clark designed and assembled the Christmas village for friend Virginia Walker.



The huge Christmas village display reaches from the condo's foyer to the far side of the living room. Louise Clark's dog CeCe stands guard.

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HOME CALENDAR

Visit from Santa
Santa Claus will visit the Kids Castle at Art Van Furniture, 14055 Hall Road in Shelby Township, 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, to greet children and pass out special treats. Parents may bring their cameras.

Kwanzaa celebration
The Storytellers will visit with guests to share stories about African-American heritage and the celebration of Kwanzaa 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at Art Van Furniture, 12855 E. Eight Mile in Warren.

How-to clinics
Area Home Depot stores offer free how-to clinics for do-it-yourselfers every week.

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