

# Hoke resident keeps crocheting art alive

Crochet is a craft that has waxed and waned in popularity since its beginnings sometime in the ancient Middle East.

Evidence of this intricate needlework has been found in China, Renaissance Italy and even among the primitive relics of the Pima Indians of Arizona.

From these earliest times, crochet has almost exclusively belonged to a select group; those who had time to devote themselves to developing the fine patterns and stitches that only the hooked needles could produce.

English ladies of the mid-nineteenth century and Irish women involved in cottage industry lace-making found this craft fascinating and did much toward firmly entrenching it as an enjoyable and beautiful art form.

Fine crocheting is, of late, making a fashion comeback and to those of us who've seen enough crocheted toilet tissue holders to last a lifetime, it is well over due. Beautiful sweaters, "popovers" and vests of crocheted cotton are joining those old standard craft patterns and are exciting the interest of both new and old crocheters.

A member of our rural community who has been devoted to this craft for many years now is Lauretta Davis.

A native of New York, ("Buffalo, not New York City," she emphasizes), she is married to Hoke Countian Stacy Davis. The Davises have recently moved to Hoke County after many years of living throughout the west and midwest.

She tells of how crocheting fascinated her as a young bride.

"After I married and moved

## Hoke Arts Scene

By Sonya Falls



back home, I lived near my grandmother. She lived 'down the hill' as we called it and she was always crocheting these beautiful things for newlyweds or friends' babies and everything. Well, I loved everything she made and I kept waiting to see what she would make for me, and I saw nothing! So I told her to show me how and I began to make my own things."

Her "own things" included complete layette sets, consisting of sacques, blankets, outfits and booties, for five children.

"I had four boys and then I finally got a girl and if you think I wasn't in seventh heaven, when she came along - I went wild! She had crocheted baby clothes and crocheted dresses later on and once she had the prettiest pair of hot pants, red white and blue, you ever saw, for the Fourth of July!"

Now that the children are grown and gone, Davis, with 10 grandchildren still practices her art faithfully.

She buys lots of patterns but adds her own touches or variations thereby creating some very unique items.

Baby things and afghans seem to be favorites with Davis and she proudly tells of winning first place premiums at the Nebraska State Fair.

The prize-winning afghan, done



**Intricate art**  
Lauretta Davis adds a stitch, as examples of her art surround her.

in a very pretty star stitch, is matched in quality only by the baby blue outfit, complete with hat and booties. Both brought her top honors and completely took Davis by surprise.

"I couldn't believe it. I mean, here I was, an outsider, and there were all these third and fourth generation Nebraska farm women - and I won!"

Possibly the prettiest item Davis has made is one she won't be reproducing.

"It was too demanding. It drove me crazy," she says, referring to a lovely hooded baby's coat. It features several different stitches and is trimmed with a lacy lover's knot stitch.

Davis' crocheted bears and dolls are also very interesting creations. She makes them in all sizes and shapes, dressed in blue jeans, or dresses, complete with belts, underwear and boots. Each is stuffed, shaped and padded carefully

by Davis.

The beauty of crochet could be found in the fact that it is so versatile. One can produce clothing, toys or decorative items for the home. Lauretta Davis has definitely explored all these areas and is constantly looking for something new to stitch in her chosen art.

This winter, along with her usual productions, she plans to try to recreate a favorite doll of her daughter's.

This unusual three-in-one doll features Little Red Riding Hood, Grandma and the Wolf. Davis will crochet the body of the doll and add ready-made faces for the grandma and granddaughter. She is not sure how the wolf will be fixed, but she is confident of creating it somehow.

Crochet may have had an unstable history, but for sure, with devoted fans such as Davis, it should be alive and well for years to come.

# Five finalists named for cooking contest

The five finalists for the 1985 North Carolina Turkey Cooking Contest have been selected, and are honing their recipes for the cook-off on September 18 in Raeford.

The finalists and their recipes are Frances Andrews of Wilson, who will prepare Gingered Turkey Salad; Janet Irwin of Sparta, who will cook Tasty Turkey Puffs; Ginger McGhee of Yadkinville, who will prepare Turkey Wings Sweet 'n Sour; Rosemarie Berger of Jamestown, who will serve up Turkey Lasagne Mornay; and Susan Ward Little of Rocky Mount who will cook up a Turkey Quiche.

The five finalists will travel to

Raeford to participate in the first annual Turkey Festival in Raeford, and prepare their recipes for the judges. The winning cook will receive a \$500 grand prize, the runner up \$250, and the other contestants will receive \$100 each.

"The public is invited to come watch the cook-off, as well as attend the seminar on the 18th," said Teresa Parker, marketing home economist for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

"Our seminar speaker is Louis Osteen, owner and chef of Pawley's Island Inn, and that excellent presentation should begin at 11 a.m. and the cook-off will begin at noon."

# Little Theatre offering student drama workshops

The Fayetteville Little Theatre, in an effort to restructure the Creative Drama Workshops which have been regularly taught at the Theatre, will offer a performance workshop for students ages 9-18.

The workshop, meeting twice weekly, is designed to teach the basic skills in voice, dance, drama and puppetry.

The purpose of the course will be to encourage each student to explore his or her potential in each of the performing arts.

During the ten week course, the students will be prepared to perform in and tour a revue of music, drama and dance.

The Cumberland County Per-

formance Group will be available for touring in the spring months.

The selected students will be divided into two performance groups which will alternate on the tour.

A fee of \$75 must be charged in order to afford the time of teachers.

Auditions will be held on Monday, September 16 at 4 p.m. for ages 9-12 and on Tuesday, September 17 at 4 p.m. for ages 13-18.

All auditioning must prepare a one minute audition piece in the students performing strength (i.e. drama, dance or voice).

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