

Community Day participants used the medium of tape to create a mural on the side of the library wall. Lisa Thornton and her daughter Stephanie Strong join Michael Townsend, one of the creators of tape art, to design a wild stallion similar to those they saw at Shackleford Banks off the coast of North Carolina.



John L. Skau, an artist who works with of sculptural basketry, provided the tools for children and adults to make their own hats and baskets. His crown was fit for a king!



Staffers from the Arts Council Joan Marie Belnap, vice president of finance operations; Aaron Logan, technical volunteer; Karen Logan, accountant; and Maxine Lindsey, program coordinator organized the community day at the Main Branch of the Public Library.

Arts Council Community Day welcomes 2,000 walkers from International Marching League

By FELECIA P. McMILLAN
Special to THE CHRONICLE

Staffers from the Arts Council sponsored their first Community Day on Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Main Branch of the Forsyth County Public Library. People took part in many activities that allowed them to be creative and communal. According to Joan Marie Belnap, vice president of finance operations, the purpose of the event was to welcome the more than 2,000 walkers from the International Marching League. The Arts Council issued free popcorn and drinks and invited them to participate in the community mural. More than 150 walkers stopped to chat and take a break from their march.

Some of them chose to help create the community mural on the wall of the library. Michael Townsend and Erica Duthie drove from Rhode Island to teach people in various states about the medium of tape art. "It is a public art form and a temporary art medium," said Townsend. Since originating the idea, they have toured the country making temporary murals. They created a detailed tree to anchor the design and a boy and girl to lead onlookers into the mural. Children and adults from the community came forward to make their contributions to the mural.

Lisa Thornton and her daughter Stephanie Strong designed a wild stallion that reminded them of the wild horses they saw at Shackleford Banks off the coast of North Carolina. Another young lady worked for hours on a basket of apples showing the intricate shape of the fruit. A husband and wife team created a geometric design much like a cross. One of the members of the International Marching League added grass and children to the mural.

Olga Horge from Montreal, Canada, walked with the International Marching League for the fifth time. The purpose of participating in the march is to form international friendships and to exercise. She has seen many of the people she met in previous marches in Winston-Salem.

The tradition started in 1911

with the military, but now civilians have joined the fellowship, according to Horge. Her first march was in Nijmegen, then Holland, then Switzerland, Belgium, England, and now North Carolina.

More than 2,000 walkers participated in North Carolina. She was grateful to the Arts Council for making them feel welcome. Even her dog, Scott, found a friend in another dog. Horge believes that building international friendships is very important to a global economy, and she has a great deal of fun meeting new people.

Another activity that captured the hearts of children and adults alike was sculptural basketry. Artist John L. Skau brought materials such as a glue gun, a heavy duty stapler, cloth, scissors and other tools for children to make hats and baskets. The children worked for hours creating hat designs for Halloween and baskets for Thanksgiving.

Skau said he loves to work with children because "they are just so free and uninhibited — they just let things happen."

Skau lives in Archdale, where he maintains a rigorous work and exhibition schedule. He is active in both local and regional art guilds, including Piedmont Craftsmen, Greensboro Artists' League, Randolph Art Guild, and Greensboro Weavers Guild. Skau specializes in off-loom constructions. The three forms in his line of baskets include the stretch basket, the swollen plane and the classic

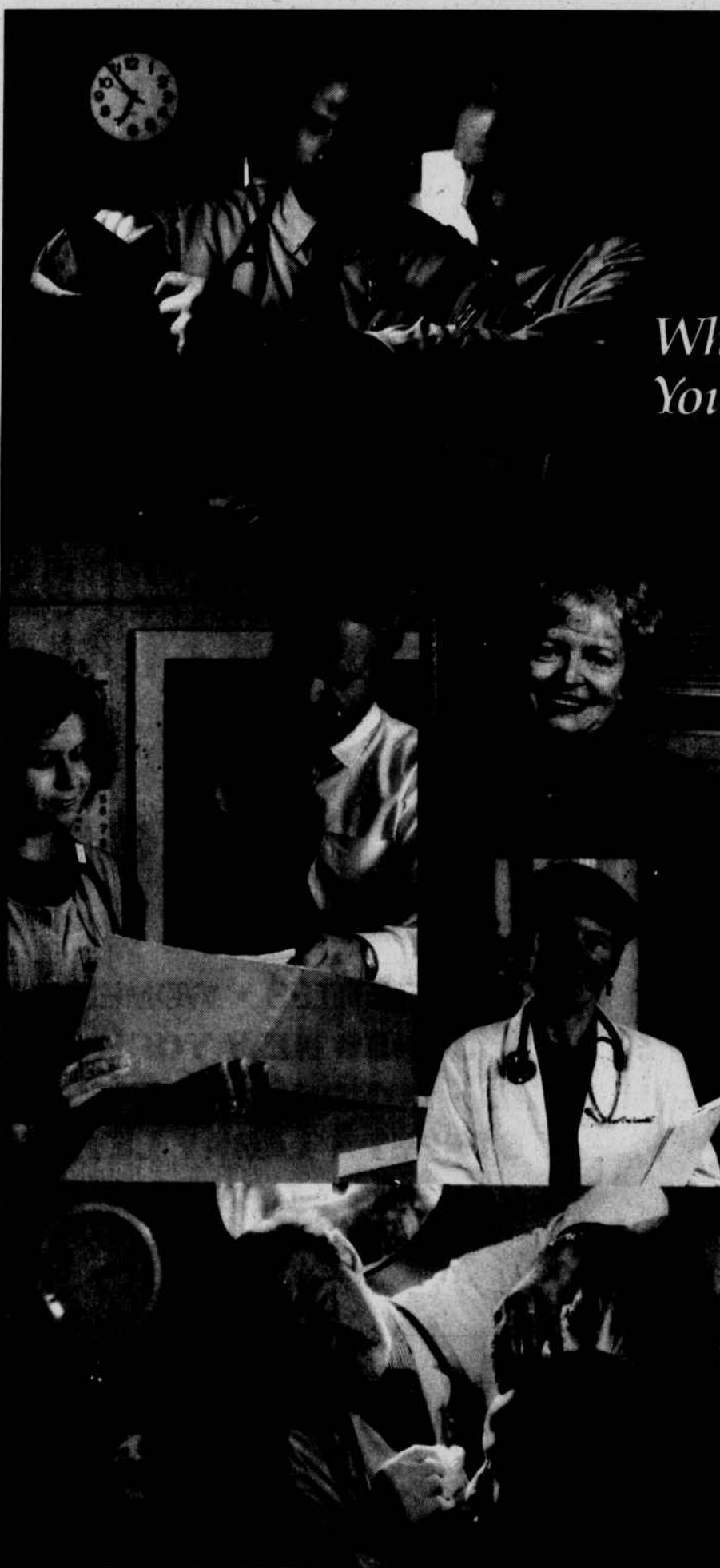
urn. Another artist that participated in Community Day was Keith Byrd of the band "Sweet Dreams." Byrd, a pianist, composer and arranger, played some jazz fusion

in honor of the birthday of Thelonius Monk. Monk, one of the great jazz piano players, was the teacher of Bill Bright, who was Byrd's teacher. Bright taught math and science for 30 years, but he was

also a fine jazz pianist in Winston-Salem.

Organizers of Community Day included Joan Marie Belnap, Karen Logan, Aaron Logan, Maxine Lindsey, and David

Hudson, president of the Arts Council. Sponsors of the event included the Arts Council, Target Stores, Convention and Visitors Bureau of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce and Pepsi.



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