



Toymaker Comes To Crafts Fair

When the Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair opens on August 2, among the craftsmen will be Donald and Clydia Renfro from Asheville. Donald makes old fashioned wooden toys and Clydia helps him selling at fairs and to crafts shops. Donald, who has become a skilled craftsman, says that he learned his craft by trial and error. He has a craft shop called the Wonderwood Company. He has held or holds membership in the Southern Highland Handicraft Guild, Blue Ridge Hearshide Crafts Association, and the Transylvania Art Guild. Donald has displayed his work through the Southern Highland Crafts Guild Fair in Asheville, The Southern Living Show and Southern Christmas Show in Charlotte, the 2nd Annual Murrells Inlet Outdoor Arts and Crafts Festival in Murrells Inlet, S.C., and the Georgia Jubilee in Macon, Georgia.

To the Renfro's, making crafts is a family affair. The three children test each toy for durability and safety. Donald gives the three children all the parts of the toys and watches as they assemble them and play with the new toys. By doing this, the children have invented new uses and features which have been incorporated in later designs. Mr. Renfro holds a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering.

Courthouse Records Preserved On Film

What do you do if your local courthouse burns down? First of all, of course, you call the fire department, but then don't worry, because there is a microfilm copy of your county's records stored away in a safe vault in the state archives section of the Department of Cultural Resources.

Since the creation of the state Department of Archives and History in 1903, there has been quite a bit of concern about many public records lost in fires and other disasters. Many counties did not have the knowledge or money to see that their records were properly stored and cared for.

A local records section was established in the division of archives and history in 1959 to aid local counties in the preservation of records. Soon thereafter, two teams of microfilmers began recording all available records in the state's counties.

The program continued for 11 years. During 1971, the task of microfilming all past available records in all 100 North Carolina counties was completed. During this period more than 80 thousand record books containing deeds, court records and other information were filmed; more than 42 million pages of local county records were recorded.

Forty thousand reels or 750 miles of microfilmed records are now in storage in a special vault in the Archives and History Building for use if local records are destroyed.

As the program continues, the teams of filmers will visit a county approximately every 3 years to update all records.

While the teams film the local records, they also appraise

and arrange them. Consequently, many old documents are given to the state archives by the counties. These documents are transferred to Raleigh where four specially trained archivists evaluate them for historical information.

These records, deemed valuable to history, are then preserved in the state archives to be used by those tracing their families, history students and others in search of historical information.

By searching through a local county's records, many old deeds, wills, civil papers, slave records, military records and court records can be added to the archives. Many times vacancies in a past governor's papers can be filled by recovering copies of documents he sent to a county.

The preservation and recording of local county records will continue. The filming teams and record preservation experts in the Department of Cultural Resources will continue to advise Tarheel counties on preserving their own valuable documents. Such things as the proper types of paper to use for record keeping and inks that will last for many years will make it possible for many of the record disasters of the past to be avoided in the future.

With the preservation work well under way for North Carolina's 100 counties, the local records section will soon be turning their attention toward the cities. The tremendous growth of many of the cities and towns in the state has greatly increased their record-keeping activities and municipal officials are in need of assistance in the preservation of records which reflect the history of North Carolina.



Cathy Deyton Shows Souvenirs To Patsy Fleming

Deyton Tours England, Scotland

Cathy Deyton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Deyton of Burnsville, has recently returned from a tour of England and Scotland. Cathy, along with nine other former 4-H members were participating in the 4-H IFYE Teen Caravan. The Caravan is one of the 4-H international programs sponsored by the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service. The purpose of the tour was to acquaint the members with family life in another country.

The Caravan members first arrived in London, where they visited many interesting points, including the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, the Marble Arch, and the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace.

Hereford, a flourishing agricultural town in the west of England, was the next stop on the tour. Cathy and the other caravan members spent sixteen days in Hereford, where they lived with a host member of the Herefordshire Federation of Young Farmer's Clubs. During this time they participated in the usual daily activities right along with the host member, as well as visiting the Hereford Cathedral, Weobley Carnival and Mediaeval Fair, Hereford Cattle Market Restaurant and the largest cider factory in the world.

After leaving their hosts in Hereford, the tour progressed to Stratford-Upon-Avon where

they visited the Royal Shakespearean Theatre. The Caravan members then moved to Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland. They spent two days in Edinburgh touring Scotland's Royal Palace, St. Giles Cathedral, Robert Louis Stevenson's Birthplace, and the Scottish National War Memorial.

One noticeable characteristic of the English which Cathy remarked on is the relaxed way in which they approach life.

Youth are enthusiastic toward opportunities available to them, and young and old alike gather together for recreation. Cathy says participating in the caravan is an experience she will never forget. Pictured, she shows Scotch plaid tie and British Flag "Union Jack", items brought back from her trip, to Patsy Fleming, Ass't. Home Economics Extension Agent. As a follow-up to her trip, Cathy will be presenting programs relating to her experiences.

Boxes, Crates Can Be Turned into Furniture

Take a sturdy box and cover it with fabric, paper or paint. Doesn't it look like an end table, coffee table or a good place to serve snacks?

You might do up several boxes at a time and let your children use them in their rooms. They're so easy to move that they can be used for chairs, tables or dividers—all in the same day.

Fruit and vegetable crates are another kind of box that can have a future. Imagine them as doll cupboards, as nooks for art supplies or even as a small chest of drawers.

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