

Perquimans People

Turning to crafts for money, fun — and relief

By VAL SHORT

Crafts are becoming increasingly popular in Perquimans County as in other parts of the state and country and the momentum of the crafts movement doesn't seem to be slowing.

Why? What is it about crafts that makes them so appealing? What is the motivation behind this popular phenomenon? Are the therapeutic benefits of crafts responsible for their appeal or are they simply an escape from the drudgery of daily chores, screaming children and demanding pets?

According to Elsie Edward, Area Crafts Agent with the North Carolina Extension Service, crafts satisfy three basic needs of people — income, therapy and creativity.

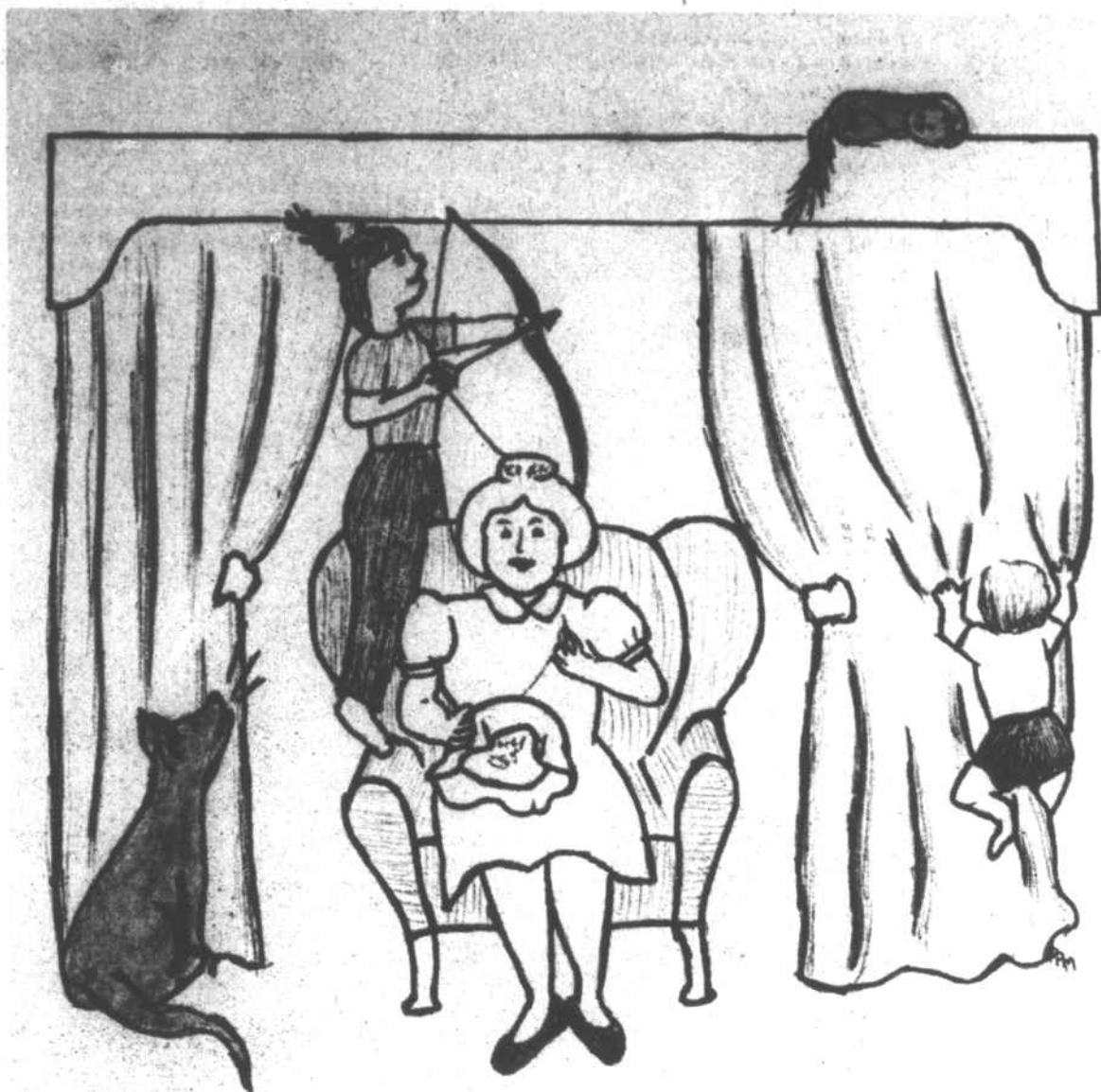
"Therapy is one of the biggest reasons people turn to crafts, but income is becoming real important," said Edwards. People with creative talents in certain areas develop a craft and soon realize they can't use all of the things they make, so they use them as gifts and then begin to market and sell, according to Edwards.

Family togetherness and understanding is another motivation for crafts, said Edwards. "Many times the whole family gets into the act, which means they have a better understanding of each other," she commented.

Self-satisfaction is one of the main motivating factors in crafts, according to Paige Underwood, Perquimans Extension Home Economist. "People like to do things they can do well and they enjoy sharing them with others," said Underwood.

Underwood feels another reason for the current popularity of crafts is that people are trying to recapture the simpler and quieter life of the past.

Crafts were developed originally for survival, according to Carol Inouye in her book NATURECRAFT. "As modern technology has taken over our daily lives, crafts, which in the past played an essential part in survival, became something to be done for the sheer delight of



creation," Inouye says.

Sheer delight of creation has definitely motivated Joyce Hobbs and Elvis Perry, both Perquimans craftsmen.

"I do it because I've always been fascinated with baskets," said Hobbs, who is a member of the Albemarle Craftsmen Guild. "It's a fulfillment, a challenge and I just enjoy it," she said.

"It's also nice to have something of yourself to give," she continued.

Perry got started in broom making after his retirement in 1977 when he was instrumental in organizing an area craft cooperative.

Since he was involved in the craft cooperative, he wanted to learn "something," so he signed up for a broom class at the District Craft Workshop in Elizabeth City.

"It was like the smallpox vaccine...it was one of those things that just took," Perry said. "I just like it, that's all," he continued.

"If I didn't get pleasure from it, I'd just quit making them," he said.

In working with senior citizens, Patty Lorick, acting Senior Center Director, finds that crafts provide good therapy. "Crafts get them away from the thoughts of their aches and pains," she said. Crafts serve as a "release" from health or family problems and give people a chance to be creative, according to Lorick.

"They also get satisfaction from showing and sharing the things they do," said Lorick.

Although there are no statistics available about the number of people participating in crafts, the amount of income crafts generate or the reasons which have made crafts so popular, it is evident that crafts fill a definite need.

With the hectic pace of life today and the growing number of problems people have to face, crafts seem to bring back a calm and simplicity that people crave.

People briefs

Mrs. Helen Simpson spent last week at Newport News with Mr. and Mrs. Pat Sykes and children.

Jennifer Sykes, the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Simpson, competed in her First Dual Meet as a member of the Newport News Flipsters, a gymnastic team, where she captured awards in several events including First Place on the Balance Beam, third place All Around and Third Place in tumbling and acrobatics. Mr. and Mrs. Simpson attended their granddaughters meet and returned home on Sunday.

Miss Sara Winslow spent the weekend at Topsail Beach with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Newby were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. James Wetzel in Richmond, Va.

Mr. Julian White was a guest of his daughter, Miss Sue White, at Virginia Beach, Va. for several days last week.

Mrs. Jesse Camp of Charlotte is a guest of Miss Louise Chalk.

Miss Virginia Tucker spent the

weekend at Williamsburg, Va. with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lattimore of Raleigh spent the weekend in Hertford.

Dr. and Mrs. W.E. Schaaf of Gloucester were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Biggers for several days last week.

Mrs. Helen Vick Miller of Jacksonville, Fla. visited friends in Hertford for several days last week.

Mrs. S.L. Sisco returned to her home in New Orleans, La. on Monday after spending some time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S.M. Whedbee.

Mrs. Dick Brewer was a weekend guest of her sister, Mrs. Cleo Whitley, in Williamston.

Mrs. Ellie Vickers spent last weekend in Raleigh with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gregory.

Dr. and Mrs. Bill Nixon from Wilmington were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Nixon and Mr. and Mrs. Arvin Hudson on Sunday.

Mrs. Earlie Goodwin and Mrs. L.D. Myers were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Myers at Chesapeake, Va. on Saturday.

Mrs. Forrest Jones and Carl Britt have returned to their homes in Shelby after a visit last week with relatives in Hertford.

Mrs. Becky White of Belvidere spent last weekend in Raleigh with her daughter, Miss Millie White.

HOSPITAL NOTES
Mrs. Pearl Banks is a patient in Chowan Hospital.



A fiber 90 miles long can be drawn from one glass marble less than an inch in diameter.

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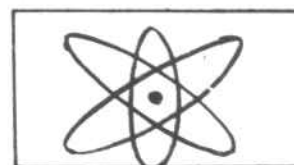
Look who's new

Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. Morris of Route 1, Hertford are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, a daughter, Anna Claire, born October 13, in Albemarle Hospital.

Maternal grandmother is Kathleen


Garrison of Elizabeth City. Maternal great-grandmother is Kathleen Chasteen of Miami, Florida.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Morris of Martinsville, Va.



Electricity from atomic energy was generated for the first time in the world at a laboratory near Idaho Falls in 1951.

RUSTY JACOBS, ACCOUNTANT



Is pleased to announce the addition of Peggy B. Peele to our accounting staff. Peggy is an eighteen year resident of the area and has 12 years experience in the accounting and tax preparation field. She is married to William E. Peele and has three children. She invites all her friends to call her for tax planning and tax preparation assistance whenever she can be helpful.

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*Thanksgiving Orders Can Be Picked Up Monday, November 22 Between 3:30 and 4:00 P.M. In The Parking Lot Adjacent to The Courthouse and the Perquimans Weekly Offices.
Late Orders Can Be Picked Up At The Towne Bake Shop