

Community Bazaar

(Continued from Page B2)

the faces, but many get into the act of stuffing the dolls for the bazaar and stitching them shut.

In addition to making and offering dolls, Shirley also uses the apples from trees in her backyard to enhance the bazaar. She said she dries a lot of apples for snitz, the great dried apple snack, but this year she also made four dozen apple dumplings, ready to pop in the oven for heating and eating.

Shirley also helped with two days of candy-making to have enough to satisfy the sweet teeth of bazaar visitors. Since it is a long time until Christmas, members made Thanksgiving candy as well, which was a popular item.

Although she lives in Mountville Shirley has been a member of the auxiliary for a long time. However, in her early years as a member she just donated items and did not become involved in helping. As her children took less and less time, she began volunteering time at the hospital and eventually became more involved with the bazaar as it grew. She said her interest in the hospital is natural since she was a registered medical technician before she became a mother.

Shirley admits that she is the kind of craftsperson who enjoys looking at an item, and figuring out for herself how to make it. She notes that helpers for the Auxiliary bazaar learn to make items which might be new to them.

Judy Geyer also started helping at the bazaar by donating a dried wreath each year. Now she provides a wide variety of exceptional dried arrangements, which were a solid hit. She made 80 different arrangements for the bazaar this year, ranging from

tiny flower arrangements to large wreaths and baskets.

A member of the auxiliary, Judy says she "just always" made arrangements, beginning by making them for her own front door. In the last five years the auxiliary has really made an effort to have a theme for the bazaar and to decorate around the theme. Judy and other members bring lots of antiques and other accessories from their homes to make the displays attractive.

To use with her arrangements, Judy grows much of her own material. She says, "I am now growing more and more." Although she lives on Cherry Street in Columbia, her father owns a farm in West Hempfield Township, and it is there that she has a large vegetable garden and grows most of her plant material. She has a wide variety of herbs as well as plants like artesia and yarrow. She notes, however, "Some things you can't grow - it is easier to buy."

She air dries her herbs, usually in her father's barn or in the third floor of her home. Her attic room also provides a work space for her, where she can put together the arrangements and walk away from the mess if she needs to.

Judy says she works by "inspiration," adding, "I just put two things together. I don't do a lot alike." This year a feature for Judy was heart shaped wreaths made of dried materials, and also grapevine wreaths, dressed up with some dried materials. A "find" for her was some "rich-looking" artificial berries which added a special touch.

One reason it is a pleasure to work at the bazaar, Judy says, is, "There are so many people involved

who are great to work with. This is really the social event of the year, especially with the luncheon and dinner."

Oh yes, there is th special food. Soups, salads and sandwiches for lunch on two days, and a nice dinner. It was Judy who put the finishing touches on the beautiful table centerpieces. This year's theme was "Joy of Christmas" and singing angels were cut out of wood and surrounded by boxwood wreaths which Judy created.

Ann Grubb has helped with the bazaar for many years, and she, too, is enthusiastic about the community involvement, especially the agricultural community outside Columbia. She says, "We have always had a market basket table. And sometimes when farmers think they don't have enough produce, they have given cash donations." She notes that the ham hocks for the ham and bean soup are also

donated by a standholder at market.

She points out, "The soup and salads are made by different churches, and some local restaurants donate soup which we just need to have someone pick up." One local organization purchases a crate of eggs which are distributed to various

organizations to use in various prepared foods. She concludes, "It is a beautiful bazaar. We can hardly keep up with the demand."

This bazaar is an extremely successful example of what small towns can do working together. It is the greater community that benefits by working together - not just the hospital which receives the funds.



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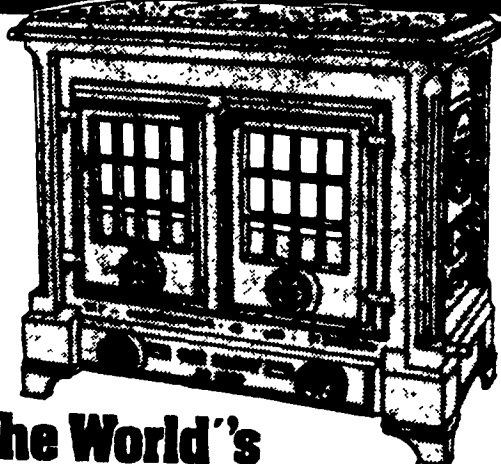
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