

Doll Houses

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Construction of a dollhouse takes about six weeks and the price, depending upon the size of the structure, ranges from \$125 to \$150.

Ruth's dollhouses are cut from 3/8-inch plywood and trimmed in pine wood. To make a dollhouse Ruth cuts out the floor, then saws two ends. Next, the upper floors are constructed and then the front of the dollhouse. All the walls of Ruth's houses are made as removable partitions. The very last item, she says, is the hinged roof.

Fitting small hinged doors into the walls is the hardest part of making the dollhouses. Most are sold unpainted to customers.

Why has Ruth continued to make doll houses for the past 30 years? Besides her love of wood working, and being able to be near

her mother, she admits, "There's not a lot of money in it. What'll I say? I just guess you gotta do what you like and what you're happy in. I think that's what makes living good, don't you?"

Forever a romantic, Ruth recalls when she donated a collection of old dolls to the Wyalusing Valley Museum. People called and said it was kind of crazy to give away things you could sell. But, Ruth says, "I always wanted the (doll) family kept together. I just feel good about it."

Despite the fact that Ruth had hip surgery in 1985 and for a time was unable to work on her dollhouses, today she is working happily in her shop. She has plans for building a replica of her grandpa William McManus's house. It had sliding doors that fascinated her as a child.



This miniature log cabin Ruth calls Goldlocks and the Three Bears.

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milligrams of calcium daily. And fewer than 25 percent of women over 35 years of age have adequate calcium intakes. Two glasses of milk and an ounce of cheese satisfy an adult's daily calcium requirements.

At Christmas time the sliding doors were kept closed, she remembers, until after the meal. "And then my aunt would open the sliding doors and there was the Christmas tree and all the presents."

It won't be long until the McManus house will materialize in mini-

ature under the auspices of Ruth's creative talents. And another memory, that of an old-fashioned Christmas seen through sliding doors, will be preserved for future generations.

Three examples of Ruth's best handiwork, the old school house, the old general store, and Gold-

locks and the Three Bears, are on exhibit this weekend, December 5 and 6, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the 200-year-old Oldest House in Laceyville. During the Christmas open house members of the historical society costumed in period dress will host tours of the house and serve refreshments.

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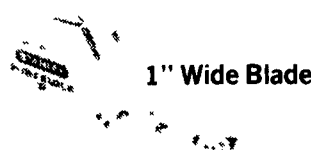
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