

Blind Joanne Hess knits, crochets everything



Joanne Hess

"We all have to do something and this is what I do", says Joanne Hess of Newhaven St., Mount Joy.

Joanne, who has been blind since she was born, can knit or crochet practically anything.

Her work is in demand. Last year she sold a hundred of the crocheted poodles shown in the photograph.

Joanne also produces scarves, afghans and blankets, but her favorite creations are beaded doilies.

Keeping track of the differently colored beads requires some extra work for Joanne, but the results are

worth the effort. Joanne won her first prize for a doilie at the age of 14.

"I've gotten a sense of what colors go together from talking to my mother", Joanne says.

"You have to know what colors match when you dress, of course", Joanne says.

"If you can see, you can put anything together nowadays. People will think, 'Oh, how daring!'"

"If you're blind, people will think you don't know any better."

Joanne is expanding her artistic endeavors with a

loom. The Lancaster County Association for the Blind is putting the directions into Braille.

Joanne asked the *Bulletin* to mention Beacon Lodge in our article.

Beacon Lodge is a camp for the blind, located in western Pennsylvania.

The Mount Joy Lions have given a lot of active support to this camp which is sponsored by American Lions Clubs.

Blind people can walk, run, and even ride bicycles with the aid of guide ropes at Beacon Lodge.

"It's the first place I really felt like I was worth something—like I was a

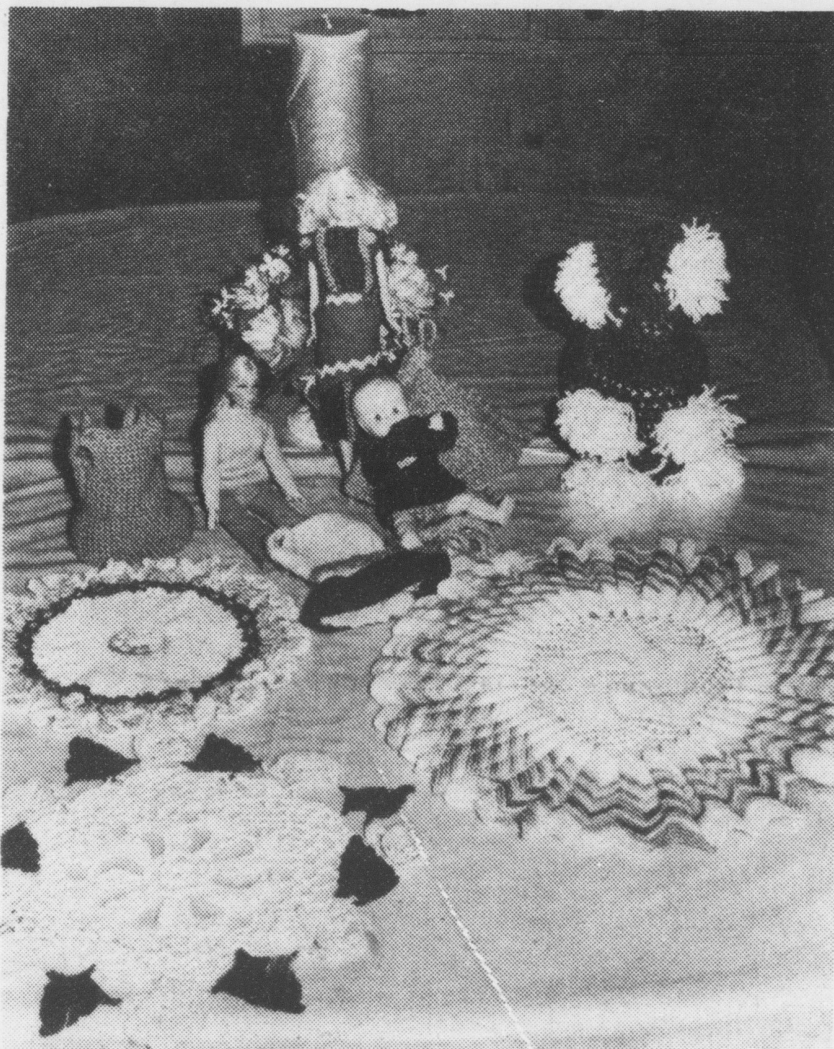
human being", Joanne said.

"I can walk freely there. Having to hold onto someone's arm all the time really makes you feel like a second-class citizen", she said.

"I learned that I could be useful to people", she added. "For example, I talked to two ladies who had just lost their sight, and showed them how to tell time on a clock."

In addition to her artistic work, Joanne has found time to give programs on subjects like courtesy to the blind.

"I want to be as useful and productive as anybody else," she says.



Some of Joanne's work

David Seifert will assist in commissioning destroyer

Navy Radioman Second Class David J. Seifert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Seifert, Sr. of Route 1, Mount Joy, Pa., will participate in the commissioning of the destroyer USS Spruance as a member of the vessel's first crew.

The ship, which will be homeported at Norfolk, Va., is the Navy's initial "Spruance Class" destroyer, and the first major U.S. warship to employ gas turbine

engines. It is designed primarily for anti-submarine warfare, and is equipped with the most modern weaponry and combat systems.

His ship is currently undergoing rigorous shake-down testing in the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea. It will be officially inducted into the U.S. Fleet at Pascagoula, Miss., September 20.

Parents w/o Partners to meet

Parents Without Partners will meet at 7:45 P.M., Friday Sept. 19 at the social hall of the Grace Lutheran Church, James and N. Queen Sts., Lancaster.

Dr. Irving Hahn, Ph.D. of Base Service Unit of Mental will discuss "Artificial Man/Woman vs. the Real

Man/Woman."

All single parents, because of death, divorce, separation or unmarried status are invited to attend. More information on the purposes and activities of the organization may be obtained by calling Jane Sumpter at 684-7617.

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