



# MINIATURE GAZETTE

Official Publication of the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts

*"Only Through Sharing Can We Really Enjoy Our Treasures"*



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# SEASON'S GREETINGS

# Miniature Gazette



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
of the  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
MINIATURE ENTHUSIASTS

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## About Our Cover

We regret the omission of credit to The Washington Star for the beautiful story and photos which appeared as our cover story in the September issue of the Miniature Gazette.

## — from the President's Pen



With "pen in pinkie" it's that time again, time to report that miniatures are becoming more popular than ever. Each month we see more shops opening with miniatures as their main items for sale. N.A.M.E. has witnessed phenomenal growth during the past year. In fact we now have over 6000 members and some 200 clubs.

Our Fifth Houseparty in San Diego this past August was a memorable success. Rose Morris and the San Diego Minicrafters threw a four day party we won't soon forget. Each guest was presented with their own miniature display case in keeping with the theme "Showcase."

Plans are well underway for an even larger Sixth Annual Houseparty in Denver, Colorado for August, 1978. In 1979 we will meet in New York City for our annual August reunion. The nation's capitol city, Washington, D.C., has agreed to host our Eighth Houseparty in 1980. A city on the Mississippi River, St. Louis, Missouri, will be our place of assembly in 1981. We move further west in 1982 to Kansas City for our 10th Houseparty. As has been stated before, a great amount of planning is involved for your enjoyment at our yearly get-togethers. Please be aware that sooner or later a National Houseparty will be in your area. Don't miss any of them if you can help it. The exhibits are better, the list of workshops grows longer and each year the dealers have more "goodies" to tempt we individuals who are affected with "miniaturitis."

It's also the party season of the year. Christmas — that twelfth month when the miniature rooms and model houses should be groomed with their holiday trappings. Tiny trees have to be trimmed, wreaths hung and garland strung as well as the table set for dinner

*Continued on page 3 . . .*

## SMALL TALK



*from the Editor*

A trip to Chicago for N.A.M.E. to the M.M.T.A. Fair and Trade Show, with a side trip to Marshall Field's Miniature section and a pilgrimage to the Art Institute to savor the ultimate — the Thorne Rooms, the National "Houseparty" in San Diego, and the Regional "Houseparty" in Burlingame near San Francisco have made an exciting, active and productive period since the last Gazette came out. The



One of the dollhouses viewed at Marshall Field's Miniature Section

more that I travel, meet miniaturists and experience miniature activity in various parts of the country, the more convinced I am of the tremendous growth (not just in quantity) of this hobby that we have involved ourselves in. The sophistication of miniatures in general seems generations away from the start of this current infatuation of just 5 or 6 years ago. Every part of the country is becoming involved. Nothing seems impossible. Miniaturists exude the same enthusiasm, warmth and desire to share no matter where you meet them. The excitement and the thrill of first-day sales room is the same in

*Continued on page 3 . . .*

**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN** *Continued . . .*

to please the palate of each tiny inhabitant.

Meanwhile, don't forget to share the many great things you have created and collected. Take time to be thankful for the bountiful blessings we enjoy thru our mutual hobby of miniatures. My best in health, happiness, and if you have the first two, wealth will be automatically yours. Merry Christmas!

As ever,  
Jean O. Elliott

**SMALL TALK** *Continued . . .*

Southern California, Chicago or Boston. Cleveland, Ohio miniaturists are identical with Seattle, Washington collectors when they find a treasure or learn a new miniature skill. I know of no other group of people that are so similar in pursuit of their hobby. So understanding of each other's excitement. . . . It makes us all something special . . . and I, for one, am very proud to be a part of it.

Your editor,  
Bob von Fliss



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**ELECTION OF  
N.A.M.E. OFFICERS  
FOR 1978-79**

In accordance with our by-laws it will be time again to elect N.A.M.E. Officers at our Annual meeting during the National "Houseparty" in Denver, Colorado on

The following officers will be elected:

- President
- Executive Vice President
- Senior Vice President
- Junior Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Historian

The following members have been appointed and have accepted the duties as members of the Nominating Committee.

- N-2 John Blauer
- N-3 Mary Black
- A-2 Corinne Wilson
- M-1 Catherine Anderson
- E-1 Larry Garnett

Vivian Boydston  
Chairman, Nominating Committee

**SEASON'S  
GREETINGS**



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Dear Mr. von Fliss:

I want to thank the organization for so kindly donating the dollhouse I won at the Houseparty. Jim and I are deriving more pleasure than you can imagine from planning for it.

Our son called this morning from Tokyo asking if I would like a silver corner cupboard for it so you see it is generating interest all over. Of course, I told him "yes." I can't begin to thank you. I expect to be in the hospital next month getting a new hip and can hardly wait to get out to work on it while I mend.

Sincerely,  
Alice & Jim Weadock  
Lima, Ohio

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Bernard Rosner and  
Mr. Jay Beckerman  
c/o N.A.M.E.  
Box 2621, Brookhurst Center  
Anaheim, Calif. 92804

To whom it may concern:

I owe a debt of gratitude to the two men mentioned above and had no address in which to convey this, therefore I have taken the liberty of writing you in hopes you can pass this letter on to them.

I am one of those people Mr. Rosner and Mr. Beckerman mention in their last paragraph of their introduction to **INSIDE THE WORLD OF MINIATURES & DOLLHOUSES** - 'A newcomer in Love with the whole subject of miniatures.'

These men have helped me in a most beneficial way. After writing to many of the Miniature dealers and craftsmen listed in the back of their Book, I felt I should let the authors know how much I appreciate all the information contained in their wonderful book.

It is truly a great example of two dedicated miniaturists who share their information with long time collectors and newcomers.

Mr. Rosner and Mr. Beckerman have a true fan and thanks to N.A.M.E. I hope this letter crosses their desk in the near future.

Sincerely,  
Ann Coulter  
Richmond, Virginia

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear N.A.M.E. Members:

I am writing in an effort to find any information on a set of miniatures that we have been trying to locate for some time.

The set is listed in the back of Kovel's latest edition and is the Austin Nichol's Wild Turkey, "Battle of Concord," wooden box set of 6 miniatures. If any of your members could give any information or have a set that they would like to sell, please let us know.

Sincerely thanks for your time and effort.

Paul and Ima Bill  
1911 West Walnut  
Springfield, Mo.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear N.A.M.E.:

I want to take the time to share with you my own special joy from receiving the Gazette, and my interest in miniatures. There is not a club in my area, but I am a N.A.M.E. Individual Member. I look forward to my copy of the Gazette each quarter and all the ideas I receive from it.

I began my own interest in miniatures about a year and a half ago with simple shadow boxes that I sold at Arts & Crafts shows. I have gradually developed a growing business in miniatures for resale in both the wholesale and retail market.

After I joined N.A.M.E., and started receiving the Gazette, my 13 year old son, James, started getting "fired up" also. He began to look on his mother in

a light other than a "pack-rat nut" who was constantly at work over some tiny item. It is nothing unusual these days to see him carefully measuring everything in the house. Although they are simple items, such as the redwood table and benches on the porch, he proceeds to bring me a perfectly scaled 1" to 1' production that he has created. I do not believe there is a word in the Gazette that he misses reading.

So now, together, we happily save every scrap of anything we can find, and hoard them in boxes, sacks and drawers for future projects. People talk about the "Generation Gap" with children today, but my son and I have developed a bridge across it with N.A.M.E. We have found a mutual ground of interest of fun and profit working together. I thank you for this.

Sincerely,  
THE CRACKER BARREL  
Bettye W. King  
Lindale, Texas

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear N.A.M.E.:

This note is intended for all of the N.A.M.E. officers and committee members who made the "Showcase '77" such a success.

Thank you for letting us take part in such a marvelously organized show.

We loved San Diego, but we enjoyed meeting all of the wonderful miniaturists in California even more.

If you ever see Pearl Vinson, say thanks to her for us. And Brooke Tucker was a joy as our table hostess. I'm sure our table had the most fun.

Sincerely,  
Jean Sikora  
Calico Miniatures  
Lawrenceville, N.J.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Bob:

We would like to bring you up to date on the latest chapter in this continuing saga of the replica in miniature of Felton School, the one-room country schoolhouse of Mentryville, California, circa 1915-17.

From its inception to the completion of its construction, Felton School was an overwhelmingly unbelievable project for the members of the Tiny Treasure Seekers of Canyon Country (C-064).

*Continued on following page . . .*

MAIL BAG *Continued* . . .

And it has progressed far beyond our wildest imaginings. We have accomplished our goal of capturing a bit of American history during the Bicentennial year and sharing it on exhibit in schools, miniature shows and club functions. Not only did we keep it as true to the original as possible, we also peopled it with teacher and pupils of that era, and we have received favorable response on it from the teacher and those pupils still living. They delight in seeing themselves, and their pet cocker spaniel, Pal, in miniature, in familiar surroundings.

And yet another unexpected event has occurred. While it is true the miniature Felton School is a tie to the past, it will now be a part of a tie to the future. With music from a marching band, dedicatory speeches, flag raising, and recollections of old-timers, Mentryville, that century-old community in California, was dedicated a Historical Landmark on October 8th. Into the time capsule at the site, along with other information, has been placed the history of the Tiny Treasure Seekers club and its affiliation with N.A.M.E., and the story and pictures of the miniature Felton School. Could this placing of information into a time capsule be a first for any miniature club?

So, in the year of our Lord 2077, when the capsule is opened, who knows what impact this bit of memorabilia might have? All of us then living are invited to be present, and the rest are welcomed in absentia! After all, one hundred years isn't so long, many of us are half that already!

Peace!  
Faye Johnson  
Tiny Treasure Seekers  
Canyon Country, Calif.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear N.A.M.E.:

I have been making mini food for about 3 years — I have signed up for St. Louis' first mini show in April. We really should have a big local group here. Thought I would try to make a card index of mini house owners beginning with people I know.

I still run into people acting shy about working with minis and dolls. I thought I would print up some forms and ask people at the show to fill them

out. Forms should be notebook size — cards are too small — maybe they would include a picture of their house. I thought we could probably get more members this way as well as registering houses. Do you have a form for this or should I use the one I made up?

I'm thinking of the greater St. Louis area mostly — Mo.

We live in Des Peres which is a suburb of St. Louis and right next to Kirkwood where we lived for 13 years.

Mary's Dollhouse  
Mary W. Schnarr  
St. Louis, Mo.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Bob,

It was with pleasure I returned to Dallas, Texas in May for the wonderful houseparty given by the very hospitable people of that area. I had not been in Texas since 1955 and had lots of fun due to the hard work of the people who are always behind the scenes doing all the work that is necessary to make these shows a success. I enjoyed Jackie Young so much, the effortless (seemingly) way she had things going. It was wonderful not only to have won a door prize (a miniature lamp), but also at the breakfast to also win part of the table decorations, a delightful doll in pink with matching, working umbrella. The banquet favor of a Victorian hall seat-hat rack quickly found a vacant hallway in one of my houses. It also inspired me to begin an idea I had been toying with for some time. I came back and began my N.A.M.E. House. It is an 8-room Victorian House with a tower. The tower windows make use of the stained glass window we got at the San Francisco National and I must now go around to my various houses and unearth all the items I have won or the favors received at the Houseparties. There is a bathroom perfect for the china bathroom set received at one of the early regionals, a nursery for the toy chest, a dining room to use the two corner cabinets from San Francisco, a hall for the Dallas hall rack, a parlor in which the showcase from the recent San Diego show will show off to advantage with the beautiful miniature plate showing the San Diego Mission. I hope all have closely examined the beautiful workmanship of the plate which I did not appreciate completely until I had a chance to sit down and

relive the fun of San Diego. I plan a patio area which will do justice to the gifts we received at the Harvesters Houseparty. I plan this house to be a lived-in Victorian which people have added to from one generation to another, so that any item I may be lucky to receive from houseparties will find a happy home. It will also make an excellent way to display these types of items. Of course, the rooms will also have to have other pieces like beds, chairs, tables, sofas, etc., until the houseparties can furnish these. The ideas for future houseparties are unlimited. We are looking forward to the Houseparty up here in October and to seeing all of our friends again.



Briner Baby House from Alabama circa 1800?



Dining Room — Briner Baby House

Since you were at San Diego there is not too much I can add to the praise that should go to the people who accept the *job* of doing a National. It was done

*Continued on following page . . .*

**MAIL BAG** *Continued...*

very well, went smoothly (even if we did almost have to share our room with a strange woman, strange in the sense of not having met her before walking in on her, but that's another story). We hope Rose Morris and her hard workers have recovered so they can join us in October and just have fun.

One last tidbit. I was recently given a Baby-House from Alabama which is in terrible shape — about 4' tall. Don't know the complete history of it as yet, but dates at least to 1830, I think earlier. Enclosed are 2 photos, more about it another time. Looking forward to seeing you all next month.

Bill Briner  
Executive Vice President  
N.A.M.E.

P.S. The green roof is new and of plywood — I think it was flat with a railing.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear N.A.M.E.:

I thought you might like to hear of the results of your sending the names of the Honolulu members before our vacation there this year.

I wrote to all four girls saying we would be there the end of July and would like to talk to them by phone at least. Roberta Long phoned before we

left from Orangevale (near Sacramento) where she now lives and didn't know of any specific miniature sources there. The letter to Karen Spalding was returned and when we got to Honolulu, I couldn't find Marilyn Daugherty in the phone book.

I did contact Carolyn Ing and we had a nice visit on Sunday afternoon. She was born there, and this will be her senior year at Yale! She is interested in constructing the HO scale buildings and the enclosed photos show her mini-



butcher shop and a hotel that she made from a pattern. She does not have too much time to devote to miniatures, being away at school, but does enjoy them. Her interest started from seeing dioramas on display.

Thank you so much for sending the names. If Bob von Fliss can use these photos for the Gazette, I asked Carolyn if it was all right and she said it was.

Miniatures were not abundant in the Island, but quite unexpectedly I found some tiny shells at the beach at Kuilima on the North (?) end of the Island, where we stopped midway on a city bus trip around it. I just started to look through the corally "sand" and saw them and sat there getting a sunburned back picking them out of handfuls (and wishing I had my tweezers along!). Finally just took a few handfuls in a bag to sort through when we got home.

Thanks again,  
Amelia DeMello  
421 Tamalpais Drive  
Corte Madera, Calif. 94925

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Bob:

Would you kindly include information in the next issue of Gazette that colored souvenir post cards of "La Casa de Estudillo" from the 5th National Houseparty in San Diego are available and for sale - 10 for \$1.00 with a SASE to me!

Kindly send \$1.00 and a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

JOAN HELTON  
2020 Rodelane  
San Diego, Calif. 92103  
Phone (714) 295-0502

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear N.A.M.E. Members:

On a recent unexpected summer trip to Springfield, Illinois, I discovered home is not always where the miniatures are all the time. Although I am from Brooklyn, N.Y. and have found and know of many miniature stores in N.Y., I was fascinated by the fact of the multitude of stores in Springfield that carry a fine miniature line.

I have discovered miniatures are a vast and moving hobby attracting all people of all ages. I, myself, enjoy watching young girls' eyes light up when they see the magic beauty of a doll-

*Continued on following page...*



MAIL BAG *Continued...*

house, and the miniatures they behold in such perfect perspective.

As for myself, my husband can vouch for me; I am just like a little girl when I discover a new store with miniatures.

I am an avid collector of miniatures and my husband is building our own dollhouse. I am very grateful to your magazine as a new member, and I am glad I have the magazine with me on our vacation. I refer to it as the "Miniature Collector's Bible."

For any miniature enthusiast who is vacationing this summer away from home, a word of advice: take your Miniature Gazette with you, for miniatures are everywhere and beautiful as long as you seek them.

Have a good summer to all of my fellow N.A.M.E. members.

Sincerely yours,  
Lorraine Stack  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

\*\*\*\*\*



Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a photograph of the little house pictured on my membership card. I constructed it for display in a "Penny-Size" match box.

Sincerely,  
Juanita Presey  
Sylacauga, Ala.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Friends:

You always ask in your magazine for members of N.A.M.E. to please send photos and articles for your magazine. I can only tell you my story.

In November, 1975, I asked my husband for a dollhouse for my birthday. I thought it would be a fun

*Continued on following page...*



**MAIL BAG** *Continued...*

Bicentennial project. I am a Canadian and doll houses have never been very popular in Canada or at least I never had one as a child or ever saw one until a few years ago.

Now I live in the U.S. and my Bicentennial project was a 1976 dollhouse — modern and electrified (somebody has to record now for the Tricentennial).

Then I heard there was to be a dollhouse show at a hotel in my new home town, so I made extra of the miniatures I was making for my dollhouse and rented a space (as a dealer). My dollhouse didn't win a ribbon. There was no way to beat Don Buttfield!! He won everything!!

But I was launched. Now my husband has joined me and together we make miniatures and take them to shows along with miniatures crafted by other great miniaturists.

In June, we moved into a store; there just wasn't room for all those tiny things in our small apartment. We now have 25 permanent shops in our store filled to the brim with miniatures



and another 14 shops that we take to shows. Can you imagine a miniature shopping center of over 40 stores under one roof? It is staggering! I have sent you a picture of my husband and

I taken on the occasion of our grand opening.

The other pictures are: (1) a gift shop with mirrors, plates, lamps, silver, pewter and much more; (2) the antique shop — new (old) dinner sets, cookie jars, spice racks, pipe racks, art, etc., missing bowls; (3) the wood carvers shop — duck decoys, ship plaques, tool boxes, small doll houses, etc.

We also have flower shops, Christmas shop, candy store, furniture stores, hat shop, pewter shop, dollhouse store, lamp shop, art gallery complete with mini canvases and painting and more! more! more!

My biggest thrill in this wonderful world of Miniatures was to get a phone call from California from a lady after she saw my ad in your magazine. She was looking for hats all the way across this great big country for a small 1" to 1' hat! Wow!

It is a small world indeed.

Yours truly,  
Arlette Evans  
Spring Lake, N.J.

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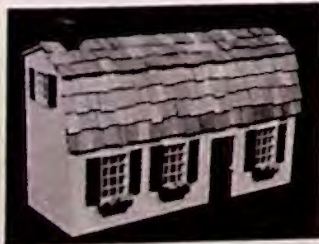
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# The Miniature Scene!

## The Washington, D.C./Baltimore Area



Text & Photos by Cindy Murphy/Forecast!

... miniatures. In the Washington/Baltimore area alone, thousands have become addicted to this "new" hobby. A penchant for the gnat-sized seems limited by neither sex, nor age, nor marital status. Miniaturists may or may not have children, grandchildren or a proclivity for large, bouncy dogs. They *do* have steady hands, keen eyesight and a reserve of patience that boggles the mind.

Before introducing you to some local miniaturists and their handiwork, let's get one thing straight . . . because it is a touchy subject. Miniaturists are not to be confused with "doll people" (i.e., people who collect and/or repair dolls of any size). Miniaturists may be involved in making doll houses, but they rarely "inhabit them" and are quite firm in their position that making miniatures is an entirely separate art.

Enthusiasts include improvisers who delight in making licorice sticks from bits of bobby pins, and flower vases from empty cartridge shells. Purists specialize in acquiring miniscule signed watercolors framed with wafer thin



Not every artist has a gallery built especially for her first show. Artist Joan Graybeal did, and celebrated the event on both a large and small scale with champagne for everyone of any size.

glass, and scaled reproductions of fine wood furniture so detailed that photos make them indistinguishable from the full sized original.

Philosophers compare this miniature mania with the urge to play creator. Psychologists speak of the "need to reduce the complexities of a vast world to manageable proportions." Local collectors, however, offer more practical considerations such as historical value, appreciation of craftsmanship and the

pleasure of possessing Karistan carpets or Limoges china they could not afford full-size. Not to be overlooked is the simple joy of owning at least one neatly-made bed or a succulent roast with no hint of dirty dishes or leftovers.

How do people become miniaturists? The ways are as different as the kinds of miniatures they create.

### SMALL-SCALE HISTORY

Flora Jacobs, respected author and historian in the field of miniatures, began acquiring tiny antiques only after she started writing her first book on the subject, *A History of Dolls' Houses*, which was published in 1953. "It was a case of the chicken coming before the egg," she explains.

The collection eventually filled her Chevy Chase home and three years ago part of her amazing finds overflowed into The Washington Dolls' House and Toy Museum which she manages in a building behind Lord & Taylor in Chevy Chase.

*Continued on following page . . .*

THE MINIATURE SCENE! *Continued...*

Bill Robertson's miniature of a Norfolk lady's writing desk not only has drawers that open and shut; they run on rollers!

Here Flora shares with visitors delights such as a turn-of-the-century neighborhood, a six-story hotel, a post Civil War mansion, and a Victorian milliner's shop with flouncy bonnets, beribboned hat boxes, and a tiny rack filled with 15 spools of multi-colored thread.

A walk through Flora Jacob's collection is like a walk through history.

### NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Priscilla Serling's doll house, an eight-room replica of a modern Georgian

home, which occupies one wall of her Potomac livingroom, is history in the making.

Priscilla has filled her house with signed modern reproductions of museum pieces which cannot be bought on the open market and she has added many personalized touches. Two rooms are decorated like her children's bedrooms. The study, a room she created for her author-husband Robert Serling, is complete with a miniaturized copy of his best-seller *The President's Plane Is Missing* (autographed on the fly leaf, of course) sitting prominently on the desk.

"I started to make my doll house like my real house," Priscilla says. "Now I would like to make my real house like my doll house."

"It's a good investment too," she adds. Priscilla has also attended workshops on miniature-making as far away as Michigan, and teaches classes on decorating miniature Christmas trees and on laying tiny herringbone parquet floors.

Priscilla has found her true love to be finishing the doll house shell. She is fascinated by installing wiring and laying floors and trimming and fitting wood moldings. Although, like most miniaturists, she insists that her doll house will never be finished, she's expanding into the decoration and collection of shadow box rooms. Already she is assembling items to recreate the setting of her husband's next book, *Wings*, the fictional office of Tri-City Airlines in 1930, down to the file cabinets, old fashioned radio, wire wastebasket and rumpled lunch bag.

### FROM CARBURETOR TO HEPPELWHITE

Lanky, mustached, 21-year-old Bill Robertson of Wheaton has reorganized his life around miniatures. This June he decided to change his occupation from rebuilding and customizing Camaros to handcrafting exquisite scaled furniture reproductions for doll house collectors. Today he is considered one of the most promising young craftsmen in the field.

Last January when it was too cold outside to work on cars — the Robertsons don't have a garage — Bill agreed to build a doll house for his mother to have for the grandchildren

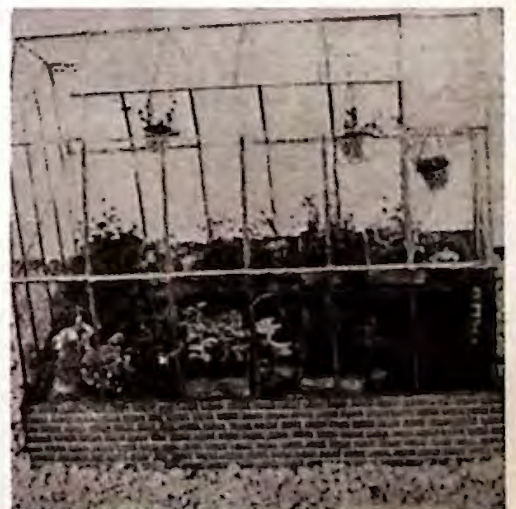
to play with. They both became so involved in the project — to the extent of laying pegged cherry floors — that another house was soon bought for the children and the original became grandma Esther's.

Then Bill went on vacation to Florida and attended some craft and miniature shows. "I saw that people were getting good prices for their work — and for things I knew I could do better myself," he says. "So I decided to try to make something. I wanted it to be different; something that could go anywhere, an all-round type piece." He chose to copy a Norfolk lady's writing desk in the Hepplewhite style.

His prototype was a success and he carried it to miniature and craft shows soliciting advice and comments from established workmen and dealers. Foster Tracy of New York, a respected craftsman in the miniature field, was impressed with Bill's work and offered to market the desks for him. Three sold in the first ten days and orders are in for two more.

Bill cuts his own strips of wood. So far all his desks have come from part of a scrap of cherry he bought at a cabinet-maker's shop. He manufactures his own drawer pulls with wire bent to thread through tiny holes he drills in brass fittings. "Some pieces are so small that if I drop one, making another is easier than finding it," Bill says. "Calipers are my most important tool. My measuring is done down to 1/100 inch."

*Continued on following page...*



Bill Wolozin's tiny greenhouse is complete with live miniature plantings.

## THE MINIATURE SCENE! *Continued...*

Currently Bill has diversified his line to include an adjustable wooden music stand with an inset brass lyre decoration and is working on a scaled reproduction of a Williamsburg tea chest less than an inch long which will have three interior compartments lined with tin.

"My dad says, 'Where are you going to get metal that thin?' I say, 'I'll worry about that when I get to it.'"

### SMALL BUSINESS

Bob Wolozin had worked for the government for 18 years when he decided to go into business for himself. "My wife and I wanted to spend more time together doing something we both enjoyed," he says. "We were both interested in crafts — Sharon in needlepoint and I in stained glass — so we decided to open a craft shop." Their store, Craft, Kit and Caboodle in Bethesda, has been in existence for five years.

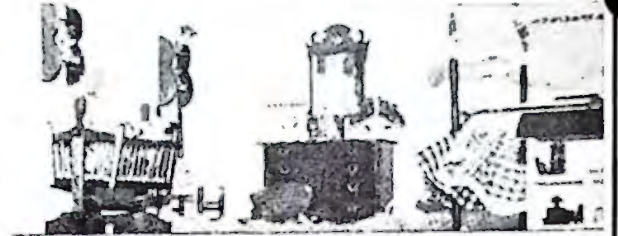
Their shop pioneered a doll house tour last spring during which seven of their customers living within a 10-mile radius of the store displayed 10 doll houses in various stages of construction and decoration. Over 200 people made the rounds.

One day customer and artist Joan Graybeal showed the Wolozins a tiny oil painting she had done. "If you paint me 100 of these," Bob told her, "I'll build an art gallery for you and have an opening." When Joan started painting number 30, the gallery went into production and by the time she reached number 84, Bob gave her a reprieve and held the small gallery opening at the store, complete with a numbered catalog and wine and cheese party (both adult and miniature size).

"The best thing about our business is that people buy something from us because they really want it," Bob says. "Our customers are interested in doing something, not just sitting around. Miniaturists are *very* enthusiastic people."

### THE BALTIMORE COLLECTIONS

By coincidence, this month there will be a special exhibition of doll houses and miniature rooms at the Baltimore Museum of Art. They have been



Priscilla Serling and her doll house.

gathered from noted private collections; all the doll houses will be decorated for Christmas. Some of the houses are furnished with miniature antiques, others with contemporary handcrafted made-to-scale furniture.

Kenneth Kahn, Maryland Arts Council executive (who also manufactures doll houses designed as replicas of Baltimore's famous row houses) will lecture on appropriate subjects during the Museum's show.

Miniature rooms with historical significance will be shown as well. One such is a replica of the lovely Drawing Room at Mount Claire Mansion which has been miniaturized down to the last detail by the Colonial Dames who also maintain the full-scale version.

### CAROLYN'S ENCHANTMENT

Most miniatures and supplies for making them are sold in toy shops or hobby stores. Inevitably, the recent boom in this business has led to the first miniature "department store." In Cockeysville, Carolyn Turner opened The Enchanted Doll House just over a year ago. Although you can buy doll houses and shadow boxes there to hold your miniatures, the main interest is the miniatures themselves.

Most miniature supplies carry three or four different rug-making kits, Carolyn explains; she offers twenty or thirty. Six to nine different bathroom

sets; small print wallpapers of all kinds; special wiring, switches, lamps and chandeliers from Rococo to Danish Modern in style.

Everything is hand made. Quite a few items are custom designed for local demands. A favorite is a tiny trunk, copper bound, with removable trays you can have packed with clothing, shoes and accessories if you like.

Asked how she locates the miniature artists who supply her emporium, Carolyn refers vaguely to "all over the country." They just "find each other" via a grapevine that is anything but small.

How did she get started? "My eight-year-old daughter got a doll house one year and we began making things for it ... we've just never stopped!"

### FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

In the National Geographic's Explorer's Hall in Washington these days you can see some of the world's most famous miniatures — the fabulous collection of Faberge. Favored as gifts among royalty were jewelled flowers, vistas in thimbles and, of course, the well known Faberge eggs with their trick windows, locked secret compartments and brilliant enamelwork. The more elaborate the trinket, the greater its worth in political favors.

Today's miniaturists are less motivated by political gain, but they do

*Continued on following page...*

**MINIATURE SCENE!** *Continued . . .*

share the age-old fascination with small worlds — a fascination older than Gulliver's Lilliput. The common denominator of all miniature-oriented people, those who created and those who enjoy, may be summed up in the motto of The Enchanted Doll House: For the Young At Heart.



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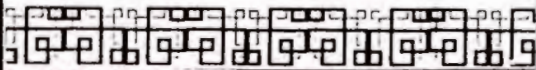
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# WORK PROJECT

## Needlepoint Christmas Rug

By KARYL MOESEL

Christmas is coming and it's time to decorate our homes. Here is your opportunity to create a festive rug for your dollhouse so that your dollhouse friends can celebrate Christmas with you.

### MATERIALS

18 mesh mono canvas (5" x 6")  
masking tape  
green or red felt (2" x 3¼") - optional

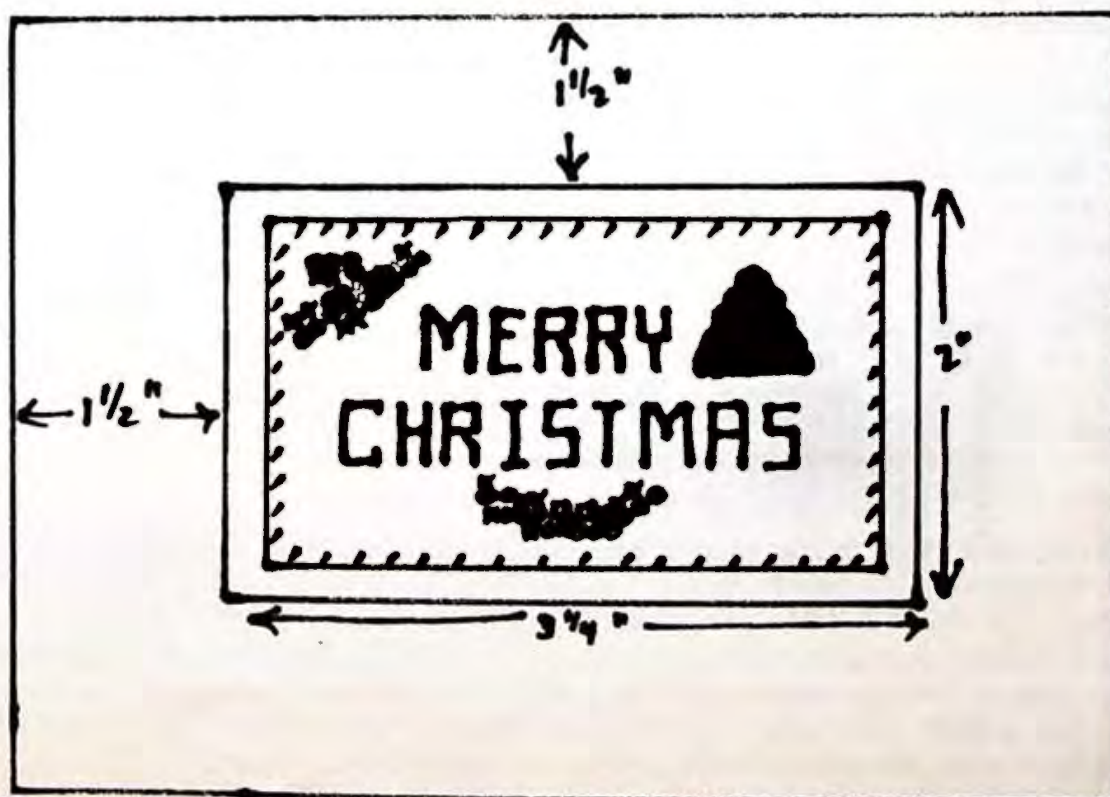
2 or 3 Needlepoint markers  
white glue  
size 22 tapestry needle

yarn (3 ply Persian): Rug is designed to have a red border with an inner border of green alternating with white. It can also be worked with a green border and a red & white inner border. Lettering should be worked in red. Amounts of yarn for the green border are indicated in parenthesis.

2 (1) strands red	4 (4) strands white
2 (3) strands holly green	1 (1) strands light green

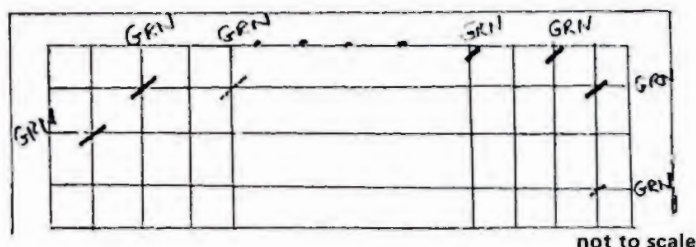
### DIRECTIONS

1. Bind the edges of canvas with masking tape. This will prevent fraying of the canvas.
2. Draw pattern on canvas:
  - a. Start with the border — measure 1½" from the outer edge on 2 sides of the canvas (lengthwise & crosswise). Extend these lines so that you have a rectangular outline that measures 2" x 3¼". Next, draw the inside line for the border. Use the 3rd line in from your original outline. The diagram below provides you with a guide for drawing your rug design.



NEEDLEPOINT CHRISTMAS RUG *Continued...*

- b. Use a different color needlepoint marker and indicate where your inner border will be. Start just inside the upper right hand corner. The first thread will be white, mark the second thread green, the 3rd white, 4th green, etc. Continue this pattern all around the inside of the border as indicated below.

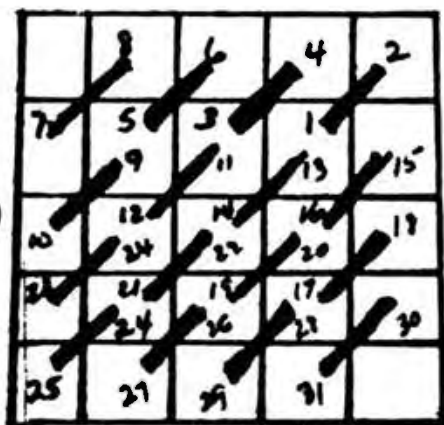


- c. You are now ready to place MERRY CHRISTMAS on the rug. Place the canvas over the pattern. Be sure it is centered. There should be approximately 6-7 lines between the top and bottom of the saying and the border on each side. Use the pattern as a guide and trace lettering onto the canvas.
- d. The holly and Christmas tree can be drawn using the basic pattern as a guide. You can use your creativity here if you wish. The X's indicate where you should use light green yarn and the O's indicate where you should use the holly green. The /'s indicate placement of red French knots.
3. **Preparing yarn and needle:**
- Persian yarn generally comes in approximately 36" lengths. The yarn should be cut in half. This helps to prevent excessive fraying of the yarn. The yarn should be separated as necessary so that you use just 1 ply for the 18 mesh canvas. (There are 3 plies in a strand.)
  - Threading your needle is accomplished by folding the yarn sharply over the end of your needle using your thumb and index finger. Remove the needle and slip fold of yarn thru the eye of the needle or - you can use a needle threader.
4. **Starting and Ending Yarn.** Bring yarn up thru first hole. Leave a 1" end on back of the canvas. Work the first few stitches over the end to secure yarn firmly. To finish a strand, weave it back thru a few stitches on the underside of the canvas in either a vertical or horizontal direction, otherwise you will form a lump in your piece. Also be careful not to weave dark colors under light or vice versa for they are likely to show through.
5. **Stitches Recommended:** Basketweave or continental stitches are recommended. You might like to add some small French knots to the holly and the Christmas tree. I recommend that beginners start with the border so you get a feel for what you are doing - then proceed to the design areas. Stitch directions are listed below.
6. **Finishing:**
- Your needlepoint piece should require little if any blocking. I use a steam iron on the back then I place it on a blocking board to ensure I keep it square. Leave it on the blocking board until dry.
  - Cut canvas around the rug so there is approximately 1/4"-1/2" around the piece. You can clip a little V at the corners so that the canvas will fold easily. Fold canvas to back of rug and press in place with an iron. Use a little white glue to keep excess canvas in place. You might find it advisable to use clothes pins or place rug under a book so that the glue will dry properly.

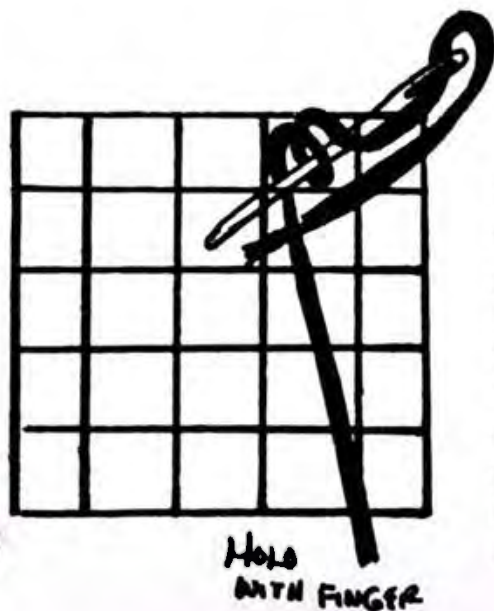
NEEDLEPOINT CHRISTMAS RUG *Continued...*



**BASKETWEAVE STITCH:** This is a durable stitch that causes the least amount of distortion to your canvas. You should always begin in the upper right hand corner and work in a continuous diagonal pattern. This stitch does not require you to turn the canvas. Follow the diagram by coming up at the odd numbers and going down with the even numbers.



**CONTINENTAL STITCH:** The continental or tent stitch is generally used for single lines or small areas. It can be used as a background stitch but is not as good as the basketweave is for backing. You work from right to left by bringing your needle up at (1) and down at (2), up at (3), down at (4). When you finish the row then you must turn your canvas around and continue to work the canvas in the same manner – up at (9), down at (10). This stitch may also be done in a vertical manner.



**FRENCH KNOT:** This tiny stitch forms a little knot on top of your canvas. It can be used as a decorative feature or you can do a whole piece this way (just be sure you have enough yarn). If you have a kit you probably do not have sufficient yarn unless the kit states so. Bring the needle up through the mesh where you want to place your french knot. Face the needle to your left and wrap the yarn around the needle (away from you) once or twice, depending on the size knot you want. Then carefully hold taught and place needle in hole, release tension slightly so needle will slide through hole and your knot is formed.

NEEDLEPOINT CHRISTMAS RUG *Continued...*

- c. The rest of the finishing depends upon your desires. You can just leave it like it is or back it with a piece of felt or other light material so it is not too bulky or you can do a binding stitch alone or with a backing so that the edges do not show.

If you would like to make up this project but do not want to place the design on the canvas you can purchase a kit from Karyl's What Knot (see ad). The kit is available with either red or green borders. Kit costs \$4.95 plus \$1.00 postage. California residents add 6% sales tax. A copy of my catalog will also be included.

Do hope you enjoy your Christmas rug kit project! Would love to know how your project turns out or if you have any ideas for what you would like me to do for my next needlepoint workshop. Happy Needlepointing and MERRY CHRISTMAS!



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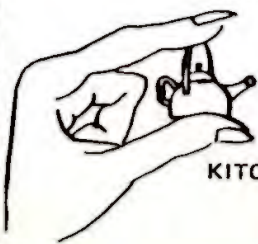
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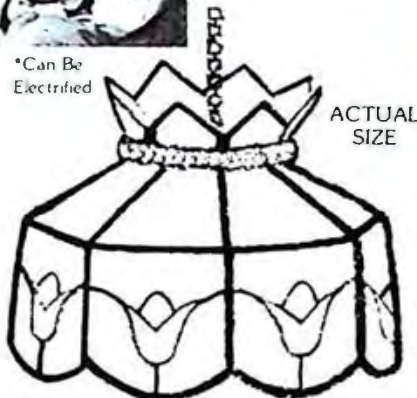
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# Patti Highfill lives in a world of a self-created 'wonderland'

By BETSY SUSMAN

Photos by Dale Link

Old clocks tick peacefully, fragrant potpourri tickles your nose, the sun glistens lazily through the front window and the hectic world outside disappears as Patti Highfill draws you into her miniature wonderland.

Patti is one of the growing number of people dedicated to the proposition that small is beautiful. These miniaturists delight in reproducing anything to as small a size as possible. The primary results of their efforts are completely furnished miniature houses.

According to Patti, miniaturizing was popular during the 1930s, faded from vogue in the next few decades and recently found a dedicated new following.

Miniature madness goes beyond the simple American preoccupation with the tiniest, largest, fastest, slowest, or most. As Patti explains, a miniature world offers a haven from the everyday rat-race, a bit of fantasy to relieve the tension of modern life.

"We all live in the real world," she says, "But we have the miniature fantasy to retreat to."

A very concrete by-product of the fantasy is the comradeship of people with a mutual interest.

"I have friends all over the country that I never dreamed I would have," says Patti. "They are the most fun, sharing and giving people. I have never found a group of people like this."

Patti says her weekly correspondence is enormous as people write from all over the world to exchange ideas, methods and miniatures.

Many miniaturists concentrate on making certain items — called their signature item — and trading their specialties for other miniatures.

"The nucleus of miniaturists are artisans, a very talented group of



PATTI HIGHFILL exhibits one of her miniature room boxes and a tiny vignette of a young girl strolling with her doll carriage. The room box is a hat shop featuring the tiny hats and bonnets Patti makes as her specialty in miniaturizing.



It is slow, painstaking work, but Patti Highfill, a miniaturist for 10 years, has perfected her technique for micro-crocheting. The lacy outfits here took hours to crochet with 100 weight sewing thread and a number 12 crochet hook.

people, with a mania for making something smaller and smaller and retaining the quality," says Patti.

Although she makes miniatures in almost any medium — wood, bisque,

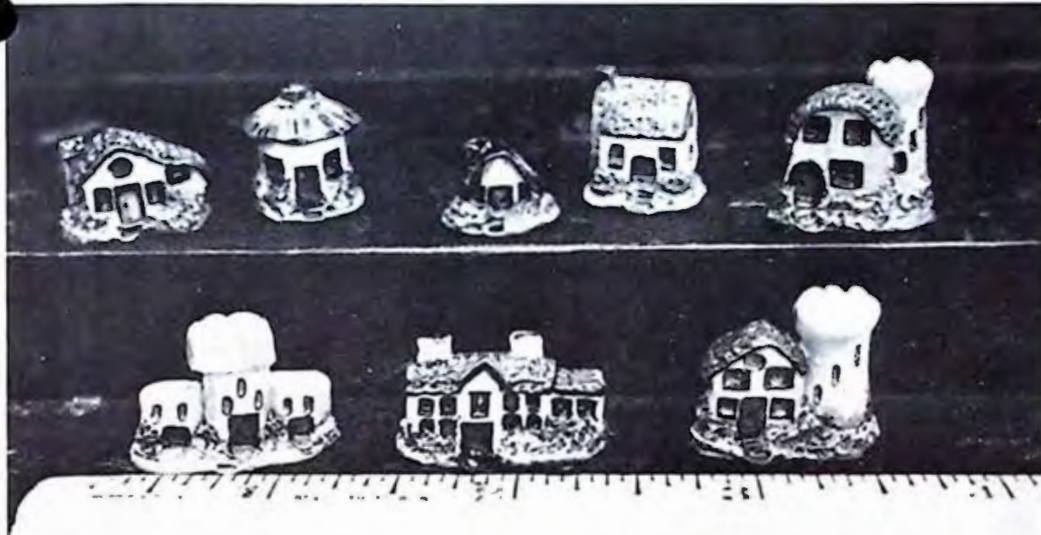
plastic, cardboard — her signature items are micro-crocheted baby jackets, booties and bonnets, tablecloths, granny-square afghans, hats and clocks. She also works in petit point to produce miniature wall hangings and rugs.

It takes six hours for Patti to make a set of baby bottles and a jacket with 100 weight sewing thread and a number 14 crochet hook. The finished product is a delicate web of perfection no more than one-half inch across.

Patti works, as she says "all scrunched up on the couch," with a large magnifying glass hanging from her neck and a high intensity lamp.

Miniature work is painstaking, and further complicated by the need for special equipment, and lack of materials. For instance, the number 12 crochet hook is not sold in the United States and few manufacturers make 100 weight thread anymore since regular sewing needs call for the heavier 40 or 60 weight.

*Continued on following page . . .*

PATTI HIGHFILL *Continued* . . .

Staffordshire scent houses and mantle pieces hand molded out of sculpy by Patti Highfill

The result is that miniaturists are highly innovative and creative.

"You challenge yourself and see if you can do something," says Patti. "You learn a lot by trial and error; you have to develop your own methods. One of the beauties of miniaturizing is that there is no right or wrong. Whatever you want to do is right."

"The most important tool in miniaturizing," says Patti, "is to learn to think small and see what is around you."

"Anything in real life can be scaled down. You can make a whole miniature world from the things you normally throw away."

Patti stressed there is a difference between creating architecturally perfect miniatures of everyday things and simply collecting miniature doll furniture.

Most miniaturists work on a mathematical scale to produce architecturally sound reproductions. One of Patti's projects is the construction of an architecturally perfect replica of the Spanne Pioneer House in Lompoc, California. The miniature house will be built to the most common scale used in the hobby, one inch to one foot.

"You know you've done a good job when it is so realistic you feel you're peeking into someone's house," says Patti.

The range of materials to be used in miniaturizing is endless.

Patti, a self-proclaimed pack rat, says she buys old hats and clothes and is constantly on the lookout for things with miniature potential.



This scene is part of Patti Highfill's miniature baby shop room box. Patti micro-crochets the tiny baby clothes as her signature, or specialty item, and trades with miniaturists throughout the world. One of these tiny sets — bonnet, jacket and booties — takes her six hours to complete.



Porcelain dolls and metal buggy with micro crochet

Ping-pong balls can become Tiffany lamps, cardboard fine oak furniture and bits of jewelry exquisite crystal pieces and clocks.

In addition to the entire houses, miniaturists often construct one-room scenes and vignettes. One of Patti's favorite projects is her baby shop, because in addition to her own work, the shop contains many items made for her by friends.

The shop has a background of shelves full of minute toys and clothes. One of the most impressive pieces is a toy soldier, no more than 1¼" high, hand-carved from wood and fully jointed to bend in all the proper places.

There is also a showcase with examples of Patti's micro-crocheted baby clothes.

Another of Patti's room boxes is a hat shop to showcase her beautiful straw and crocheted hats and bonnets. There are shelves of hats, each one different, unique and not bigger than a quarter.

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January 7 & 8, 1978 - 4th ANNUAL NOSTALGIA IN MINIATURE - Presented by San Diego Miniature Crafters. Town & Country Hotel, Regency Ballroom, Mission Valley - Hwy. 8, San Diego. Sales & Exhibits - \$1.00 donation. Doll Houses - Accessories. Sat., Jan. 7 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun., Jan. 8 - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Chairman: Gloria Osborn, 1997 Alameda Terr., San Diego, Ca. 92103; Sales Chairman: Joan Helton, 2020 Rodelane, San Diego, Ca. 92103.

February 18, 1978 - FIRST ANNUAL PRESIDENTS DAY MINIATURE SHOW AND SALE - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., National Guard Armory, Armory Way (off 15th West) Seattle, Washington. Sponsored by: Hobby World Exhibits, 1921 Edgemont Place West, Seattle, Washington 98199, (206) 283-0722.

February 25, 1978 - 1st MINIATURE SHOW AND SALE - Sponsored by Miniature World of Central Florida, Inc. at Howard Johnson's at Interstate 4 and Lee Road in Orlando, Florida. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. \$1.50 donation at the door. Dealer's inquiries welcome. For more information call Shirley Cowen (305) 830-1133 or write to her at: 150 Cherrywood Dr., Maitland, Florida 32751.

March 4 & 5, 1978 - MINI-PEDDLERS MINIATURE SHOW - Inn at the Park, 1855 N. Harbor Blvd., Anaheim, Calif. (1 blk. from Disneyland). 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adults \$1.75, Senior Citizens, \$1.50; Children over 5 - \$1.00. Tom Thumb Special \$12.00 person. Reservations, Sales & Exhibit information, contact: Lilliput Unlimited, P.O. Box 450, La Mirada, Calif. 90637, (714) 521-3370.

March 11, 1978 - THIRD ANNUAL SANDUSKY, OHIO DOLLHOUSE & MINIATURE SHOW & SALE - Presented by William & Mary Mathers. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Holiday Inn, 5513 Milan Road, State Rt. 250, Exit 7 off Ohio Turnpike, and Rt. 2 Bypass. Admission \$2.00; Children under 12 - half price. For further information write or call: Wm. W. Mathers, Show Mgr., 2913 S. Hayes Ave., St. Rt. 4, Sandusky, Ohio 44870. Phone (419) 626-1209.

April 8 & 9, 1978 - MINIATURES & DOLLHOUSE SHOW AND SALE - Monroe County Fairgrounds, Building No. 1 -

Rochester, New York (Thruway Exit 46) 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission \$1.25 - children under 12 - 75¢ - Free Door Prizes and Raffle. For information, contact: Kohlman's Miniatures Shop, 33 Newton Road, Rochester, New York 14626.

April 8 & 9, 1978 - SECOND ANNUAL KALAMAZOO, MICH. DOLLHOUSE & MINIATURE SHOW & SALE - Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kalamazoo Hilton Inn, 100 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo Center, Kalamazoo, Mich. Admission \$2.00; Children under 12 - half price. For further information write or call: Wm. W. Mathers, Show Mgr., 2913 S. Hayes Ave., St. Rt. 4, Sandusky, Ohio 44870. Phone (419) 626-1209.

April 18 - 22, 1978 - SECOND ANNUAL MINIATURE SHOW - sponsored by Social Service League of La Jolla Inc. Outstanding Celebrity collectors and craftsmen of Southern California. To be held at Darlington House, 7441 Olivetas Avenue, La Jolla, California 92037. Hours 11-4 o'clock. Admittance \$4.00. Telephone (714) 459-5741.

April 22 & 23, 1978 (New Dates) - EIGHTH ANNUAL MINIATURE FAIR - Presented by The Dollhouse Club, Rochelle's Convention Center, 3333 Lakewood Blvd., Long Beach, California. For further information, please phone Pat Baron (714) 963-6954, or Becky Patty (714) 557-7895.

April 23, 1978 (Sunday) - DOLLHOUSE MINIATURE SHOW & SALE - 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. - Admission \$1.00 Adults and Children. Sponsored by Miniature Society of Cincinnati. Marriott Inn, 11320 Chester Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio, (513) 772-1720. For further information write: MSC - 1021 Marion Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45229, or Phone: (513) 281-5494.

APRIL 28 & 29, 1978 - LITTLE THINGS FOR LITTLE PEOPLE - Sponsored by the St. Louis Children's Hospital Auxiliary and the St. Louis Miniature Guild. Le Chateau Village, Clayton Rd., (just west of Lindbergh Blvd.) For information contact Shirley Franz at Village Miniatures, 910 Clayton Rd., Ballwin, Mo. 63011.

April 28, 29, & 30, 1978 - MICKEY & MINI A QUALITY MINIATURE SHOW - In the Host Community to Walt Disney World. Hotel Royal Plaza, Preview Blvd., Lake Buena Vista, Florida. \$37.44 a night for up to 4 in a room. Admission for entire show (including workshops) \$15. Admission for Sat. or Sun. Sales - \$1.25 in advance/\$2.00 at the door. Apr. 28 - 7-9 p.m. - Preview Night; Apr. 29, 10-5 p.m. - Mini Sales; Apr. 30 - 9-12 noon - Workshops; Apr. 30 - 1-7 p.m. - Mini Sales. For reservations send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Teri's Mini Workshop, Box 13028, Orlando, Florida 32809.

May 19, 20 & 21, 1978 - N.A.M.E. REGION N-3 HOUSEPARTY - Hosted by Pacific Northwest Miniature Association. Theme: Grandma's Kitchen. Programs - Banquet & Brunch - Exhibits - Miniatures Sales & Workshops - Gifts & Door Prizes. Seatac Red Lion Motor Inn, Registration: Atha Kahler, 9605 N.E. 26th, Bellevue, WA. 98004. N.A.M.E. Members \$40.00. Guests \$45.00. Sales Contacts: Atha Kahler - 9605 N.E. 26th, Bellevue, WA 98004., Tote Bags: Carolyn Lowe - 18411 61st Place W., Lynnwood, WA. 93036; Door Prizes: Dena Mellott, 29020 40th Ave S., Auburn, WA. 98002; Advertising: Kris Huntley, 1343 3rd St., Kirkland, WA. 98033. 400 Maximum Registration.

MAY 20, 1978 - MILAN MINIATURE SHOW - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Milan Town Hall, Milan, Ohio. For information contact: Mrs. Henry Behrendsen, 77 Main St., Milan, Ohio 44846.

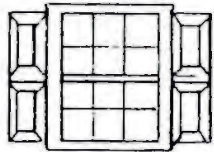
August 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8, 1978 - 6th ANNUAL N.A.M.E. NATIONAL HOUSEPARTY - Presents "Mini Memories". Hosted by Mile High Miniaturists at the Stouffer's Denver Inn Denver, Colo. (next to the airport). Aug. 4, Preconvention activities - tours to be announced. Optional Western Barbeque, Aug. 6 - Cost \$12.25 includes tax and tip. Marge Vance - 7377 Highland Dr., Lakewood Colo. 80215. Registration: Barbara Gray, 6482 Owens, Arvada, Colo. 80004, or Ruth Young, 1236 S. Seneca Way, Denver, Colo. 80223. N.A.M.E. Members - \$40.00; Guests - \$45.00. 700 Maximum Registration. Make reservations early! Deadline June 1.

November 25 & 26, 1978 - DOLL EXHIBIT AND SALE - Rochester, New York. Monroe County Fairgrounds, Building No. 1 (Dealers coming from many states - don't miss this one) New York Thruway, Exit 46. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free Door Prizes and Raffles - Refreshments. For information contact: Kohlman's Miniatures Shop, 33 Newton Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14626. Admission \$1.25; Children under 12 - 75¢

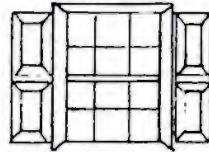
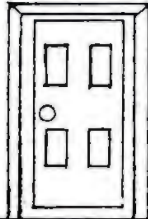
December 1, 2, & 3, 1978 - N.A.M.E. REGION N-1 "HOUSEPARTY" - Holiday Inn, 21333 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance, Ca. 90503. Open to the Public Sunday Only, December 3, 1978 - \$1.00 admission. Sponsored by: Miniature Guild of Southern California. Marie Dettling, Chairwoman. Registration \$37.00 - N.A.M.E. Members, \$42.00 - non-members. (Deadline for Registration - Oct. 1, 1978 - no refunds after this date). Theme: A Victorian Parlor at Christmastime. For exhibit information contact: Mickey Ross, 17228 S. Van Ness, Torrance, Ca. 90504 or Hemy Eppich, 1748 N. Winona Blvd., No. 2, Los Angeles, Calif. 90027. Sales: Pat Baron, 9291 Hudson Dr., Huntington Beach, Ca. 92646. Registrar: Shirley Edgerley, 26085 San Quintin, Sun City, California 92381.

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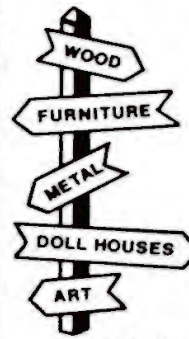
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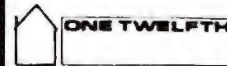
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## Regional Directors Column



**JACKIE YOUNG**  
Region E-2

Several months have passed since the Region E-2 Houseparty in Dallas, but there has been no dimming of my wonderful memories of the event. The accolades so profusely heaped on me and the Dallas Miniature Craftsmen's Guild put a crowning glory on the months of preparation and hard work.

Again, let me thank the chairmen and workers who pushed beyond the call of duty; the outstanding dealers who operated an outstanding sales room; the very willing program and workshop participants; and most of all the N.A.M.E. members and their guests whose attendance and enthusiastic involvement in every aspect of the program guaranteed a successful Houseparty.

I'm now past president of our club, and will be able to devote more time to my duties as Regional Director of E-2. Perhaps unwittingly, you have already helped me in that capacity by continuing to spread the Houseparty enthusiasm when you returned home. Thanks for that, too!

\*\*\*\*\*

**PAT BARON**  
Region N-1

I am very pleased to announce that Marie Dettling has agreed to act as Assistant Regional Director of Region N-1 for the balance of my term as Regional Director. I am sure that you will all find her very willing to assist all of you with suggestions regarding regional matters.



Marie has been a member of the Miniature Guild of Southern California for about three years, and is a member of their governing body, the "Common Sense Committee." She has had a great deal of experience in many other organizations as well, and for these reasons, I know she will be an excellent House-

party Chairman for the forthcoming Region N-1 Houseparty scheduled for December 1, 2 and 3, 1978 at the Holiday Inn in Torrance. The details concerning this Houseparty are included in an announcement in this issue.

The planning and production of the December 4 "Open House" meeting were much more pleasurable due to Marie's help. I will report the details of that meeting in the Spring Gazette for those of you who were unable to attend.

Region N-1's 1978 Houseparty promises to be a great one, and I hope you are all thinking of a special project for the exhibit room. With a theme like "A Victorian Parlor at Christmastime," how can we go wrong?

My personal thanks to Rose Morris and all of the San Diego Miniature Crafters for a memorable National Houseparty last August. And also to Pat Bellamy and the Bay Area Clubs for an equally wonderful weekend in Burlingame in October. Houseparties get better and better!

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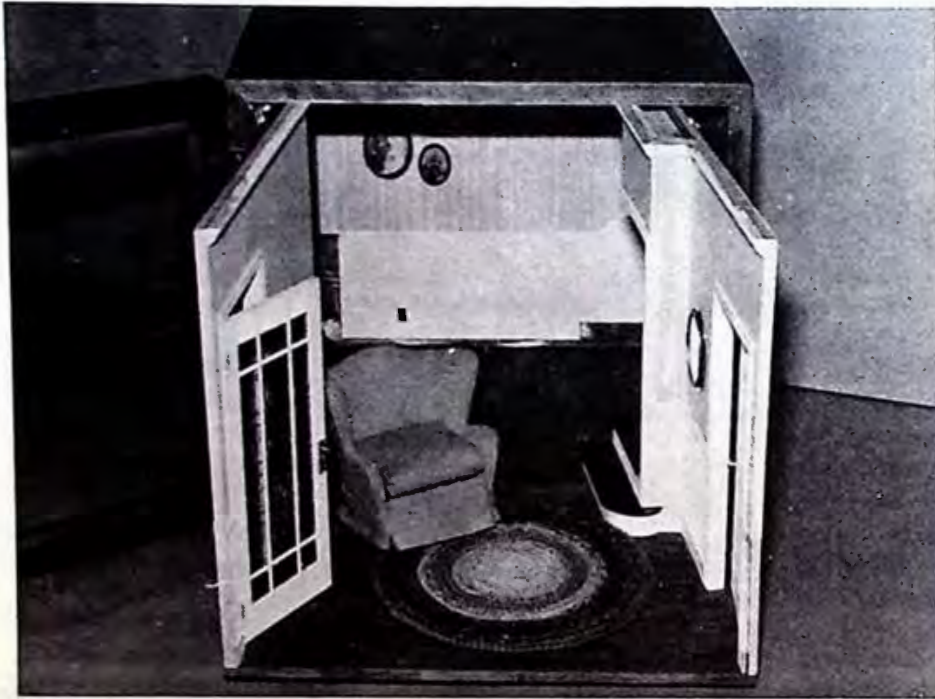
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# My Country Entry

By JEANNIE LINDQUIST  
And More Gifts and Decor  
Issaquah, Washington



Ever since my husband, Vern, and I have made dollhouses, I could hardly wait to furnish my own, but first for the house. Our two small daughters each received one for Christmas about three years ago, a French farmhouse and a New England townhouse. They and their friends have enjoyed playing with them for hours. Next we completed a Bavarian Chalet, Vern's where the barn is on the first level, the family's living area on the second level and the sleeping loft upstairs. From there, we built Grandpa's 1910 home which is a miniature version of his Ballard home. Then came the country store which is another miniature copy. That one is mine. Just before the outside was finished, I was given some quite old story book dolls. Now I have the hardly waits! I can hardly wait to finish the interior of the store as a milliner and dress shop with an interior stairs leading to the working area upstairs. Except first for the vignette boxes. Between the hardly waits and the but firsts as well as designing and manufacturing miniature kits, I was beginning to think my doll house would have to wait quite a while. Then came my chance. Vern needed a scene in our smallest vignette box which was to be wired for electricity

using a Cir-Kit Concepts kit and to be ready for the Seattle Wholesale Gift Show in August, 1977. Did I ever have fun designing and planning! Two side walls of the scene which are of 1/4" plywood and angled are attached to a 1/4" plywood floor and can be slipped in and out of the box. The frame containing glass on the front of the vignette box is on hinges and opens wide to allow this unit to move in and out freely. The third wall of the scene is the back of the vignette box. The left wall has a stained glass door that I designed. The right wall contains a door to the kitchen and a partial stairway. The white wainscoting is tiny board and batten that is sold in sheets. Chair railing finishes off the top. A half inch piece of wood the same thickness as the board and batten is put horizontally at the bottom for base board and a piece of half round covers the joint between this and the board and batten. Above the wainscoting, there is narrow random striped paper in pink and white. The floor is covered with two different types of close grained veneering cut into 1/4" strips. Because the floor and angled wall unit were removable, the decorating was much easier than working inside the box. Next the

electrical system was installed on the vignette box walls. Since the decorated walls and floor were removed, this was like working on an empty box. Also to replace any lights will be easier because all wiring is exposed and no special door is needed in the back of the vignette box to service the electrical system. The ceiling lighting fixture is a piece of jewelry with grain of wheat bulbs wired into it. After this was connected to the electrical system, I cut out a design from an embossed wall paper and glued to the center of the ceiling. Then several coats of white paint were painted over the wallpaper and the rest of the ceiling covering the wiring tape and the colored wallpaper. When dry, I secured the fixture to the ceiling with small brass pins. When working on the box, I turned it sideways or upside-down to make working easier which cannot be done in a dollhouse.

Now for the hardly-waits and the but-firsts — finally I could decorate my country entry. Inside I placed one of our red braided rugs on the floor and our red velveteen wing back chair. On the back wall I put three miniature copies of relatives Vern had taken from old family portraits. On another wall hangs a mirror. I am planning for a plant stand, a small table and maybe a lamp.

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# Cathy Anderson Shares...

Western New York Miniature Enthusiast, Corinne Sweeny, a mother of four young adults had just traded in her V.W. station wagon for a red Renault. She had parked it in the driveway as a surprise for the family.

When Carl (Sr. high son) first saw it he exclaimed, "Mother, isn't this carrying miniatures a bit too far!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Overheard at one of the Cleveland Miniature Shows...

A waitress was explaining and excusing the delay in serving breakfast - the coffee shop was very crowded -

"There is a miniature people's convention being held here" - a hesitance as if thinking out loud quite seriously continued, "but you know, I haven't seen any little people."



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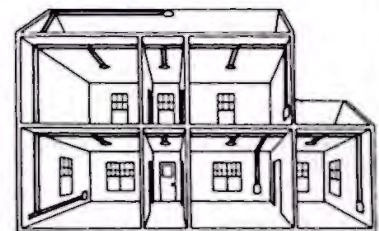


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# Miniatures as Gifts

By HARRIET D. JEDLICKA  
of The Dollhouse Factory

A custom made gift is, to me, much nicer to receive than a ready made one, so last Christmas I gave to various members of the family individual miniature room settings. These were in the form of small vignettes made from wooden cigar boxes I have picked up at flea markets and garage sales. They were about 7" x 9" x 3½" deep and my husband Jim made frames to fit.

After the boxes were papered, painted or stained, and had ceiling fixtures, cornice molding, floor and mopboard installed, I bought every Chrysnbon kit then on the market, put them together and played "mix and match."

Besides using the cigar boxes, we looked for special frames at the flea market and built shadow boxes to fit. We found one oldie constructed with square nails; it framed a classroom vignette for my stepdaughter, Robin, who is a teacher.

I think that what makes the vignettes meaningful are the many special touches that can be included to make it personal. For one niece who is quite domestic, a sewing room and a dinette setting seemed appropriate; for the more sophisticated one, the elegant china cabinet was fitting; for the little one, the teacart with Christmas cookies and a glass of milk did the trick. A Christmas plate or Bicentennial was placed in each one to date it.

Last Spring, I gave my mother a shadow box containing the china cabinet filled with miniature milk glass as that type of china is her favorite. Topping the cabinet was a 1977 Mother's Day plate and a bird sculpture. She had previously given me a photo of an oil painting done by her brother's art teacher because the picture as taken was a miniature. She was delighted to receive it again framed in her tiny room setting.

For the dyed-in-the-wool collector, however, I have found no more satisfactory medium than the miniature shop or store which can be filled (or

*Continued on following page . . .*



Tammi's room. One can count the fingers and toes of the Chinese figurine on the cabinet's top. Both Christmas plate and Bicentennial plates are visible. The candle screen is real petit point.



Robin's classroom. The globe spins and the stove glows red. Not visible is a blue spatterware coffee pot on the stove's warmer at rear. Robin's and Richard's (her fiance) initials are carved on the top of one of the desks. They will be married by the time this is published.

MINIATURES AS GIFTS *Continued...*

Exterior of Lois' "Horse Gallery." Above the door is the date it was given disguised as the shop's street number.



Interior of shop. The grey square in upper right of shop is heat reflector shielding the 8 watt, 120 volt lamp. It is not visible when the front is closed.

almost filled; let them collect, too) with the person's collectibles in miniature. What started me was the desire to do something for stepdaughter, Lois, who loves horses. I brought home a Houseworks bay window and their 9-paned door and asked Jim to do a sketch for me that would incorporate these in a shop front. What evolved was what I call my "Tudor Shop." Jim carved a

horse's head as the sign and I decaled every miniature picture of horses I could find onto linen and then framed them. We collected an assortment of miniature horses to put inside. For a special friend, I furnished a "Give a Hoot Shoppe" since she collects owls. For another, I have done a "Mouse House." There seems to be no end to the possibilities of what to put into a

shop: clothes, dolls, tools, hats, train autos, dollhouses for dollhouses, antiques, art galleries or toys. The list is endless and the joy for the creator as well as for the one receiving the collection is boundless.

Needless to say, my Christmas project mushroomed and since then I have realized that I've let myself in for a lot of work as everyone in the family is now expecting to receive a miniature room from me. A case in point occurred last May when my mother was visiting and eight year old grandson, Matthew, announced to her that he thought he was getting a room of dinosaurs from Aunt Harriet for his birthday. She was stunned because he *was*, and who had spilled the beans? When questioned, he matter-of-factly stated that since his three sisters had received rooms for Christmas, he figured it was about his turn! How we pulled it off as a surprise is another story.

Since I am now committed, I have begun a greenhouse, a country kitchen and a wicker room, each one dramatizing some family member's favorite thing. Making miniatures gifts has another positive feature besides giving joy to both the giver and the receiver; the giver has no storage problems and usually can "visit" his creations periodically to see that they are being well cared for!

*More photos on following page...*



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MINIATURES AS GIFTS *Continued...*

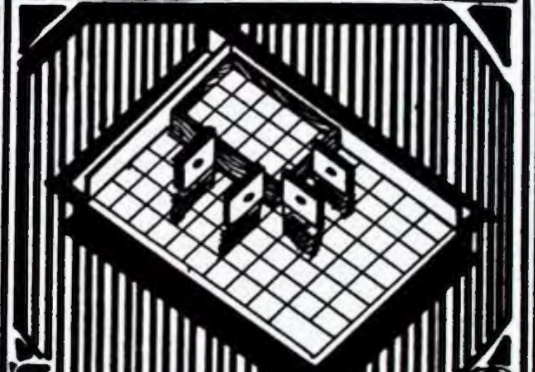


Saen's sewing room. The needlepoint on the chair was taken from a match box purchased when in Austria. The tiny chandelier is the Schiada's.



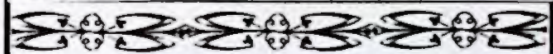
Meagan's room. In the jar on the teacart are lollipops made by Edna Bishop as are the beautiful Christmas cookies.

Geoffrey Bishop's  
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TAKING A  
GOOD LOOK AT OURSELVES



BAY RIDGE LILLIPUTIANS

I believe we are the first Mini-club to be formed in the Bay Ridge area of Brooklyn, New York. Since our headquarters is at the Lilliput Miniature Store we call ourselves the Lilliputians. It is only a few months since our chairman, Joanne DeFede, applied for the club charter.

Our first project was to plan a membership drive. As of now, we are just six. To this purpose I reserved a display case for the month of July at our local public library. In the case I included a poster centered around the words "Do You Think Small" with a hand drawn copy of the N.A.M.E. logo. At the bottom interested persons were advised where to pick up a membership application. The library helped by printing bright yellow posters and running off 100 notices for general distribution.

The club is hopeful of getting several more members and we also hope that any Brooklynites who read this will contact us via Lilliput at 83 Street and 3rd Avenue, Brooklyn.

The enclosed photo shows our display in the glass library case. Our appeal was to collectors and makers of miniatures. At present, two of our members do make miniatures, one collects only the old, and the others collect the new. We are thrilled to have learned of a prospective member who can do miniature wiring and make Tiffany-type lamp shades.

Gertrude L. Long  
Publicity Chairman  
Bay Ridge Lilliputians



LI'L BITS MINIATURE CLUB

I am really personally excited about the chartering of this group in the West St. Louis County area. Through our mailings on class information at Village Miniatures, we announced the first meeting to take place in April at The Barn at Lucerne where we have our shop. That first meeting had 18 people in attendance. (I should explain the need for a second St. Louis group arose when membership in the first club closed at 25.) I explained the benefits of being affiliated with N.A.M.E. — the main ones being the Houseparties and

the *Miniature Gazette*. We passed around a sheet of paper and those interested signed their names, etc. We decided on the date for a second meeting to be held in May at The Barn. At that meeting I passed the reins to Martha Sinn as president.

In June, the meeting was held at the home of Miriam Schaeffer. Her husband and Ginny Schmitts' husband have built 6 excellent miniature houses, some of which are historical replicas. These were on view, much to the delight of those in attendance.

At the July Meeting, we chartered  
*Continued on following page...*

TAKING A GOOD LOOK AT OURSELVES *Continued...*

with 16 members and had an auspicious workshop given by Ginny Stites. We made leather books and each person passed one of their books around for miniature signatures to commemorate this date and chartering of Li'l Bits. For those in the St. Louis area interested in joining the group, contact the new president, Meg Greenwald.

The next 2 months brought speakers — Marian O'Brien, Miniaturist Author, and Teddy Blake telling of plans for next April's Miniature Show to be held in St. Louis.

Margie Reisner  
Village Miniatures

ST. LOUIS MINIATURE GUILD

Just as Nancy Kurten promised, "there was no snow!" Just a good steady downpour — perfect for our June Picnic!!? It turned out to be a porch picnic and it was quite elegant with each member bringing some delicious morsels. We each also brought a small miniature project that we had been working on — inspired by the workshops during the past few months. There were some needlepoint and macrame items as well as a lovely Victorian Lady in her boudoir.

We continue to plan and formulate plans for the Show we are giving next Spring. This is the first announcement of the Date and Place. We hope you will all circle your calendar!

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Our Fall workshops continue with a group collaboration on the prize, chaired by Barbara Warner. Nancy Kurten, Teddy Blake and Hortense Alper receive our thanks for all their preliminary planning!

PLAN TO COME TO ST. LOUIS  
IN APRIL, 1978

Margie Reisner  
Village Miniatures

LAKE ERIE MINIATURE GUILD

The Lake Erie Miniature Guild celebrated its fifth year as a club with a dinner out for all members. On Sunday, October 9th, members enjoyed a buffet meal and gift exchange. During the past year the club put on a successful miniature show and added many new members. A feeling of enthusiasm

pervades this group as always.

The Miniature show was held on  
*Continued on following page...*



Louise Preslan was the happy winner of the Milan Mini Mart Dollhouse drawing.



Lake Erie Miniature Guild Member Nancy Smithers from "The Cabbage Patch" at Milan Show.



Jill Norquist, President of Lake Erie Miniature Guild

TAKING A GOOD LOOK AT OURSELVES *Continued...*

May 14 for one day. The Town Hall of the historic little town of Milan, Ohio was the setting. Milan in case you didn't know, is the birthplace of Thomas Edison and has a museum and Inn of some note. At the conclusion of the show there was a drawing for a lovely little Victorian doll house which had been assembled from a kit by *William Whitehead* of Bellevue, Ohio. He did a very fine job and inside were all sorts of furnishings and accessories donated by the members of the club. The lucky winner of the dollhouse was *Louise Preslan* of Wakeman, Ohio. She has since completed work in the interior of the house and has plans to display it for the public in her home town.

New officers for the 1977-78 year are President - *Jill Norquist*, Vice-President - *JoAnne Fox*, Treasurer - *Lois Gunn*, Secretary - *Rhea Poole*, and publicity - *Sylvia Rountree*.

Plans are underway for another show to be held Saturday, May 20, 1978 at the Milan Town Hall, Milan, Ohio. Hours: 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Inquiries may be directed to Show Chairman, *Mrs. Henry Behrendsen*, 77 Main St., Milan, Ohio 44846.



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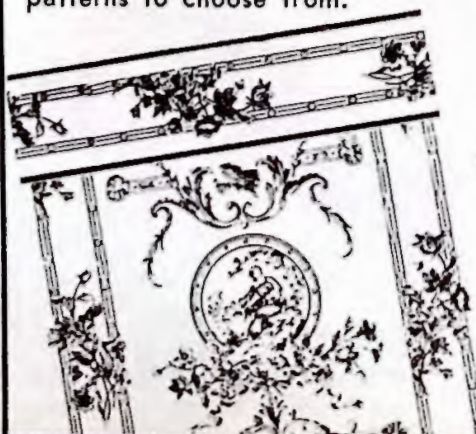
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# A Miniature Retirement

For many women a new sense of "little girl" excitement has been aroused. They have been returned to the miniature world they knew as a girl, with all the fun and excitement of Christmas all year 'round.

Howard Kreger, a retired electronics engineer from Bloomington, Minnesota, builds custom dollhouses as a hobby and states that he gets as much enjoyment out of building them as the women do decorating them.

In 1972, Kreger retired and continued an established pastime of making small wood and pine cone craft items for display and sale at a nearby hobby house. A salesperson, knowing his talent for the unusual, asked if he had ever made a dollhouse. She mentioned that several patrons had been asking for houses that they could decorate.

From that point this new hobby has been growing steadily. Each house takes approximately three months to complete, depending on its complexity. Due to the backlog of orders, one house is barely finished when a new one is begun.

The first structure Kreger made was a simple one-level rambler. It was



Piano has a music box in it. Fireplace was made to glow and flicker much like the full-size artificial fireplaces. 40 stair balusters were all hand turned for the open stairway.



Oak china cabinet plus other furniture built by Harvie.

built to a 1/10 scale following plans in a housing book. Since then the houses have gotten more and more complex, incorporating two floors, hidden wiring for the electric lighting, winding staircases, fireplaces and shingle roofs and shaped siding.

Occasionally houses that are to be of a specific design or scale are ordered by customers who have drawn up their own floor plan. Generally, however, the customer leaves a verbal picture or a photograph of the type of house she wants and Kreger draws his own plans.

The houses are built one room at a time and then connected like a jigsaw



House built by Mr. Kreger. The siding is all tapered, the shingles cedar and hand split put on one at a time. Roof opens for full lighted attic. All oak interior finished woodwork. Brick is his own "secret" put on individually (not the plastic kit type). All interior decorating and painting done by "Boots" (Mrs. Kreger).



All light fixtures were designed by "Harvie." Hi-Fi in upstairs right bedroom has small radio in it. Clock really keeps time for a day (in foyer), piano has music box inside. Bath has ceramic tile squares.



One of the first houses completed.

puzzle to form the total product. Kreger is a precision craftsman, and every detail, from the winding staircase to tight fitting floor boards are exact.

The houses are complete, four-walled structures with the front wall hinged so that it swings open. Generally, two doors are used for easy access and they are closed with a magnetic catch.

The windows are made of plexiglass and are completely encased in wooden frames on both the inside and outside. Outer doors are complete with door-knobs, and the front door even has a light mounted in an overhang. Some designs have even called for minute windows to be placed in the door itself.

The electric wiring is such that each room has a ceiling light, and many even have tiny wall plugs for lamps and various other accessories that can be made or purchased. All wiring terminates at a panel in the rear of the house and is coded so that even an

*Continued on following page . . .*

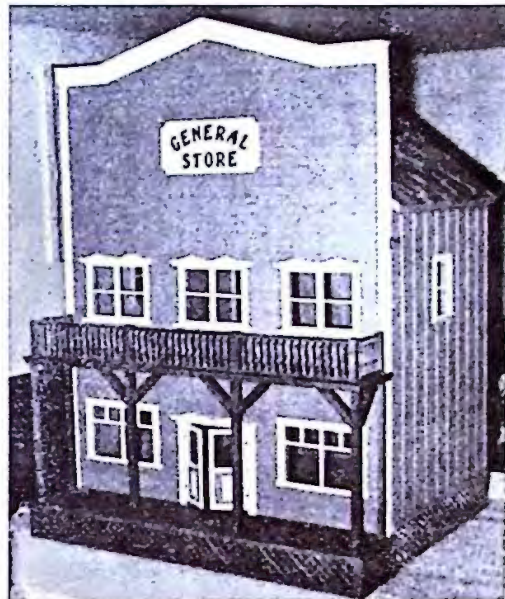
A MINIATURE RETIREMENT *Continued...*

amateur electrician could make simple fixture changes, if need be.

In the living room and dining room segments of the dollhouses hang intricate hand-made chandeliers. Each is an original design made from soldered wires and tiny light bulbs. The style of the light is picked carefully for the design proposed for the room. The modern rooms sport a geometric light with bulbs placed to enhance the form. At the other extreme, an Elizabethan dollhouse recently completed has delicate chandeliers with reflectors and beads hanging like crystal.

The transition from a forty hour work week to retirement is sometimes difficult, but the acquisition of a part-time job or hobby can make all the difference in the world. "I put in more time on these houses than perhaps any other single activity I do," states Kreger, "but it's relaxing, and the kind of hobby every retiree needs." He may be retired, but it's a "miniature" retirement in every way.

Recently two miniature clubs from the area (St. Paul's Mini Makers and Bloomington's Mini Mania's) held a



General Store raffled off by ticket sales and drawing Oct. 16, 1977. Built by Mr. Kreger. Material paid for by the clubs but all labor donated (a work of love).

benefit miniature show with all the proceeds going to the St. Paul Children's Hospital. The Hi-Lite of this show was the drawing for a general store which Mr. Kreger built.

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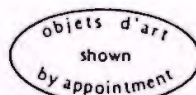
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# WE DID IT . . .

By MADELYN COOK  
(photos by Jim Cook)

. . . our way . . . the Twelfth Nighters . . . neofite N.A.M.E. club.

On a bright sunny Sunday morning in San Jose the whine of table saws and planers heralded to the world (and ourselves) that we were really serious about the challenge of miniatures. The Twelfth Nighters, created by our founder and mother hen Virginia Hecox, are five months old and the most fantastic mixture of personalities and talents anyone could conceive. Many were "into" miniatures and didn't realize others shared the addiction. Some were professionally ensconced in mini's. We stumbled thru a meeting or two trying to keep our 10 ladies and 9 gentlemen equally busy and interested. Then the gauntlet was

thrown down. Why not each do a room? We would start with the same basic cabinet that we would all make together on an assembly line. With criteria in hand, Roy Huntington designed our box and hosted the full membership at Huntington House. Under his direction we cut, mitred, sanded, glued, nailed, jigged and fixtured our way thru the day.

Everyone brought the makings for a mid-day feast and again we discovered our varied talents. Who could guess the Lupo's salad would include tortilla chips and John Watts would create iced mini-cupcakes.

Back to work by teams to carefully construct all our multi pieces into wonderfully workable and variable

units. Then, what to our wondering eyes did appear but 15" x 18" boxes with mansard roofs that conceal lighting and a false ceiling, a framed lucite window in the front of our box and, inside, a tricky false wall to be moved and varied to our heart's content.

Thus, by late afternoon, weary and dust covered, we slowly wended our way homeward clutching our "mass produced" masterpieces. Miracles had occurred. There were no cuts, no scratches, lots of camaraderie and humor, the real cementing of a group into a good, sound unit.

Coming soon (-er or later) the finished products. Who knows what magic lurks in the minds of Twelfth Nighters. As for me, have I got an idea!

*More photos on following page . . .*



Helen and George Pendergast



Barbara Jones and Betty Ray



George Pendergast, Jim Lupo and Peter Jones

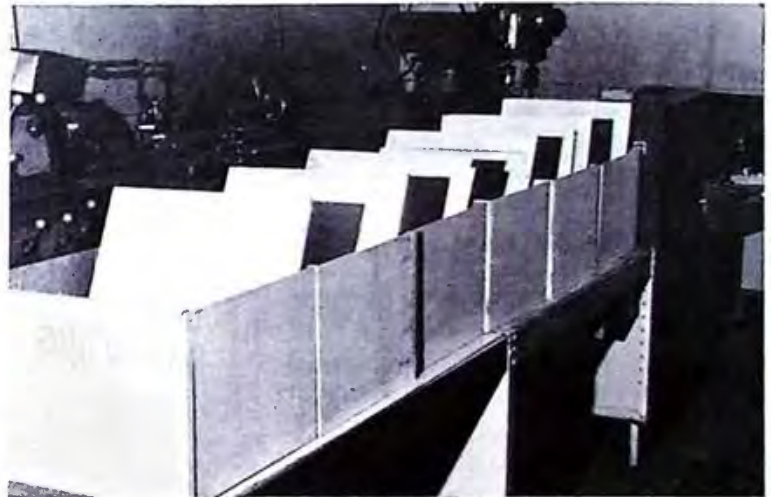


Helen Watt and Jewell Torqny

WE DID IT *Continued...*



Jim Cook



All lined up and almost completed.



Jim and Belva Lupo, Helen Pendergast, Virginia Hecox, Madelyn Cook and Frank Currier



Frank Currier, Roy Huntington & Robert Torqny

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# How to Build a Museum Quality Dollhouse From Everyday Discards

By MARIE WOODRUFF  
Rancho Palos Verdes, California

Have you ever longed for a really grand and elegant dollhouse like no other in the whole world? An original work of art that would become an important family heirloom? In my book, *Early America in Miniatures: The 18th Century* (Sterling Publishing Company, New York), I show the eager miniaturists how they can build one — for a mere pittance.

For my daughter Kimberlee's first Christmas I wanted to give her a big, elegant dollhouse, the kind you read about in story books. I shopped exhaustively but could not find what I wanted. We eventually bought a small, plastic dollhouse that year, but I knew that somewhere, some day I would get exactly what I wanted for Kimberlee.

I found that how-to books on dollhouses were either inadequate for my purpose, or too technical for an amateur miniaturist such as myself. Nevertheless, my ambitions were not to be thwarted. Months of research on American architecture and interior decor and planning began.

My first practice projects were an insignificant papier-maché dollhouse for Raggedy Ann and Andy, followed by an elegantly turreted dolls' castle, complete with drawbridge, working clock, piped-in music, and electricity, and a royal balcony for Kimberlee's collection of dolls of the world. Since to furnish one room in the castle cost approximately \$100 in the early 1970's, I concluded that I would make some of the furnishings and buy the rest. I also decided on a nine-room, 18th century American dollhouse.

The first upholstered Queen Anne chair turned out so beautiful that I went on to more chairs, then tables, fireplaces, beds, and eventually to cupboards with pullout drawers, all made from plywoods and veneers, while my husband designed and built the dollhouse cabinet and stairways. Everything turned out so beautiful. It seemed incredible because it was so easy. As it was, we ended up making all of our dollhouse furnishings, except for one piece. The walls, floors, and ceilings were very easy to decorate because the dollhouse is completely doweled (no nails are used): therefore, the walls can be taken apart and decorated on a flat surface at your leisure while watching TV. Then we made the accessories, rugs, draperies, bed linens, and chandeliers to complete

the interior decor. Kimberlee wanted a doll family in her dollhouse; I thought that it would be impossible to make period costumes and wigs for the dollhouse dolls. But that turned out to be the easiest part of the dollhouse project.

Our combined efforts resulted in a one-of-a-kind work of art in miniaturism that is rapidly becoming one of the most important artistic media in the world today, mainly because of the boundless latitude it affords the miniaturist in self-expression.

The dollhouse project was very much a family involvement, with my husband Chuck doing the wood sawing, and daughter Kimberlee "baking" bread (from baker's clay), and friends provid-

ing fabric remnants and laces. We found that we were able to use the dollhouse to represent our family ancestry through a "flying portrait" gallery that extends through three stories, and to incorporate souvenirs from trips for some of the accessories, and, most importantly, to apply our amateur talents in a myriad of different crafts that have had a tremendous resurgence in America in recent years.

In my book, *Early America in Miniatures: The 18th Century*, I provide the readers with 342 plans and patterns for making the dollhouse cabinet itself, including the staircases, doors, and windows, as well as actual size patterns

*Continued on following page . . .*



Marie Woodruff and her daughter Kimberlee

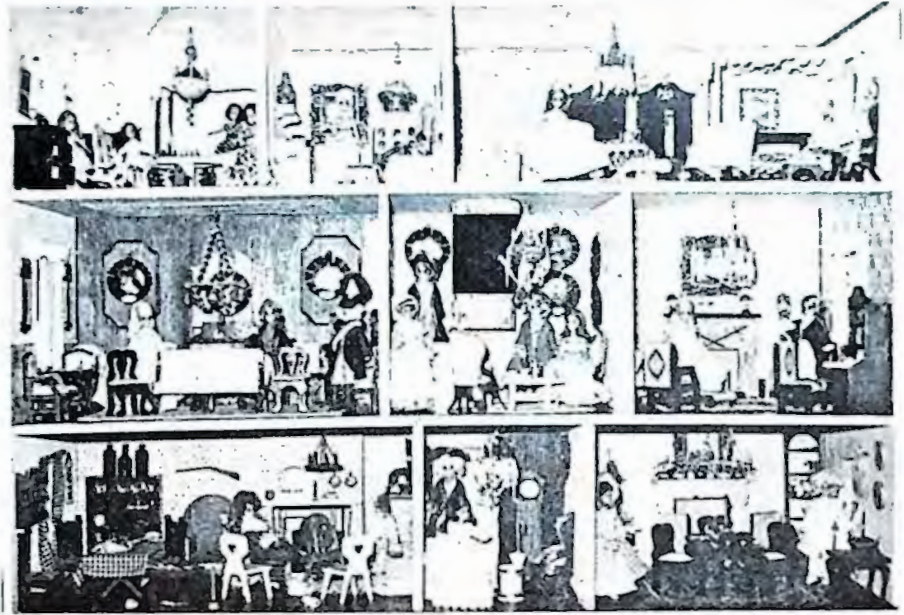
HOW TO BUILD A MUSEUM QUALITY DOLLHOUSE *Continued . . .*

for all the wood furniture, and rugs, draperies, and bed linens. There is also a chapter illustrating 75 early American accessories that you can make from a mere bottle cap, and a chapter showing how to make chandeliers. If you want a doll family to live in your dollhouse, there are simple-to-follow patterns to trace for making period costumes, accessories, and wigs that any novice can make. From the "freshly baked" bread in the kitchen to the working Grandfather's clock, *Early America in Miniatures: The 18th Century* is a tool to aid both the amateur and the professional miniaturists in as little or as much involvement in crafting their own miniatures as they could or would want to comfortably handle.

Miniatures are big business and they are a good, sound investment. Think how much more valuable a one-of-a-kind piece of furniture upholstered in a remnant from your daughter's first birthday dress will be a few years from now, not only in terms of monetary worth, but sentimental value. Think what your dollhouse will be worth

when your little girl is ready to pass it on to her daughter. (And little boys love them too!) Of course, a generation from now, there will surely be changes made in the dollhouse, for, like furnishing your own home, even after the dollhouse is completely equipped, you may want to add an accessory here and there, to reupholster a chair, or supple-

ment the wardrobe. And, even though you may want to follow the patterns in my book per se, the choice of stain or fabric or color or decoration is still yours, in which case the miniature then becomes a special creation all your own, quite unlike any other in the world. *Early America in Miniatures: The 18th Century* shows you how.



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# Christmas Vignette from Childhood Memories

By JOAN HELTON

San Diego



It was early July when work began on a Christmas idea I had tucked away in my thoughts. Having recently found a beautiful gold leaf picture frame and a small remnant of red Victorian type wallpaper, I knew just what I was going to do with both.

My Christmas shadow box was woven from childhood memories, recalling Christmas mornings spent at grandma's house in the 1930's. The early hour is recorded on the face of the old German metal clock, as two wide-eyed sisters descend the stairs toward a tinsel tree. Our stockings were always hung at the foot of a large brass bed, and in the mornings we were eager to discover the contents. An apple and orange were tucked in the toe, a small toy and bit of chocolate somehow

mysteriously appeared during the night. Unable to contain ourselves any longer, we scampered down the stairs in our night gowns.

The fresh green tree was a delight to behold and took hours to decorate I'm sure. The garlands and red bows placed on the stairs made it impossible for us to slide down the banister during the holiday visit. Many of the old tree ornaments are still family treasures and were shared between my sister and I in later years.

Two small and yellowed portraits of my mother and grandmother are framed on the back wall, along with two brass light fixtures. I still remember the beautiful glass shades because grandpa broke one swinging his cane in the hallway. Grandpa's cane and large black

umbrella were always in their place at the foot of the stairs. Walking was his habit in the afternoons and on occasion we were invited to join him but expected to behave like young ladies.

My Christmas shadow box is truly a childhood memory and was on exhibit when our club . . . The San Diego Miniature Crafters hosted the recent N.A.M.E. National Houseparty in San Diego, California August of this year.

## N.A.M.E. CLUB & INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Have you contributed an article to the *Gazette*? It's your magazine and it depends on you. Share news of miniature interest with your fellow N.A.M.E. members.

Help YOUR *Gazette* Grow!

# Sunny San Diego (well almost!) Hosts Fifth National "Houseparty"



The San Diego Miniature Crafters headed by the competent Rose Morris, hosted a most successful National "Houseparty" on August 15, 16, & 17, 1977 at the Town and Country Convention Center at Mission Valley, a picturesque vacation setting in San Diego, California. Approximately 700 happy registrants conventioned through a weather range that included a sunny pre-registration Sunday, August 14th held in the Tiki Hut adjoining the large, luxurious pool where in 80 degree sunshine, sunbathers adorned the patio decking to the opposite extreme, a wet, blustery Wednesday, Aug. 17th touched by the edges of a Southern Pacific hurricane that brought the unusual rain to this normally balmy area. Weather didn't affect the spirits of those attending and did nothing to diminish public attendance at the Wednesday sales room where a constant crowd of fascinated miniaturists kept the activity at a frantic pace.

The convention theme . . . "Showcase '77" was used with great success as this active club showcased many miniature highlights . . . their club raffle prize, for one . . . "La Casa de

Estudillo" . . . a replica of a building situated in Old Town, San Diego and State Historic Park and it reflected Spanish, Mexican and American Indian culture and heritage and was constructed by San Diegans, Joan and Bill Helton, especially for the

"houseparty." The lucky winner of this masterpiece was Registrar Pearl Vinson, herself a member of the club. Another fortunate winner, Alice Weadock of Lima, Ohio won a Victorian House donated and partially furnished by the

*Continued on following page . . .*



A beautiful House by the Taylor's of Balboa Isle, California



Brunch speaker Helen Cook with protege' granddaughter, Dawn

SUNNY SAN DIEGO *Continued . .*

Board of Directors of N.A.M.E. and beautifully decorated and finished by the members of the Riverside, Calif. club - "Mission Belles and Beaus."

Also showcased was an early artisan, Mrs. Helen Cook, the Brunch Speaker, a San Diego lady who is widely known for her exquisite waxen fruits and vegetables. These were exhibited at the San Francisco and New York World's Fairs and are also in the possession of nearly every major miniaturist. The miniature world is fortunate that Helen is now instructing her granddaughter, Dawn, in this art proving once again that miniatures spans the generations.

Another major showcase was the Banquet Speaker, Robert Ferris, a prominent California architect who gave a most impressive slide tour of

California Victorian homes situated the entire length of the state and what is being done to preserve these early architectural gems.

The opening ceremony was treated to a slide excursion of the tiny city of Madurodam, Holland, narrated by Bob von Fliss with slides donated for the occasion by Darvin & Anna Simmons of Colton, California.

The food functions, workshops and exhibits were all pleasurable and reflected the dedication and abilities of this hard-working N.A.M.E. club.

Besides the innovative pre-registration social get-together on Sunday where early arrivals could socialize along with club-donated refreshments, one could also enjoy an

*Continued on following page . .*



A Noel Thomas Washington State Victorian



Al Rice shares his knowledge in Workshop demonstration.



Door prizes galore!



Miniature food treasures in wax by Helen Cook



Doreen Sinnett conducts "Needlework" Workshop.

SUNNY SAN DIEGO *Continued . . .*

Salesroom Scene



Boat Shop Exhibited by the Haltons

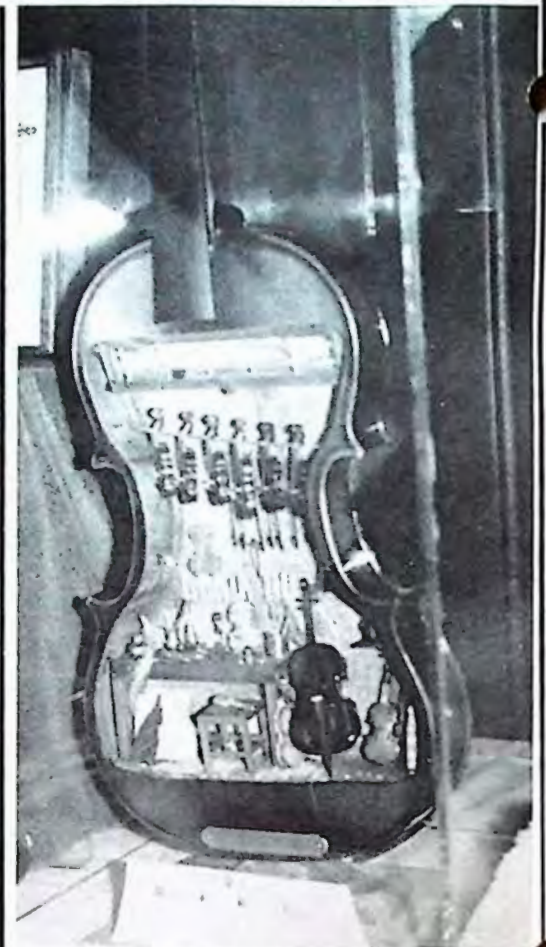
attractive display of club projects. During this pre-registration, a tour of Tijuana, Old Mexico was also provided.

Quoting from the newsletter published by the Cleveland Miniaturia Society, Judy Merenoff of New Haven, Michigan writes . . ."

"Sales room was fabulous! Buying began after the Monday P.M. meeting — in a gigantic mad crush, or course. Some got the clever idea of starting at the far end to avoid the rush, so there was a crowd at *both* sides. *I*, being so clever,

started at the middle! Of course, I wasn't the only one who thought of that either.

"The exhibits such as one of Noel Thomas' houses were great. There was even a spooky dollhouse — coffins, skeletons, Invisible Man, etc. — all in 1" scale. Banquet had good food and congenial people, and I won a door prize — dollhouse doll. There were slides of actual renovated Victorian houses in California. Brunch was also nice. Table favor was a Carlson hutch with glass-



Violin Shop by Tracy

fronted shelves, a mini to fill with minis.

"The weather was *very* wet, but didn't seem to dampen any spirits! After one of my sales room sprees, I returned to our room in a downpour — with both my rain bonnets covering my purchases; after all, *I'll* dry out but my packages were too important to risk!

"San Diego, from what we saw, was beautiful, clean and safe. The room was large and spotless, there were several great dining rooms, a separate convention center, two outdoor pools — really a good choice for the Houseparty. Barry and I had a fantastic week and are looking forward to Denver next year."

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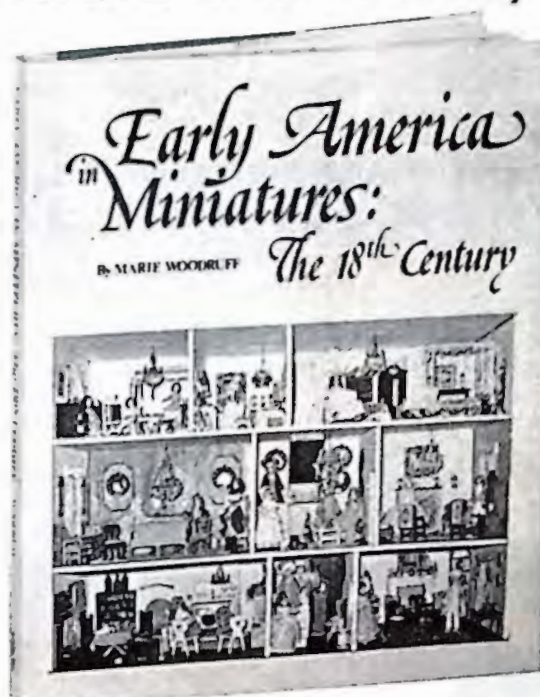


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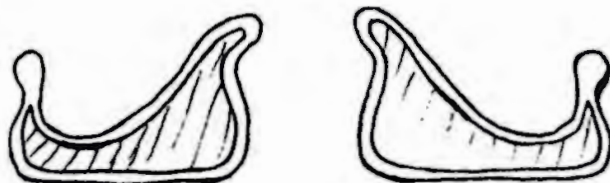


# WORK PROJECT

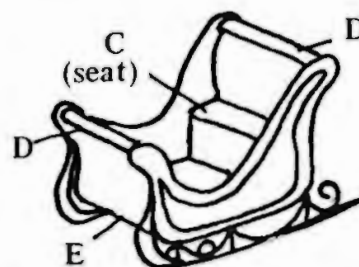
## Christmas Mantle Decoration

Pattern by CYNTHIA BARON

A & B – Sleigh Sides

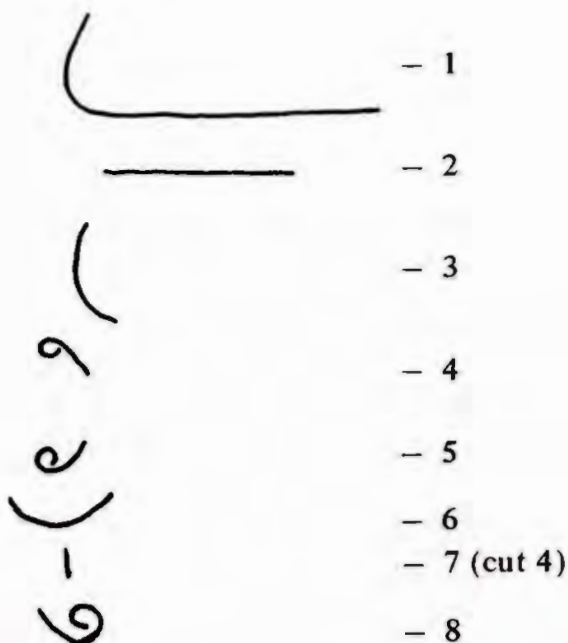
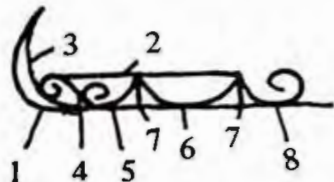


- C – seat - 1 piece basswood 3/8" x 3/8" x 3/4"
- D – doweling - 2 pieces of round toothpick 3/4" long
- E – base - 1 piece poster board 5/8" x 2-1/2"



### "IRON" SLEIGH RUNNERS

Cut 2 each (except No. 7) of wire and shape according to pattern.



Continued on following page . . .

CHRISTMAS MANTLE DECORATION *Continued . . .*

**MATERIALS:**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Posterboard                | Wax paper                               |
| Scissors                   | Medium-gauge Wire                       |
| White Glue                 | Wire Cutters                            |
| Tracing Paper & Pencil     | Round-nosed Pliers (for shaping wire)   |
| Red Enamel Paint & Remover | Hot Glue (Krazy Glue, Perma-Bond, etc.) |
| Gold Enamel Paint          | Flat Black Enamel                       |
| No. 1 Brush                | 5 or 6 pieces of wood                   |
| Round Toothpick            | (3/16" x 3/16" or smaller)              |
| X-acto Knife               | Tiny Print Paper for Wrapping           |

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Cut out sleigh sides of wood (1/16" thick) or poster board.
2. Trace pattern, cut out and glue onto sleigh sides
3. Wrap E around outside of A & B to form body of sleigh and glue.
4. Glue D in place just above E.
5. Place C at back of sleigh and glue.
6. Paint entire sleigh red, inside and out, leaving shaded area blank. Paint shaded area gold. Use enough coats to make sleigh hard. Let dry thoroughly.
7. RUNNERS – Cut out all pieces and shape as shown.
8. Lay pieces on wax paper and assemble as shown in diagram (make 2 runners).
9. Put a drop of hot glue at each joint. Let dry.
10. Paint runners black on both sides.
11. Glue runners to bottom of sleigh.
12. Fill sleigh with packages made from scraps of wood about 3/16" x 3/16" and wrapped with tiny-print paper.

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# In the Mini



## Spotlight

### THE BEGINNING OF MARIN MINI MAKERS

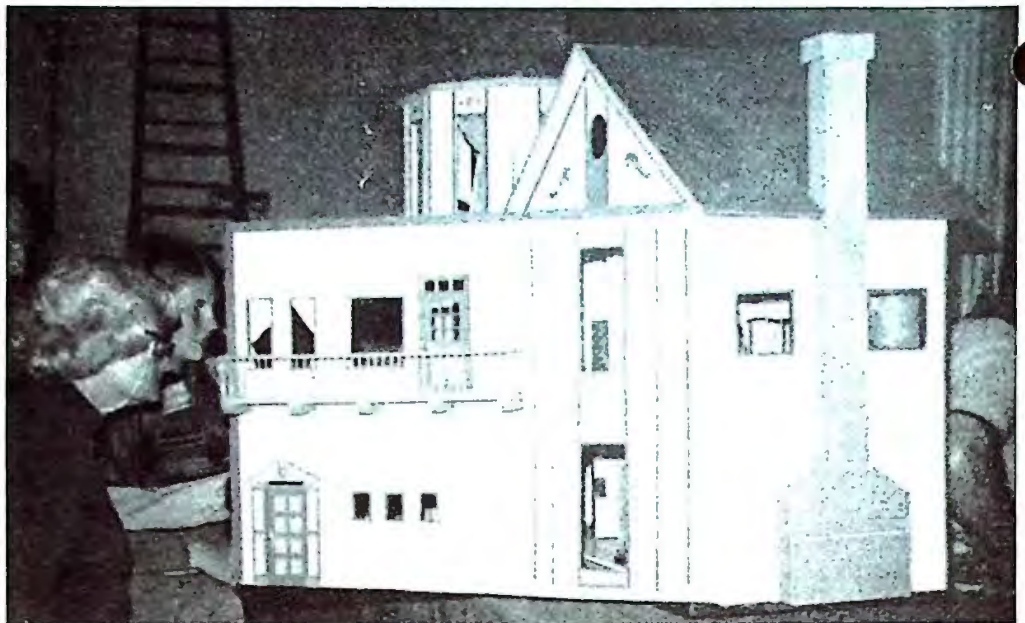
Really looking for kindred souls, who are mini nuts like us, and who wanted to do workshops and learn more, we all came out of our respective little closets, of making our own things, and with 10 charter members we started M.M.M.

Membership grew as we did, to present status of 35 and is closed. We meet in a lovely room the Bank of Marin, in Larkspur permits us to use, on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 - visitors welcome.

We have over the months, thru our workshops, learned to: decoupage for pictures, upholster chairs and couches, weave baskets, (yes, really, all of us on the floor with newspapers, reeds, buckets of water — it was quite a sight! So were the baskets!) We also dressed dolls (no sewing), made dough items, plants and shrubbery too. We did stained glass windows, kid shoes for our little people and Tiffany lamps.

We've had slide shows, with more coming as one member is putting a program together and will show it to other clubs. We've gone to see Bill's "Briner Tour" which leaves one's head awirl, up one street and down the other. You can see what's going on in back as well as the front doors.

After all this energy and great talent, our crazy president (me) thought it was



Everyone looking into exhibits



Peter Ashe, very famous painter of needlework fame, who came to see Amelia DeMerlo's work, with Lee Sexton, Pres. of M.M.M.

about time we got our feet wet and put on "Marin County's" 1st Miniature Show. At first there was sort of incredulous side looks of "who is," and a slight air of "she's kidding," their interest, a good cause was picked and finally "Let's do it!"

We did and it was a smashing success! Being non-profit, all monies were given to "The Arena School of Learning," here in San Rafael. A very fine school, with children that have learning problems.

Our theme was "Country Days" since we are the country side of San Francisco, across the Golden Gate Bridge. We made posters, we advertised, we wrote, we phoned, and were phoned in return, and the response was unbelievable.

We sold raffle tickets on 7 fantastic rooms and 1 lovely china doll — all made by members. We exhibited our Raffle Prizes in Banks, Schools, Shops, Libraries, and open Shopping Malls.

*Continued on following page . . .*

IN THE MINI SPOTLIGHT *Continued...*



Madame Rose's Bordello - Circa 1900



One of the customers bathing in Madame Rose's Bordello

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We had 60 door prizes, donated by members and dealers, which we awarded every 1/2 hour to the ringing of an old school bell.

All members wore country clothes. We decorated the hall, and dealers and customers alike had nothing but good to say for us. Are we proud? You bet we are! We are also proud to state for a 1-day show, we were able to donate to "The Arena School," a check for \$1352.00. Will we do it again? I do hope so, and I think other members do too. That will be up to new officers next January.

Our N.A.M.E. Exec. Vice Pres., Bill Briner, and our Regional Director, Pat Bellamy, came to one of our meetings, and asked us to work with other Bay Area Clubs and help put on October's "Houseparty" in Burlingame, whose theme is "Miniature Gardens." Did we? You'd better believe we did! Those "tote" boxes were our doing, and we all had our little heads bent and fingers a'flying on 350 little surprises for the totes, also.

We love what we do, and have such talent in our club, it's impossible to tell you of it all. We share ideas, plans and truly help each other's projects.

This summer the members voted not to disband for July and August. We're just too busy having fun.

I feel that we are all a "new breed" of sincere miniaturists.

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# SIR THOMAS THUMB

There's an old 18th Century stone and brick house, just 4 miles north of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on a quiet country road where horse-drawn Amish buggies roll by. In that house are other houses, miniature houses, dollhouses built by Sir Thomas Thumb. The showroom is small, and beautiful, and exclusively devoted to all miniature needs, from hand-made rugs and little brown jugs to hand-dipped scented candles and brass door knockers.

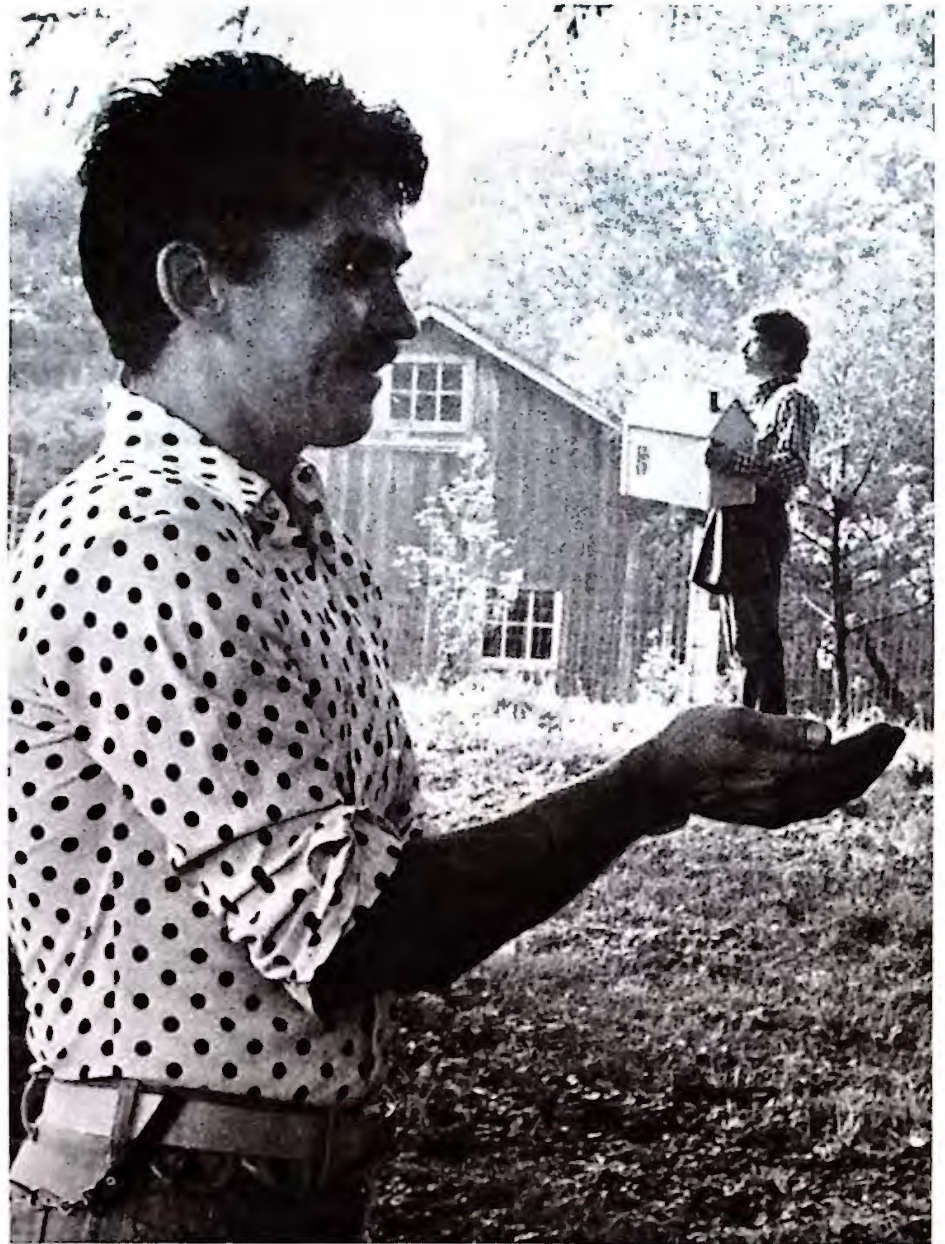
However, Sir Thumb's specialty is an original line of brick, rounded river pebble, and gray stone fireplaces. There are miniature fireplaces with round hearths and square hearths, kitchen fireplaces with metal cauldrons and trammel hooks, corner fireplaces designed to fit into a doll's favorite room. Each has a solid slate base and antiqued pine mantle. Each is hand-crafted and signed by Sir T. Thumb. But who, you might ask, is this Sir Thomas Thumb?

He was born Thomas Iacono, in a residential neighborhood in New York City, and studied at the City University of New York, earning a degree in Psychology.

"But," says Tom, "I was not satisfied. I realized that I wanted to work with my hands, doing something more creative."

After travelling a bit, he enrolled at Millersville State College in Lancaster County, studying Industrial Arts. Tom took courses in metals, plastics, ceramics, in the graphic arts, and finally specialized in wood and cabinet making.

"While enrolled at school I was asked to duplicate an antique dollhouse for a collector who couldn't find an original of the type she was interested in. It was a little out of my field, but I took the commission . . . it was a challenge! Before it was even completed a friend of hers asked me to build one for her. She wanted her own home duplicated. It was during that project that I became truly interested. It was fascinating! Word slowly spread that there was a miniaturist loose on campus, and the orders began rolling in. After



Sir Thumb and brother agree on a new design.

graduation I decided to try to realize a dream I've always had — that was to have my own business, however small."

"Before long I couldn't handle all the orders I was getting, and I sent for my brother Tony. We formed a partnership, found an old stone house, and set up our workshop and showroom."

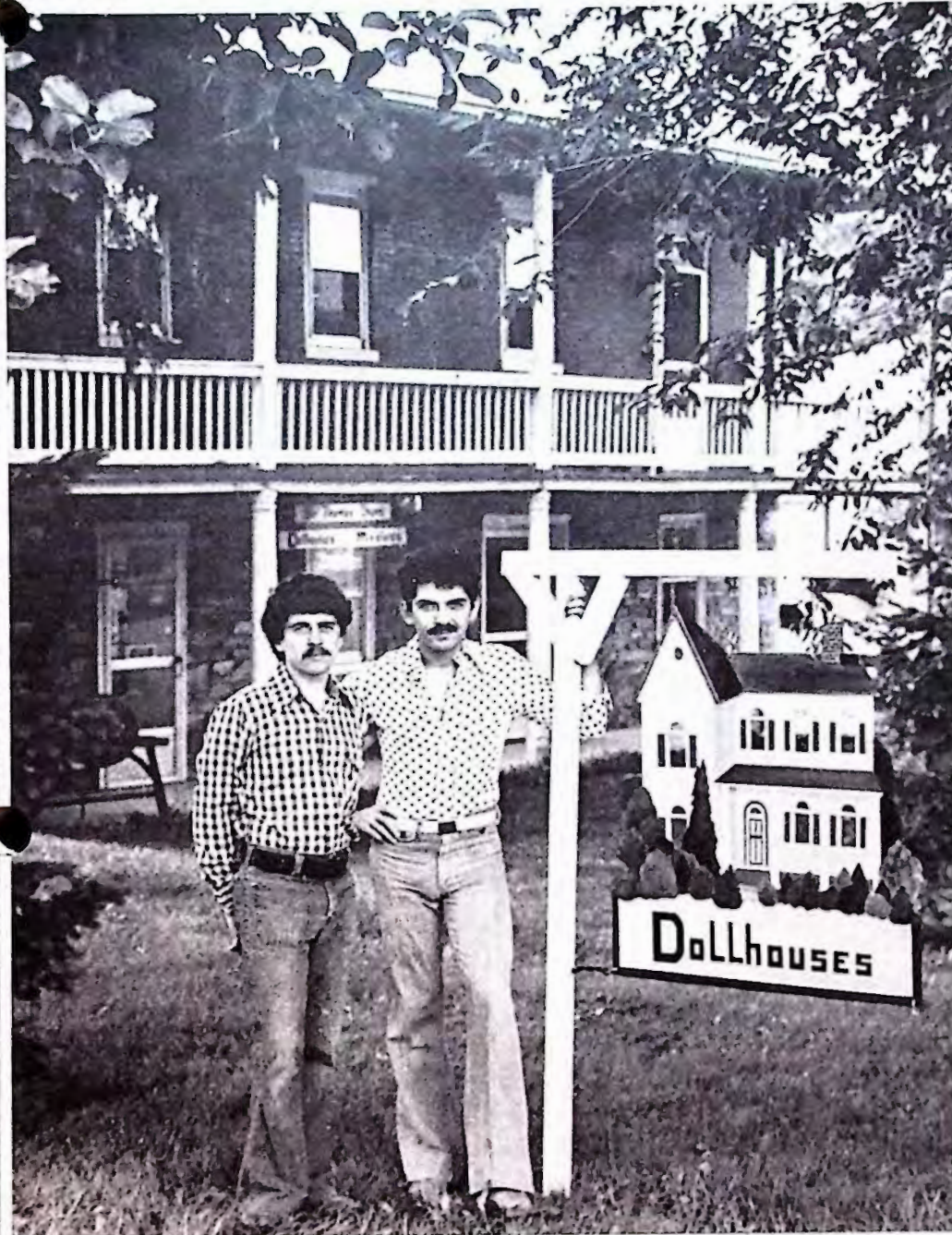
Fortunately the two brothers are compatible as a work team, and more importantly, as friends. They are both in their late 20's, are both single, sociable and 'people-oriented', very

serious about work and healthful living. "Plenty of exercise and good food." said Tom. They cultivate an extensive organic home garden, and are strict vegetarians.

"It's working out better than I thought it would." Tony said. "The house is enormous. There's room on the first floor for our workshop, showroom, stockroom, and office. Living quarters are on the second floor with enough room for all the friends and relatives who frequently visit from

*Continued on following page . . .*

SIR THOMAS THUMB *Continued...*



shingled hinged roof, and a built in brick fireplace that 'works.' A piece of incense put onto the slate hearth stone sends smoke drifting up through the chimney. It adds that extra touch of realism we always try to achieve. It's a beauty!"

"We are now planning to reproduce, in scale, several of the beautiful old historic homes in Lancaster County. We want to build these landmark houses in stone and wood. Of course a project of this scope is time consuming, and we do not intend to neglect our fireplaces!"

"The fireplaces were, at first, simply another interesting experiment in design and technique. We put them in our shop and took them to miniature shows. They quickly became favorites with our retail clients. Then we tried them on a wholesale basis. Albert M. Farah, Sr., in Buena Park, California, agreed to represent us on the west coast. The response was nearly overwhelming. Everyone seemed to love them. I think it's because people have always been in love with the idea of the 'hearth'; a fireplace is cozy and warm and beautiful. We worked hard to achieve a sense of realism. For example, we make all the bricks ourselves - of clay, then fire them in our ceramic kiln. We'd like to have them more widely distributed, and so are looking for representatives in other areas of the U.S.A., and perhaps Canada."

"Our future plans include a beautiful colonial kitchen fireplace, which will be a true collector's item. It will be crafted as a limited edition, with a good deal of authentic detail. Each fireplace will be

*Continued on following page...*

New York. I've even set up a large studio, where I can paint without interruption."

Tony studied fine arts in New York. After joining Sir Thomas, he developed the Miniature Gallery of Original Art - paintings done on fine handkerchief linen canvases with hand-made mitered and gilded frames. He does all the advertising and photography for the business, and is the main source of new designs.

"Working together, we experimented with and developed a stone dollhouse. It has random plank flooring (each piece cut and antiqued individually), hewn beam ceilings, stuccoed kitchen,



SIR THOMAS THUMB *Continued...*



signed and numbered, and issued with certificate of its historic and design background. It's being designed after a colonial fireplace in the Lancaster area. We've become very excited about this project, because it's something new, and, of course . . . a challenge! (Sir Thomas Thumb's mailing address: R.D. #1, Oregon Rd., Leola, PA 17540)

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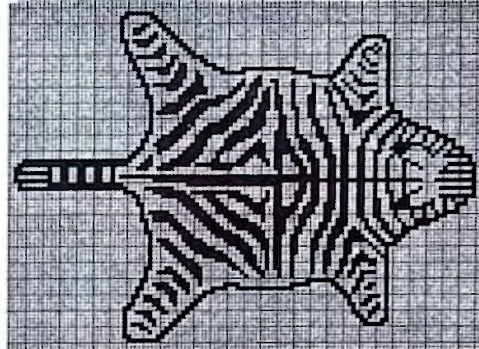
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# Brant Keys, Miniature Artist Extraordinaire!

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Turnings in 1/12 scale include various wine glasses, decanters, trays, urns, bowls, bells, spinning tops, candlestick holders and cups and saucers. Wood is turned so thin that light easily passes through them.

Price of individual items range from \$3.00 to \$25.00 and complete display is currently valued at approximately \$375.00.

Exquisite detail and graceful form, hallmark the creations of this artist for whom art and craft are inseparable. Brant Keys is 72 years old and has been a craftsman in wood almost all his life. Mr. Keys' first and strongest inspiration to turn wood came from his father when he was a young child. His father worked at a water pumping station in Illinois when the pumps were driven by steam. The senior Mr. Keys noticed that the draught of air into the clean out hole at the bottom of the tall smoke stacks was extremely strong. He fitted a fan blade and pulley to a shaft and placed them by the clean out hole. This powered the wooden lathe that he had built and allowed him to make these products that excited Brant Keys when he was just 5 years old.

At the age of 12, Brant Keys started to turn wood on a lathe. A few years later he joined an old carriage maker/blacksmith who taught him to make his own tools. In 1946, he was granted a patent on equipment he designed to cut threads in wood.

It was this inspiration which, some years ago, provoked Mr. Keys to try turning miniature wine goblets. Months of frustrating experimentation followed, but slowly the techniques were learned. Finally, he was able to make one or two goblets for every ten he attempted and armed with an inventory of 12 he set out to sell them.



Eventually, a store in a nearby city offered 50¢ for each goblet. Tired of haggling with buyers he reluctantly decided to accept the offer, confident that public acceptance would enable him to receive a better price on the next order. Two weeks later the store asked him to supply more goblets but they refused to pay more than 50¢ each. Mr. Keys refused, but driven by curiosity, visited the store. To his dismay he found that all but two had been sold and the marked price was \$6.00 each. Hurt and angry, Brant Keys returned to his shop and devoted the next five days to making 30 goblets. The following Saturday he stood outside the store giving them away to all who entered!

During the next few years, at those times he felt the need to be creative, Mr. Keys slowly learned to turn from wood many beautiful miniature pieces, but he did not sell them.

Earlier this year, and quite by chance, the author of this article met Mr. Keys and received an exquisite beaded stem wine glass as a thank you — "for devoting thirty minutes to an old man." That a limited number of these incredible miniatures is now available is due to this unforeseen crossing of paths.

Brant Keys is a wise, sensitive man who prefers solitude. Located in a remote area of the hot, arid desert of Southern California, he lives alone in a corner of his workshop. Samples of his



work in wood spanning 60 years are visible everywhere; satisfying reminders of a long creative life and a diary of the man; Brant Keys.



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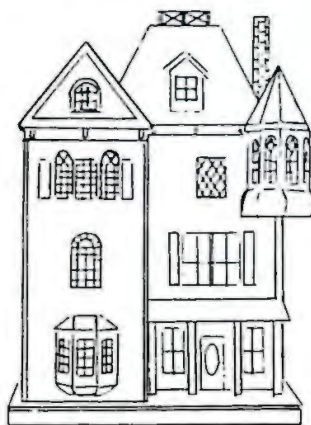


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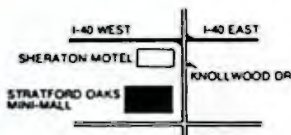
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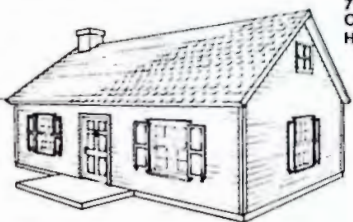
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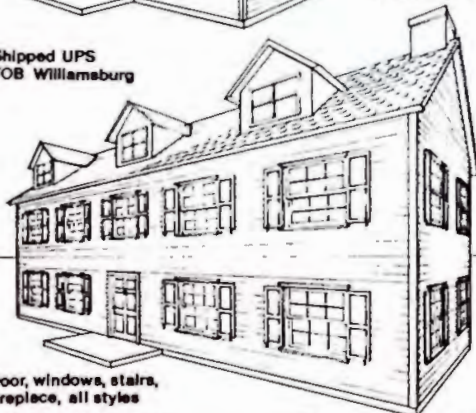
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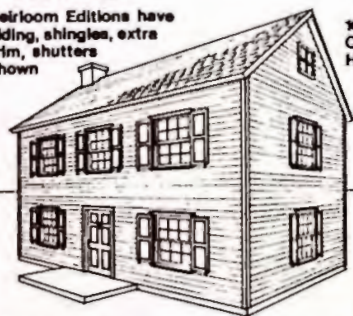


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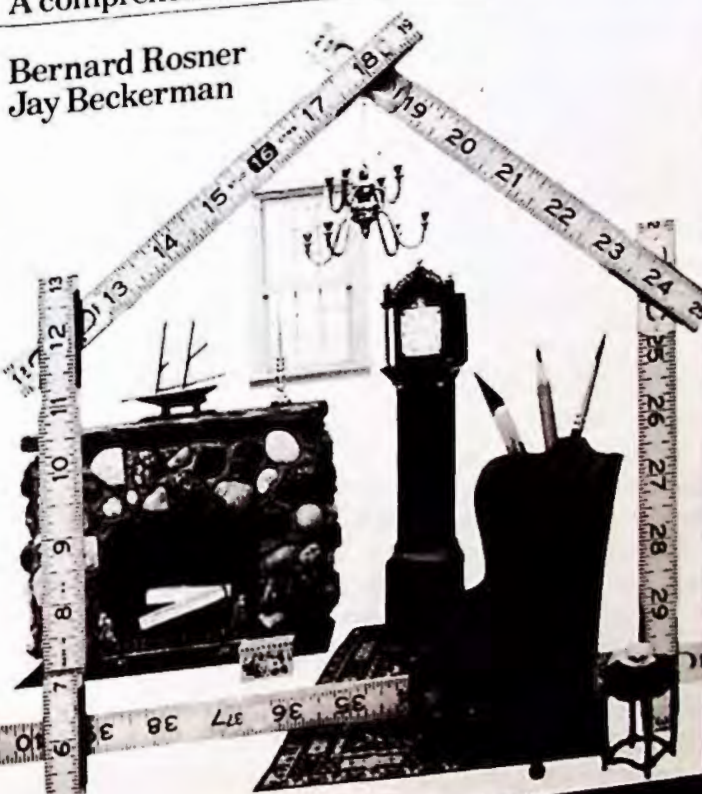
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# Miniature Guild Now in N.A.M.E.

By PAT BARON

I have always thought that the Miniature Guild of Southern California was the oldest continuously-meeting miniature club in existence. But Susan Hendrix, who has been a member since 1967, the year in which the Guild was founded, said that she has heard of a miniature club in the East which has been meeting for thirteen years. At any rate, there can be no finer group of people gathered together for *any* number of years in the name of miniatures.

The Guild has been responsible, during the past decade, for stimulating the interest in miniatures, both in its numerous members, and in the general public through displays of miniatures at the annual Long Beach, Gardena and Roosevelt Park Hobby Shows.

Margaret Magner, Founder, has always insisted that the Guild be run on an informal basis, with no elected officers, nor formal by-laws. For many years, the meetings were held in the clubhouse of the Torrance Gardens Mobile Home Park, where Margaret resides. Because of its informal structure, and because of the warm, welcoming nature of that gracious lady, which attitude spread to most of the other members, the Guild grew in size from five original members in 1967 to over one hundred members in 1976. The clubhouse was abandoned as a meeting place long before this, and the Guild now meets in a Mercury Savings Building.

The format of the meetings is still informal, but in 1976 it was deemed necessary to appoint a "Common Sense Committee" to draw up some simple rules, which include limiting the membership to eighty.

My husband, my daughter and I first joined the Guild in January, 1971 and were immediately impressed with the friendly atmosphere and the willingness of the members to share ideas, information and sources of supplies. All duties in the group have always been voluntary. The programs are presented by individual members or small groups



Founder, Margaret Magner, receives club charter from N.A.M.E. President Emeritas, Max Boydston

of members, and usually consist of the display of the work of one or more members. These displays range from individual miniatures made or collected by the program people, to complete dollhouses with many furnished rooms. It seemed incredible to us at first that anyone would be willing to dismantle a complete dollhouse, transport it to the meeting place, set it up and describe it, then reverse the process to get it back home. But the Miniature Guild members are proud to have the opportunity to share the results of their efforts, and nothing is ever "too much trouble" for them.

Occasionally the program is called "Show and Tell," wherein each member brings something he has recently made or collected, and describes it fully, placing these items on long tables for closer examination by all the other members. And at least once a year there is a "Garage Sale" in lieu of program. This presents a golden opportunity to dispose of "buyer's mistakes" (one man's trash is another man's treasure) surplus goodies resulting from house-cleaning to make room for more minis.

There are still no elected officers, and no formal "minutes" are taken at the meetings, since there is never a business meeting, any such matters being

handled by the Common Sense Committee. However, a reportage of each program is written at the present time by Susan Hendrix, and is included in the monthly newsletter sent to all members. Susan's command of language enables her to create tantalizing word pictures of the various portions of the program, causing much gnashing of teeth on the part of anyone who was not able to attend.

The Newsletter, initiated by the Founder, has been written since late 1972 by Betty Allen, who also has a "way with words." One of Betty's sub-hobbies is collecting written material of interest to miniaturists. She and spouse Bill have spent many a dusty hour in the depths of some library, foraging for pertinent information in old magazines, including such things as ads from a Delineator magazine of 1898, an article called "The Palace of the Princess in the Village of Lilliput," concerning the Mother Larke collection, from Hobbies, April 1936, and reprints of postcards showing portions of the Queen's Dollhouse, among many other fascinating items. She includes at least two pages of such good stuff with each Newsletter, her latest being a reprint of a complete Grandmother Stover 1950

*Continued on following page . . .*

MINIATURE GUILD JOINS N.A.M.E. *Continued...*

catalog, in serial fashion.

I have seen other large groups form, and fall apart; it is my opinion that a Newsletter is essential in keeping a large group together, and all of the Guild members are grateful to Betty and Susie for what must seem, at times, a thankless task.

Door prizes are raffled at each meeting, with the winners being responsible to donate a prize at the next meeting. The members pay no dues, per se, but donate fifty cents each at each meeting to defray the cost of the room cleaning charge and the cost of the printing and postage for the newsletter.

Most of the Guild members long ago joined N.A.M.E. as individual members, since they were under the impression that N.A.M.E. required a club to have formal by-laws and elected officers. Upon learning that this is not necessary, the Common Sense Committee was very pleased that N.A.M.E. has decided to honor this group in its tenth anniversary

year by presenting them with their own N.A.M.E. Charter. Max Boydston, President Emeritus of N.A.M.E. visited the Guild on September 3 to make its formal presentation to the Founder, Margaret Magner.

Since that time, the Common Sense Committee has agreed that those N.A.M.E. members of the Guild who wish to participate may sponsor a Region N-1 Houseparty in 1978. Chairperson Marie Dettling was appointed by the N.A.M.E. Houseparty Consultant Committee, and is hard at work gathering ideas from other members. The Houseparty will take place December 1, 2 and 3, 1978 at the Holiday Inn in Torrance, Ca., with the theme, chosen at the October meeting, "A Victorian Parlor at Christmastime." Guild membership includes many creative miniatures, and I expect that they will succeed in their endeavor to make this the best Houseparty ever.

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# Region N-2 Reaps a Rich Harvest . . .

## San Francisco Clubs Sowed Seeds That Flourished Into Bountiful Regional "Houseparty"!



Ellen Blauer shares her knowledge thru workshops

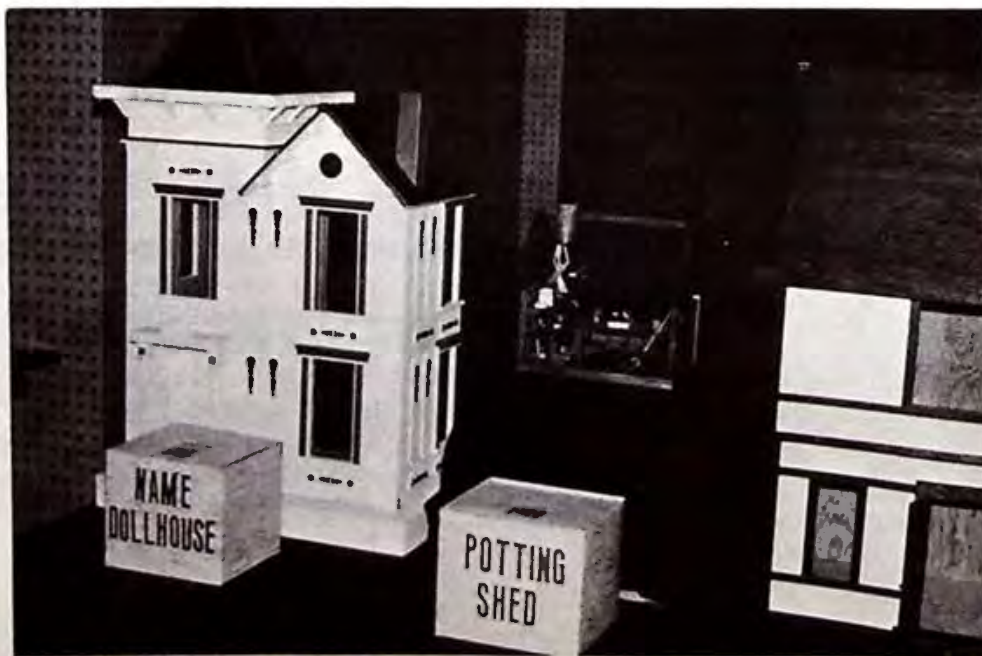
With the "Miniature Gardener" as their theme, members of various Bay Area Miniature Clubs, delighted us with a Region N-2 Regional "Houseparty" on October 14th through the 16th at the Airport Marina Hotel in Burlingame, California. It was especially noteworthy for its smoothly run, carefree and hospitable atmosphere that bespoke the experience of its chairman, Pat Bellamy and the careful attention and hard work of its various committees headed by The Marin Mini-Makers, the Associate Troupe of Miniaturists, Howard Rubenstein, Phyllis Meacham, Harriet Jedlicka, Virginia Hecox, and Frieda Frosh. Many hours of careful preparation and attention to detail were evident in every aspect of this beautifully run function . . . outstanding banquet and brunch favors, (finely handcrafted ornamental orange trees in attractive stoneware pots, for the banquet, and garden flats of bedding plants and assorted garden tools for the brunch surprise), ample tote bags that were filled with garden oriented "goodies" to enhance the overall theme . . . as active a workshop area as any that I have ever witnessed . . . a

beautifully displayed and congestion-free exhibit area with unique and unusual displays . . . and a large, active sales room that was filled to capacity on Sunday when the delighted public swarmed into this treasure-house of miniature merchandise.

The Breakfast program narrated by Chairman, Pat Bellamy, was a colorful slide program which showed the competitive exhibits created for the annual meeting of The Garden Club of America in 1976. Each of the Club's 12 zones entered two miniature rooms executed in one inch to one foot scale arranged in a framed opening, 12" and 20" wide. Accompanying each room was a flower arrangement, suitable for that room, and designed for a niche 12" high, 10" wide and 10" deep.

The Banquet Program, offered by Bob von Fliss, N.A.M.E. founding Board Member and editor of the *Miniature Gazette*, was a pictorial history of the Association from its first breakfast meetings in Omaha, Nebraska back in 1972 at its inception down to the last great National "Houseparty" in San Diego, California in August of this year. For some it was a chance to revisit exciting times and places and for others, more recently chartered it was an opportunity to understand the events that helped shape the organization and the people in it.

N.A.M.E. Executive Vice President,



Some raffle prizes including N.A.M.E. Board Victorian House decorated by hosting clubs

**REGION N-2 REAPS A RICH HARVEST** *Continued . . .*

William Briner, shared his experience and knowledge by identifying old miniatures for those attending.

One innovation that was enthusiastically received was an opening program that combined a welcome address, dessert and coffee, and a single workshop project that everyone could construct during that particular time. The project was a potting sink with all parts and instructions and this departure from the usual opening programs found unanimous approval.

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Ligia Durstenfeld, an active Workshop Participant



One of the many fine exhibits — this bedroom by Suzan Hill

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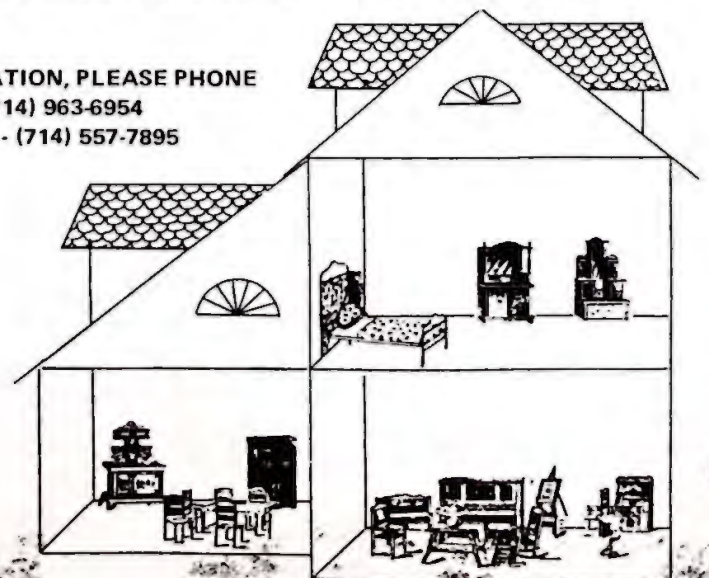
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April 22, 23,  
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*April 22, 23,  
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# WORK PROJECT



## SUNFLOWER DOILY

By DONNA CALDWELL

*"I know of the difficulty in finding doilies, tablecloths, and other needlework in scale for miniatures, and so I would like to share this doily pattern with other N.A.M.E. members.*

*The crochet cotton used here, if unavailable elsewhere, can be purchased through mail-order from:*

*Boutique Margot*

*26 West 54th Street - New York, N.Y. 10019*

*It is article #151, six-cord crochet cotton, size 100, \$1.25 per ball, and is available in white or ecru.*

*I have been making miniature doilies and other needlework accessories, and selling them through a local shop. The newest item I have developed is a hairpin lace afghan, which is an accurate scale reproduction, the individual strips measuring a mere 1/4 inch."*

Abbreviations:      ch — chain  
                               sc — single crochet  
                               dc — double crochet  
                               tr — treble crochet  
                               sl st — slip stitch

Materials:            size 100 crochet cotton  
                               size 14 steel crochet hook

Round 1:      Ch 4, 2 dc in first ch, ch 1, \* 3 dc in same place, ch 1. Repeat from \* 5 times. Join to top of ch 4 with sl st.

You will have 6 groups of 3 dc (one will be a ch 3 and 2 dc), with a ch separating each group

Round 2:      \*Cluster stitch over 3 dc, ch 3, sc in ch of previous round, ch 3. Repeat from \* around doily. Join with sl st at top of cluster stitch.

Round 3:      Ch 3, 2 dc in top of cluster stitch, ch 2, 3 tr in sc, ch 2. \* 3 dc in top of cluster stitch, ch 2, 3 tc in sc, ch 2. Repeat from \* around doily, and join with sl st.

Round 4:      \* Cluster stitch over 3 dc, ch 3, sc in ch 2 space, ch 3, cluster stitch over 3 tr, ch 3, sc in ch 2 space, ch 3. Repeat from \* around doily, and join with sl st.

### Cluster Stitch Directions:

Work a dc, but do not bring thread through the last two loops to finish it. Instead, leave the last two loops on the hook. Work two more dc, also leaving the last loop on the hook. You should have four loops. Yarn over, and bring through all four loops.

Note: When working first cluster stitch of each round, ch 2 instead of the first dc. You will have three loops at the end, rather than four.

# First Dallas Houseparty Big Success

Fun was the order of the day when the prim and proper Victorian era let its hair down for the second Region E-2 Houseparty held in Dallas June 10, 11 and 12. Two hundred and thirty-five N.A.M.E. members and guests registered to enjoy the warm hospitality of the Dallas Miniature Craftsmen's Guild during the three day event.

Slide shows by Betty Allen and Annette Klinge opened Friday afternoon's program, followed by a book review panel. The subject was



The Gazebo Centerpiece



Salesroom — Peg and Paul McNeely enjoy one of the rare quiet moments allowed dealers

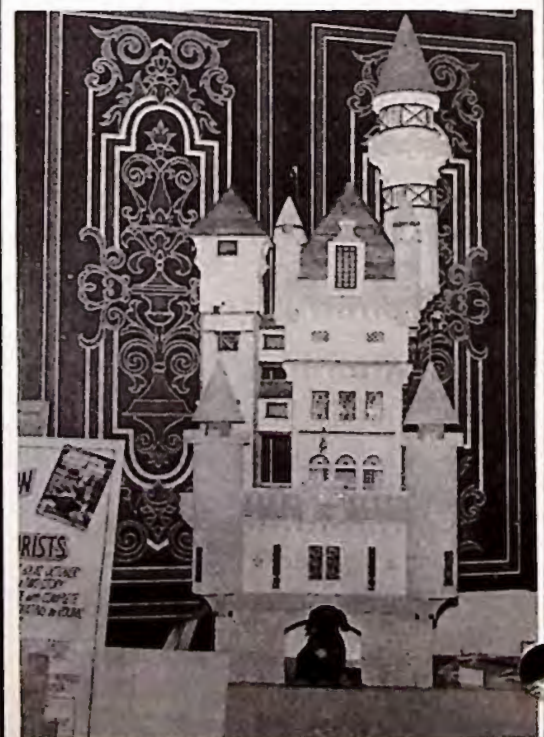
miniatures, of course, and Susan Hendrix (California), Jeri Futvoye (Missouri) and Kathryn Spence (Texas) ably gave their personal views of at least fifteen books, many of them quite recent publications. The goal of the book review, successfully achieved, was to heighten everyone's awareness that miniature books are indeed flooding the market; that there is no such thing as "The Most Complete Book . . ." about

miniatures; and that buyers should be wary of books that contain little beyond the "dollhouse for my daughter" approach. The panelists were

*Continued on following page . . .*



Seemingly unending doorprizes



Unregistered guest reveals his stowaway in Castle Garth

FIRST DALLAS HOUSEPARTY *Continued . . .*



Garth Close demonstrates constructing with mini-board



Lavonne Nye's new Mini-Maker drapery pleater was a very popular workshop



Bill Briner keeps smiling when Joe Hermes wins the speaker's table gazebo

heartily thanked for the numbing amount of preparation they did. The review was augmented by a browsing table during workshops and a book sale table.

Lulling the crowd into forgetting the money burning holes in their pockets, the sales room opening was delayed until 9:00 P.M. Friday evening. The Dallas Miniature Craftsmen's Guild could hardly ignore that the Houseparty coincided with its second birthday, and

*Continued on following page . . .*



A happy winner



Joe Hermes with prize

FIRST DALLAS HOUSEPARTY *Continued . . .*

Jackie Young, as club president and Region E-2 chairman, narrated a slide show illustrating the wonderful growth of talents in the club since its inception. Enthusiasm was so high that five new clubs are now in the formative stages in Texas alone.

Joe Hermes, Second Vice-President and chairman of the Board Ethics Committee, spoke on the subject of ethics briefly, and then led a group discussion. Joe was most gratified that the audience not only offered serious opinions and input in a constructive manner, but remained so intently involved that the sales room actually opened late!

Saturday morning brought near-full attendance at the ever-popular



Chuck Summers' back projected slides prove popular in learning table construction



Otis Hendricks at the Unimat Lathe



workshops, and again unquenchable enthusiasm kept everyone overtime. Featured were: Garth Close, Constructing in Mini-Board; Harold Roberts, Stud Construction in Miniature Buildings; Sue Turber, Miniature Needlework; Susan Spurlock, Using the Dremel Lathe; Otis Hendricks, Using the Unimat Lathe; Jane Clements, Flexible Bodies For Dollhouse Doll Kits; Marty Tyson, Pendo Food and Flowers; Sylvia Brinkley, From Simple Cuts to Cabriole Legs on the Dremel Saw; Annette Klinge, Identifying Old Miniatures; Lavonne Nye, Window Coverings in Miniature; and Chuck Summers, step-by-step Construction of a Fine Tilt-Top Table. Seven of the demonstrators belong to the hosting club.

Thanks to Chuck Summers' back-projection equipment, attendees had almost-instant replay when slides taken Friday evening were shown Saturday afternoon in the exhibit room.

Officially representing the N.A.M.E. board at the Victorian Houseparty, Bill Briner, First Vice President, served double duty. Featured speaker at Saturday night's banquet, Bill delighted everyone with a slide talk on his own extensive collection.

Fifty-four unique dealers kept clamoring customers happy. It is strongly suspected that the last of the big spenders were not *all* Texan.

The highlight of the Sunday brunch was the awarding of 46 centerpieces —

*Continued on following page . . .*

FIRST DALLAS HOUSEPARTY *Continued* . . .



More happy winners



Marty Tyson demonstrates food and flowers made with Pendo

23 Victorian dollhouse dolls and 23 gazebos. So popular were the gazebos that the Dallas Miniature Craftsmen's Guild agreed to sell the plans. Watch for the Gazebo ad in future issues of the *Miniature Gazette*.

To the last person, every guest at the Houseparty proclaimed that the function was a special treat. When the next Region E-2 Houseparty is announced, remember the well-known Southern axiom: "Y'all come!"

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# Doll Artist Creates Mini-people

By CAROL-LYNN WAUGH

Outside my family, I've four main interests: art, photography, dolls and politics. All these converged one December day to guide this writer into her current avocation. The second Wednesday in December, 1975 there were two big items on the agenda: (1) pick up Xmas dollhouse for daughter Jenny-Lynn (then age 7), (2) Kennebec County democratic committee meeting. Special speaker was to be Jimmy Carter. I'd heard him speak at the last State Democratic Convention in Bangor and liked him. This was a must-go for me. I sat in the front row, armed with my camera, listened and was a convert. Little did I know that that day I also was a convert to Mini-madness.

I'm a doll artist. I sculpt, cast, polish, fire, china-paint, dress and make wire-armature muslin bodies and wigs for original porcelain dolls. All my work is from my own sculpture, of high-fire porcelain bisque. And each has a special meaning. Much love, time and effort goes into each doll, and I copyright them all to scare away the bad guys. My dolls look like people. Each has its own personality, and some dolls are portraits of people. Up until December, 1975, my dolls were rather large.

I got to thinking about that Xmas dollhouse, now hiding safely downstairs, next to the furnace. What Jenny-Lynn



needed was some really snazzy people to live in that house. Now, I've been making dolls for myself since I was 8 or so. Dolls surround a visitor when he comes to call — dolls and books. Soon this new inspiration bore its first fruit; a dollhouse daddy, 1" scale, of slipcast porcelain bisque. Since he was the first official dollhouse man, he was made to honor my husband, Charles. He wasn't honored. He called him a beaded pinhead. And, maybe he was. He's been since "discontinued," much to Husband's relief, and replaced by a more appropriate, more handsome daddy doll. But he was the first of a long line. I've now completed over a dozen dollhouse dollies and porcelain bears and have plans for many more.

Those available now are: father, mother, son, daughter, grandma, grandpa, a Victorian lady, a curly-haired man, Goody, the 2" tall jointed baby, Mrs. James Bowdoin, II (from the 1748 portrait by Robert Feké) a portrait of my father, Carl F. Rossel from a 1917 photo, Ms. Bear, Bear (all-porcelain and jointed), an Oriental girl (a portrait doll) Nosalie and Noodles (all-porcelain "rag-dolls"), goldilocks and the three bears — all 1" or smaller, and — Jimmy Carter. Jimmy won 3rd place in original portrait dolls at the August 1977 UFDC doll convention.

Each doll has its own special story. "Carl F. Rossel" was a 1976 Xmas gift to my Dad. He now lives in my mother's  
*Continued on following page...*

MINI-PEOPLE *Continued* . . .



Victorian dollhouse. The curly-haired man was done from a photo of a Roman sculpture for someone who wanted an ancient Roman in his Xmas creche scene. He has bare feet because the Roman needed them for sandals. He did look handsome in his toga. The grandparents were done for my Aunt Elvira who wanted grandparents to inhabit her dollhouse. I still have to invent a maid for her. And "Jimmy Carter" is very special to me.

I ran for Carter delegate to the National Democratic Convention. I didn't win, but I made a Jimmy to wear to the Maine State Convention. My



slogan was: "vote for the girl with the big smile and the Jimmy Carter doll." When the convention was over I remembered the day in February, 1976, that I'd met Mrs. Carter at a luncheon in Augusta. She had Amy there, who was about the same age as Jenny-Lynn. Amy had never seen the snow before. It was -35° that day. Well, I made a Jimmy doll and sent it to Mrs. Carter "for Amy's dollhouse."



I didn't know she had none. Then. Now she's a member of N.A.M.E. One of my proudest possessions is the letter her father sent me as a thank-you, signed "Jimmy."

Last year was filled with: campaigning, studies (I'm completing my M.A. in art history) and - doll-making. We now boast of 4 dollhouses. My *three* are over-filled with twenty dollhouse



dolls (I keep the first of each design). My newest house is a copy of the house my parents live in, in Staten Island, New York. My great-grandfather had it built over 100 years ago. I've got special plans for the inhabitants of that one.



The next scheduled dollies are a black lady, Mrs. Carter, Amy, "Miss Lillian," a "mammy," an all-porcelain panda, lots of tiny dollhouse dolls' dolls, and whomever else just happens to come.

You can write to me at:

Carol-Lynn Waugh  
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# N.A.M.E. REGION N-3

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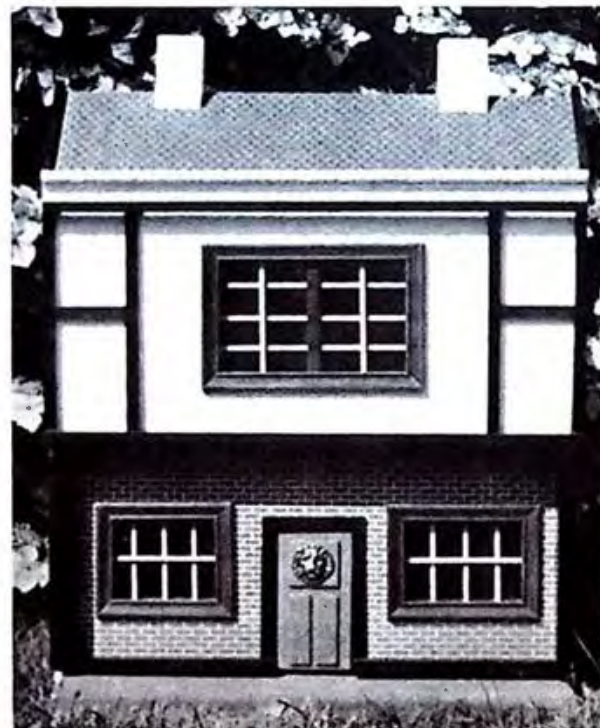
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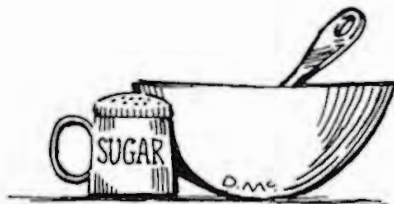
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**National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts  
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Year Ending July 31, 1977**

**N.A.M.E.**

CASH BALANCE: July 31, 1976		\$14,830.09
RECEIPTS:		
Members, Charters & Renewals	\$48,309.16	
Pins	1,072.00	
Binders	1,133.37	
Gazette Resale	2,919.40	
Gazette Ads	74.00	
Misc. Nat. Regionals	1,970.10	
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$55,478.03</b>	
		<b>\$70,308.12</b>
EXPENDITURES:		
Miniature Gazette	\$25,297.40	
Printing	1,526.90	
Postage	1,530.93	
Addressograph	511.03	
Operating Expense	4,435.71	
Refunds	434.00	
Advertising	1,762.85	
Utilities	634.37	
Rent	1,875.00	
Regional Directors	330.00	
Wages	2,422.90	
National Houseparty	2,814.66	
Travel	513.07	
Door Prizes	646.50	
Houseparty Loans	3,013.95	
Bonding Fee for Officers	100.00	
Marketing Ass.	2,622.20	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$47,773.97</b>	
<b>BALANCE - JULY 31, 1977</b>		<b>\$22,534.15</b>

Kay Harrell  
Treasurer - N.A.M.E.

**Miniature Gazette  
Statement of Receipts & Expenditures  
Year Ending July 31, 1977**

**MINIATURE GAZETTE**

CASH BALANCE: August 1, 1976		\$ 6,611.26
CASH RECEIPTS		32,898.22
Total Beginning Balance & Receipts		<u>\$39,509.48</u>
EXPENDITURES:		
U. S. Postmaster	\$ 3,246.72	
I.B.M. Composer Typesetting	5,593.00	
Gazette Printing	21,570.18	
Check Return	12.00	
Postal Instant Press	395.34	
Refunds	188.00	
Photo Reproductions	66.75	
Long Distance Toll Calls	72.62	
Misc. Bank Charges	18.83	
Addressograph	1,529.48	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$32,692.92</b>	
<b>EXCESS RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 6,816.56</b>	
<b>BANK BALANCE AS OF 7-31-77</b>	<b>\$ 6,816.56</b>	
(includes pre-paid ads and early renewals)		
<b>INVENTORY ON HAND, REPRINT ISSUES FOR RESALE TO MEMBERS (AT COST)</b>		<b>\$ 6,700.00</b>
<b>NET WORTH, Miniature Gazette at July 31, 1977</b>		<b>\$13,516.56</b>

James T. Harrell  
Business Mgr. - Miniature Gazette

# Victorian Architecture on the West Coast of the United States



(The following is the program given at the banquet at the San Diego House-party - August, 1977 by guest speaker, Robert Donald Ferris, Architect Inc., San Diego, California.)

By broad definition, Victorian Architecture includes all building during the 64 year rule of Queen Victoria, from 1837 to 1901. By limiting the subject to the West Coast of the United States the time span is effectively changed to the latter half of the 19th century. Also, since my examples are mostly residential, it will tend to limit it to wood construction, as this was the primary building material for houses on the west coast during this period.

A review of the general economic and social setting is of help in understanding the architecture of any period. Economically this was a period of phenomenal growth and expansion. The United States trebled in population, growing from 17 to 50 million. It also changed from an agrarian base, and became one of the great powers of the world through the industrial revolution. Industrial growth was primarily in the East; however, it was felt on the west coast where gold and other mining, agriculture, and lumbering were predominant. Transportation was largely by sea, with Pacific trade and travel flourishing. The Transcontinental Railroad was not completed until after the Civil War in 1869, but had great impact thereafter. The Civil War, incidentally had not much influence on the west coast.

Prior to this period, California was under Spanish rule from 1769 when the first Mission was founded up to 1822, when it became Mexican. The Mexican period, from 1822 to 1846, saw little growth and development. San Diego, for instance, at the end of the Mexican period was described as a few miserable mud huts. The missions were in decline or in ruin and the Spanish land grant ranchos were relatively few and far between. The United States Government brought to California a political

stability that gave a base for economic growth and investment.

Socially, many of us have thought of the Victorians as staid and stuffy. This may be based on photographs of very stiff and unsmiling people. We must remember that these poses had to be held for several minutes, sometimes with the head in a metal clamp or brace. If we look at the buildings and their interiors we will be convinced that the Victorians had a lively interest in everything!

A residential interior might include Oriental carpets, floral wallpaper, sculpture, wax fruit, bead work, potted plants, drapes, fringed pillows, musical instruments, books, marble topped tables and fern stands, chairs, sofas, foot stools, chests, screens, ornately framed photographs and paintings, plus bric-a-brac and collections of every sort and description.

Victorian gardens showed a strong interest in exotic plants, the collection of which was made possible by the great amount of ocean travel and trade which was taking place. Conservatory or greenhouse space was included in large structures as a matter of course.

The architectural styles are an obvious example of the romantic nature of our Victorian forebears, and their love of the long ago and far away. But before we look at the styles, what of the architects? For all the great amount of building that took place, there were very few architects. The American Institute of Architects was not founded until 1857, by 13 men, and the first president never went to college. The first school of architecture was not founded until after the Civil War at M.I.T. and the first architectural graduate was not until 1873 at the University of Illinois.

The men responsible for the bulk of our Victorian buildings had no formal training! They relied to a large degree on architectural pattern books which were readily available and contained many examples of detail and ornament

as well as some floor plans and exterior elevations. These were not complete plans, nor "how to do it" books. The builders were expected to have the technical ability while the pattern book gave choices of ornament and esthetic ideas. There was much innovation and creative design in the assemblage and combining of elements. The practice of deliberate and close imitation came later at the end of the period with the rise of the beaux arts system, and more formal training.

The clients and owners of buildings ranged from the very rich who wanted to make an impression to the working man. An advertisement from the period states that a worker's cottage with six rooms and two stories can be had for a little over \$300.00.

The architectural styles of the Victorian age on the west coast include almost every previous style known. There was very little use, however, of the classical Greek and Roman styles which had been predominant in the preceding period. Classical elements were used extensively, but not in the context of a total building style.

The *Queen Anne* style is most often thought of as being the typical Victorian although it is not the most common on the west coast. It features a corner tower, steep pointed gables and can be expanded to include a hodgepodge of endless combinations of forms and ornament. Differing siding or shingle patterns of fish scale, diamond or zig-zag are often included. Beveled and leaded glass are also common. But these latter are also used in other styles. It is well to remember that the Victorian styles are not pure, but are frequently mixed in a very uninhibited manner.

The *Italianate* style which is derived from 15th and 16th century renaissance Europe is fairly common in the west. It features a tall, narrow facade with bracketed cornice, straight eave lines, no gables, and slanted bay windows or a

*Continued on following page...*

## VICTORIAN ARCHITECTURE *Continued...*

flat front. Window heads may be arched or have pediments.

The *Stick Style* is also quite common in California. It usually has square bay windows and simple flat trim or sticks outlining the windows and accenting other architectural elements.

*Eastlake* style is named after a designer rather than a location. It is identified by the use of carved trceries or scroll work, and other bas relief ornament which may fill panels or be draped as garlands completely around a building. Much of this ornament is derived from organic sources such as leaves, flowers, fruit, and even includes human faces or occasionally animals.

The *Mansard* style refers primarily to the roof. It is named after Francois Mansart, a French architect who developed it as a tax dodge. Because buildings were taxed, in part, on the number of stories, this style converts the top story into a roof. There is a marked and prominent cornice at the bottom of the top story and the walls are very steeply sloping, almost vertical, shingled, and punctuated by dormer windows.

The *Romanesque* style is used much more in the east than on the west coast. It is a heavy style with simple round arched openings, often of brick or stone. H. H. Richardson, an east coast architect, became so proficient with this style that he had many imitators. His best examples include massive stone work and such are known as *Richardsonian Romanesque*.

The *Tudor or Elizabethan* style has half-timber patterns in exterior wall surfaces of brick or stucco. It usually has steep roof slopes and occasionally a slight out-turning at the eaves.

The *Second Empire or Neo Baroque* style often has a Mansard roof. It is usually reserved for large buildings and has much sculptural detail and ornament. Windows may be oval with deep reveal and heavy sinuous scroll work moldings.

*Gothic or Carpenter Gothic* is frequently seen in churches, but also is used in some houses. Roof slopes are steep with fancy scroll sawn barge boards at the gable eaves. Windows have pointed arches. Board and batten siding is appropriate to accent the verticality. The term *gingerbread* is often applied

to the decorative elements of an otherwise plain building. It is derived not from the gingerbread we know today but from a ginger flavored dessert that was usually cut into fancy shapes.

*Oriental and Moorish* elements are frequently introduced into Victorian designs. We do not see them often used to the extent that they are considered a complete style. The most common use is in porch railings, or as circular or double curved arches on porches or arcades.

Artificial *Ruins* were sometimes built as a landscape feature of large estates. Again this was more common in the east.

The last style of this list (there are yet others) is known as *Shingle Style*. It is a transitional style which came near the end of the century, when there began to be less and less ornamentation. It is applied to buildings whose primary exterior walls and roofs were shingle. Curved corners were sometimes used as shingles could easily accomplish this feature.

Other significant aspects of Victorian architecture are not as commonly known as the exterior styles and the cluttered interiors. But they are very

important parts indeed: the Victorian period saw the introduction of central heating. Victorians introduced interior plumbing, baths, flush toilets. They introduced gas lighting, and nearer the end of the century, electricity. Victorian houses often had covered porches; the indoor-outdoor concept is not 20th century at all. The kitchen became much more important and convenient as fewer and fewer servants were employed.

But perhaps most important to remember is that for the Victorians, a building was a symbol. The style of house you had said a great deal about you as an individual. A house was expected to be fitting in character to its owner. There was an understanding and acceptance of the artistic values as having real meaning and significance. This has been lost to a large degree today, when we are more concerned about statistics of size and dollar value.

We are, however, beginning to see some return of interest in and appreciation for Victorian dress and the discovery and revitalization of Victorian architecture may be only the beginning of a return to a more romantic and artistically aware era in the 1980's.



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# Chicago Show Wins Acclaim!!

By Bob von Fliss

The Midwest Miniature Trade Association successfully combined wholesale and retail miniature presentation at an outstanding Fair and Trade Show at the Hillside Holiday Inn, west of Chicago on Oct. 8th and 9th, 1977.

Thanks to the expert management of Show Manager, Marlene Mayer and her outgoing husband, Peter Mayer, this smoothly-run show was a professional, friendly function that was a pleasure for all who participated.

I had the honor of representing N.A.M.E. and the Miniature Gazette at the Publisher's Row. Being surrounded by many of the top craft and miniature oriented publications was a great experience for me and made me realize even more, what a dedicated group they all are.

The officers of the M.M.T.A. association were warm, helpful and went out of their way to make us welcome. President, Ellie Gurosh, Vice-President, Ed Leonard, and Secretary Donna Cantwell deserve our praise and their efforts were rewarded when the steady stream of those attending continued throughout the two days of



George Becker and some of his exquisite handcrafted pieces that were available at the "Wee 'c' Shop" sales booth.



A smiling Jackie Dieber of "Green Apple Miniatures" chats in front of Carlson's Miniatures display in the Distributor's area.

sales activity. The sales area, divided between retail dealers and manufacturers and distributors, offered the ultimate in a wide range of miniatures.

To sum up the general response of those attending, I quote from a letter received by the Association from Judy Ohanian of Homewood, Illinois, who wrote . . ."

"To everyone connected with the 1st Annual Midwest Miniature Fair and Trade Show:

"How can I possibly thank all of you enough for such a thoroughly delightful show? I am a lover of miniatures and miniaturists. I have never been to a show outside of Illinois and had never dreamt of ever meeting the East- and West-Coast people, but I felt as though I were in Hollywood! Who needs Robert Redford? Miniaturists as a whole are the most fun, helpful and encouraging people I have ever met, and I'm glad that I'm fortunate to know so many. I was at the show for the entire day on Saturday, until they kicked me out after most of the lights had been turned out, and even with the crowds, without an exception, every person that I spoke with had time to talk. I'm no one but an admirer, no one that one of those people had to talk to, yet they were all so willing to share. Without the people,

miniatures wouldn't be much of anything.

"Whatever you did, do it again! If family obligations had not tied me up on Sunday, I would have gone back again. My only regret is that I have to wait a whole year for the next one!

"I'm sure that most of you have not yet recovered from the tremendous effort that was involved, and yet when you ask yourselves, 'Was it worth it?' you must know that the answer has to be an unqualified YES!, a thousand times YES! May I thank you on behalf of my daughter, an out of town visitor, myself and all of the people who attended. Thank you - let's do it again!"

Most Sincerely,  
Judy Ohanian

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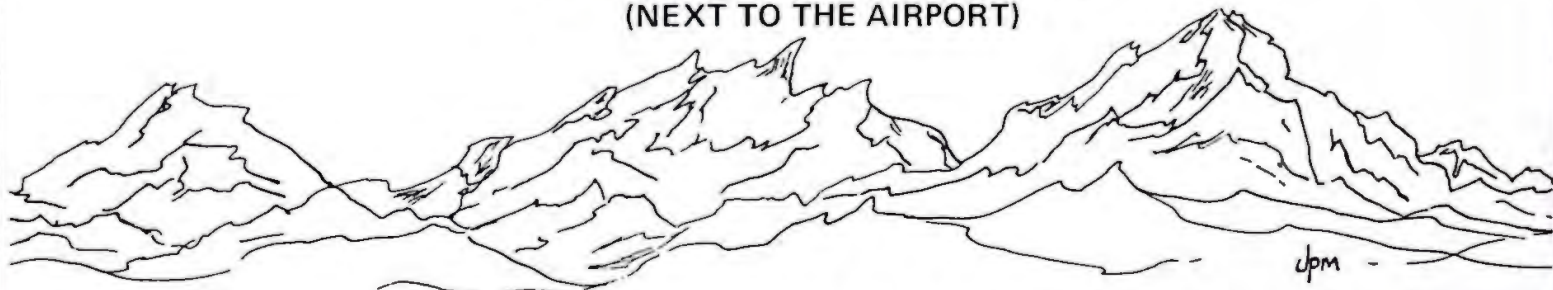
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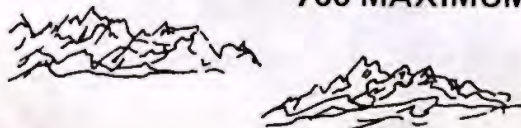
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# A Tribute to a Great Artist

By JERRY FLOOR

Martha Farnsworth, who is noted for her exceptional needlepoint, has really outdone her reputation with a masterpiece, an exquisite tapestry she just finished in time for exhibit at the National Convention in San Diego. This was displayed in a glass case, hanging on a custom made brass rod by RoVal's. The "Ohs" and "Ahs" were really flowing and to this great talent, Martha, this is worth all the effort since she truly is a believer of sharing and her needlepoint is a labor of love.

The tapestry is approximately 4" by 6" and made on 44 point triple x quality silk gauze. The original design was on an Austrian evening bag. Martha revised the design by adding here, subtracting there, which took four and one half months of doing and undoing stitches. Then, in order to coordinate the colors, she worked off and on for two more years, doing and undoing in order to get a color scheme as near perfection as she could achieve. The tapestry is lined with sheer antique French silk. Altogether it took over two and one half years work.

Eventually this will grace the wall of either an Austrian or French room in Martha's Lilliputian World.

Martha has started one for the future N.A.M.E. Museum. What a challenge for all Artists! Start thinking what you might contribute to this future dream!

Thank you Martha for sharing your masterpiece with those who attended the National Convention in San Diego, Showcase '77.



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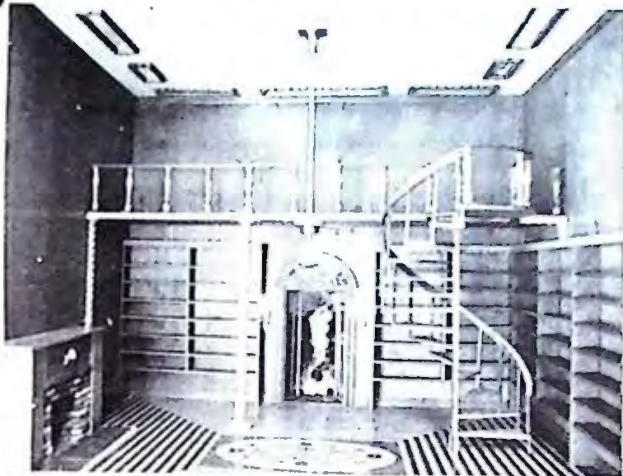
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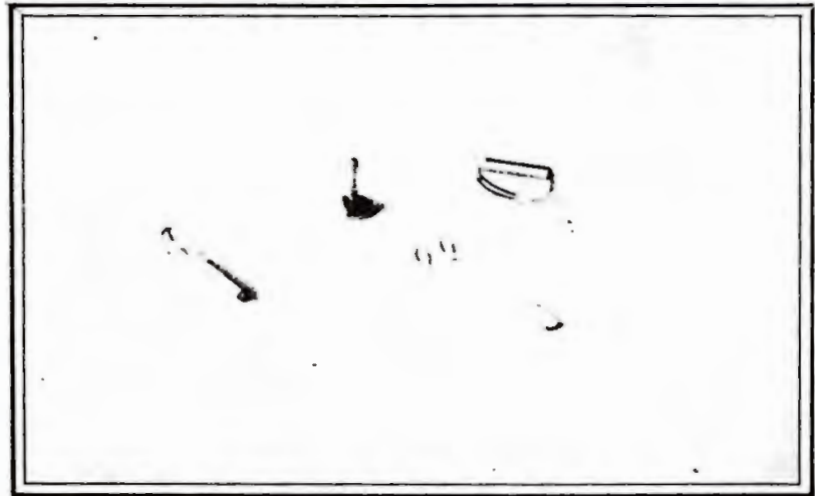


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# "A Journey to a Small World or My Trip Into The Mousehole"

Photos and story by  
JON P. MULZET

While searching the shops and stalls of the old Oklahoma City Farmer's Market, 311 N. Klein, for my collecting specialty - Nazi Regalia, I happened to discover a very interesting shop. Tucked away in a small corner, on the lower level of the Farmer's Market is The Mousehole - a shop that deals specifically with miniatures, doll houses and doll furnishings.

Since I am not normally interested in things such as dolls or doll houses, I almost passed by The Mousehole without even going inside. On that day however, I was in an unhurried mood and I paused to view the attractive storefront and the items on display in the windows. As I peered in the door, I was greeted by a friendly hello and the smiling face of the proprietress, Mrs. Vicki Cooper. She beckoned me in to look around. Not wanting to be rude, I reluctantly entered, thinking - "What could she possibly sell that would be of interest to me?"

Stepping inside The Mousehole was an almost magical experience. Everything was suddenly transformed into a world that was smaller than my own - a world in miniature. I was awed and surprised by the almost endless variety of things on display. Along the shelves lining the walls were pieces of furniture, in all shapes, sizes and in styles that would put Broyhill and Bassett to shame. One could purchase anything from a Victorian love seat to a Colonial style dining room set.

But I still was not a convinced miniature enthusiast and Mrs. Cooper realized this. When she had finished with a customer, she asked if she could help me find anything. When I replied that I was only looking, she left me to my own devices to discover the world of miniatures. By not saying a word, Mrs. Cooper allowed her miniatures to stand on their own and to speak for

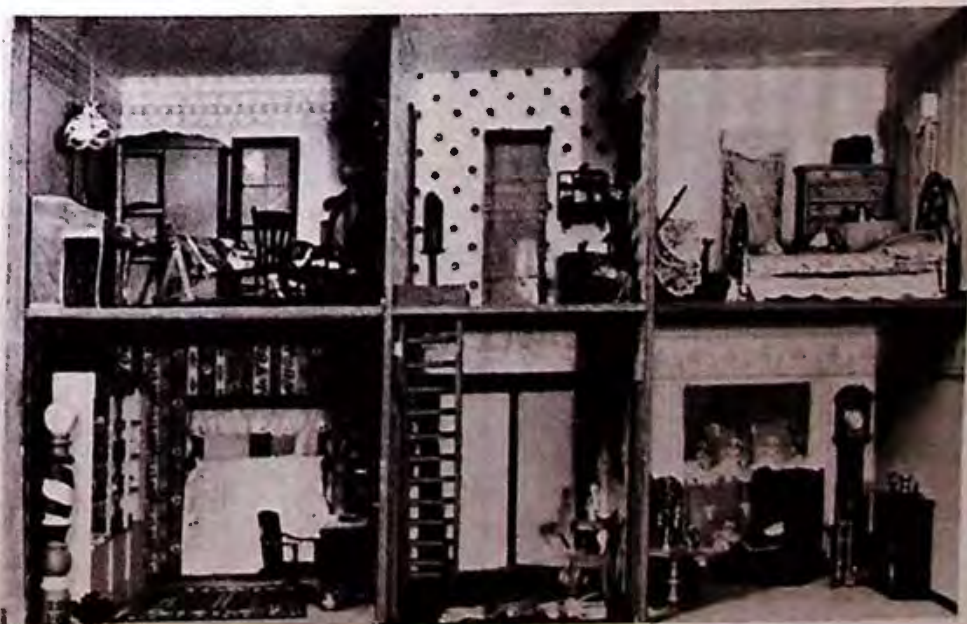
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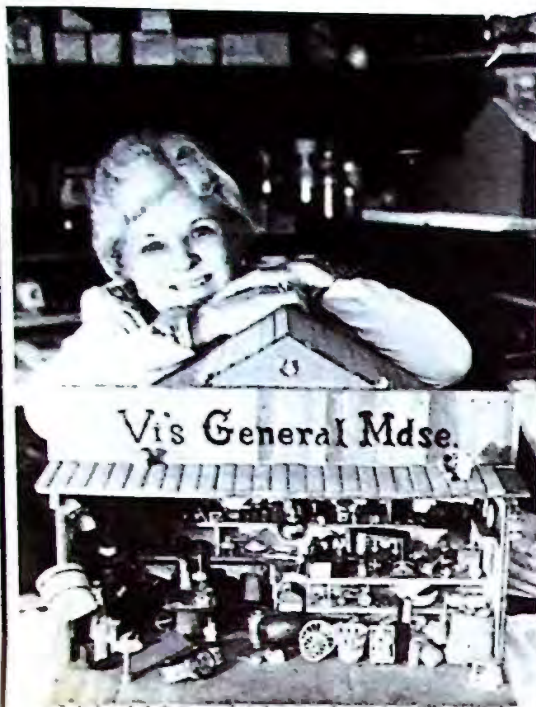
Mrs. Cooper won a 1st Place Award in the Extension Homemaker's Craft Show with her miniature kitchen.



Many items in this dining room set were made by Mrs. Cooper. Notice her hand-painted picture over the fireplace.



This completed doll house won 4th Place at the 1976 State Fair of Oklahoma.

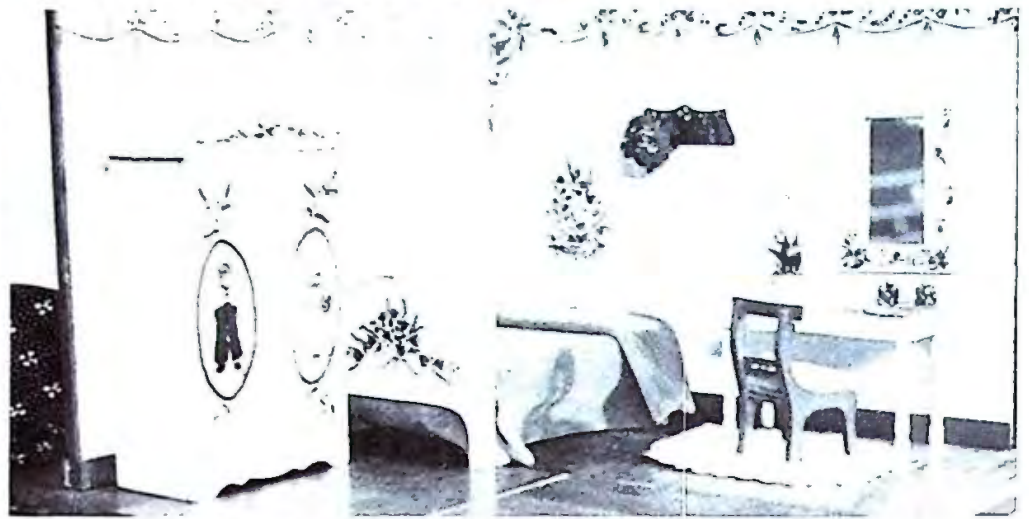
THE MOUSEHOLE *Continued...*

Mrs. Vicki Cooper, owner of The Mousehole, displays her general store.

themselves. Needless to say, I soon became a believer.

The thing that struck me most about The Mousehole was the large variety of items that were marketed in "size small." Never in my wildest dreams, could I have ever imagined a table-setting with knives, forks and spoons under  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in size, or a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " inkwell for a 3" desk. By now, I had a large number of questions for Mrs. Cooper and she gladly answered them for me. Although these small items were interesting in themselves, the most paramount question in my mind was — "What do you do with them?" Mrs. Cooper, realizing how naive I was when it came to miniatures, directed me to a large number of completed room settings and store fronts, that were on display in her shop. Even though I was impressed by her complete doll house and her room settings, I was thoroughly taken in by her General Store, Florist Shop and Fisherman's Cabin. Mrs. Cooper went on to explain that she has won 5 ribbons at the State Fair of Oklahoma and other shows, with her doll houses, store fronts and room settings.

In less than one hour, I discovered a new and captivating world, that previously I never even knew existed. It was a world where all things could be recreated, if only in miniature. In that short period, I came to realize the



A bedroom suite, consisting of Mrs. Cooper's hand-painted furniture.



The Florist Shop, constructed by Mrs. Cooper, has won a 1st Place ribbon at the Oklahoma County Fair, and a 2nd Place ribbon at the Oklahoma State Fair.

creation of miniature scenes and settings for what it is — a highly serious hobby that can easily be considered an art form.

Since that day, I have visited Mrs. Cooper more than once. Whenever I am passing through the Farmer's Market on one of my periodic treks, I will drop in to chat and to see what is new in the way of miniatures at The Mousehole. There is always something new to see, because Mrs. Cooper is constantly attending miniature sales, conventions and shows. Most recently she attended

the N.A.M.E. Miniature Show in Dallas, Texas. Even though I am not into miniatures as such, I do appreciate them as the creative medium they are.

(By the way, I did not leave The Mousehole empty handed. Being a collector of all things associated with military history, I discovered a pair of metal busts done in the figures of Napoleon and Josephine. These are now in my collection of hand-painted soldiers and other "military miniatures." I wonder, does this make me an official "miniaturist?")

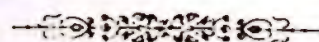
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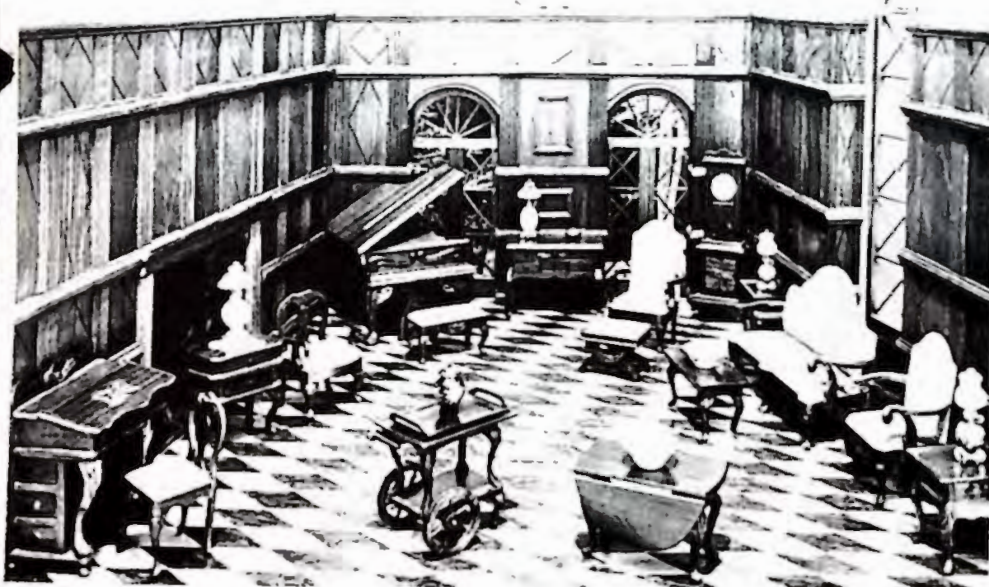
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**Sonia Messer Imports**

A CORPORATION

527 WEST SEVENTH ST., SUITE 404  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90014

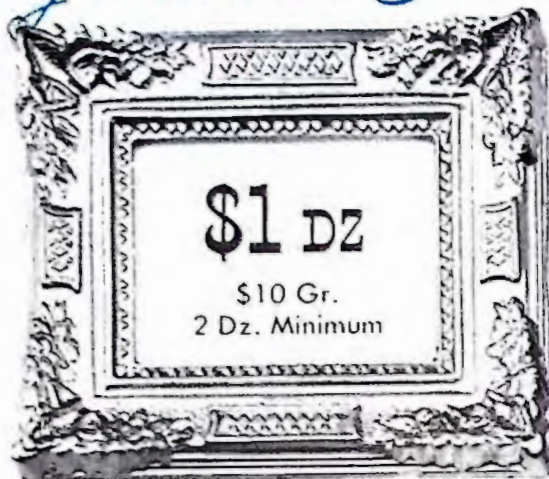
**BULK SALE**

**DO-IT-YOURSELF' MINIATURE**

*Grandmother Stover's*



**PICTURE FRAMES**



**\$1 DZ**  
\$10 Gr.  
2 Dz. Minimum

ALL ILLUSTRATIONS ACTUAL  
SIZE ALL MADE IN U.S.A.



35  
Mona Lisa  
Plastic \$1 dz



604 Carriage & Horses—Pewter \$1.70 ea.

130 Baroque Plastic Frame. For 7 Yrs this popular plastic Baroque frame has been sold for \$1 ea. We are over stocked with 71 000 and as long as they last they're \$1 dz to all our miniature friends.



613 Globe Frame—Pewter 80c ea.



611 Rustic  
Wood 80c ea



607 Round Mirror  
Pewter \$1.40 ea.



606 Lincoln  
Pewter 80c ea



610 Fancy  
Pewter 60c ea



609 S. Profiles Pewter \$1.10 Pr.



605 Home Sweet Home  
Pewter \$1.10 ea



602 Brass Frame  
**\$3.60**  
Dz.



608 Square  
Pewter 80c ea



601  
Washington  
Plastic \$1 dz.

60c ea.

614 Victorian—Plaster



615 Cherubs  
Brass 80c pr



603 Brass Frame  
**\$3.80**  
Dz.

**CASH WITH ORDER NO C.O.D. MIN. ORDER \$10 24 HR. SHIPMENT**

Frames sold only in units priced. Brass, pewter and wood are unfinished. Plastic, Asstd. If picture is shown it will be included. Ohio add 4%. Shipping charge of \$1 covers any size order.

**GRANDMOTHER STOVER'S, INC., 1331 KING AVE., COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212**