

Hobbies And Homecraft

Paint, Hammer Provide Family Fun

BY Merna Summers

(Journal Staff Writer)

Hobbies have a family air at the Daniel P. Murphy home in Jasper Place. "If Danny's laying flooring, he's on one end of the board and I'm on the other," says attractive Helen Murphy, who spent Tuesday morning varnishing a 12-foot boat that her husband had just finished building.

The hobbies that Helen does not share with her husband, the couple's 10-year-old son, Johnny, takes part in instead. A project which takes up most of Danny's evenings right now is building his own garden tractor — which will stand 36 inches high when completed. "I don't know what he wants it for," says Helen, pointing to their small back yard garden, "but he bought a magazine with instructions for making one."

"DO-IT-YOURSELF"

Do-it-yourself is an old story to the Murphys. When they bought their Jasper Place home five and a half years ago, "two men had spent two weeks putting up the siding and wall-board. There were no doors, no casings . . . nothing!"

"We moved in right away and started to fill cracks in the kitchen. Danny had never done any woodwork, but his uncle came and showed us how to hang a bedroom door. From there on, we were on our own," laughs Helen, looking with satisfaction around her attractive bungalow home.



Danny bought a book with directions for making cupboards and when the kitchen was completed, the family moved from room to room, filling cracks in the plasterboard and laying top flooring. Like the other work, the finishing touches were shared. Danny did the painting; Helen made the draperies.

PENNIES SAVED

There is one special advantage to doing-it-yourself, Helen noted. By the time you have finished one project, you have saved enough money to go on to the next. As their prowess with the hammer and sandpaper grew, the Murphys developed a number of money-saving tricks. In young John's bedroom, instead of regular hardwood flooring, they drew pencil lines on hardboard, varnished over it, and came up with a floor that can take all the wear that an active youngster can deal out.

An accomplished seamstress, Helen has been known to start making a skirt in the morning and complete it for a game of bowling the same evening. Besides making a lot of her own clothes, sewing draperies and bedspreads for the house and making jackets and shirts for Johnny, Helen finds time for a wide variety of crafts.

But the visitor who asks to see one of her handmade velvet cushions, decorated with wool punchwork, is likely to be disappointed. Although she has made "eight or 10 of them," Helen has given them all away. What about the handkerchief aprons that so many of her neighbors wear at tea time? Well, she might have an old one tucked away in a drawer somewhere.

A neighbor, Mrs. Robert Calvert, well known in Jasper Place for her knitted baby sets, taught Helen how to knit Siwash sweaters, at the neighborhood craft information pool.

Helen is particularly proud of a hand-embroidered tea cloth

made by still another neighbor, Mrs. Wilfrid Soper, while Mrs. Soper was in hospital recently.

HOME-MADE RUGS

That crafts run in Helen's family is easily seen by a visitor to the Murphy home. Rag scatter rugs, Helen tells you proudly, were hooked or braided by her mother, and beautifully cross-stitched pictures are the product of the busy fingers of her sister, Mrs. Peter Zelensky, mother of four boys all under six years of age.

Whether the newly-completed boat will prove seaworthy or not has yet to be seen, but according to young Johnny, it should be. When the family went fishing on Lake Eden in a rented boat Monday, "Johnny spent the whole afternoon telling us in what ways our boat was more sturdy than the one we were in," Helen says.

Knox WMS Hears Talk On New Canadians

The contribution by new Canadians of their arts and crafts to Canadian culture was discussed by Miss Ruth Simpson at a recent meeting of Knox United church WMS.

Mrs. Fraser-Smith led the devotional and entertainment was provided by the Mission Band under the direction of Mrs. E. J. Heuer, assisted by Miss Jean Fraser and Mrs. R. C. Cragg.

After the program Barbara Koropchuk presented Mrs. N. S. Crawford, president of the WMS, with scrapbooks and toys made by the Mission Band to be sent to ports of entry for children of new Canadians.

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