

People



Pioneer Art

By Alice Baker

Wreathes utilizing hair, wools, and seeds once decked spare rooms or parlors. One hair wreath made by Mrs. Andrew Everett of Honey Creek, Wis. is owned by her niece. Donors of cherished locks were highly honored in the giving. This special wreath reflects the ethnic nature of the inhabitants found about Honey Creek — browns of various shades, flaxen hair of children and specially favored damsels thus indicating their north European origins.

Yarns and wire were the basis of some wreaths and also a cross made by the writer's mother in the 1870's. A very fine wire was wrapped around a needle. The spiral thus made was then shaped to form the desired size and outline of petal, sepal or bract. Then the yarn was wrapped from indentation to indentation of the wire. This particular cross has flowers simulating pinks, fuchsias, zinnias, and calla lilies. After passage of nearly a century of time, the pink, blue and green colors are still pleasing.

Seed wreaths were the most ingenious of all these artistic garlands. Making this kind of wreath involved seed collection. Muskmelon seeds were used to make a buff colored daisy; white squash seeds made a perfect ox-eye daisy; wheat pasted on a lily shaped paste-board background formed a tan tinted lily; rice, a pure white lily. Peanuts partially covered by green cloth shaped like a scale leaf portrayed a bud. All of the seeds were given a coat of varnish when the wreath was finished. Enclosed in a shadow-box frame, the treasure was safe from predators such as mice and moths.

If these chattels still exist, they must be considered ART for they have not only withstood the test of time, they have stood up against the youngsters, the in-laws, and the too-good house-keepers.

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Another Look at Sussex

Pictures contributed by Nettie White Howard

1. *Old lime kilns where the Mammoth Springs Canning Company now is.*
2. *Sussex two-room school where Miss Nettie White came to teach in 1901 to 1903, and again in 1906 to 1909.*
3. *Soo Line Depot at Templeton, now part of Sussex. Station agent and his family lived upstairs in the Depot.*