

These old dolls have found a home

Story and Photographs
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OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS scene at Hoodland Doll Museum attracted Tracy, left, and Tim Nistler, who pretended it was Christmas morning. (Post Photo)



GEORGIA VERMAAS, curator of Hoodland Doll Museum introduces friend, Charlotte Maximillus. The latter is dressed as was the real Charlotte in the past. (Post Photo)

This Christmas, many new dolls will find homes, but what happens to old dolls?

If they have survived intact to a ripe old age, they may become collectors' items. Some of these very fortunate "senior citizens" of the doll world have found a permanent home in the Hoodland Doll Museum, ZigZag.

This museum is located in the Hoodland Recreational Building. It has been transformed into a giant doll's house just in time for Christmas through the efforts of the Hoodland Women's Club.

More than 1,000 dolls of every description reside in the loft and back room of the building. There are wooden dolls, wax dolls, some of china, some of bisque, and even paper mache'. Several countries are represented, as well as several periods of history. Many have human hair, carefully inserted by hand with a needle. Most are in original costumes, which are hand made.

The oldest doll, is 130 years old, made of paper mache; and traveled across the plains in a covered wagon. Two of the newest are a Spanish couple; a dashing matador and elegant senorita, dressed in satin finery. Small but realistic wax dolls participate in a quilting bee, stitching on a miniature patchwork quilt, in one of the scenes on display.

Obtaining and preparing the doll collection has been a monumental task for the Women's Club. But one in particular, Mrs. Georgia Vermaas, a past president, hasn't minded. She likes dolls.

"I talk to the dolls, and even dream about them," she admitted. "I've always loved dolls."

"When I was ten years old, I wanted a doll for Christmas," recalled Mrs. Vermaas, "but I got a radio instead."

She is making up for that Christmas now, acting as curator for the Clackamas County museum. The county, which sponsored the shipping of the collection, and remodeling of the building has placed it under the custodianship of the Women's Club.

"We are rather fortunate we had the facilities to house all of them," declared Mrs. Vermaas, indicating the many showcases of dolls.

Credit for obtaining the collection goes to the Clackamas County Commissioners, Tom Telford, Robert Schumacher, and Fred Stefani, and to Superintendent of Parks, Richard Wilmot, and especially to State Senator Dick Groener, as well as the Women's Club.

But credit for the collection itself goes to its original owner, Mrs. Laura Christensen McCurdy Clark of Salt Lake City, Utah, who donated it to the county. An educator and historian, Mrs. Clark spent 45 years accumulating the dolls.

Mrs. Clark's granddaughter, Mrs. Phyllis Haueter, and husband Jack, of Portland, were instrumental in making the collection available to the county.

The valuable dolls had been stored for seven years in a Salt Lake City house containing nothing else, before being shipped in a refrigerated truck. Accompanying them were the dust-proof cases which are used to display them.

It was Mrs. Clark's dream that her dolls would someday have a permanent home, where everyone could enjoy them.

Now they have.



THIS LONG-AGO Christmas was a family celebration. The family members in this scene are wax dolls, each about 10 inches high. (Post Photo)

Doll museum opens Saturday

The Hoodland Doll Museum will be open to the public Saturday, Dec. 15 at 10:00 a.m. It will be open for public viewing Wednesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays will be reserved for group tours, by appointment only.

Admission is \$1.00 for adults, 50 cents for students, 25 cents for children six to 12, and no charge for children under six.

For tour groups, a flat rate of 25 cents per person will be in effect.



THIS BABY doll was Tracy's favorite. The christening dress was donated by Mrs. Lois Rice, president of the Hoodland Women's Club. (Post Photo)



TIM WAS partial to flamboyant pair of dolls, which traveled all the way from Spain. (Post Photo)



IT WAS fun for Tim and Tracy to choose different dolls in the display cases. Tracy

liked these, but Tim preferred the Indian dolls in another case. (Post Photo)

Obstetrics closure rumor right now

Rumors that obstetrical facilities at Gresham Community Hospital might be closed down are, at this time, apparently just rumors.

The Comprehensive Health Planning Association for the Metropolitan Portland Area is presently studying hospital care throughout the county.

Among items being in-

vestigated is consolidation of services where feasible.

Since the birth rate is falling all over the country and the cost of supporting an obstetrical facility is quite high, outlying hospital maternity facilities are one area being discussed for consolidation.

John L. Westley of Emmanuel Hospital, a member of

the association's maternity task force, said Monday that speculation on what recommendations might be is just speculation.

"It's premature to suggest that consolidation is the way to go on this matter."

Terry Mack, administrator at Gresham Community Hospital, agreed.

In addition, Mack pointed out that association findings are only recommendations and not binding on hospitals.

Dr. George Pasto, a Gresham obstetrician, said he would be opposed to closing Gresham's obstetrical facilities for several reasons.

"Obviously it would be an inconvenience to me.

"I feel it would be depriving our area of a needed service. It doesn't seem to make sense to decrease facilities when the area is growing so fast."

Dr. Pasto also said that closing of the Gresham facility could work a hardship on maternity patients in Sandy, Boring and other outlying areas served by the hospital.

Because We Care

A licensed lady attendant is available to assist with arrangements and directions.

KEN L. BATEMAN

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