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Dolls Of All Descriptions
Comprise Collection Of
Mrs. Imogene R. Leonard

A mecca for doll lovers and collectors in this part of the country could easily be the home of Mrs. Imogene R. Leonard on Square Lake road.

Mrs. Leonard in several years has collected more than 600 dolls of every nationality, type and appearance imaginable, in a wing of her home built especially for the collection. The dolls are housed in nine paneled cabinets, complete with electric lights to show them off to best advantage.

Mrs. Leonard began her collection with dolls from foreign countries, which were manufactured there. They are completely authentic as to appearance and dress. Later other figures were added to represent sections of the United States, those typical of certain eras in history, and character dolls.

At the present Mrs. Leonard is interested in antique dolls.

"Witch Dolls"

One case in the wing is filled with Mexican dolls, while Indian, Russian, German, French, South American, Chinese, and Japanese dolls are nearby in other cases.

Of special interest is the "witch doll" of dried Spanish moss, which "comes to life" when fresh air or moisture comes in contact with it. The cases from the southern United States.

Also there are replicas of the

present king and queen of England in their coronation robes, a South American grandmother doll with lifelike wrinkles in her face, a rare Creole "church widow" dressed in black, a South American peddler with tiny miniature wares on her tray, and Russian "mother dolls" of painted wood which fit one into the other resulting in one large doll.

Delicately Made

Mrs. Leonard said "Chinese and Japanese dolls are more doll-like than any others. This is because the Chinese and Japanese peoples are more doll-conscious than other nationalities. These figures are delicately made, and great care is taken with the tiny authentic details. One such doll is riding in a ricksha equipped with electric lanterns.

Figures representing Martha and George Washington are in the collection, as well as Abraham Lincoln and Miss West.

Not only does Mrs. Leonard collect dolls, but she also makes them herself.

Before working on them, she is careful to refer to her library of reference books on costume and other data necessary to assure a true replica of the doll she wishes to produce. The finished results are justifiable of the care taken in their manufacture. The "Spirit of '76" set is easily recognizable

as are the Seminole, Pueblo, and Sioux Indian dolls.

Tennis Ball Head

For materials Mrs. Leonard has used at times, tennis balls, which even has a "road warrior" doll whose head is a covered tennis ball.

Dresden china heads are fitted with the type of body and dress which the position of the head and shoulders suggests. For example, the position of the ballet dancer's head indicated a pretty face set on a body of delicate proportions, brown eyes which are rarer than blue eyes, and by their tiny painted hair.

Antique dolls are hard to find, and Mrs. Leonard buys them, as she does the others, only through dealers. The ages of her dolls run up to a hundred years. The doll heads are of china, of a material known as bisque, which is of two materials, either parian or soft stone, or of wax or papier mache.

Different Characteristics

"These heads are identified by certain characteristics, such as sloping shoulders, which indicates an old doll, a pretty face set on a body of delicate proportions, brown eyes which are rarer than blue eyes, and by their tiny painted hair. For instance all Dolly Madison dolls have rather short hair with a bow in the back, colored as the hair, no matter what shade that may be, while Mary Todd dolls have gold snoods, the doll fancier who has studied dolls can tell the age, locality, and source of the doll, and also its authenticity, simply by examining its characteristics," explained Mrs. Leonard.

Occasionally a collector comes upon what is called an "orphan doll." These were not manufactured in quantities, but were produced by a single craftsman, maybe for his own amusement, or for one of his children. These dolls are one of a kind.

Has "Talking" Doll

One of the most interesting of the older dolls was a "Madame Henderson" doll. It is about 35 years old, and is different from others in that its back can be placed round, was dings of the early Edison variety. When wound up, the doll sings, recites rhymes, or plays in a child-like voice. Our favorites in this antique doll group were the two small French dolls, brought

this is America!

WOUNDED IN ITALY
MAX TWENTIER OF
BISBEE, ARIZONA, DISCusses
THE SMOULDERING RIFLES
DURING POSTWAR SOUVENIR.

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COOPERATED IN MAKING SAMPLES.
ORDER FORMS WENT TO 89 ARMY
DIVISIONS...

NOTHING HAPPENED FOR
MONTHS...

TWENTIER TOOK OLD JOB
IN BUS STATION,
WHEN OTHERS BEGAN FLOODING IN.

NOW EX-GI TWENTIER
MAKES UPWARD OF
20,000 RINGS A
WEEK, STARTS
COSTUME JEWELRY
BUSINESS.

over from France in the early American colonial era. These dolls were found dressed in their original clothing, and are in fine condition.

According to Mrs. Leonard, "All dolls have a place in a collection, even to the kewpie doll, because it too, represents a certain time when they were fancies of doll lovers."

Other Collections

However, dolls are not the only items which Mrs. Leonard collects, although that particular collection is most extensive. There is also a

group of 18 antique doll carriages which are small scale replicas of the horse-drawn vehicles then in vogue. The small surrty and gig are two of them. Mrs. Leonard has 350 fans for all descriptions, high-backed combs, miniatures, stamps, toys, buttons, and pressed glass.

"People in all trades and walks of life are collectors," says Mrs. Leonard. "Usually, they collect items relative to their work. For instance a dancer may collect dancing dolls, a singer old music, or a railroad tycoon miniature trains. Not only is collecting an instructive and interesting occupation, but it is also a great medium of relaxation.

Mrs. Leonard is a member of the Detroit chapter of the National Doll and Toy Collectors Club, which meets regularly to discuss current issues and features in the world of dolls. In back of her home on Square Lake road there is a small building which Mrs. Leonard hopes to turn into a museum to house her collections.

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Les Pictors — Directed by ALBERT J. COHEN — Screenplay by WILLIAM M. PATTER — Produced by ALBERT J. COHEN — Directed by LOTHAR MERTZ

LATEST NEWS!

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Please keep the
secret of the
Walls to yourself!

LATEST NEWS!

Sgt. Sundell Adds
Extra Day For
Local Recruiting

Former members of the Women's Army Corps may now re-enlist specifically for the Pacific Theater, Sergeant Al Sundell, recruiting officer for the Birmingham area has announced.

"Previously, former WAC members have been able to re-enlist only for duty in the United States and the European Theater. This is the first time that enlistments

for the Pacific Theater have been open to former WAC members, Sergeant Sundell stated.

"With the commanding general of the Pacific theater's request for additional WAC, every theater has now gone on record as favoring more WAC members in their commands."

"At present, re-enlistment for the Pacific Theater is limited to WAC veterans with experience as clerk-typist, stenographer or an administrative NCO."

Sergeant Sundell also pointed out that he is now on duty at the Birmingham post office for re-enlistment purposes every Monday, as well as Friday, from 9 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.

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