

3-18-83

Gypsy Hollingsworth Dies at Age 81

Gypsy Ann Hollingsworth of Walnut Cove, a weaver and a founding member of Piedmont Craftsmen Inc., died yesterday at age 81. Story, Page 19.

Down The Road

By Dwight Sparks



Artist's Legend

Stokes County has become something of a mecca for artists during the past decade. The artists — with excellent reputations — have been lured to the rustic hills and serenity.

There were other hills they could have retreated to, but they picked these. Why?

Those other hills didn't have Gypsy Hollingsworth. She brought them here.

She moved to Stokes in 1954 from Westfield after her husband, Dr. Robert E. Hollingsworth, died. They had no children, but Gypsy Hollingsworth mothered the artistic talents of many.

Artisans began to collect around her. Potters, glass-blowers and woodworkers. Probably the most noted is John Nygren, a glass-blower of international fame. Tom Suomolainen, a potter and a neighbor, was another.

The artists called themselves "Gypsy's people."

A registered nurse, Mrs. Hollingsworth was trained at Martin Memorial Hospital in Mount Airy.

She started weaving after being inspired by woven coverlets in the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. She bought a loom and taught herself to weave. She was already a painter and woodcarver.

She taught weaving and art in her home and the Arts and Crafts Association in Winston-Salem from 1958 to 1970. She was a charter member of the Piedmont Craftsmen Inc., an association of the area's finest artists. Her expert pattern and tapestry weaving works are included in the Smithsonian Institution's collection.

She also was a supporter of the Stokes County Arts Council, the Stokes County Historical Society and the Walnut Cove Library.

She influenced many people. Yet she left quietly. Her final days were spent at the Guardian Care Nursing Home in Walnut Cove.

Some friends might have wanted to pay tribute to her, to attend her funeral or have some memorial.

There was none of that. Her body was cremated. There was no funeral or memorial service. Only a memory. And what a memory!