

AUG. 13, 1969

JIM SLOAN:

He has no time to grow old

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Jim Sloan, 75, of Port Credit claims if you keep the mind and body active, you won't go stale.

His mind and body are kept active doing carpentry, oil painting, needlework, rug making, gardening and extensive travelling abroad and in Canada.

Mr. Sloan recently took first prize in 1969 Handicraft Competition at the CNE for his needlework entry of "The Old Mariner". This was his first exhibition.

"At age 16, my father told me I had enough schooling. I left Ireland at 17 and came to Canada," Mr. Sloan said.

He worked as a supervisor at Eaton's in Toronto for 15 years and at the Post Office in Toronto as supervisor for 35 years. He has been retired now for nine years.

TRAVEL

Mr. Sloan moved to Port Credit in 1954 and remarried in 1955. In their ventures by car, Mr. and Mrs. Sloan have travelled to Vancouver, Newfoundland, Nassau and the Muskokas.

While abroad, they travelled back to the "Old Country", Switzerland, France and Belgium. Now that Mr. Sloan has won first prize at the CNE, his wife expressed a desire to visit Australia.

Mr. Sloan studied landscaping at a School of fine art in Toronto and attended one session of oil painting classes in Port Credit. He prefers scenery painting to portrait or abstract.

"I tried an abstract I entitled 'Jungle Theatre'. My instructor liked it, but I didn't," he exclaimed.

His interest in needlework first began in 1966 when he went out to Vancouver. A friend out there explained to him how to do it.

BLUE BOY

"Blue Boy", a copy of the painting by Thomas Gainsborough was his first attempt at needlework which contains 1,900 stitches.

"It takes time and patience. When my wife saw that I could do needlework, she decided to take it up too," Mr. Sloan said.

Mr. and Mrs. Sloan do petit point as well. Petit point is done with fine thread, is more expensive and takes longer to complete, whereas needle point is done with wool and has fewer stitches.

Mr. Sloan also builds and designs his own frames for his oil paintings and needlework. The "Blue Boy" frame cost approximately 50 cents.

Mr. Sloan is presently working on a needle-point called "Shepherd's Idyl" which contains 99,864 stitches.

CARPENTRY

Before he came to Canada, Mr. Sloan learned the basics of carpentry from an uncle in Ireland. In the evenings, he puts his knowledge to good use by remodelling an area of his basement into a recreation room, complete with fireplace.

It is now half finished and so far he estimates the cost at \$100. He did all the wiring, plumbing and building himself using the skill he gained from his uncle and by reading Mechanics Illustrated magazines.

A perfectionist in his work, Mr. Sloan takes great pride in his garden. He built a shed, patio and planted most of the trees when he first moved into his house.

With all of Mr. Sloan's activities and hobbies, one might wonder when he catches any shut-eye. He retires about 2 a.m. and is up again ready to go at 7:45 a.m.

Mr. Sloan can't recall one time in his life when he has sat in a chair, couch or bed and taken a cat-nap.

"I just don't need sleep—a gift I was blessed with," he said.