

DOLLHOUSE

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miniature work for the main diorama and would we be interested in giving it a try. It sounded like fun and something Bob and I could do together; Bob doing the “heavy” half-inch scale construction and I the “gingerbread” work.

Ben left several photographs of the first cottage and after I completed detailed scale plans, construction began. Ben was satisfied with our first attempt and casually mentioned he would need four or five more elaborate cottages. Little did we realize that more than three years later “Lilliput Construction Company” would still be in business!

Work on the cottages became a way of life. It meant investing in miniature tools which came

from the most unlikely places--dentists, jewelers. One very important tool which we purchased was a lathe so small that I could turn toothpicks on it!

There were times that I would be in tears and wanted to give up the whole project. Ben was such a perfectionist and his approval was so important to me. I would file and sand for hours on the intricate trim for the cottages only to have the strip break. I later learned that plastic wood covered a multitude of sins. Before we finished one building, Ben would announce that he needed a bath house or a hotel or the mansion house. I began to feel that I had brought upon myself a Herculean task.

Requests for more and more buildings were coming so fast that . . . to be continued!



Bob Durbin works on buildings for the Sharpsteen diorama.

MESSAGE

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for the new Earl Tholander Special Exhibit which was scheduled for May 8th was postponed. A new date has yet to be chosen. The exhibit will be fully set-up and ready the minute our doors are again opened.

The two “Meet the Author” events (Todd Shulman author of *Murder & Mayhem in Napa County, Part 2*, and Alexandria Brown author of *Lost Restaurants of Napa Valley and Their Recipes*) are still planned for Summer, but no dates can yet

be confirmed.

One very hard decision we had to make was to cancel this year’s Instant Wine Cellar scheduled for late August. As you know this is our one and only fund raiser each year, the one we count on to help keep us going. The IWC has been made possible due to the generous donations of local merchants and wineries (as well as grand prize ticket purchases) but the virus has created struggles for us all. We wanted to give back to the merchants and wineries somehow, support them in return. We decided the best thing we

could give would be to NOT ask for their donations to the IWC.

And for you we have a very special offer. If you had planned on attending this year’s event or had budgeted for ticket purchases we are asking that you consider donating the same amount for one very special mixed case of Napa Valley wine. Chances are \$10.00 each or 5 for \$40.00. Simply mail us a check as a donation noted specifically for this raffle prize. All entries received by July 31st will go into a special drawing. Make sure you include your phone num-

ber so we can call you when you win!

Please know that our past successes have been accomplished due to your ongoing support and encouragement. We realize the next few weeks may continue to be challenging for all of us but you can remain confident that your Board has never shied away from a challenge. It is for you we stand strong.

We are sending you all our sincere wishes for health, safety, and a prosperous future. Keep those masks on. We hope to see you all in the very near future.