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Caroler Dolls Are Hobby Year-Around

By MILDRED ANN SMITH

Preparing a decorated window for Christmas wasn't any trouble for Mrs. Andrew Sorgi of 229 Coulson avenue.

All she had to do was arrange her 19th century dolls, her year-long hobby, and she had a scene straight out of Dickens' "Christmas Carol."

Mrs. Sorgi made her first caroler 10 years ago when she and her husband, both pharmacists, still had their drug store in the Bronx, New York.

"I got the idea from a Christmas card," she explained, "and since then I just can't stop making dolls."

Except for the few she's sold to doll collectors and the ones she has made for her children and grandchildren "her doll family" is still intact.

To Mrs. Sorgi they're "almost human" and when she paints their crepe paper faces she tries to portray human emotions.

There's the puckish boy doll who's just thrown a snow ball; the young shopper who is jealous because her boy friend has another girl; and the matronly caroler whose expression shows the love she feels for mankind.

Mrs. Sorgi forms her dolls out of wire, padding them to the correct proportions—also with crepe paper. Then comes the part she likes best—designing and making their clothes.

"I like to work with fabrics," she pointed out, "and I like to put unusual color combinations together." She held up one of her newest creations in which she had used rust brocade with bright blue velvet for a striking effect.

Her dolls are dressed in fine satins, plush velvets, brocades and woolens and she is just as much a milliner and furrier as she is a dressmaker. She crochets the purses for her



ENGLISH CAROLERS in this 19th century Christmas scene are the hobby of Mrs. Andrew Sorgi, 229 Coulson avenue. She makes her life-like dolls from wire and crepe paper and then dresses them in authentic costumes.

feminine shoppers and carolers and even makes the violins and cellos for her musicians.

"Someone asked once how I manage to have my violinists hold their instruments properly—but that's easy because I play the violin," said the versatile little woman.

She picked up a doll as the interview came to a close, ready to paint another expressive face.

"I feel good when I work on my dolls," she said. "Maybe that's why I can't stop making them."