

Ruth Kohrt demonstrates stained glass art to local Kiwanians

Kiwanians and their guests, an interclub group from the Hull Kiwanis club, heard a talk about stained glass and working with it in the production of art objects on Thursday at their weekly luncheon.

Speaking was Ruth Kohrt, who with her husband, Francis, became interested in working with stained glass and seriously starting studying this type of craft about 1972. They read everything they could find about such glass and how it is used and they started buying old stained glass pieces whenever the opportunity presented itself.

They found that stained glass is where you find it. Some of this even came out of pig pens on farms where it had been for years, others maybe coming out of an old church or some other building.

The first piece which the local people really started working with was a 16x46-inch window out of the old Regenberg house which was on the

site of the Don Hubbard Implement agency. Now they pick up every bit of the colored glass they come across, paying various amounts for some of it, by finding it on display at flea markets and getting it from other collectors.

They make their own designs and use wooden bases around which to build lamp shades which have a value of \$100 on up. The shades are generally priced at \$1 per piece of glass. Lamp shades have from 100 to 300 pieces. The shades and plaque-like hangings are much sought after and antique dealers buy from the local people.

Mrs Kohrt told of selling 17 lamp shades to one dealer after he had seen the work done here and called by phone to make the deal. In all the Kohrts have sold about 50 pieces. Each one of their pieces is numbered, described for their records and photographed in color.

The local artist said that they have

done some repair work on church windows. She showed some of the lamp shades which were built here, had a number of glass samples to pass around and also showed club members some of the books from which they learned their skills.

The speaker said that all of their pieces are individual and there are no duplicates. She explained that older glass was better to work with than the newer glass and said they try to get it as much as possible.

Mrs Kohrt was introduced by Rev. David Holmes, program chairman for the month.

Jack Gable, acting for the club, presented a diamond studded past president's pin to Merle Waagmeester, last year's club president. The diamond was provided by International Kiwanis to recognize the outstanding membership promotion carried on while Waagmeester was president.