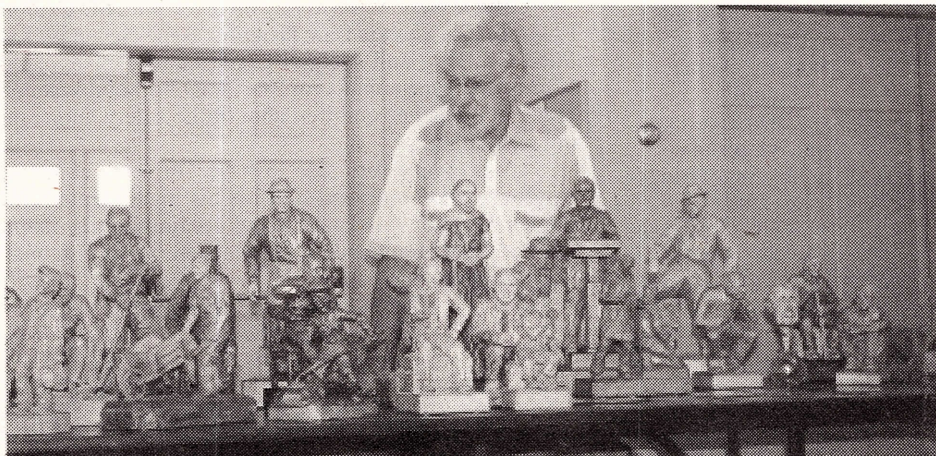


Wood Carver, John Downs, Artist Of The Year At Gilmanton Old Home Day Art Show

Submitted By Mary Morse



Stop by and enjoy John Downs' exhibit at Old Home Day. He brings historic pieces alongside bobbleheads to the table.

For many years, visitors to Gilmanton's Old Home Day Art Show have enjoyed the exhibits of beautiful wood carvings by John Downs. This Old Home Day, he is featured as "Artist of the Year."

Coming to Gilmanton 40 years ago, John built his house at Shell Camp for his family as a summer home. They wintered in Florida. Now John lives in Gilmanton full-time. His wife died a few years ago.

About 20 years ago, John started wood carving. He is mainly self-taught, but he spent a week one summer in Minnesota and a week in Michigan another year at schools, plus about 10 days in Europe at the Geisler Moroder School in Elbigenalp, Austria, to

learn the German style of finishing with stain.

His lovely pieces of sculpture include a man pitching horseshoes, a monk, clever "bobble heads," a unicyclist and many more. A favorite is a little girl at the cobbler shop, the cobbler looking at her shoes with holes in the sole. Inspiration for this was on old photograph and the little girl is the late Doris Jones, sister of Dick Price from Price's Farm.

John says he is a "fast carver." It takes him eight 3-day weeks to complete a carving. Some carvers take a year. His work has been exhibited at the Needham, Mass., Library, and at "Woodside Carvers" at the Taylor Home in Laconia, NH.

Come and meet this artist on August 16 at the Annual Gilmanton Old Home Day Art Show.

The show welcomes painters, oil, acrylic, watercolor, and sculpture, photographs, and graphic art.

Up to three pieces per artist. There is an entrance fee - works are judged and ribbons and prizes are awarded. Bring your exhibit Thursday, August 14, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to Smith Meeting House and please pick them up by 4 p.m.

High school age are judged with adults. Children K through 8 are very welcome. Their work is not judged.

Questions or for further information, please contact Mary Morse at 364-2810.