



90 ON GEIGER COUNTER — Randall F. Geiger of Fredonia will be 90 on Sunday, but the "world's champion handkerchief crocheter" isn't going to slacken his work-hobby. He makes and sells the decorative wooden objects, but he gives away the crocheted handiwork.

Nonagenarian Works Too Hard At His Hobbies to Waste a Minute

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Don't ask Randall F. Geiger what he's going to do when he retires. He will be 90 on Sunday and has so much work to do, he doesn't have time to think about retirement.

He did retire from an "8-to-5" job about 15 years ago. But it was only a swap. Since then, he usually starts work shortly after 5 AM and winds up about 9 PM. Today, his neat, little home at 97 Hamlet St. is crowded not only with memories but with all of his handiwork.

THERE'S NO official recognition but Mr. Geiger has to be the champion hankie crocheter in the country, if not the world. That's what he does in his spare time. All of the other waking hours are spent with his tools, turning out dozens of candlesticks, pedestal end tables, salad bowls and decorative boxes.

With looks that belie his age and energy enough to wear out someone 40 years his junior, Mr. Geiger is fiercely independent. He has a son and a daughter, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren but he prefers to live alone in the same homestead he and his wife lived in since 1919 when they

NEWS special

moved here from North Collins area.

"MY WIFE died five years ago," he explained, "but she was ill for several years before that and from her wheelchair taught me how to cook, do the cleaning, the washing and the ironing."

His talent for crocheting was discovered by his mother when he was 18 and recovering from typhoid fever. "She taught me just to keep me busy but I really took to it and I haven't stopped since."

If you have a few hours, Mr. Geiger, who bubbles over with pleasure in displaying his crocheting, will bring out his collection of 1000 handkerchiefs, each with a different edging and all neatly mounted for display; doilies to put on chairs, couches and tables; an exquisite collection of tiny women's hats —spanning more than 50 years of fashions — and pot-holders by the dozen.

HIS MIND is still as quick as his fingers and the only concession he makes to age is the fact

that his hearing has dimmed but certainly not his eyesight.

The demand for his wood-turnings is so great, Mr. Geiger said the only time he has to crochet now is "while I am eating. Don't like to give it up because I don't sell my crocheting. Work on it all year and then give it away for Christmas gifts."

He's from the old school when it comes to "early to bed and early to rise." Lights are out by 9. "When I was a boy, no one thought of staying up past 9 . . . and I am up at 10 minutes to five every morning so I can hear the 5 o'clock news on WBEN.

"THAT'S ABOUT all that's fit to listen to anymore. I'm a Bible Christian and that 'new' music is more than a body can stand."

And the positive little gentleman had just as strong views about TV. "I don't own a TV set — and I wouldn't. There's too much on it that isn't fit for human beings."

Besides, he doesn't have time for television. "Look at that pile of books over there," he remarked. "Haven't been able to get to them."

"But I have no complaints. The Lord has given me lots of time and I am thankful for it. Just want to be sure I don't have to account for wasting any of it."