

# Purse-uing an art

## Local knit hobby into business

By MEGAN VEIT  
Staff Writer

A hobby which began as something to pass time on boating excursions with her newly retired husband has expanded into a business and hobby, Chris McClintock says of the one of a kind beaded purses she knits.

McClintock learned the art from her sister-in-law, who no longer makes the small evening bags.

McClintock spent the next six years on various ventures along the United States waterways, extending down to the Gulf Coast with her husband, former Wapakoneta Fire Chief Steve McClintock. Each trip into port brought the possibility to increase her beading inventory.

"Larger cities have better stores," the craftswoman said in regard to her cross-country finds.

Each purse, on average measuring between 3 and 4 inches in diameter, takes two weeks of work to complete. The bags are knitted, with beads worked into the pattern, then lined and given clasps or draw strings with satin cording.

The princess bag, one McClintock regards as the most popular style, requires one to two hanks of beads. Each of these hanks consists of 12 strands, while each strand holds nearly 300 beads. With these intricate patterns, McClintock has spent up to two months working on her creations.

"My husband insisted that I keep that one," McClintock said.

The black purse is covered in a floral design from a pattern that McClintock transferred to graph paper bead by bead.

"I usually work on two to four projects at a time," McClintock said.

She is currently working on three wedding purses for family members, each in varying stages of completion. By working on multiple projects in the evening, McClintock said she keeps



Staff photos/ Megan Veit  
**Chris McClintock began beading knit purses to keep her occupied while she traveled with her husband, former Wapakoneta Fire Chief Steve McClintock.**

herself from becoming exhausted with any of them.

Some are found in her library of pattern books, while others are her own design. McClintock says she tries not to repeat color combinations, making each bag unique.

The beads she works with vary in size and age.

McClintock's work with antique beads has taught her that sizing today is much more consistent, in her opinion.

"Beads are made better today," McClintock said.

McClintock also experimented in different ways to form the purses, trying crocheting for a more rounded look. However, McClintock prefers the tight structure of the knitted bags.

Her bags also include

small bags on longer straps, which she calls fairy bags. She found that these are popular among younger girls.

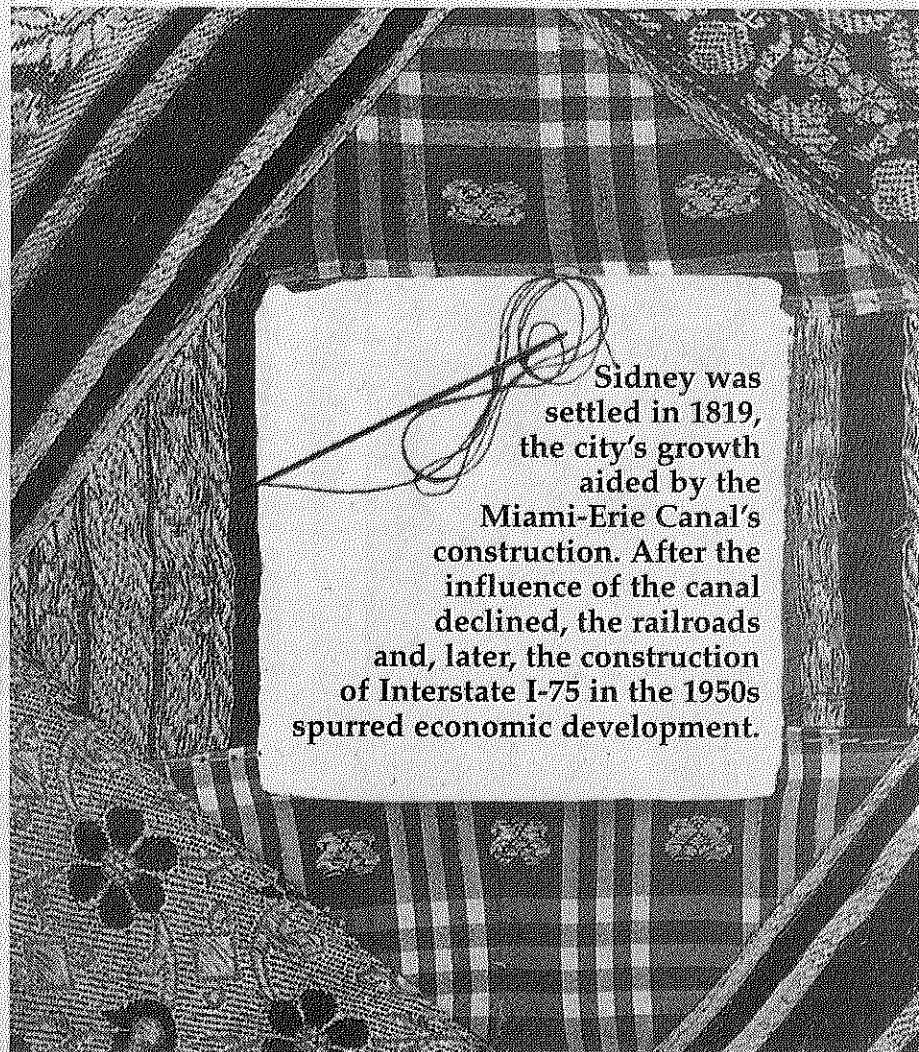
"They can fit a few quarters inside," McClintock said.

McClintock started creating the bags when she found she had small stores of beads and cotton curl thread left over from larger projects that were just enough to make these miniature purses.

McClintock uses the work to "keep her hands busy."

"It's relaxing," McClintock said. "It's my creative outlet."

To express her creativity freely, she prefers to sell bags she has already completed instead of taking orders, as family members have suggested.



Sidney was settled in 1819, the city's growth aided by the Miami-Erie Canal's construction. After the influence of the canal declined, the railroads and, later, the construction of Interstate I-75 in the 1950s spurred economic development.

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decided to change his hours of operation.

Calligraphy by Larry is now open by appointment during the summer. When Landt is not in the office, he can be found working in Wapakoneta City Schools as a part-time custodian.

"They're the best employer I've ever had," said Landt.

He uses his time off to "relax and do a little drawing, socializing" at Lucky Steer.

Most of Landt's business consists of work done for weddings.

"I do the outside and inside envelopes ...," Landt said. "They're usually more formal, done in black ink."

Landt also creates place cards, registers and poster-sized signs for weddings and parties in the area.

Landt utilizes all types of calligraphy, but he said nearly 90 percent of his orders are for the Italic styling.

"Gothic is a lot more formal when it comes to strokes," Landt said.

Landt said he feels this limits the artist's creati-

ty, which he enjoys challenging himself through freestyle calligraphy.

"I'm experimenting with them," Landt said.

He also uses three types of mediums including felt tip pens, steel tips and pens requiring ink wells. While the steel tips last forever, Landt said the life of felt tips varies.

"Some last a long time and some don't," he said, noting he prefers felt tips to ink wells.

But Landt favors his steel tip pens over all, pointing to its "time saving ability and fluid motion."

"I just enjoy art in general," Landt said.

He said he hopes to expand outside of calligraphy and drawing to painting. Landt took classes in high school, but he developed his own style of art which he describes as a "modern,

fantasy" style.

The artist also cartoons with a satirical flavor.

"The cartoon is my own creation," Landt said.

One example of his office, a

“ True contentment is enjoying what you have. ”  
— Larry Landt

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