

Donation of the Month

Seed Art
2001.35.5-6
Donor: Jan Riggs



Surrounded by small jars and cabinets in her workroom Mrs. A.M. Sherrell created floral images from seeds. Each creation began with coarse sand paper painted black. The sandpaper gave the image a rough look. Without a sketch to work from the image took shape as each seed was placed to create a floral image. Each was finished with a hand crafted frame made by Mr. Sherrell in his woodworking shop.

Mrs. Sherrell got most of her seeds from her garden. Mr. Sherrell grew popcorn, Indian corn, beans and squash which provided Mrs. Sherrell with several types and colors of seeds. What wasn't available in the garden was gathered in the fields or at a seed store. As her popularity grew and people became aware of her collection of seeds they started sending them to her. She never enhanced the colors; however, she found that some seeds became brighter in color once boiled for a few minutes. Each type of seed was written down and a list was provided on the back of each plaque. Some of the larger works could have over 20 different types of seeds.

Like many local artists, she took her creations to the War Eagle Craft Fair and the Benton County Fair each year. A hobby turned into an enterprise and she found many willing to purchase her creations. This lost art doesn't require formal training as Mrs. Sherrell had none; just a creative spirit.