

Krogmeier carving niche as a woodworker

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

Despite the fact that his work can be seen around town in local banks, churches, doctor's offices, homes and every year at the preschool auction, Bill Krogmeier is insistent that the wooden projects he produces is just for hobby.

Currently Krogmeier is working on a wagon and pair of Clydesdale horses. While most projects take him between two weeks and a month, the horses took all winter. Krogmeier says much more handwork went into the horses than with most pieces as he has put more than 150 hours of work into the project.

While there is an obvious appreciation for his work, Krogmeier said he ends up giving away most of the pieces he creates. The few times a year he says his services are requested, he generally just charges for the supplies.

When pressed to put a price on his most recent project of the horses and wagon, Krogmeier estimated that elsewhere a potential buyer would need at least \$1,200. Even at that price tag, the guess likely falls short of the actual price the pieces would be sold for as that would be less than \$10 an hour for the work already put into the project, not even considering the time that will be spent on the wagon.

With four children, eight grandkids and too many nieces and nephews to count, Krogmeier has had plenty of practice at honing his skills on pieces for children of the family. The crafts also serve as a way for him to leave his mark with the family.

"They are always appreciative of it," Krogmeier said. "I try to make stuff that is heirloom quality because I figure it will be around long after I am gone."

He has completed close to 30 baby cradles for family and friends to date.

