

Deb Canham Convention 2010 Report

All the news, prizes and auction pictures.....



The next Convention will be held Sept 30th thru October 2nd 2011 , Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel— so put that date in your diaries.

To see some pictures of the latest convention please click or copy and paste the link below. A big thank you to Jim Di-Frank from Village Bears for being the official photographer.

<http://cid-d13d5b9ad9806f73.skydrive.live.com/redir.aspx?page=play&resid=D13D5B9AD9806F73!1311>

I will be adding to this report in a couple of weeks when some conventioners have written their reports on the event butfor now.

Miraculously I managed to get the `B` and `C` Packages out to those conventioners ahead of the actual convention and I think that helped to make them feel more part of the event.

Many attending conventioners arrive on the night before the event so I did too. In the morning we voted to visit the Lowry Zoo. The weather was perfect and we ambled around visiting all the animals. We sat and relaxed in front of the manatee tank and watched these gentle creatures roll and munch on cabbage leaves. It could not have been more peaceful and relaxing and then a class of seven year old boys arrived....so we moved on!

We managed to lose Diane at one stage. Somebody suggested that she might have gone up to the "feed a cracker to the giraffe station". I pointed out that was unlikely because of course, Diane sees giraffes on a regular basis living in South Africa. However, that is where we found her. She pointed out that she had never got this close to a Giraffes head!

You forget how much a visit to the zoo is like a game of hide and seek, you identify what you are suppose to see and then you all have to search for it. It was fun... very relaxing and unlike the boat trip last year I did manage to stay awake!!

We then came back to the hotel and the ever helpful conventioners helped me finish off a few last minute projects. Just in time for the evening event.

Everyone checked in and received their convention pieces and "goodie bag". We then went on to play "Chinese Auction" where everyone won a prize but some were a little more special than others so there was the usual good hearted fight over ownership. There were some of my prototypes and some very old pieces. We dined on some good food, washed down with a glass of wine and then went on to play a few more games.

One game sounds really dull but I think it was my favorite game of the event. The group is divided into two teams and a blanket is held up between them. One person from each group lines up in front of the blanket, it is then dropped and you have to say (shout) who is standing the other side. First one to name the other wins. It was funny because of the peoples reactions...or lack of them...

Saturday began at 9.30am with fun games...lots of silly ones and lots of laughs. We also played some intelligent games too. A bit of everything really. Prizes were won and laughs were had.

At 11.00 am I gave my usual slide show. I had more pictures of Devon, reports on both the boys with photos of Charlie's Naturalization ceremony and pictures and a report of his homecoming from Iraq. I also reported about my trip to Clarion and finally did a short talk on the history of the Golly. I then showed a video which Charlie had edited and presented of his time in Iraq....everyone really enjoyed that, it is very moving. Quite different from what you would expect it to be.

After lunch we did a special Sock Workshop where we had to make the ugliest, scariest sock monster. Here are just a few.....



We also did a `Zentangle workshop`. It is a really interesting and Relaxing art form and you can find out more about it by googling `zentangle`. There were prizes for winners of both this and the sock workshop but I will reveal all in the next Doodle.

In the evening we had a dinner, raffle and auction. We also had bids from the `B` package members but all of the pieces did go to attendees who bid higher but some prices were very close...

Auction Pieces

An Atlas moth with a hat! This one of a kind piece was inspired by my childhood. My Dad always took pleasure in telling me about the Atlas moths that sat on the wardrobe when we lived in Malaya. Of course, as a child I thought he meant that the moths did not wear hats!!! And of course he took great pleasure in leading me on to believe that. When I was about 12 I discovered that the Atlas moth has the largest wingspan in the moth world and that it was Atlas not `atless. My Dad ever the joker. Therefore, I have long felt that I should do an Atlas moth with a hat! The little bear is 3.75 inches high, made of gold mohair and wearing a wool felt jacket decorated with spots. The moth is made from ultra suede and his wings are made of silk which I hand painted and then machine embroidered in all the lovely autumn colors of this moth. He is limited to one and I just had to call him the `Atlas moth with a hat!` He sold for \$1000
Picture next page

"Atlas Moth with a Hat"



~Bruno and Tag~

Bruno is made of a brown sparse mohair and measures 4 inches. The little gold pancake bear he is carrying I made back in 1986 when I first began making bears.... He is a one of a kind set.

He sold for \$525



~Florence Upton inspired Dutch Dolls and Golli~. When I first began collecting in the early 80~s my biggest love was Gollies and it probably still is – I just don't get to make as many as I like.

This year I attended the Clarion bear show and saw a very old friend I had not seen in years called Jeanette Warner, a bear and golly artist. Jeanette loves gollies and is very involved with promoting golly collecting and has a great collection herself. At Clarion I attended her talk on Golly Collecting. Of course, everyone knows I have no memory. Jeanette and I met in the 1980~s as a result of both staying at Flore Emory~s house. Why was I staying there..... I don't remember. Jeanette began her talk with, ~Deb, do you remember that night we spent at Flore Emory~s~. To which I replied yes I did but I didn't remember why we were there!!! Well, apparently, and I do remember now. Flore invited us all to stay so that we could finish a load of gollies she had started to prepare for a workshop she was doing later in the week. That was the first time Jeanette had come across Gollies and she fell in love with them that night.

Well, having seen all of Jeanette~s collection at Clarion and seen the illustrations and books she had on Florence Upton who is credited in being the inventor of the golly I felt really inspired to do a special golly set. Therefore, I did this special set. The first Florence Upton book introduced the two Dutch dolls and the golli. The dolls felt they should be dressed and the only fabric they could find was an American flag so one wears the stripes and one wears the stars. These dolls in the original story were based on the wooden penny dolls....which is another interesting story. Woodcutters in Austria and Switzerland used to carve these dolls in the winter months when the weather was too bad for them to go logging.

I love all the history and tradition and I am sure I have not done Florence Upton justice in this little write up but she continued to write about these dolls and the golly and their friends who underwent a number of great little adventures and I am sure you will see me do more sets with these characters in the different stories. The dolls are completely made of fabric....

They are however jointed, gessoed, painted and wired. The golly is made of ultrasuede mainly. Golli is 6.5 inches, big doll is 8 inches and the little dolls is 5.5 inches. I absolutely love this set, I loved making it.

It is a one of a kind. I must get a picture to Jeanette since she inspired me and its such a serendipity story. I added in the picture of the illustration from Florence Upton~s book This set sold for \$650 and the picture is on the next page.

Florence Upton inspired Dutch Dolls and Golli



~Hope~

is a little 3.75 inch sparse mohair bear in a little pink dress. I had not named her but having listened avidly to all the Chilean miners being safely returned to the surface what other name could I call her but ~Hope~. What a wonderful story that has been. She is limited to one
She sold for \$160



A Florence Upton inspired "leather golly".

Florence's own golly was made of black leather as many toys were back in the late 1890's. So here it is, the only leather golly I will ever make!!! I loved making it but it's really hard on the fingers sewing through leather. Originally I had thought to make him part of the set but it would have involved the doll being really, really tall so I decided just to do the one big leather golly and stick with the smaller set. He is 15 inches tall and fully jointed and very handsome and absolutely one of a kind. Florence's original golly was a bit ugly and scary and I intended to be true to her original golly but somehow he turned out cute....guess I couldn't do ugly.

He sold for \$1500 and his picture is on the next page..



“Make Me Laugh”

has been my workroom companion for about five years. Originally I intended to do a bit of an `off the wall` collection in plush. I never felt brave enough to do it but I did encompass the design in the gift collection. I have kept `make me laugh` in my workroom next to my computer with the view to perhaps putting him into manufacture. The head design is quite different to the average bear and actually makes more sense since it doesn't cut into the fabric so much as the regular head design. Anyway, I looked at him and he needs liberating....he needs a home where he will be loved rather than sitting watching over me while I continue to overlook him. He needs attention, appreciation. His legs are jointed but his arms are wired....I kind of liked the expression his arms offered. He is made of velvet plush, measures 2.5 inches and is one of a kind..... like I would ever find the pattern I used all those years ago!!!. He sold for \$450



~Tangle Dragon~

I have discovered this new art form called ~Zentangle~ which involves drawing wonderful patterns.....I have not really had anytime to do much with it but I was determined that I would at least ~tangle~ a dragon. I have drawn a pattern all over his body. Its ever so different and of course one of a kind because I couldn't possibly repeat the same pattern. He is decorated with crystals on his body and on his wings. He measures 3.75 inches and I chose to do the original dragon design I used for the first dragons ~Dennis~ and ~Slapperoo~. The proportions were a little more delicate and fine and over the years they have progressed to be a little chunkier.... I had not really noticed they had changed until I saw my ~Mums~ Dennis piece that I did many years ago. He is limited to one. Do google ~Zentangle~ if you like to doodle or do little art exercises. One of a kind. He sold for \$425



Convention Prize Pieces. (see next page)

The convention prize pieces vary in their editions size, most are 20 pieces, the dragons are 25 and the `Count D` was 14.

`B` and ~`C` package conventioners have competitions and we take all the correct entries, put them in a hat and pulled out 30 winners total.

`A` attending members generally win at least four prize pieces each.

However, not all the pieces are used as prizes, we do have four stores who help sponsor the event by attending and buying a portion of the prizes to sell on to conventioners and collectors. Without their contribution to the event we would have to charge considerably more for all the packages. So a big thank you to them. If you would like to purchase a prize piece, one of these stores may have them although many are already sold out. They are :-

Agape Bears—mail@agapebears.com tele USA 1 703 841 2444

Hen Nest—hennest@aol.com 1 334-696-4248

Fairy Tales— www.fairy-tales-inc.com 1 800 495 6973

Village Bears— villagebears@gmail.com 941-366-2667 (from UK)
1 800 680 5907 (from USA)

Prank le 20 3.75 in



Count D le 20 3.75 in



Zombie le 20 3 in



Meeow le 20 3.75 in



Shadows le 20 3 in



Moonlight 3.75 in le 25



Witchity Woo 3.75 in le 20



Scarey 3.75 in le 20



Shreik 3.75 in le 20



Candy too 3.75 in le 20



Sweets 2.5 in le 20



October 2.5 in le 20



Hoot 3.75 in le 25



Howl 3.75 in le 25



Fall 3.75 in le 20



Polka Dot 3.75 in le 20



So there it is—a quick report on the convention from Deb. I hope to add in more information on the event from the view of the Conventioneers.

Please remember there is a link of the first page for some photo`s of the event.

The date for the next event is September 30th, October 1st, October 2nd. The location, Tampa Airport Marriott. The theme `Fairy Stories`.