

**By Shelley R. Boedicker  
Sentinel Staff Writer**

Local artists and crafts people shared their talents with Clare Primary School students and teachers during their two-day Art Expo '97, April 8 and 9.

The local artists who participated include:

Meri Cowles, Clare, spinning; Cliff Kidd, Mt. Pleasant, block printing; Rod Beamish, Farwell, wood carving; Chris St. Denis, Clare High School graduate and Central Michigan University student, pottery; Barb Taylor, Mt. Pleasant, clay; Sharon Weighart, Lake, domestic pottery; Carol Whitcomb, Harrison, acrylic painting; Rod Walker, Clare, power tool wood carving; Sharon Lee House, prints; Roger Chase, Clare; Lucy Monzo, Clare, watercolor.

The artists had demonstration areas set up in sections of the Primary School hallways, art room and stage. The children had an opportunity to observe the artists at work and ask questions about the artists' projects, techniques and personal lives. They also had the chance to help the painter mix her paints, hold some wool before it was spun and feel the wood used by the carver.

Also involved in the event were:

Art Expo committee: Laurel Nordfiord, Chris Colclasure, Jan Johnston.

Hostesses were Teresa Hoffman, Barb Krell, Marian Zelinski, Glenda bond. High school art teacher Kim Kleinhardt and art students were go-fers. Judy Johnson's class made wall markers for each artist.

"The two-day event serves as an enrichment to art classes and the Art Reach Picture Program," said Jan Johnston, Art Expo committee.

"This event gives children an opportunity to observe and interact with artists at work and to expand their awareness, understanding of and appreciation for the process involved in creating an artistic product," Johnston said.



**WORKING WITH CLAY—Barb Taylor, Mt. Pleasant, shows children from Trish Eichler's fourth grade class how she makes her clay sculptures.**