Lamorindans Love Christmas Collections

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By Cathy Dausman



collections, Lamorindans, as the song suggests, do have a few of their favorite things.

Dana Windatt and her beloved dollhouse.

Erla Boren of Moraga says her Eskimo collection has "outgrown the mirrors" on which they rest. The round and smiling ornament characters are a happy reminder of her native Iceland. There are now decades miniature Christmas trees - all of the "Frosty Friends" series, which lighted, of course. Rudolph with his Hallmark began in 1980.

icebergs and riding Polar bears. She fox and deer near a countryside log has mostly kept up with the annual new ornament release, but doesn't Maple Creek covered bridge, and have the 1983 and 1984 issues. The ornaments she bought long ago, paying \$2.50 each, today fetch \$200 on is different every year. It seems the eBay, Boren says with a smile. She keeps her Eskimo collection now for the enjoyment of her grandchildren, who don't seem to notice the lack of snow in Lamorinda.

As for Peg Hoffman and her room-sized Snow Village display in Moraga, she says, "People should never start these things." Its assembly normally requires four days, although Hoffman managed a two-day rush job

Then it comes to Christmas this year to accommodate her party schedule.

The family Christmas tree must first be lighted and decorated before the village takes shape at its base. Snow Village City boasts lighted shops, a mill, a church, a dry goods store, a windmill, plenty of cars and foot traffic and an abundance of nose so bright prances atop one city Boren's tables show Eskimos on roof. Skiers share the outdoors with cabin. A man carves pond ice next to children build a snowman.

Hoffman says the village design only thing missing is an HO scale train. While Hoffman would love to include that, she may be too busy shooing her cats away from the diorama. They tend to use the roads as their own thoroughfare anyway, examining the village like giants from another world.

Hoffman intentionally left out the operating ice skating rink this year, too. "It makes the cats go bonkers,"

Erla Boren's Eskimo smiles melt your heart.

Peg Hoffman's Snow Village.

over the bed.

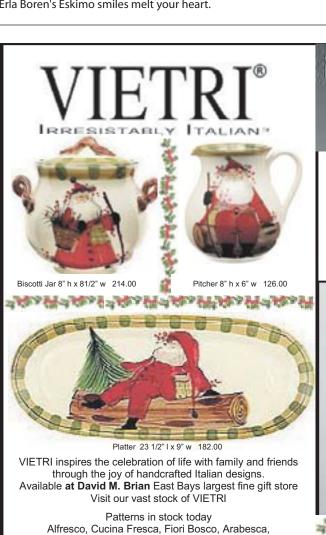
The kitchen, with its subway tile flooring and white cabinetry,

Eloise in Paris themed pink bedroom, has a table set with tiny Starbuck's where a portrait of Jackie O. hangs coffee mugs and a jar of cookies. Boxes of miniature Twinkies adorn the counter.

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