

THE QUESTERS LAKOTA PRAIRIE CHAPTER #956, PARKER, SOUTH DAKOTA

DATE OF MEETING: September 11, 1980. HOSTESS: Doris Koehn  
PROGRAM: SUNBONNET BABIES: By Helen DeCou

"Molly and May, the charming children with huge bonnets and plump figures, won the hearts of generations of children and adults alike, from the 1890's well into the late 1920's. In 1902 the Sunbonnet Babies were pictured in "Sunbonnet Babies Primer", the stories written by Eulalie Osgood Grover, illustrated by Bertha Corbett. It was immediately successful. The Royal Beyreuth China Company made a full line of children's dishes and some adult dishes decorated with the Sunbonnet Babies.

These faceless children proved that a figure did not need a face to express character. They were pictured with the Overall Boys on many objects.

Besides books and porcelain, they were also decorations for post-cards, prints, boxes, valentines and quilts. Sometimes the Sunbonnet Babies were pictured in a set of seven, one for each day of the week.

In 1974, Kern's Collectibles asked the Royal Beyreuth Company to re-issue the Sunbonnet Babies on seven plates on their fine white porcelain.

On Sunday, Molly and May were fishing.

On Monday, they were washing clothes.

On Tuesday, they were ironing.

On Wednesday, they were mending.

On Thursday, they were cleaning.

On Friday, they were sweeping.

On Saturday, they were baking.

A few years later, they also made seven bells and a large thirteen inch plate with the seven designs on it."

Helen's showing consisted of:

An old cream pitcher of English Bone China, made in Boston, the babies washing clothes.

A Burnt Wood Box with Sunbonnet Babies swinging.

An old large plate of Carnation Stoneware made by McNicol with the Babies ironing.

A note paper card of re-cycled paper showing the Babies; other designs are also made of seven days of the week.

A picture of the Babies praying which was given to Helen's Mother when she was a little girl, and given to Helen about ten years ago.

An old small plate of Royal Beyreuth showing babies praying.

An old cup and saucer of German China showing babies sewing.

A picture by B.L. Corbett showing babies washing.

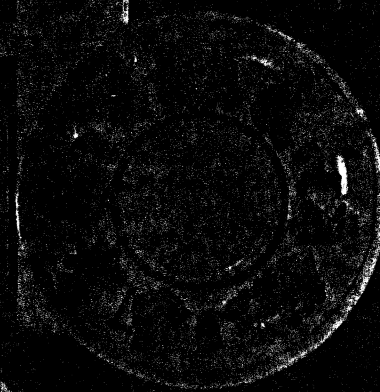
A Burnt wood picture of babies feeding chickens.

A baby mug of china from France given to Doris-Koehn at birth by the wife of the Doctor who brought Doris into this world, decorated around the top with the babies.

Monica Langrock read to us a copy of the Talk given by Peter Allen, of Hurley, South Dakota, at the School Dedication on September 3, 1934. His talk was about the First School in Turner County, held at Swan Lake, of which he was a student.



This is the very first Sun-bonnet Babies book. It was written and illustrated by Bertha Louise Corbett. It is the predecessor of Eulalie Osgood Grover's Sunbonnet Babies' Primer and other Sunbonnet Babies books. This picture appeared in the MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL in 1900.



Sunbonnet Babies .