



DAVE GIBSON

Pat and Alan Koziel's extensive miniature Colonial Village collection is on display in Rollinsville.

20 years of fun building a Colonial Christmas collection

Rollinsville display

by Dave Gibson

When Pat and Alan Koziel purchased their first ceramic miniature in 1988, they had no idea that their collection would grow to include over five thousand pieces. Set up as a township and comprised mostly of Lefton's "Colonial Village" collectables, it reflects life before the turn of the nineteenth century with building signage advertising businesses such as Blacksmith, General Store, Lumber Yard, Barber Shop, Winery, and Bootery. This is only the second time that the Koziels have presented their collection for the public.

The myriad of figures and buildings on display boggles the mind. There is a police station and fire station complete with a chimneysweep. There is a bakery with a baker in front of it holding a tin of fresh muffins. The town's

gazebo is fronted by Salvation Army band members. Each structure has been accessorized with figures of every kind. The barn, (the first piece of the collection and Pat's favorite), is surrounded by every type of farm animal imaginable. One of the churches has a reverend standing in front of a white picket fence with an upraised hand and bible. By the lighthouse door a sea captain peruses the ocean through his looking-glass as a fisherman with several fish slung over his shoulder passes by. Christmas carolers are drawn by a horse on "Uncle Willard's Singin' Sleigh Ride." A man leaves the hardware store hauling a large sack while a boy sits by a barrel with a duck. Ice skaters and a lone hockey player occupy the frozen ponds. A snowman, a butcher with a cleaver and turkey, a carousel, dogs, people carrying presents, a policeman, snow-covered pines, waterfalls, roads, and of course Santa. Santa Claus makes numerous

appearances and even circles above town pulled by his reindeer. Parts of Pat and Alan's life are also included with landscaping rocks from their travels and a representation of their home the "Circle K." I spent two hours talking with them recently, studying their expansive exhibit and still left feeling that I had missed something.

Mark and Lynn Slinger have donated the space for the exhibit in their Christmas lighted metal building at 37 County Road 16 (Tolland Rd.), Rollinsville, (next to Indian Peaks Stoves). The Koziels' collection will be on display beginning on December 11th through January 4th. Hours are Thursday and Friday from 4 pm

to 8 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 10 am until 6pm. Admission is free and coffee, tea, and hot chocolate will be served. Cookies, food, and donations are welcome. Partial proceeds will be donated to the restoration of the Old Thorn Lake Schoolhouse in Rollinsville.

6th Annual Winter Arts Festival
 Saturday December 13, 2008
 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Gilpin County Community Center

Santa Claus	Face Painting
Dance Recitals	Cookie Decorating
The Red Shoes	Gilpin H.S. Choir
Peak to Peak Chorale	Gilpin H.S. Musicians
Children's Ceramic Handprints	

250 Norton Drive / 303-582-1453 for more information