



Joyce Gethen shows off some of the fancy feather ties, hatbands and jewelry she makes with feathers from both wild and domestic birds.

MADE FROM BIRD, PHEASANT AND CHICKEN FEATHERS

Feather Neckties Catching On Fast

By Wally Schulz

Joyce Gethen, of Zenda, Wis., uses whatever feathers she can gather on the farm, or collect from hunters, to create colorful feather neckties and jewelry that both city slickers and country people are buying up as fast as she can make them.

"I grew up on a farm and was fascinated with the beauty of different colored bird and chicken feathers," Joyce explains. "When I visited my brother's pheasant farm, I found even more beauty in feathers. One day, the idea of taking the feathers and making full length neckties from them just came to me.

"I bought some ribbon-type ties at a local men's store and used them for my first experiments," she explains. When she completed the first tie, she showed it to her son, an ardent hunter. He liked it and so did all his hunter friends who saw it.

"He brought me a number of orders for feather ties and I've been busy making them ever since," Joyce recalls. "Each of the feathers I use in creating a tie has to be glued into place. That first tie took me one entire afternoon to make. Today, I can make one in about three hours."

Although neckties are her most popular item, Joyce also makes bow ties, cowboy hat bands, flowers for

women's hair, ear rings and necklaces from feathers. She sells each of her creations for about \$15.

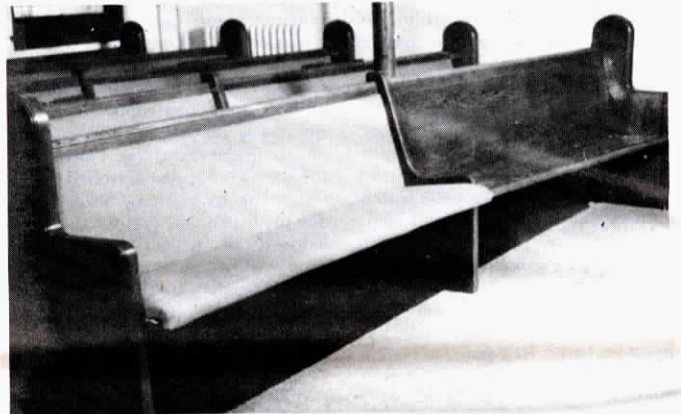
"I'm constantly looking for colorful feathers to add to my collection," she notes. "I keep feathers filed in boxes and labeled for color and type. If I need a particular feather, I can find it quickly."

Joyce has to trim and glue each feather onto the tie separately. "It's a surprise to see what each tie will look like when completed. Each tie has a certain beauty of its own," she notes.

Joyce asks that anyone desiring a feather tie send her a single-color tie of your choice that she can cover with feathers. "The tie should be made of some type of hard-finish material, like satin or brocade, that will hold a crease. The feathers fall off a lot of the new synthetic materials because the glue won't hold when the material loses its crease. You should also tell me a little about yourself so I can adapt the tie, hat band or jewelry to your personality. Are you conservative or flamboyant? Do you want to look like a real cowboy or a sidewalk cowboy?"

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Joyce Gethen, Zenda, Wis. 53195 (ph 414 275-6942).

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Scotch-guarded pads add years to the life of old church pews, and prevent worn wood from snagging and sticking to clothing.

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One alternative to expensive refinishing or replacement of old church pews is covering them with custom-fitted pew pads developed by Arnold Industries, Holdrege, Neb.

"Often, pews have been in churches as long as most members can remember and they're reluctant to part with them, even when the pews are so worn they're snagging and sticking to clothing. With our custom-fitted pads, they can keep the pews and modernize them at the same time. Also, with energy prices so high many churches are keeping the temperature down. It's much easier to do with upholstered pews since they're warmer than cold wood," says Arnold Allerheiligen, designer of "Instant Pew" pew pads.

They're custom-built in Nebraska and shipped to churches for installation. The wood-backed pads are installed with screws and small brads (or special brackets, if you don't want to drill holes in the pew seats). No special skills or tools are needed.

The pads have a 3/8-in. plywood base with 1 1/2 in. firm polyurethane

foam on the bottom, and 1-in. at the back. "We suggest that the back of the pad be placed 1 1/2 to 2-in. lower than the top of the back of the pew to avoid soiling by the hands of people seating themselves behind," Arnold explains. The pad goes down and below the front edge of the old pew seat to prevent snagging on old rough edges.

A wide variety of colors of the 100% Scotch-guarded nylon fabric is available. Crushed velvet is also available at extra cost.

Prices for both the seat and back begin at \$8.82 per linear foot. They can be built in varying lengths to fit square or curved-back pews. The Instant-Pew seat by itself sells for \$5.85 per foot. Non-fixed reversible cushions sell for \$3.91. Arnold notes that the fabric can easily be removed and replaced should it become stained.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Arnold Industries, West Highway 23, Holdrege, Neb. 68949 (ph 308 995-5471).