



NASHVILLE — One of Abigail's constant companions shares a fudgesickle with her. Mrs. Sperry could never have known when she sold the first Abigail that the doll would creep into the hearts and arms of

thousands of children before it was all over. Abigail's friends continue to mount as the year's pass. She is a commodity of love that has never gone out of style.

Abigail Is Passed From Generation To Generation

Thousands of Abigails have come and gone from the Brown County Folk Shop. There was a special one, however, and Mrs. Martz remembered the story.

"This happened before mother died, thank goodness," she said. "A family came in the shop — parents with two little girls."

Mrs. Martz related the girls each had a quarter to spend, but nothing seemed to fit the bill; either they picked an item that was too much, they decided they didn't like it or something went wrong.

After a while had passed, one of the clerks came up to the counter with her cupped hands filled with pennies, nickles, dimes, a few bills, trading stamps, and the two little girls' quarters. They had pooled all on hand.

Mrs. Martz said, "They wanted an Abigail doll. I didn't even bother to count the money.

We began to talk and found that they were recreating everything Susan in the book did when she traveled to Brown County."

The shop owner continued by saying they discovered Abigail had been read to the Mother as a child, and she had read it to these, her two daughters. Two generations of Abigail lovers were on the scene.

According to Mrs. Martz, one of the first questions they asked the family was, "What about the bear, how had they gone about seeing Susan's bear; the one her mother had shot in the story?"

The answer came quickly. It seems there was a nice man in Bloomington by the name of Schmalz who had a sporting goods store, and there mounted on the wall was the head of a bear. "So we saw our bear too, the family answered triumphantly.