

A hobby in paper mache



Father and son, John (60) and Mario (30) Debarro both share the same hobby of paper-mache-work and costume-making for stage presentations.

Mr. Debarro Snr. is employed in the Power House with the S.E.C at Yallourn and Mario works in the Post Office at Newborough.

Mr. Debarro Snr, a former actor and stage manager with a theatre group in his old country, Malta, has been following his hobby for over 40 years.

He came to Australia in 1949, and making stage decorations for the St. Keiran's Catholic Church, Moe, has taken up all of his spare time.

During the past few years he has made scenery (from paper, wire and glue) for many stage plays and debu-

tante balls.

In Malta, Mr. Debarro made hats from paper for fancy dress fashion parades and says he received an offer from a Melbourne firm recently to join them as a costume-maker.

However, he says, he cannot find the time to do much of the work now as his wife is not in the best of health

TAUGHT SON

He taught his son, Mario, the art of paper work but Mrs. Debarro takes the credit for his sewing of the costumes.

At present Mario is working on making costumes for 44 people in a play to be presented at St. Kieran's.

Roman shields, helmets, breastplates and other pieces have been made from paper and glue and intricately painted to appear as the "real thing".

Mario (left) and Mr. Debarro with some of the "equipment" they have made for various stage presentations.

Mr. Debarro has taught his son well because now it is mostly Mario who does all the work with a guiding hand, from his father.

Whenever scenery for a play is to be made, small models are placed on a model stage and from here the two men go to work. This can be seen in the photo above.

This hobby has not always been the one for Mario as his mother says he was an ardent knitter in his early life.

There are two other members of the Debarro family, a married son in Canada, and a married daughter in England.