

Tulip Cottage opens

"To see them is to want them."

The Tracy Hall family said they found this statement to be quite true when they spent some time in the African nation of Zimbabwe several years ago.

The statement referred to the beautiful crocheted suits and dresses for women and children, table cloths, couch throws and bedspreads made by the women there. These items were crafted in colors and white, and nylon as well as cotton.

No one knows exactly how the Zimbabwe women learned how to crochet, Mrs. Hall said, but it is unique to this African country. The girls start as early as five or six years of age. They are taught the patterns by rote and soon become quite proficient.

Hall said the crocheting is often done by candle light in the "rondelos" or round native huts, or in the modest homes of the townships.

When the Halls were there, the crochet market was quite depressed because of the fall-off in tourism, and the exodus of many of the white people of Zimbabwe. The Halls were intrigued by the craft, and sent many packages to friends and neighbors.

Their inventory, however, continued to grow because people pleaded to "buy our goods" so "we can keep the children in school."

After returning to the United States, several garage sales failed to make an inroad into their inventory, so Mrs. Hall considered opening

a business in a small house she owns at 346 S. 100 West in a Payson commercial district.

She did not want to tie herself down, however, to a six-day work week, and the economics could not justify the hiring of even one employee.

Then, she decided other women might want to have a market for their own craft, sewing or art products, but who were also too busy to work full time. She thought, Why not get a group of these women together, share the duties of running the store and give them all an outlet for their crafts.

Jan Soldan and Pam Knight of Provo, Jill Taylor of Payson, Annette Thomas of Springville and Nancy Mecham of Orem joined Hall and formed a business called The Tulip Cottage.

The name was taken from a tulip motif that appears in the stained glass windows of the house. Mecham installed them.

Besides usual and unusual craft items, the store includes hand-crafted children's clothing.

The inventory will always be different and varied, Hall said, because the ladies will not be restricting themselves to any definite categories.

For a while, Tulip Cottage will also accept craft items on consignment.

The store opened April 4, and the grand opening was April 11. The store invites everyone to come in and get acquainted.