

Country art fair brings spirit of early America

"The Country Art Fair," given annually by the University of Michigan Artists and Craftsmen Guild, returns to Farmington Community Center for the second year on May 21-22.

"We couldn't have found a better spot," said fair spokeswoman Celeste Melis. "It is perfect to go with the house and grounds here."

The 100 artists and craftspeople who will be demonstrating and selling their work, keep their fairs as closely as possible to the early American country fairs. The artion hand is filled with the spirit and tradition of finely handcrafted, original work.

"Maybe the fair will help the brick farmhouse and grounds remember the fine times it enjoyed after it was built in 1869," Ms. Melis added.

The format of the fair will be much the same as it was last year. One exception is that all of the grounds, as well as much space in the house, will be put to use.

Consequently, there will be no parking in the center. Shuttle buses will run continuously throughout the fair hours between Oakland Community College campus, the Ten Mile Elementary School where parking will be allowed, and the center.

FOOD WILL be prepared by members of the Farmington Order of the Eastern Star, and beer will also be for sale on the premises.

Entertainment is also on the two-day agenda. "We'll have a lot of musicians here, singing and playing American folk music," said I.B. Remson, a potter. "We know a group who play dulcimers. We have several guitarists, strolling musicians, just like it was in early America. They may even pass the hat, just like they did then."

There will be a special area set aside with things for children to do so they can participate. Also on tap are several to-be-announced events for everyone to join. Many of the artists will bring equipment so guests might try their hand at an ancient craft.

Karyl Hill, general chairwoman for the event, will bring an etching press, for example, made from a wringer type washing machine, to allow guests to roll an etching plate and take home a backyard print.

She's a Birmingham resident who has taught at both the Farmington Community Center and the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association. She works in sculpture and leaded glass.

SOME OF THE area artists and



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craftsmen who will be part of the country fair are potter Ruth Fortis, painter Marilyn Stumb, pewterer Bee Segula, and painter Wally Blyeau.

Blyeau, from Livonia, paints watercolor scenes from rural America; its barns, fields and windmills. He is also a professional sign painter who has painted all the banners and signs that will soon be seen in Farmington.

Remson, who has studied in Sweden, and specializes in feather-tailing on his pottery, is in charge of laying out the site, where he says, "every horizontal flat surface will be used."

Nancy Abbott, experienced in batik, designed the lamb and its mother for the batik that is used on the posters.

Ms. Melis, the guild director and a painter, brings her experiences from other art fairs, to the 1977 country

fair. She has made arrangements for historical exhibits and a genealogy booth to be at the fair.

The guild is involved in four fairs a year to give its members a market for their work. Members are also devoted to educating the general public on the role of artists and craftsmen.

The fair is endorsed by the Farmington Area Arts Commission.

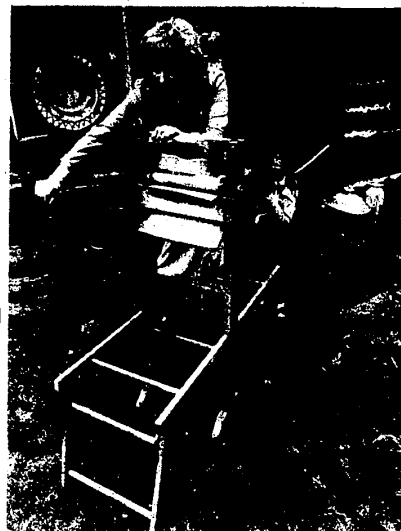
There is no admission charge.



Celeste Melis is a potter and a member of the guild's organizing committee which is bringing some of University of Michigan's finest artisans to Farmington for Country Art Fair.



Potter I.B. Remson points out feather-tailing design when 100 booths will be set up in Farmington Community Center and on the grounds.



Karyl Hill will show how an old clothes wringer rolls out an etching plate, and also will invite Country Fair guests to do the same. With Mrs. Hill is her granddaughter, Mary Ann Herrera. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

Federal bench lacks a women's viewpoint

By SHIRLEE IDEN

"When you argue about pregnancy in a federal court, there's no one there who's ever been pregnant, ever will be, or ever could be," said Ann Arbor attorney Jean King in a Southfield address to the Michigan Women's Equity Action League on Saturday.

"The things we're complaining about in the courts won't be cured until we get more people in the federal courts who aren't white male, and of the majority religions."

Ms. King was the second of three speakers in a series on the place of women. She is a trustee of the Women's Law Fund, a founder of FOCUS on Equal Employment for Women and the author of "Sex Discrimination in an Elementary Reading Program."

Discussing The Supreme Court and Women, Ms. King said the court will "eventually get better, probably, because it has been so bad up to now."

She cited the case of Myra Bradwell, a woman who brought suit under the 14th Amendment in a fight to allow her to practice law.

"She was trained in the law by her husband and in 1869 started a weekly legal newspaper and applied to the bar," Ms. King said. "She passed the bar exam but was denied entry."

"A WOMAN had no legal status, except for that of her husband, and couldn't make contracts," the courts ruled according to Ms. King.

In another more contemporary ruling, the Michigan Legislature, in 1945, passed a law prohibiting women who were wives or daughters of bar owners from tending bar.

"It was not enforced at first but then it was challenged in 1945," she said. "Supreme Court Justice Frankfurter didn't even take it seriously, but it was an attempt by male bar-tenders to dominate the occupation, since it didn't prohibit barmaids from working."

Ms. King said that women lawyers are fighting the hardest for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) because they've been exposed the longest to

the courts and examples of sex discrimination.

"Discrimination against pregnant women is not sex discrimination because men can't get pregnant. That's the theme of the Gilbert decision of 1977," she said.

Gilbert vs. General Electric is a recent case in which it was decided that disability plans in corporate health insurance can rightfully exclude pregnancy.

The case, which began in 1972, was a serious set-back for women's rights and the feminist movement. The opinion was written by Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist.

In another vein, she touched on the fight for women's suffrage, which spanned a long period of American history.

"TODAY, only citizens in prisons are prevented from voting," she said. "But in 1897, New Jersey legislated to take the vote away from women. Citizenship did not mean suffrage in the past."

Susan B. Anthony voted in 1873 and was tried as a criminal for doing it, Ms. King said.

"The judge fined her \$100 and she wanted to go to jail. She planned to get a writ of habeas corpus once jailed, but her attorney posted bail and she wasn't jailed."

"She vowed never to pay that \$100 fine, and she never did," said Ms. King.

The attorney said it took 52 years of "senseless campaigning" and millions of dollars to get the word male out of the Constitution.

"One woman who was age 16 and started in 1872, New Jersey legislated to take the vote away from women. Citizenship did not mean suffrage in the past."

Ms. King related that she located the man in Tennessee whose vote was the decision maker in making women's suffrage a reality.



JEAN KING

"It was the last vote in the last legislature needed to pass the amendment and he voted for it because his mother was a suffragette and urged him to do it," she said.

She confided that the man (whose name we promised not to reveal) is being kept under wraps because he finds himself unable to support ERA, because he doesn't think fathers should get custody of children.

"AFTER WE GET ERA passed, we'll make him a big hero," she said.

Ms. King urged the WEAL members to write to Sen. Donald Riegle and urge the appointment of a woman to the coming vacancy for U.S. district attorney in Eastern Michigan and a federal district court opening, which is expected.

She conceded that President Carter will have a difficult political decision to make when the next opening occurs on the Supreme Court.



'Graduation Ball'

The Farmington Ballet Theatre presents two ballroom dances, May 21-22, at 8 p.m. at the Farmington High School. The first dance, "The Graduate," is by the Farmington Ballet Theatre. The second dance, "The Graduate," is by the Farmington Ballet Theatre.

and Jackie Willacher, and Tom Williams (standing). "Havoc Walks" is another first on the program, shared with "Country Village Suite" from the company's repertoire. Advance tickets are now on sale at the Farmington Community Center, or will be available at the door.