



David Edward Gurley of Southfield has used Stradivari and Guarneri, master violin makers as his model in creating a fine instrument. (Staff photos by Gary Friedman)



## INCOME TAX

- ✓ Expert Professional Service
- ✓ Experienced Counselors - Guaranteed Accuracy
- ✓ Comfortable Private Interview Rooms
- ✓ Service By Appointment - No waiting
- ✓ Most Returns Under \$35
- ✓ Free Estimates

Charles H. Williams, P.C.

Certified Public Accountant  
29625 Grand River Avenue  
(1 Block West of Middlebelt)

Farmington Hills • 478-7440

## Strings for classical tunes

# Craftsman revives a dying art

By GWENDOLYN MALECKE

When David Edward Gurley decides to "fiddle away his time," he's not speaking of wasting time but literally creating a fine instrument from the very beginning.

This could mean making his own copy of a Stradivari violin. And while he may have gone about it in a piano-sino manner, the result has been with an outstandingly bravura touch.

Since violin making is considered a dying craft, as well as almost impossible to accomplish, the Southfield craftsman realized that it would first involve some study on the subject. So he set out to learn how the old masters, such as the Stradivari and Guarneri families did such excellent work.

Diligently, he put in hours at the library studying books such as Heron Allen's, "As It Was, And Is."

He had actually nursed the idea of making his own violin since taking violin lessons for some 25 years ago, when, as a young man, he studied the instrument and loved it.

Also influential was the power of suggestion he received from an old violin-making friend who had given him a piece of European maple and spruce. This particular type of wood is generally the kind used in northern Europe for making fine stringed instruments.

GURLEY kept the wood carefully over the years, partly so it would mellow with age, and partly because family obligations to his wife, Christine, and four daughters and a son, made it almost impossible to find the time to begin his project.

Also, his regular job as an upholsterer was also time consuming, even as it added to his skill in working with wood.

After carefully cutting, shaping, fitting, sanding, buffing and matching the special wood, his dream slowly materialized. After 10 coats of light varnish was painstakingly applied, the violin's beautifully matched grains of wood showing through in a lovely pattern, made it a delight to behold.

Once he played it awhile, Gurley was convinced that it could stand up to any violin, for it also had good tonal quality. He didn't hesitate to have it scrutinized by several experts, who examined it and played it as well.

Tops among these experts was Gino D'Alessio, formerly a concert master under Arturo Toscanini with the Rome Symphony on radio for many years.

D'Alessio, now first violinist with the Canadian Windsor Symphony and who also plays for dinner guests at the Michigan Inn in Southfield, played the instrument for him.

Then, he took it to Richard Luby, principal second violinist with the Rochester, New York Philharmonic Orchestra, a former Detroit resident who was recently in the area on a concert tour. Luby also praised Gurley's craftsmanship and the violin's tones.

GURLEY, recently, was cited by the Violin and Guitar Makers Association at its Arizona convention. He placed fourth in competition with points for his workmanship, and the finish and tone quality of his instrument.

His name will be placed in the soon-to-be-released national Violin and Guitar Makers Catalogue, underscoring the professionalism of his work.

Gurley also has repaired violins for friends and made another instrument, a dulcimer, which also is of professional quality.

The violin-maker hopes, if he can find a good teacher, to become an accomplished violinist.

In addition to music and his craftsmanship, Gurley enjoys travel. In 1971, he traveled to Europe with one of his daughters to see first-hand the works of the masters such as Michaelangelo, Bernini, Rembrandt and others.

Quiet and modest, Gurley's expertise and craftsmanship may mark him as a Southfielder of distinction.

### TELEVISION

**SERVICE SPECIAL ONLY \$5**

We will pick up your television set, bring it to our shop and have it checked by our TV experts. You will then be notified by telephone of the cost of repair. If you decide not to have it repaired we will return it to your home. All for only \$5.

---

### USED COLOR TV'S FOR SALE

**STA-RITE TV**

28915 JOY RD.  
WESTLAND

PHONE 525-5450

## 3 visits 3 dollars

### Get in Shape for Summer

It's easy if you do it right—the Nautilus Fitness way.

Minimum time-Maximum benefit. No Gimmicks. only 30 minutes per visit, two or three times per week.

**476-7118**

**Nautilus** FITNESS CENTER  
OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
28350 W. Eight Mile Rd.  
1/4 mile W. of Grand River **476-7118**

## Don't buy any water conditioner before checking Culligan's highest quality-at the lowest price!

- ✓ Widest selection of equipment-and prices
- ✓ Fully automatic dependability
- ✓ Exclusive Corrosion proof Tript-Hull tanks
- ✓ Space-age solid-state electronic controls
- ✓ Always ready factory-trained service by your local Culligan Man, the recognized water expert
- ✓ Only Culligan gives you all this-all backed by 40 years of worldwide leadership in quality and value!

And only Culligan gives you 3 ways to enjoy soft water

Try soft water at little cost with our Portable Exchange service. We install the unit, take care of everything. Or rent a Culligan for only pennies a day. Or buy a Culligan—and go first class. Don't be misled. You'll pay no more—often less—for the best! Call and say—

**Special Offer DURING FEBRUARY ONLY**

Trade-in allowance on any old installed water softener or Diner for two (up to \$20 value) at The Old Mill Restaurant, included with the purchase of any Culligan Water Conditioner.



**Culligan WATER CONDITIONING**

Detroit Call 964-2246 Pontiac Call 682-6600

925 ORCHARD LAKE RD. PONTIAC 2 Blocks East of Telegraph

FREE WATER ANALYSIS FREE ESTIMATES IN YOUR HOME

Serving Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties

*During the recent blizzard, wouldn't it have been nice if your parents were at*

**good times  
good food  
good friends  
come enjoy life with us at...**

## FRANKLIN CLUB APARTMENTS

an adult community

28301 Franklin Road, Southfield, Michigan

**Now accepting reservations**

Included in one monthly payment ... Breakfast and supper every day • Apartment cleaning • Linen service • Chauffeur service on a scheduled basis • Exercise room • Sewing room • Garden & greenhouse • Entertainment • Attended gate house.

**please call Mrs. Neville at 353-2810 to obtain information or arrange an interview.**

From \$555

## Male Call!

(and women too, of course)

**478-2626**

Hairstyling, Shampoo, Conditioner, Precision Hair Cut, and Blow Dry

**\$10**

through February 18, 1978

Open Monday thru Saturday

## Hair it is

21017 Farmington Road  
Farmington Hills  
2 Blocks N. of 8 Mile

**478-2626**

WE USE & RECOMMEND

RMS PROFESSIONAL HAIR CARE PRODUCTS