



Cal Knorpp finishes off an intricate wooden sailing ship. Unlike its plastic counterpart, this model takes up to 2,000 hours to

construct and costs more than \$50. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)



Although this may look like the real hydroplane seen on the Detroit River, in reality it's a miniature model, radio controlled with an air-cooled engine.

# Hobby buffs delighted by miniature world

By LOUISE OKRUSKY

The hobby of building miniature models is a world unto itself, one that has captured the imagination of many people. It is a world of tiny ships, planes, and buildings, each one a masterpiece of craftsmanship and patience.

For many, the hobby is a way to escape the stresses of everyday life and immerse themselves in a world of their own making. It is a world where time slows down and the only goal is to create something beautiful and unique.

CAREFUL ATTENTION is given to every detail, from the smallest screw to the most intricate carving. The hobbyists are often seen in their workshops, surrounded by shelves of materials and tools, meticulously working on their creations.

Some people build models for the sheer joy of it, while others do so to compete in local or national contests. Regardless of the reason, the hobby has a strong sense of community and shared passion.

Knorpp, who has been building models for over 20 years, says that the hobby is a labor of love. He spends countless hours on each model, ensuring that every part is perfect and every detail is accurate.

Many hobbyists find that their models become a part of their lives, each one a story waiting to be told.

models, and the process often takes thousands of hours, Knorpp said. Members of the club are also experienced in model building.

"WE'RE DEALING with a more in-depth aspect of the public," he said. "Some of the kits in the shop are actually made with 2000 parts, need about 2000 hours to assemble."

Knorpp estimates that it takes about 20 hours to complete one of the kits. More than 100 kits may take 1600 hours.

Those who invest time and money in the hobby are apt to be model buffs as well. The Knorpps and Gennies may have a lot to say about a large kit of a battleship.

Knorpp modeling gives the satisfaction of building a ship. "Everybody has the well-known ship in their mind, but they may not attempt to satisfy it," he said. "I created it in an early 1960s, the first year when I was in the shop."

He is now 34 years old. "I was 14 when I started," he said. "I was 14 when I started, and I was 14 when I started."

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8-pin radio controls allow Earth-bound pilots to control every move of their fantasies in flight. A five-channel control unit can cost as much as \$200.

Battles as well as planes can be controlled by the radio sets. A U-32 boat as small as a kitten can kick up a rooster on the pond at Belle Isle, just like its full-size counterpart.

But boats don't have to be used. They can sit in a tank, complete with authentic backdrop and when the model buff can also make from a kit.

"You can have a plan brass engine," Gennies explained. "Then you can buy all the accessories and make that engine resemble the engine you have in mind."

Plan brass engines will cost the train addict about \$60. Brass engines already fitted out with many details go for \$125.

It's personalized. "Gennies summed up. 'You can get 1000 of those kits for the hobbyists and you'll get 1000 different builds.' They won't be exactly the same."

By fitting the engines with different accessories, you can have one that's unique.

**How to treat public offenders workshop topic**

Treatment of public offenders will be the subject of a weekend workshop offered for community service workers at Madonna College from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 13 and 14.

The outsiders will include James Little, chief social worker, Dr. Willie Scott, clinical psychologist of the psychiatric clinic at St. Joseph's Court.

The class is open to the public and may be taken for one semester of college credit. The monetary fee is \$2 and the fee will be \$4 for those attending for credit.

Registration information may be obtained by calling Vivian Hampton of the Madonna College social work department.

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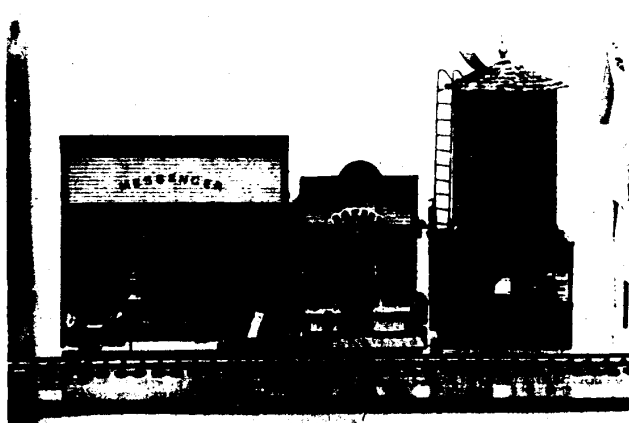
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An air of reality pervades this small town railroad scene which is equipped with men playing checkers and another just biding the time of day. It takes hours to construct one of these miniatures.

O&E



The best gifts come in small packages as is exemplified by this HO scale all-brass engine.

**Stop in for a taste of the Christmas Spirit**

**Kiddie Rides start Monday**

Bring your youngsters in and let them have a ride while you shop.

**The Bouviers de Flanders dogs will be shown Sunday 12:00-5:00.**

See this superb dog in our show.



Watch for our famous Turkey Shoot starting Tuesday November 16.



The Shriners will be here starting November 15 with tickets to the North-South football game.

**LIVONIA MALL**

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