

Shriners turn to the arts to help crippled children

By SHIRLEE IDEN

When two doctors and folks involved in theater first started the Shrine more than a century ago, its purpose was fun and games.

A Masonic Order, whose members must be 22nd degree Masons, the organization quickly progressed from good times to good works.

"It didn't take long for them to decide they should have a more serious purpose," said Bill Seaman, an illustrious potentate of the Moslem Temple.

"They took on the care of crippled children and today Shriners run 16 hospitals in North America and three turn centers."

They also went from one temple to 181 in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Seamson heads the area temple, which is now ranked as fourth high in membership with some 16,000 members. He said they accept members regardless of faith as long as they believe in God and meet the requisites of Masonry.

"In this area, we're caring for approximately 500 crippled children," he said. "We spend about \$300,000 each year."

Although their main source of revenue besides dues and bequests is the annual Shrine Circus, last year the Moslem Temple, which had purchased the Raleigh House, had their first additional fund raiser.

"It was an art auction and was really successful," said John Holka, general chairman of the auction, "so we've decided to repeat it."

"WE DREW between 300 and 400 people last year and expect a lot more than this the second time around. This year we've gone more public and that's how it should be."

According to Seamson, the temple purchased their Southfield property as an investment and "possible future home" but have used it for social affairs, a convention and the current fund raiser.

"We've been at our present address more than 80 years and the Detroit Masonic Temple is the largest in the world," he said.

Scheduled for Thursday evening, Nov. 16 the art auction will open with a preview at 7 p.m. at Raleigh House and the auction itself beginning at 8 p.m.

Maureen Roberts, director of the Oxford Galleries in Detroit, who is arranging the auction, said the attraction of art auctions is that people can truly pick up art bargains.

"We'll probably have about 200 pieces to show and they will include enameled, sculptures, graphics and oils," she said. "We're including some good posters and even oriental rugs."

She added some would be originals, some prints and many signed and numbered. Artists who will be fea-

tured include Appel, Calder, Dali, Chagall, Picasso, Escher and Leroy Nieman.

"The price range won't leave anyone out because the items will go from \$5 to about \$2,500," she said. "The rugs start at about \$50 in value and go up to several thousand."

Richard Rogers, Oxford Gallery owner, will serve as the auctioneer. "DURING the preview, people can walk around and look at all the offerings," Ms. Roberts said. "Usually they will circle what they like in the listings. It's really a good time to pick up holiday gifts."

Each year there are more than 5,000 new reasons for them to keep raising funds and helping out—the number of children helped in their network of hospitals.

They are quite proud of their century of humanitarianism, according to Seamson and Holka.

Looking forward to the advent of the circus in March, they will present a large selection of clown motifs and other circus themes in the among the art offerings at the auction.

They are united in their dedicated effort to help crippled and underprivileged children enjoy life a little more.

For more information or tickets which are just \$1 in advance and \$1.50 at the door at the auction, call the Masonic Temple at 831-7600.



Riding a country trail

Nothing is more pleasurable when you're young than finding a friend and going for a long ride on a trusty steed. Here Donna Jenkins (left) and friend John Wood ride their favorite Arabian. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)


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