

Sharette takes command at Army School



COL. ROLAND J. SHARETTE

Colonel Roland J. Sharette has been appointed as Commandant of the 503rd United States Army Reserve (USAR) School, headquartered in Southfield. The announcement was made late last month by Major General Leston G. Carmichael, commander of the 123rd United States Army Reserve Command in Indianapolis.

Colonel Sharette is a 25-year career reservist whose primary army qualification has been in transportation man-

agement with a specialty in marine and port terminal operations.

The Farmington Hills resident is an alumnus of Wayne State University and has graduate degrees from there and from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

With his wife Beverly and the couple's three children, Denise, Darrell and David, the family performed as "The Sharettes" throughout the metropolitan area as well as on entertain-

ment tours across the country and in Europe during the '70s.

Sharette's civilian occupation is Deputy Director of Michigan Council for the Arts.

THE 5032d USAR school has been in existence for almost 30 years. It was originally chartered at old Fort Wayne in Detroit.

In the intervening period, approximately 20,000 officers and enlisted members of the military have been stu-

dents of the school.

Army Reservists and National Guardsmen are the primary users of school instruction, but persons in the active service and members of the naval and air forces often participate.

Until recently the school was located on Schoolcraft Road in Livonia, since moving there from Fort Wayne in 1965. New facilities at the recently dedicated Robert L. Paxon Memorial Army Reserve Center in Southfield provide ex-

cellent accommodations for training, study and hands-on instruction.

The new center is located between 11 Mile Road and Interstate 696, west of the American Motors World Headquarters building.

Colonel Sharette's responsibilities with the 5032d USAR School will be focused on a growing program of educational qualification for members of the military service throughout south-east Michigan.

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Reproductions and originals are hung in Art Alcove's gallery situated on a balcony for better viewing. Lou Mahlin stocks works of art to

accommodate all budgets in his place of business that keeps growing, catering to art lovers in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

The little Art Alcove that grew

By LORAIN McCLISH

Art Alcove continues to expand its multi-faceted operations for the area's

art lovers with a series that opens Saturday, Feb. 9, when artist and author Frank Lohan spends the day in the shop at 33305 Grand River.

Lohan, author of "Pen and Ink Techniques," will greet visitors from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the first of the "Meet the Author" and "Meet the Artist" events scheduled by Lou and Phyllis Mahlin and their daughter, Judith.

"We can do this kind of thing now that we have the room," Mahlin said of the spacious quarters designed by Farmington Hills architect Walter Reddig.

Angled counters, shelves, walls, and a balcony accommodate quarters for art supplies, matting and framing, and a gallery that offers prints for \$2.50 or a Norman Rockwell signed lithograph for \$4,000.

"We were the first art gallery in town. I think we beat the Garret (Gallery and Studios) by about four to five months," Mahlin said, referring to Art Alcove's first base of operations in Village Mall.

MEMBERS OF the Garret have since become his customers for supplies, matting and framing, and some of their original works can be found in Art Alcove's gallery.

"We cater to the beginner as well as the professional, we have some commercial accounts, we've sold supplies for class work," Mahlin said.

"Buying for the store is a group process," said Judith Mahlin, who is responsible for the window designs which more often than not have included soft sculpture.

"We're having a lot of fun with the windows because it was always something I wanted to do, but we never had

windows before (in Village Mall)," she said.

Phyllis Mahlin gets help from her daughter in the matting and framing department, and all salespersons in the store are, "if not artists, then very art oriented," Mahlin said.

"So if a teacher wants supplies for youngsters or an agency wants supplies for commercial work, we can help them," Mahlin said. "We've been a bit surprised ourselves how many professional artists have turned to us for help picking out a mat."

MAHLIN WALKED away from a thriving career in the lumber business to open up Art Alcove about five years ago, "just because I thought it was so right."

"We sold a large home and started all over again," Mrs. Mahlin said.

TWO PICTURES on the walls of Art Alcove are Lou Mahlin originals. He is an art scholarship winner who studied to become a commercial artist and worked in a Detroit advertising agency for a short while.

He is an associate member of Farmington Artists Club and a consistent benefactor to that club's twice-a-year shows, as well as a benefactor to Our Lady of Mercy High School's art department.

"I'm for anything that benefits the art colony here, and there is a strong one here. I'm hoping that our new Meet-the-Author and Meet-the-Artist series is a boon to the artists as well as art lovers," he said.



O&E

Judith Mahlin buys art and art supplies and helps her mother in the framing department. But her forte is designing Art Alcove's windows,

something she could never do in the small quarters the shop moved away from this winter.

Staff photos by Randy Borst