

Hills artist gains national acclaim with honor from watercolor society

By MARY GNIEWEK

When the American Watercolor Society's 113th annual exhibition opens Wednesday in New York City, a work by Farmington Hills artist Tom Hale will have the place of honor.

Titled "Chrome," Hale's painting was awarded a gold medal of honor and \$1,000 by the prestigious national society.

National recognition is new to Hale, a member of the Farmington Artists Club, but local honors are not. He's won dozens of local artistic competitions and his works have hung in the Detroit Institute of Arts and Birmingham/Bloomfield Art Association rental galleries.

Last year his one-man show hung in the Governor's mansion for the month of February.

"I was excited just to be accepted for this show," said Hale, a 46-year-old automotive designer for American Motors Corp.

"When I found out I won the gold medal, I still haven't come down." He estimates 5,000 artists competed to be among 400 chosen for the exhibit, which runs through April 28 at the National Academy Galleries, 1083 Fifth Ave.

"Chrome" is a 30-by-40-inch detailed area of a subject Hale knows professionally: the automobile. It's an acrylic, like most of his work. He also does a few pencil drawings.

"A lot of car designers have searched out other areas to explore their creativity," said Hale, who began painting eight years ago.

"It can be frustrating to do creative work for a large company. Painting is an outlet for me."

WHEN HALE is not at the American Motor's plant on Plymouth road in Detroit, he's in his second-floor home studio working. The room where he paints every day has two picture windows, two large drawing tables, bookshelves

stacked with art and automotive books, a stereo and paintings lined up along the walls.

Three of his pride and joys are offset lithographs of a 1932 Bugatti, a 1936 Duesenberg and a 1937 Cord.

"I can do 20 major paintings in the time it takes to do one car," he says. His Great Classic Automobiles collection is available in prints to reach a larger audience. The Duesenberg was chosen as both audience and fellow artists favorite in a past Farmington Artists Club show.

Autos aren't his only love. His spacious Meadowbrook Hills subdivision home is full of chrome-framed paintings of animals (his wife, Maxine, is an animal lover), nature and landscape scenes. He produces 100 to 130 paintings a year.

"We keep rotating the paintings to keep the nibbles covered," he jokes. A ROCKY TRIP to Jerome, Arizona, an old mining town high in the mountains which features unusual ar-

chitecture, is the subject of his current work.

"My art is simply a means of absorbing myself totally into something that gives me great personal satisfaction and allows me to communicate feelings and ideas that I have to others," he says.

Hale hopes national exposure will net him a broader market for his work so that he can make it a full-time endeavor.

"Now I have the luxury of painting and not worrying about selling. I don't have to worry about commercial success."

"National exposure may allow me to get with reputable national galleries."

Currently he sells his work both on his own and through an agent, Sandy Book of the Artists Forum in Plymouth.

Hale's work will be on exhibit during the Farmington Artists Club show April 25-27 at Mercy Center in Farmington Hills.



Artist Tom Hale, surrounded by the tools of his trade, works on yet another painting. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)



This painting of houses is one of Hale's works which has brought him national recognition. (Staff photo)

Hills posts agenda

- FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
- 3:55 P.M. Eleven Mile
 - 7:30 P.M. March 31
 - Application of dust control material on all public unpaved roads in the city
 - Application for landfill permit at 30785 Grand River at the request of Rick Arnold.
- The following public hearings will be conducted:

Nurse program is offered at Mercy

Diploma and associate degree Registered Nurses may earn their Bachelor of Science in Nursing through the Nurse Degree Completion program at Mercy College of Detroit.

Interested nurses may learn the details about completing the requirements for a baccalaureate degree at group information meetings to be held Thursday, April 10, at 10 a.m.

The session will take place in the Student/Conference Center on the Mer-

cy Campus, 8200 West Outer Drive at Southfield in Detroit.

Group meetings in agencies may be planned upon request. For further information call Sister M. Bernice Pohl at 569-4132 or 593-6131.

Mercy's Nursing program is accredited through the National League for Nursing. Advanced standing may be earned through college credit transfer, including CLEP, and through instructor prepared challenge exams in the nursing major.

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

OUR HOPPIY HOP HOP
Department duly notes that the Farmington Area Jaycees Easter Egg Hunt will commence at 10 a.m., April 5 in Farmington City Park on Shiawassee and Farmington roads. The Jaycees are toting their gifts of candy and prizes to the kiddies. All children 10 years old and younger are invited to this egg sighting event. And guess who the special guest will be? That old hoppiy hopper, Easter Bunny. Ms. Bunny's agent said she is definitely committed to hop on over.

FOCUS ON Living with Cancer will meet at 7:30 p.m., April 10 in Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road between 13 and 14 Mile. Ellen Kachalsky, who has a master's in social work will speak on community resources for cancer patients.

TIME WAS when people believed good parents were born not made. Now thinking has sort of turned around on the issue and voila, we have parenting classes. Farmington Community Center has a parent guidance workshop from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for six sessions beginning April 16. The class will use the approach advocated by Dr. Haim Ginott.

IT'LL BE A CHILL victory for the winner of the North Central Chili Cook-Off on May 3 in Saline. The winner will be competing in the International Chili Society World Championship in the late fall in California.

Ambitious cooks with their private chili recipe should be aware that the contest rules stipulate beans, spaghetti and other thickening agents aren't allowed. The International Chili Society defines true chili as any kind of meat or combination of meats cooked with chili peppers, other spices and other ingredients except thickening agents. (It didn't realize anyone took their chili that seriously.) Deadline for the contest is April 18. Official rules, registration forms and entry information can be obtained by calling the Kidney Foundation in Ann Arbor toll-free at 1-800-482-1455. Money raised from the event will be divided among National Kidney Foundation affiliates in 11 states. The funds will be used for education, research and direct patient care programs. There is a \$35 registration fee for the contest. Entry free includes membership in the International Chili Society and a one-year subscription of the Chili Magazine. From this sum, \$15 is tax deductible.

FOR PAST and present Wayne Staters,

winters could mean a quick stop for coffee at the Circa on Cass. Some of that WSU business went right back to the university the other day when Circa owner George Blond, of Farmington Hills, presented WSU representatives with a day's receipts, \$2,000 to use in redecorating Old Main. Blond and his brother, Steve donated a day's receipts from the Circa each year to WSU. IA salutes the Circa, where you can find classical music on the juke box:

A SURVEY of energy usage by Oakland County residents is being conducted by the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency and Michigan State University. They are taking a random sample of 250 residents. Thirty OLSHA staff members and volunteers, identifiable by their OLSHA employee badges are conducting the hour-long interviews. They are asking such questions as, how much insulation do you have in your attic; what is your primary heating source and at what temperature is your dwelling kept. There are also several questions relating to attitudes towards the energy situation.

USUALLY "O" comes between "N" and "P" but to members of the American Red Cross it signifies the most common blood type. And the Red Cross needs a lot of type O to accommodate people in need. Type O Donor Day, April 3 is aimed at accumulating this particular blood type. For those with type O who want to donate, call the Red Cross at 833-4440. Most people between the ages of 17 (with parental consent) and 65 who are in good health are usually eligible to donate. Giving blood takes less than an hour, according to the Red Cross.

ANGLES HAD a great time watching the passers-by ooh and aah over the bunny rabbit in the Observer's window. The rabbit, nicknamed "Deadline" by the staff was on loan from a local pet shop. We used Deadline in a picture illustrating the Big Bunny crisis.

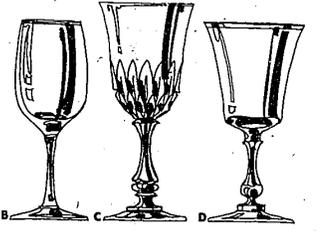
THOSE SHARP students at Southfield's Lawrence Institute are studying the problems of Farmington for a class in city planning. One of their recommendations is that the city and the Hills get together and consolidate some of their services and save money by eliminating duplicate efforts. Angles figures that may make a lot of sense on paper but can anyone see the duo acting like the "fraternal twins" the LIT class envisioned?



Save 20% during our Fostoria Nostalgia sale

Enjoy this unusual opportunity to fill in your cherished Fostoria stemware pattern of ringing savings. For two weeks only, you can special order from 25 selected past patterns at 20% off. Enjoy the same great savings on selected patterns in our current stock, like those shown. In addition, save 20% on Fostoria Navarre crystal giftware at selected stores. Items include bonbons, serving dishes and cake plates, each reg. \$25, sale 19.99. Please allow 6 months for delivery of Nostalgia special orders and 2 weeks for delivery of all sherbet/champagnes in current patterns.

- Available in goblet, sherbet/champagne and wine, 70 units* of each pattern, priced by the piece:
- A. Navarre, reg. 18.95, sale 14.99
 - B. Invitation, reg. 18.50, sale 14.79
 - C. Kimberly, reg. 8.95, sale 6.99
 - D. Sheffield, reg. 18.50, sale 14.79
- Not shown: Trousseau, reg. 18.50, sale 14.79
Harvest, reg. 14.75, sale 11.79
- *Units available while quantities last.



Ms. Judy Oler, bridal consultant from Fostoria, will be in the Stemware Department at Hudson's Oakland, April 1 and at Hudson's Pontiac, April 3, 6:30 to 9 p.m. She will be happy to assist you in matching your patterns.

HUDSON'S