

Hills housing boom continues despite trend

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mainder reported vacancies between 3 percent and 97 percent of their lots, according to Leeds.

Condominiums and apartments competed with subdivisions on the market in 1979.

BEGINNING last January, the city has seen a trend toward condominiums among builders, according to Barbara Aldrich of the Hills' assessors office.

That year began with Alan Gottlieb's Newport Creek condos on Eight Mile west of Gill. The three-building, 60-unit complex has an estimated construction value of \$986,023, according to Aldrich. Still under construction by Jack Belkin Corp. on 12 Mile are six units of condominiums with an estimated value of \$270,000.

Thus far in 1980, the city has issued a housing permit for one multiple dwelling, Crescendo condominiums, which

calls for 45 units in nine buildings. The estimated value of the complex is \$1,239,800.

Although construction continues, personnel in the assessors' office believe builders are becoming more cautious in light of the current 17 percent interest rate on mortgages. At least one builder admits the high rate is a problem.

Lawrence Rosperski, vice president of Baranska Builder Service of Bloom-

field Hills, said that the decrease in new home sales he's experiencing have their roots in homeowners' reluctance to count on selling their present residence before moving.

THE FIRM is selling unattached condominiums in Randlewood Club in the of one-square-mile area of Halstead, Drake, 13 and 14 Mile roads.

The units are priced in the \$141,500-153,500 range, aimed at buyers who

aren't intimidated by the interest rates.

"We had lots of sales and preliminary deposits. Price wasn't a problem; we had 38 deposits on units," he said.

But with the real estate market slowing from the fast house trading of a year ago, potential buyers are nervous about being forced to keep up payments on two homes, according to the builder.

In addition to condominiums, apartment complex construction continues

whether it involves adding on to existing rentals or building new ones.

Summit Apartments on Northwestern Highway, being built by Mel Kasan Enterprises, has an estimated value of more than \$5 million and calls for 144 units in 16 buildings.

Bertak Corp. added on to its Gateway and Fairmont apartment complexes. There will be five buildings with 60 units estimated to be worth \$1,381,200 added to Gateway Apartments on 12 Mile at Middlebelt.

FAIRMONT, on Nine Mile east of Drake, will gain 244 units in 15 buildings at an estimated value of \$5 million.

Other apartment complexes which will make their debut in the city are Cedarbrook on Middlebelt between 9 and 10 Mile and Inverrary.

Cedarbrook will feature 127 units in four buildings. Its estimated value is slightly over \$2 million.

Inverrary will feature 84 rental units in three buildings. Its estimated value is valued at \$1 million.

A row of four townhouses on Alycey near 12 Mile are being built by Mike Watzman. Those units have an estimated value of \$133,000.

Artist wins accolades from community

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cheology — her major while at Oakland University.

"I liked working with my hands." A growing interest in commercial art drew her to Kendall in 1973 and later to Oakland Community College where she earned an associate's degree in graphics and commercial art on a scholarship won for being named first runnerup in the 1974 Miss Farmington pageant.

At 18, she was demonstrating woodcutting techniques at Greenfield Village in Dearborn. Her first professional job was at a Grand Rapids clothing store where she did window displays and managed advertising promotions.

"I WAS LUCKY," she says. "I fell

into that job full time after another woman quit."

Soon after she moved west where she landed a job in display at Ohrbach's, a department store in Los Angeles.

"Soft sculpture was just coming into popularity then," she recalls. "I began designing and sewing things myself."

In soft sculpture, the artist creates stuffed mannequin people and animals out of cloth. In the children's department, she stitched kids prancing about with giant stuffed frogs on lily pads. In another scene, she created a chorus line of satin legs in the hostess department.

Her ideas spring from a hodgepodge of places.

"I collect magazine pictures that

spark something in the imagination and add that to things I've seen, things I've experienced," she said.

Her favorite artists include Michelangelo for his sculpture and Andrew Wyeth for his watercolors and temperas.

"Art comes from your life experience," she says. "It's hard to name favorites because each has their own medium."

She attributes her early creative training to her father, who worked as a design engineer for Ford Motor and also as a photographer.

"Dad was a jack-of-all-trades. He

introduced us to many things."

SHE RECALLS one family lesson in antiques where she and her four sisters learned furniture stripping,

gluing and sanding.

It was homesickness that caused her move back to Farmington after a year in California. With a portfolio in tow, she walked into the Jaksack's fledgling studio ("It was a tiny shop in the mall") and asked if they were interested in an apprentice.

Impressed with her experience, they hired her.

"As the studio grew, I started working more and more. It opened more opportunities for me."

Besides being in charge of win-

dow displays for the Grand River storefront, she works in the back-shop retouching prints and doing airbrush restoration.

Her \$500 prize money will probably be used for some type of schooling, she says.

A public reception honoring Mrs. Yurasek is scheduled Sunday, May 18, at 1:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 23566 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington.

A display of her work will be on exhibit.

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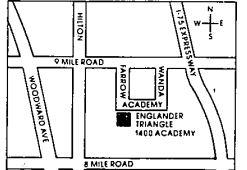
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