

Depression glass show coming to Schoolcraft

By SHERRY KAHAN

That giveaway glass your mother or grandmother picked up at movies and gas stations or removed from soap boxes takes its annual bow in the spotlight as the Michigan Depression Glass Society holds its eighth annual All-Depression Era Glass Show and Sale at Schoolcraft College this weekend.

Twenty-three dealers will exhibit in the show that runs 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday in Schoolcraft's Waterman Center. Admission is \$1.50.

Glass repair — a service often sought and rarely found by collectors of the pastel pieces — will be offered during the show by Stephen Trupiano of Marshall. Special guests include Gail Krause, author of books on Duncan Miller glass, Nora Koch, editor and publisher of Depression Glass Daze, Connie DeAngelo, editor of the National Journal, and William Hancock, author of books on Victorian and Fenton glass.

Another group of special guests has been invited to the show Sunday. These are senior citizens who once used the kind of glass that will be on display and especially enjoy the show each year. "But no one is going to be allowed to talk about all the glass they threw away," joked one of the show arrangers.

Food and beverages prepared under the direction of Robert Brethaupt and Michael McConnell of Schoolcraft's culinary arts program will be served.

AMONG THE exhibitors of both the cereal-box depression glassware and its classier sister, a better quality product made by the same companies during the same period, is Norma Godwin of Dearborn.

She has both kinds in her collection. Some of it will be on exhibit at the Alfred Noble Library in Livonia until Nov. 1 and some of her more valuable pieces are set for display at the sale. The recent surge of interest in depression glass is a nostalgia thing," said Godwin.

"People can remember when it was given away. Unfortunately my mother never kept any of it."

She sees her collecting also as a hedge against inflation. "Its value is going up faster than bank accounts," she added.

And Mrs. Godwin has one more reason for stockpiling depression glass — "the sheer beauty of it."

Five years ago when she just began to be interested in depression glass, she came upon some Miss America clear glass dinner plates.

"They were the beginning of my collection," she recalled. "I thought they were beautiful. I paid \$15 for eight. Now they cost \$7 apiece."

She remembered a whole set of dishes of this glass in the Sears catalogue costing \$5 for a service of four. This included tumblers, sherbet dishes, plus lunch, dinner and butter plates and cups and saucers.

"Today a cup and saucer in that dog-wood style would cost \$10," she pointed out.

The small swans she has once sold for 25 cents. Today a green one goes

for \$30, a red one for \$30.

FOR MRS. GODWIN collecting depression glass is not merely a matter of dropping in to a few shows and picking up what she wants. With her husband Ken, who has become as big a fan as she is, she scours the small towns of Ohio, Indiana, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. That's where much of it was manufactured.

"The last thing we found was a swan in the form of a punch bowl and 12 cups, also swans," she said. They were in Cambridge, Ohio, home of a manufacturer of this glass. The seller wanted

\$800 for it. That was too much so they returned home swanless.

"I was sick when we came back without it," noted the collector. But the other collector in the family had secretly purchased it for less than the asking price, and he presented to her on her birthday. It is now on exhibit in the Henry Ford Centennial Library.

IN DESCRIBING this cornucopia glass, she pointed out that the giveaway products were both clear and colored, amber, yellow, pink, green and red. It was primarily the dinnerware that was given away.

In addition there was Shirley Temple glass, which was royal blue with the young actress' picture on it.

Beverage drinkers of the depression era would find their thumb and forefinger grasping the nude figure of a female when they used a goblet.

"Nude ladies also held flowers in place in flower arrangers," she explained. "Nudes were quite a thing in that era. I don't know why." For her collection she favors the better quality depression era glass. At the small display at Noble library are her amber decagon or 10-sided plates, cups, saucers, goblets, serving bowls, creamer and sugar bowl.

At the Schoolcraft show she will show Crown Tuscan glass by Cambridge, opalescent glass by Duncan Miller and Akro agate opaque glass.

Mrs. Godwin is a vice-president of the Michigan Depression Glass Society, which holds meetings the first Monday of each month in Jefferson School, 9501 Henry Road, Livonia. Making it a family commitment, her husband is a trustee. President of the group is Betty Merritt of Detroit, who can be contacted for information at 934-3786.

Chairmen of the Schoolcraft show are Shirley Beyrand and Nancy Carlson.

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Soloists to perform with Center Symphony

The Center Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Julius Chajes will open its series of Sunday afternoon concerts on Oct. 26 in the Aaron DeRoy Theatre of the Jewish Community Center, West Bloomfield.

Misha Rachlevsky, Linda Snedden Smith, violinists, David Saltzman, cellist and Julius Chajes, pianist, will be the soloists in Vivaldi's Concerto for Two Violins, Cello, Strings and Harpsichord. David Wilson will play the harpsichord.

The program will include Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 and the Chajes Trio with the composer at the piano.

Rachlevsky became a member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in 1976. He was born in Moscow where he began his musical training at age five. He has performed as a soloist in Israel, South Africa, Mexico and Canada. He has made recent solo appearances with the Center Symphony Orchestra, the West Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra, the American Artists Series and Brunch with Bach.

He is the founder and music director of Renaissance Concerts which has arranged the Nightcap with Mozart and Concert A La Carte concerts in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area.

Mrs. Snedden-Smith is a member of the Detroit Symphony and a former pupil of Joseph Knitzer and Ivan Galamian. She has been a soloist with the Detroit Symphony on two occasions and is a member of the Michigan Trio.

Saltzman began his musical training in the Chicago area when he was 11. He was principal cellist of the Hong Kong Philharmonic for two years and joined the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in May 1979.

Chajes was born in Lwow, Poland. He was the Honor Prize winner at the first international competition for pianists in Vienna and a year later was appointed head of the piano department at the Music College in Tel-Aviv.

He came to the United States in 1937. His compositions are published by the Transcontinental Music Publications in New York and are in the repertoire of world famous artists. He has been conductor of the Center Symphony since 1940 and on the Wayne State University faculty since 1950.

For ticket information and reservations, call 661-1000.

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The slide bank should be in operation by next January and will be housed in the Teachers Resource Center.

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