

Thursday, November 27, 1980

## Dollmakers re-create century-old originals

By SHERRY KAHAN

One visit to Bea Roderick's Livonia home and you know all about her hobby.

Walk past a bedroom and you see dolls. Head down to the basement. More dolls. All over the house, dolls, dolls, dolls.

And on many occasions, that house is the scene of a doll-making class. Mrs. Roderick's instruction must be good, because in a Detroit Ceramic Show exhibit she and several of her students took top awards for their recreations of old-fashioned dolls.

Among the student ribbon winners are Helen Haight of Farmington who took the Freddie, the nickname given the exhibit's best of show award. Betty Manthey of Plymouth won a second in the porcelain doll category, Grace Kabel of Plymouth won a third for a French Doll, and Helen Darrian of Livonia won an honorable mention for a German doll.

Then there was Mrs. Haight's granddaughter, 12-year-old Michelle Daum, who picked up a first in the children's division with a Googlee doll.

Add in the first place and best of section award Mrs. Roderick herself won for a Pouty doll, and consider an earlier award won by Olga Rigby who drives over regularly from Riverview, and you have an impressive array of

dollmaking talent concentrated in the class.

THE STUDIO CLASS involves a lot of concentration on the part of the women. Join the group around Mrs. Roderick's table and you may see Mrs. Manthey brushing a faint blush of health onto her doll's face or see Mrs. Haight drawing eyebrows, ever so carefully.

"The eyebrows of the French dolls are the devil to do," she notes. "I like best to do French ones. They are so hard; it gives you a feeling of accomplishment."

The dolls the women make are replicas of those fashioned in the latter part of the 19th century and the early part of the 20th.

If the antique originals were purchased, they might cost up to \$7,000. Prize-winning reproductions are worth about \$200, Mrs. Roderick estimates.

Her students feel she gives top-notch instruction in this art that has made tremendous gains in popularity.

"We have to have a doll authentic or she doesn't let us out of here," said Mrs. Manthey. "It's a reflection on her as a teacher if it doesn't look right. Sometimes we can spend a whole session on doing eyelashes. You get it crooked and you have to wipe it off and start again."

Mrs. Rigby said he has studied china painting "and it's amazing what this woman brings out — it's professional."

MRS. RODERICK said she got into the craft almost accidentally.

"My husband, Bob, and I had a gift shop," she explained, "and we found we had a mold that looked like our little girl, Mona. So I got the mold, and now here I am in the teaching business."

Before the teaching, of course, came a lot of painstaking effort to learn the craft.

She found out the variety of ways in which reproduction dolls can be made. Some have porcelain heads and bodies, legs and arms made of composition material. Others are all porcelain and much more breakable.

Mrs. Roderick and her husband started pouring their own composition bodies in a variety of sizes.

Three years ago they moved to Livonia, and a neighbor here who saw Mrs. Roderick's dolls suggested that she teach dollmaking at Greenfield Village. She carried her treasures there and was hired.

Her classes at the village are given Tuesday evenings. Then the demand for instruction grew, so she now teaches two-hour home classes Monday and Tuesday evenings and Monday mornings. Her daughter, Carmelle Bourbon, takes over Tuesday evenings. The cost is \$3 a session, and those interested can sign up by calling Mrs. Roderick at 421-6376.

"I LIKE to start a new girl off with a baby doll," she said. "They work on blushing, eyelashes, eyebrows, mouth and hair, so they get a feel for the whole doll."

Mrs. Manthey, who is president of the Three Cities Art Club, said she had found this new art a bit addictive.

"You start out by wanting to make one doll for a granddaughter, and you get hooked," she added. "You see more and more and you have to have them. Your collection grows by size and nationality — French, German, Oriental."

Mrs. Haight noted that she found a doll that resembled her grandson, Kevin, and made it. "Then I made a girl to go with him," she added. "She looked like his sister, Michele."

Companionship becomes an important part of the classes, the women agreed.

The whole class winced one day when a crash rocked the studio. A baby doll being made by Dorothy Abbott, who drives in from Ann Arbor, had fallen off a self and crashed.

"I thought I had lost a real baby," she mourned.

Mrs. Haight nodded agreement.

"We really put our hearts into these things," she said. "You really get attached to them as you work. That's because you pour so much effort into them. I can hardly wait to take them home."



Farmington resident Helen Haight shows the doll that won her the "Best of Show" award in the recent Detroit Ceramic Show. (Staff photo by Art Emanuele)

## Story of Noah's Ark is player's Christmas show

By LORRAINE McCLISH

The Family Players of West Bloomfield, now a permanent theatrical adjunct of Jewish Community Center, presents "Two By Two," as its annual pre-Christmas family show for two weekends in the center's Aaron DeRoy Studio Theatre.

Show time is at 8 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 6 and 13, and at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 7 and 14.

General admission is \$3.75 or \$2.50 for seniors and students. Tickets are available in the center, 6000 Maple, West Bloomfield. Group rates, for 15 or more, can be arranged by calling the center, 661-1000. A dinner and theater option is also available.

"Two By Two" is a lighthearted version of the age-old story of Noah's Ark, written as a musical comedy by Peter Stone with music by Richard Rodgers.

The story centers on how Noah finally succeeded in building the ark, according to God's instructions, despite the objections of his wife, a rebellious teen-age son, sibling rivalry among his children and a problematic mother-in-law.

"THE FAMILY PLAYERS had its beginnings in a requirement that its founder, West Bloomfield resident Sally Sawyer, write, produce and direct an original play in the completion of requirements for a degree in theatre.

Now in its seventh season, the players are comprised of the members of 30 families in Detroit's northwest suburbs.

Noah will be portrayed by Jac Cortes of Keego Harbor. Esther will be played by Emily McSweeney of Farmington Hills. Shem is played by Rob Anning of Farmington and Ham by Howard Waterstone of Southfield.

Mike McSweeney of Farmington Hills takes the role of Japheth; Sheryl Krause will play the role of Leah; Jane Beusterien of Farmington Hills plays Goldie and Amada McSweeney of Farmington Hills plays Rachel.

One of the players' trademarks has become the special effects created by

Jerry Sawyer of West Bloomfield. His job this time will be to simulate rain, thunder, lightning and a rainbow.

Alia Prain, a resident of Farmington and president of the players, doesn't believe a community theater in this area has even attempted to create a rainbow before.

Former jobs for Sawyer in the special effects department have been sending Willy Wonka, in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" down a garbage chute, and having two comedians in "Cinders" run through a mangle.

GUEST PRODUCER for "Two By Two" is Toby Lantz, a Southfield resident who co-produced "Fiddler on the

Roof" for Centre Theatre.

Musical director is Jan Ebersole of Southfield, who with her husband, heads the music department at Mercy College.

Mrs. Sawyer retains the title of director-in-resident of the company.

She is holder of the first prize for "Best Children's Play" awarded by Community Theatre Association of Michigan for her original story, "How the Penguin Got His Tuxedo."

She leads periodic workshop in theater in Farmington Community Center and is currently teaching theatrical games in Birmingham Community House.

All members of the cast have back-

grounds in musical theater except Waterstone.

"He's in the insurance business and is a past state commander of Jewish War Veterans in Southfield," Mrs. Prain said. "He's had no previous acting experience but he sure can sing."

Cortes, the lead player, has portrayed Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof" 57 times in community theater and has taken the role of the leading male performer in "South Pacific," "The King and I" and "Guys and Dolls." He's known to audiences in both Avon and Will-O-Way theaters.

Mrs. McSweeney takes the role of Esther after being known for her comic roles in Family Players' productions of "Cinders" and "Belle on Their Toes."



As early as 11 a.m. now, diners of both sexes begin coming into Bay Pointe Country Club's Walter Hagen Room, once reserved for men only. The open-to-the-public

format remains through the winter months. (Staff photo by Randy Bors)

### At Bay Pointe

## Grill room turns haute cuisine

By LORRAINE McCLISH

The Walter Hagen Grill Room in Bay Pointe Country Club changes names to the Walter Hagen Restaurant in a first-time switch for the club, which is opening the room to the public for the winter months.

A menu that was once heavy on the steaks, burgers and prime ribs in the room that has been reserved for male members only, turns to entrees of French Nouvelle.

Linen cloths, elegant crystal and china cover the once bare oak tables with a menu of haute cuisine.

The view is the same, overlooking the greens and Middle Straits Lake. In the evening, the scene takes on a special glow from the miniature Italian Christmas tree lights that sparkle from the pines.

And the wall decor is the same, lined with the clubs, the awards, the memorabilia of the world famous golfer.

THE NEW restaurant came about through the efforts of Chef Tom MacKinnon and Bay Pointe's general manager, Terry Ciotti. The two have been friends since their days of study together in Schoolcraft College's food service department. Each went his separate way in perfecting their knowledge of fine foods and service, but the goal was always to one day work together.

MacKinnon has been executive chef for Clarkson Cafe and Holly Hotel after extensive training with noted chefs in Europe. Ciotti zeroed in on French pastries and studied hotel management.

For a while the two owned and operated MAC Catering which planned and served private gourmet parties.

Interim trips to Europe together were tours of the best eating houses on the continent and meals with the American team competing in the World Culinary Olympics.

The most recent trip to Europe, this past summer, was a shopping trip for equipment to stock Bay Pointe's new pastry kitchen with items not available here.

"I'VE GOT a burner to burn sugar over fruit, a gadget to turn out puff shells of any size or shape I desire and ice cream molds shaped like fruit," MacKinnon said, who has full say over the menu.

"Diners can order a plain filet if they choose," the chef said, "but when I serve them my morrel sauce, even on the side, they'll be hooked; they'll be sold."

There are no specials on the menu because "everything is a special," MacKinnon said. "The Maurice salad is a Maurice salad, but it is the classical Maurice, made the way it was meant to be."

MacKinnon's forte is French Nouvelle. Ciotti explains the new cuisine as "lighter meals with accent on natural foods. None of the sauces are made with flour or any thickening agent. So a diner can walk away from a seven-course gourmet meal feeling very comfortable."

THE WALTER Hagen Restaurant is open to the public for lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays; for dinner from 6-9 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, and from 6 p.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturdays. The hours remain through April next year.

The club is located on the northern dead-end of Haggerty Road and Richardson Road in West Bloomfield.

AUCTION

## TWO AUCTION EVENTS

AT OUR GALLERIES

### ORIENTAL RUG COLLECTION

Friday, December 5th at 7:30 p.m.

An Extensive Selection of Oriental Rugs including: Keshan, Kerman, Chinese, Bokhara, Belouch, Kashmir, Ardebil, Hamadan, Ghom, Heriz, Samarkin, Anatolian, Greek Kelim, India, Tabriz, Isphahan. SPECIAL ATTRACTION: Some Important "Choice" Silk Rugs. Room sizes, throw rugs, and runners. Note: All items listed in the catalogue with insurance appraisal values.

### ESTATE JEWELRY COLLECTION

Saturday, December 6th at 1 p.m.

Included in the Sale: Property of the Late Julius Hackman, Oakland County Probate Court No. 141746, also several important pieces from the Estate of the Late Mary Pickford Rogers and property from several estates. Also: Important Designer names — Cartier, David Webb, etc. Diamonds, Emeralds, Rubies, Sapphires, Amethyst, Tourmaline, Malachite, Jade, Lavender Jade, Opals, Coral, Pearls, Actually a well diversified collection of rings, bracelets, brooches, pendants, earrings, stick pins, Lavaliers, Watches, etc. SPECIAL ATTRACTION: A Private Collection of Antique Hand Engraved Pocket Watches all in perfect condition. Note: All items listed in the catalogue with insurance appraisal values.

Exhibition: Commencing Monday, December 1st, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and one hour prior to sale.

Catalogues: Available at exhibition. Oriental Rugs (\$1); Jewelry (\$2).

Terms: Cash, Check, American Express, Visa, Master Charge.

Information: Please call 338-9203.

C.B. CHARLES

GALLERIES, inc. SINCE 1959

AUCTIONEERS • APPRAISERS • ESTATE SPECIALISTS  
825 Woodward Avenue • Pontiac, Michigan 48053 • (313) 338-9203