

Monday, January 10, 1983 O&E

At Oak Hill

Missionary-artist finishes one more 'last' mural

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

When Sam Bradshaw enters Oak Hill Nursing Home carrying the materials he needs to work on a mural for one of the home's walls, he can always expect an audience.

"It's a bit of a show I put on for them," he said of those who gather around to watch him paint. "Sometimes I get suggestions, sometimes a bit of criticism, but I am their entertainment for the day."

Bradshaw responded to a small article in a 1977 Farmington Observer, which asked for area artists to brighten up the home's bare walls with paintings. At the time he agreed to cover one wall with a landscape.

By 1980 he had covered seven walls with murals and said that was the end of his running up and down ladders.

There are several more murals — each declared "absolutely the last" — and the one completed this month in the nursing home's dining room "is positively the last," he said.

"At my age the ladders are just getting to be too much," he said.

Bradshaw is a Farmington resident whose adult life was spent painting to finance missionary expeditions all over the world.

"I think of myself as a missionary first and as an artist as a way of financing my real work," he said. "Art is just the media used for what I can do here to brighten up these people's lives."

BRADSHAW was ordained by the non-denominational World's Faith Missionary Association which has since merged to become the Evangelical Church Alliance.

His work consisted mostly of building up small mission stations with bedding, school supplies, teachers, medical equipment, whatever the need; then turning it over to the natives of that country to continue operating," he said.

On occasion his wife Violet, who died last year, would accompany him. On other occasions he would leave his wife and three children here while he set off for long- or short-term missions, mostly in severely depressed countries.

And though the missionary association always offered to sponsor the mission, Bradshaw said, "There was always another blank wall somewhere that I could paint that would pay for the next trip."

When he is teased about "definitely" hanging up his ladder for the last time, he admits that big bare walls still act as a challenge to him.

On days when Bradshaw feels that the ladders are too much for him, he visits Oak Hill to give art or craft classes or to give a travelogue with movies and narration based upon his many missions around the world.

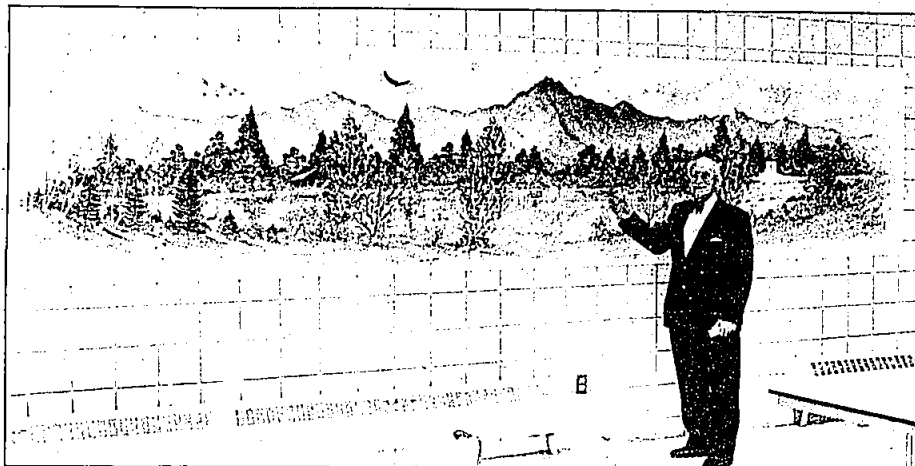
CARL SIMCOX, director of Oak Hill, calls Bradshaw, "a part of our family. He's gotten some of our residents interested in watercolor painting now to the point where they were able to make their own Christmas cards."

"And we trimmed an entire Christmas tree with decorations made up of thumb-print characters Sam helped our activities director sketch and put together into an ornament. The thumb prints are very personal and were a beautiful gift for our residents to give their families for a keepsake," Simcox said.

Bradshaw's daughter Mary Wysocki, and his granddaughter Beth Place, are also part of the Oak Hill family, chauffeuring him to the nursing home and sometimes staying to visit, helping to set up the travel movies or the art sessions.

After a lifetime of travel, Violet and Sam Bradshaw set their sights on Florida for their retirement years.

"But that didn't last long," he said. "All of the grandkids were here and that lure was too great to keep us away."



TOM MANDELKA/staff photographer

Sam Bradshaw used a picture of an Italian mountain lake to paint the 4-by-18-foot mural in the dining room of the Oak Hill Nursing Home, Grand River and Gill. Bradshaw has been brightening the

walls of the nursing home with his paintings since 1977. The ideas for his paintings have come from photographs he took while on missionary expeditions around the world.

Snow sculpture contest plans still in effect

Plans for a snow sculpture contest are still on the Farmington Area Jaycee's agenda, despite Michigan's warm December weather.

"We still have hopes Mother Nature will cooperate with us," said Ken Billa. The contest is a new venture for the

Jaycees who ask area youngsters to start thinking about creating a snow sculpture for the contest.

Judging date is set for Feb. 4. Alternate date is Feb. 11.

Entry requirements and registration information is being handled by Glen Breuhm, 478-4653.

LaLeche League begins

Connie Dinner will host the next series of four monthly meetings sponsored by Farmington Area LaLeche League. The series begins at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Dinner's home, 30011 Barwell, Farmington Hills.

The series, called "The Womanly Art of Breastfeeding," leads off with "Advantages of Breastfeeding to Mother

and Baby." The series dates are Feb. 8, "Art of Breastfeeding and Overcoming Difficulties;" March 8, "Baby Arrives: The Family and the Breastfed Baby;" and April 12, "Nutrition and Weaning."

The series will be led by Nancy Michaels and is open to all persons in Farmington and Farmington Hills. For information, call Michaels at 358-4328.



RANDY GORST/staff photographer

Weaving on a frame loom

Weaver Barbara Wolff will teach one of three new classes offered by Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL) when the winter term begins this week in Jackson Center, 32025 Lyndon. The Farmington resident who has a master's degree in fiber design will use

a frame loom to teach the basics of weaving to beginners in sessions that run for six weeks on Thursdays. Lois Bro, a Farmington Hills resident who has just taken over the position of VAAL director, will take inquiries and registrations at 477-6789.

2 cooking classes set this week

The Farmington Community Center continues to offer cooking classes and workshops during the winter term taught by cooks Judy Antishin and Barbara Dermody.

"Cooking Regional Dishes" is a one-session workshop that runs 7-9 p.m. Jan. 12. Antishin combines her favorite recipes from regions around the United States and other countries for enter-

taining buffet style. Students are encouraged to combine foods of different cultures for appealing results.

The dishes will be imaginative and colorful. Tempting combinations of foods are designed to help students entertain with confidence.

The \$10 fee will include the lecture-demonstration, recipes and samples of Antishin's buffet-style entertaining.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, Barbara Dermody will share her fun and easy techniques of preparing light menus, dinner menus and an elegant dessert with men and boys ages 12 and up.

Students will learn to plan balanced dinner menus through lecture-demonstration. The three-session class fee is \$21 payable upon registration in the center.

Historian-author heads forum

Historian and author Dr. Allan Pollack will be the guest speaker for the Jewish Welfare Federation Women's Division 55th annual Institute Day, which is a forum for community education on a variety of topical issues. The event begins at 9:15 a.m. Tues-

day, Jan. 18 in the Jewish Community Center, 8600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. There is a charge.

In two separate presentations, Pollack will provide a history of the state of Israel and his view of American and world policy toward the nation today.

Pollack will be speaking later in the day on the same issues at the Career Women lecture series of the Federation Women's Division. The gathering is at 7 p.m. at the United Hebrew Schools, 21520 12 Mile Road, Southfield.

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