

centerpiece share sculptor's gift

people are interested," he told *The Ec-*
centric in March. "I'll be very happy to
cooperate any way I can."

His generosity has resulted in the
fund drive which is being conducted by
the Birthday Present Coordinating Com-
mittee to raise \$150,000 to place a copy
of "Freedom of the Human Spirit" in
Shain Park.

THE MONEY is necessary to cast
the 27-foot-tall bronze statue from the
original model, transport it from New
York state and erect it on a granite foun-
dation in Birmingham.

The creative effort that went into
sculpting the original statue took three
years.

It was originally commissioned for the
1964 World's Fair in New York City and
features a male and female figure and
three flying swans.

"Freedom of the Human Spirit" is
presently located in Flushing Meadow
Park in New York state, but the mold
has been kept in storage and is capable
of producing a copy of the original.

"I choose to donate something because
I've been a Birmingham resident for
most of my life, love it dearly, and want
to do something for it," Fredericks said.

RAY MILLS is chairman of the birth-
day present committee which is made up
of representatives of local clubs and com-
munity service groups. He hopes for
community participation in the fund
drive.

"Our hope and desire is to have as
many Birmingham residents and busi-
nesses contribute who would like the ad-
vantage of having this landmark sculp-
ture in the community," Mills said.
"Whether it is \$10 or \$1,000 the money
will be put to work."

When asked to described the statue,
Fredericks said, "It means freedom from
the earth and material things. The three
swans are symbols of eternal life and
have been for many centuries."

He has created over a thousand works
in the last three decades or so, ranging in
size from small wall plaques to the 77-
foot crucifix at Burt Lake.

Contributions to the fund-raising
drive for the sculpture are tax-deducti-
ble. Checks should be made out to City
of Birmingham Anniversary Gift and
sent to Comerica Bank, Woodward/
Hamilton office, Birmingham 48011, at-
tention Evelyn Kelly.

**Happy
50th
Birthday
Birmingham**

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