

Crystalline works are on display at Somerset Mall

Crystalline sculptures and functional articles by John Slocum will be on exhibit and for sale through June 26 at Somerset Mall, Big Beaver and Coonridge, Troy.

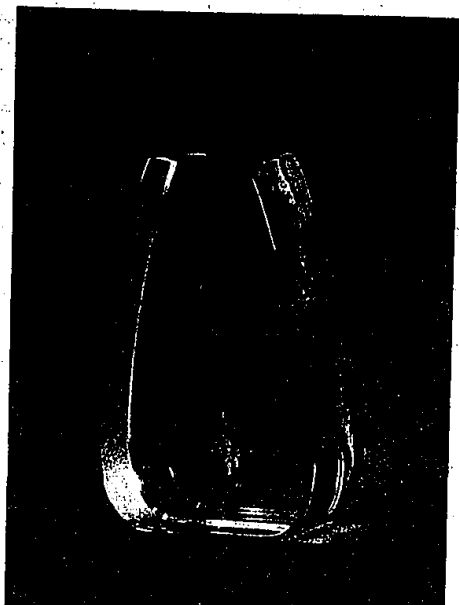
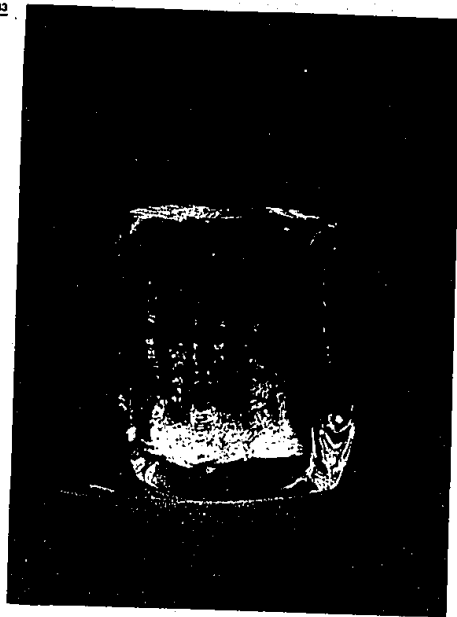
Examples of Slocum's works are at right. They have the refractory qualities and gleam of crystal but weigh only half as much. And, because they are made of acrylic, they bounce, when dropped.

Slocum is associated with B.N. Shaw Corp. of Rochester where

he does his work. It was owner Ben Shaw who first recognized the uniqueness of Slocum's formula, and that led to a partnership.

Slocum's works are made of diamond-grade Lucite and a secret ingredient that gives it the refractory quality. They are one-of-a-kind, highly polished and signed pieces.

At far right is an acrylic cube with blown glass forms. At near right, a delicate Chinese paper cutout is imbedded in acrylic.



down to earth

**Alice
Burlingame**

Spirea shrub is an attractive backdrop

This year it seems that the spirea (a shrub with long panicles of white flowers which seem to fall toward the ground like a fountain) has been unusually beautiful.

It is an old fashioned shrub and has its place in restricted places in a landscape pattern. Due to its expansive growth don't place it on a small lot. It looks its best at the end of a deep lot.

This shrub will do well with half shade and fulfills a need as we like to use a white accent at the back of a lot. Spirea should be pruned after flowering and thinned out at the bottom of the plant rather than butchering the branches haphazardly as the beauty is in the flowering waterfall effect.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Herb Society of America and their celebration "The Herbariat" (#4, Herb Society of America, 191 Sudbury, Concord, Mass. 01742) is one of the most stunning soft-cover books I have ever seen. There are many articles to satisfy the person interested in herbs, many many colored illustrations and art work.

THIS outstanding publication with its exquisite illustrations would be an asset to every gardener's book shelf. The publication was edited by Alexandra Hicks of Ann Arbor, who has an herb garden which is exceptional in her collection and care. She lectures on the Continent, in Canada, and the United States on her specialty.

The Connecticut Agricultural Station has been doing some research with petunias and has discovered that if you mulch them with grass clippings you

will have 200 percent more flowers and 75 percent less nematode damage.

Many of our readers live in subdivisions which previously were apple orchards. An enterprising home gardener found that if he hung paper cups on various branches the worms slipped the treat of black strap molasses and did not eat the maturing apples. I chuckle as I can just see umpteen localities racing into the store to get a corner on the black strap molasses market.

Here is another goodie. Sing as you know "love" rhubarb leaves and sundry other plants. Secure some fiberglass insulation, cut it in squares, make a slit to the middle and carefully tuck it around the base of a plant. Anchor the corners, securing the closure after placing it around the plant.

IF YOU have a vegetable garden why don't you do a little experimenting on your own. Sub-irrigation can help you have good results with choice plants. Where you have several of one kind, make some holes in the bottom of a coffee can and sink it in the soil near the chosen plant, allowing about 1/4 inch of the can above the surface. Fill it with water at different times when the soil might be dry.

See if sub-irrigation is a good idea for you. If you are pleased with the comparative growth of the plant in the experiment, give the kitchen orders to begin to save coffee cans for 1984.

If you have a birch tree on your property remember to water and feed it this choice tree frequently to give it strength in its ever present battle against the bronze birch borer.

Artist population grows by 81 percent

There was an 81-percent increase in the number of artists in the United States between 1970 and 1980.

The South experienced the biggest gain and now has the largest artist population in the country.

These figures were reported by Frank Hodsell, chairman, National Endowment for the Arts at a Texas Arts Alliance arts awards ceremony in Austin.

During the 1970-80 decade, California moved ahead of New York to become the state with the most artists. New York now ranks second and Texas moved from fifth to third place during that time.

Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Illinois, like Texas, are in the top eight states when ranked by number of artists, but are below the national average for the percent of artists in their total civilian labor force.

According to the 1980 Census, the number of artists increased from 598,046 in 1970 to 1,085,693 in 1980.

AT THIS rate of growth, the artist population could double in 11.6 years. This data includes authors, designers, musicians/composers, actors/directors, painters/sculptors, craft art-

ists, printmakers, photographers, dancers, performers and costume designers, architects and teachers of art, drama and music in higher education. It includes employed and unemployed.

Hodsell said, "We are both amazed and delighted by this report which indicates widespread increases in the nation's artist population. From a total of 600,000 in 1970, artists now number one million and represent 1 percent of the country's civilian labor force. This is an extraordinary development no one would have predicted even a few years ago."

Hodsell said, "Support for our nation's artists has always come first from local communities and private individuals and institutions. And, the growth in public support for the arts which developed in the 1970s provided added stimulus and helped significantly in building a national environment of encouragement for individual artists."

"The challenge of the 1980s," Hodsell said, "is to keep up the momentum for the best of our artists and arts institutions so that the quality of American art will remain world class and be enjoyed by yet more of the American people."



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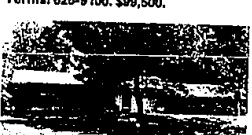
WEST BLOOMFIELD QUAD-LEVEL boasts contemporary floor plan with neutral decor, family room and recreation room, fireplace too. Country atmosphere with garden and patio. Termal 826-9100. \$98,500.



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