

## Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450



Monday, July 30, 1984 O&amp;E

F12D

## Precious mettle

Teen operates in world of small markup and quick turnover

By Lorraine McClish  
staff writer

An 18-year-old workaholic is dealing in gold and silver in his just-opened place of business, Redford Coin Galleries, at 25094 Six Mile.

Tony Scabassi's work as a boy was normal: shoveling the neighbors' snow or mowing the neighbors' lawns. But he joined his father in a hobby of coin collecting. When he was 13, the hobby turned into a near-obsession.

"I was spending every cent I made pulling weeds, or whatever I was doing at the time, on coins. I was spending 30 cents for silver dimes and when the silver market made all that racket a couple of years ago,

they were all worth about \$2 each," he said.

The Farmington Hills resident didn't cash in on his windfall.

"I have an ultra-conservative father. To this day, I don't know whether he was right or wrong, but I do know that's when I started going to the coin shows and conventions, meeting the dealers, reading, reading, reading, researching, collecting, trading."

Today, Redford Coin Galleries is half coins and half jewelry. He buys used jewelry for resale and buys new jewelry from the factory. He is a broker for South African gold coins and English silver bars.

"Name the coin, and we've got it."

***'I'm making it by buying used jewelry for its weight and selling it at a small mark-up and quick turnover.'***

— Tony Scabassi  
young entrepreneur

plus bills, both American and foreign."

SCABASSI STUCK to his every-earned-invested-in-coins philosophy all through junior high, Farmington High School, and one year at University of Michigan, where he took a class in gemology.

He worked as a dish washer and bus boy. Through the dealers he met in the coin shows, he was offered work in a coin shop, where he worked for a time with a Livonia dealer and later with a dealer in Ann Arbor.

"That experience was worth at least 10 years of college. Some things you just learn by doing because there is no textbook for it."

As with most coin collectors, Scabassi followed the natural progression from precious metals into precious stones.

Scabassi's progression led him into gold-dipped leaves and shells sold as jewelry, then a class in crafting jewelry, then the arts and craft show circuit.

At one point, Scabassi attended high school during the day and Oakland Community College at night. He would also prepare for the next weekend's craft show and the next coin show or convention. Because the craft shows were so profitable, he was "always, always wondering how I could have my seven-days-a-week craft show."

SCABASSI GOT his seven-day-a-week craft show with a kiosk in Tally Hall.

"I had had several brushes with the little-kid stereotype before. I have the respect of coin dealers now, but it was hard won."

"I had to work very hard to convince them I knew what I was talking about, at age 15 or 16. But the Tally Hall get-away-kid-and-don't-bother-me response I got when I asked about renting a kiosk was the hardest of them all to take."

"I certainly had the money to pay the rent, and I certainly researched the mall stores so I wasn't in competition with any of the merchants. But they just wouldn't talk to me."

The kiosk eventually was rented by Scabassi's mother after she recited a speech prepared by her son.

Before the lease was up, he had turned over the operation of the craft-



photographs by DAN DEAN/staff photographer

Farmington Hills' Tony Scabassi, the 18-year-old owner of a Redford jewelry and coin shop, inspects a diamond ring he purchased for resale. "Name the coin and we've got it, plus bills, both American and foreign."



Tony Scabassi takes care of business — his coin business, that is — in his Redford township shop.

## Pet pageant

Animals put best paw forward in Festival show

Some 58 entries participated in the 1984 Farmington Founders' Festival Pet Show, sponsored by Pets 'n' Particulars and Plaza Veterinary Hospital. Trophies were awarded to the first, second, and third-place winners in each category.

Dr. John H. Richardson of Plaza Veterinary Hospital served as master of ceremonies. Judges were Lola Carey, a

member of the Farmington Library Board; Jim Grant, chairman of the 1984 Founders' Festival; and Doug Gaynor, director of the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department.

The pet show was part of Kids' Day during Festival week. Most of the entries were dogs and cats, but there were a few ducks, land crabs and spiders, too.

Following are the top three finishers in each class:

**TWO MOST EVENLY MATCHED PETS** — 1. owner Marianne Letich, pets Misty and Jasmine (golden retrievers); 2. Dawn Kind, Duck No. 1 and Duck No. 2 (ducks); 3. Lisa Ingram, Fritz and Heidi (schnauzers).

**MOST TALENTED (30 SECONDS TO PERFORM)** — 1. Sally Minehard, Candy (collie); 2. Jimmy Thorpe, Sandy (beagle); 3. Scott Karvonen, Clorox (West Highland white terrier).

**LONGEST PET (NOSE TO TAIL)** — 1. Jimmy Crisp, Flinta (collie), 60 inches; 2. Jennifer King, Abby (otterhound), 54 inches; 3. Eric Minehard, Candy (collie), 53 inches.

**PET WITH WAGGIST TAIL** — 1. Hugh Love, Sandy (beagle); 2. Nicole Poirier, Beau (mixed dog); 3. Heidi Dillon, Simoo (spaniel-terrier mix).

**MOST UNUSUAL PET** — 1. Paul King, GTO (pigmy goat); 2. Nancy Norwood, Myrtle (hermit crab); 3. Sarah Ingram, Alfie, (dwarf half-moon parrot).

**SHAGGIEST PET** — 1. Sarah Balasco, Chocolate (guinea pig); 2. Melanie Alcantara, Sugar (Yorkshire terrier); 3. Holly Novack, Pupoo (pug dog).

**MOST ARTICULATE PET** — 1. No prizes awarded because no animal noises were made.

**BEST DRESSED PET AND OWNER** — 1. (tie) owner Melinda Park-Doss, pet Boody (poodle); owner Holly Briggs, pet Tuffy Apple (golden retriever); 2. (tie) owner Anna Morris, pet Max (Brittany spaniel); owner Jeremy Vannote, pet Michigan (cat); 4. (tie) owner Lisa Quay, pet Dolly (terrier mix); owner Mary Potts, pet Pupoo (thick spoo).

**OLDEST PET** — 1. Lashy Peck, Misty (West Highland white terrier), 14½ years old; 2. Tanya Orsini, Bobbiecat (mixed dog), 14 years; 3. Bobby Crisp, Flinta (collie), 13 years.



Megan Cess (left) and Marianne Letich hold golden retrievers Misty (left) and Jazz, who won first place in the most evenly matched category

of the pet show at the recent Farmington Founders' Festival.

**drapery boutique**

**WALLPAPER 45% off**

45% off 150 selected Special Order Papers. 40% off all other Special Order Papers. In our library. Coupons must be presented at time of order only. Coupons accepted. Min. \$30 off total price, other discounts excluded. Min. \$20 off total price. Min. \$20 off total price. Min. \$20 off total price.

Offer expires Fri., Aug. 31, 1984

**Custom Vertical Blinds 50% off plus 35% off that**

Selected • Decorator Cloths • Aluminum • P.V.C. • Lucca

ALL VERTICALS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL

Size	Material	Price	Material	Price	Material	Price
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$19.00	Alum.	\$21.00	Alum.	\$23.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$21.00	Alum.	\$23.00	Alum.	\$25.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$23.00	Alum.	\$25.00	Alum.	\$27.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$25.00	Alum.	\$27.00	Alum.	\$29.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$27.00	Alum.	\$29.00	Alum.	\$31.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$29.00	Alum.	\$31.00	Alum.	\$33.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$31.00	Alum.	\$33.00	Alum.	\$35.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$33.00	Alum.	\$35.00	Alum.	\$37.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$35.00	Alum.	\$37.00	Alum.	\$39.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$37.00	Alum.	\$39.00	Alum.	\$41.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$39.00	Alum.	\$41.00	Alum.	\$43.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$41.00	Alum.	\$43.00	Alum.	\$45.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$43.00	Alum.	\$45.00	Alum.	\$47.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$45.00	Alum.	\$47.00	Alum.	\$49.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$47.00	Alum.	\$49.00	Alum.	\$51.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$49.00	Alum.	\$51.00	Alum.	\$53.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$51.00	Alum.	\$53.00	Alum.	\$55.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$53.00	Alum.	\$55.00	Alum.	\$57.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$55.00	Alum.	\$57.00	Alum.	\$59.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$57.00	Alum.	\$59.00	Alum.	\$61.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$59.00	Alum.	\$61.00	Alum.	\$63.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$61.00	Alum.	\$63.00	Alum.	\$65.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$63.00	Alum.	\$65.00	Alum.	\$67.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$65.00	Alum.	\$67.00	Alum.	\$69.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$67.00	Alum.	\$69.00	Alum.	\$71.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$69.00	Alum.	\$71.00	Alum.	\$73.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$71.00	Alum.	\$73.00	Alum.	\$75.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$73.00	Alum.	\$75.00	Alum.	\$77.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$75.00	Alum.	\$77.00	Alum.	\$79.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$77.00	Alum.	\$79.00	Alum.	\$81.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$79.00	Alum.	\$81.00	Alum.	\$83.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$81.00	Alum.	\$83.00	Alum.	\$85.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$83.00	Alum.	\$85.00	Alum.	\$87.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$85.00	Alum.	\$87.00	Alum.	\$89.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$87.00	Alum.	\$89.00	Alum.	\$91.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$89.00	Alum.	\$91.00	Alum.	\$93.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$91.00	Alum.	\$93.00	Alum.	\$95.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$93.00	Alum.	\$95.00	Alum.	\$97.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$95.00	Alum.	\$97.00	Alum.	\$99.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$97.00	Alum.	\$99.00	Alum.	\$101.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$99.00	Alum.	\$101.00	Alum.	\$103.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$101.00	Alum.	\$103.00	Alum.	\$105.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$103.00	Alum.	\$105.00	Alum.	\$107.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$105.00	Alum.	\$107.00	Alum.	\$109.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$107.00	Alum.	\$109.00	Alum.	\$111.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$109.00	Alum.	\$111.00	Alum.	\$113.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$111.00	Alum.	\$113.00	Alum.	\$115.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$113.00	Alum.	\$115.00	Alum.	\$117.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$115.00	Alum.	\$117.00	Alum.	\$119.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$117.00	Alum.	\$119.00	Alum.	\$121.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$119.00	Alum.	\$121.00	Alum.	\$123.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$121.00	Alum.	\$123.00	Alum.	\$125.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$123.00	Alum.	\$125.00	Alum.	\$127.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$125.00	Alum.	\$127.00	Alum.	\$129.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$127.00	Alum.	\$129.00	Alum.	\$131.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$129.00	Alum.	\$131.00	Alum.	\$133.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$131.00	Alum.	\$133.00	Alum.	\$135.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$133.00	Alum.	\$135.00	Alum.	\$137.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$135.00	Alum.	\$137.00	Alum.	\$139.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$137.00	Alum.	\$139.00	Alum.	\$141.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$139.00	Alum.	\$141.00	Alum.	\$143.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$141.00	Alum.	\$143.00	Alum.	\$145.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$143.00	Alum.	\$145.00	Alum.	\$147.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$145.00	Alum.	\$147.00	Alum.	\$149.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$147.00	Alum.	\$149.00	Alum.	\$151.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$149.00	Alum.	\$151.00	Alum.	\$153.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$151.00	Alum.	\$153.00	Alum.	\$155.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$153.00	Alum.	\$155.00	Alum.	\$157.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$155.00	Alum.	\$157.00	Alum.	\$159.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$157.00	Alum.	\$159.00	Alum.	\$161.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$159.00	Alum.	\$161.00	Alum.	\$163.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$161.00	Alum.	\$163.00	Alum.	\$165.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$163.00	Alum.	\$165.00	Alum.	\$167.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$165.00	Alum.	\$167.00	Alum.	\$169.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$167.00	Alum.	\$169.00	Alum.	\$171.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$169.00	Alum.	\$171.00	Alum.	\$173.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$171.00	Alum.	\$173.00	Alum.	\$175.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$173.00	Alum.	\$175.00	Alum.	\$177.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$175.00	Alum.	\$177.00	Alum.	\$179.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$177.00	Alum.	\$179.00	Alum.	\$181.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$179.00	Alum.	\$181.00	Alum.	\$183.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$181.00	Alum.	\$183.00	Alum.	\$185.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$183.00	Alum.	\$185.00	Alum.	\$187.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$185.00	Alum.	\$187.00	Alum.	\$189.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$187.00	Alum.	\$189.00	Alum.	\$191.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$189.00	Alum.	\$191.00	Alum.	\$193.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$191.00	Alum.	\$193.00	Alum.	\$195.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$193.00	Alum.	\$195.00	Alum.	\$197.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$195.00	Alum.	\$197.00	Alum.	\$199.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$197.00	Alum.	\$199.00	Alum.	\$201.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$199.00	Alum.	\$201.00	Alum.	\$203.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$201.00	Alum.	\$203.00	Alum.	\$205.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$203.00	Alum.	\$205.00	Alum.	\$207.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$205.00	Alum.	\$207.00	Alum.	\$209.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$207.00	Alum.	\$209.00	Alum.	\$211.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$209.00	Alum.	\$211.00	Alum.	\$213.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$211.00	Alum.	\$213.00	Alum.	\$215.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$213.00	Alum.	\$215.00	Alum.	\$217.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$215.00	Alum.	\$217.00	Alum.	\$219.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$217.00	Alum.	\$219.00	Alum.	\$221.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$219.00	Alum.	\$221.00	Alum.	\$223.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$221.00	Alum.	\$223.00	Alum.	\$225.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$223.00	Alum.	\$225.00	Alum.	\$227.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$225.00	Alum.	\$227.00	Alum.	\$229.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$227.00	Alum.	\$229.00	Alum.	\$231.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$229.00	Alum.	\$231.00	Alum.	\$233.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$231.00	Alum.	\$233.00	Alum.	\$235.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$233.00	Alum.	\$235.00	Alum.	\$237.00
6" x 6"	Alum.	\$235.00	Alum.	\$237.00	Al	