

Suburban Life

Lorraine McClellan editor/477-5450

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(F21)

Stained glass

Aged storybook characters refurbished for Sarah Fisher

By Lorraine McClellan
staff writer

FORTY STAINED GLASS windows, each depicting a nursery rhyme character, are being taken out of the walls in Sarah Fisher Home for Children two or four at a time now, to be completely refurbished by stained glass artist Linda Joy Marx.

"We were lucky to find her," said Myra Luzod, speaking for the staff at Sarah Fisher. "The windows have been badly in need of repair for a long while but no one would touch them. There are a lot of stained glass artists around, but as we found out, there aren't more than half-a-dozen in the state that could do the kind of repair these need."

Stained glass windows were commonly a part of the architect's plans in 1929 when the complex on the corner of 12 Mile and Inkster was built and called Sarah Fisher Orphanage.

At the time the room that was made with the stained glass windows was used as a classroom. Later it was used as a gymnasium. Wire net was installed in the hope of giving some protection, but over the years none of the 40 escaped some destruction.

"I think I've hooked up with the company that made them," Marx said. "There's a company in Toronto

that did the most of the best stained glass for all of this area at that time, and they are going to help me track where they came from with some pictures I sent.

"At any rate, they weren't made by any amateur. They are extremely well made, with clean edges that fit perfectly and they are a joy to work with."

MARX IS FITTING those clean edges together, much like a jigsaw puzzle, in the left of her Farmington home, built about the same time as the Sarah Fisher home, which she has turned into a studio.

For the past 11 years, since Marx turned her stained glass hobby into a profession, there have been six or seven projects going on simultaneously in her loft studio. But for the summer, she'll concentrate on the nursery rhyme characters to give as many of them as possible a fresh and new life so they can be put back in place in time for Sarah Fisher's open house Sept. 14.

"Hopefully I'll have all of them finished, but I can't know for sure just what I'm going to run into," Marx said. "Some need tightening, strengthening. Some have lost an entire piece that is going to have to be cut and painted to match up with the rest of the picture."

"The type of lead that was used in

the '20s is different from what we're using now, but the method of working with stained glass is still the same as it's been for centuries.

"If the home had trouble finding someone to do this it is because most glass artists use the Tiffany method, which is strictly using different colored pieces of glass and placing them into a design. Painting and firing their own colors, or painting a design on top of different colored glass, which is what I'm going to have to do for some of these pieces, makes the difference between the craft and the art," she said.

MARX SPENT A good deal of her time as a professional stained glass artist promoting glass work as an art, much of it as a member of the Michigan Glass Month Committee. With help from Michigan Council for the Arts, April is now recognized as the month for galleries, museums and cultural centers in the state to display and promote the work of the glass artist.

"I got into this business backwards," Marx said. "I started working with glass and then took an art course, then studied design, drawing, pottery and sculpture, but always went back to glass."

Marx said she has never known the time she did not have some kind of manual hobby.

"I made everything from jewelry to macramé, but once I started in glass everything else went," she said. "I know I needed some lessons when I knew that something was wrong, but I didn't know what it was and I didn't know how to correct it."

Today she is writing technical pieces for art magazines, has had her work shown in The Royal Ontario Museum, an event she calls her "biggest excitement," touches her art and is kept busy enough with commissions that she rarely has time to accumulate enough pieces to display in the local juried shows.

"I concentrated on the more prestigious shows here, the Scholom Alchemich show, Birmingham's Art in the Park, where the shoppers were more likely to appreciate the original, the unusual, the little more expensive," she said.

"And I would recommend those shows to anyone who has the skills to use as a stepping-stone to get from the hobbyist to the full-time professional."

ONE OF MARX' students was Sister Mary Patricia, administrator of Sarah Fisher complex.

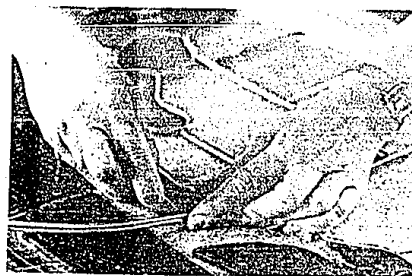
"She knows enough about stained glass to know what all is involved here. And I know enough about all the good they are doing over there to know that they need all the help they can get," Marx said. "All of my materials are being paid for, but I'm not getting much time-wise. I think of this as a challenge."

"I've done repairs before, but not on very exotic things, nothing of this magnitude. Just let me at the way this comes alive when it's held up to the light," she said.



Linda Joy Marx will be working all summer long in her loft studio on 40 stained glass windows that depict nursery rhyme characters. The one she's working on above and at right had to be completely dismantled for restoration.

Photos by
Rick Smith



The damaged and dusty stained glass window will be given a new life this summer and be back in place in Sarah Fisher Home for Children in time for open house, scheduled by the staff for Sunday, Sept. 14.



Author spins tales

Author and historian Joan Fox (above) uncovered some amusing and unusual facts about the Henry Ford family when they owned Botsford Inn while doing research for her book "More Than a Tavern." She'll be sharing those anecdotes, along with stories about Ford (at left) and his love of dancing during "Author's Tea Party," which begins at 2 p.m. Friday in Botsford's garden courtyard. Open house with tours through Michigan's oldest operating lodging facility, on Grand River, west of Eight Mile, run 4-5 p.m.

DuMouchelles JULY AUCTION

ESTATE AUCTION

Friday, July 18, 7:00 p.m. Saturday, July 19, 11:00 a.m. Sunday, July 20, 12 Noon
Preview exhibition begins, July 11, thru the sale dates, 10-5 p.m. Special exhibition, Wednesday, July 16, 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Illustrated catalogues \$10.00 postpaid. Call or write for free brochure.

FEATURING:

FRIDAY:

Antique to Modern paperweights including: Clichy; St. Louis Baccarat; Sulphides; Labino etc. Lionel and other train sets, toys, dolls, and antique marionettes, African trophy figure, Hummel and Goebel figurines.

SATURDAY:

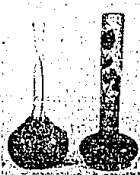
Quercel art glass, Antique cut glass, Hissing Goose decoy, Rodney Bruce Stenciled shelf clock, Carved marble sculptures and art deco lamp.

SUNDAY:

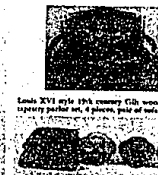
Extensive collection of French cameo art glass including: Galle, Daum Nancy, D'argental, and Arsell—approximately over 40 offerings. Antique French and Victorian furniture, Gilt wood Louis XVI style Aubusson upholstered parlor set, Antique Victorian Rosewood parlor, Semi-antique Oriental rug, Fine jewelry. Featuring the estate of Harland E. Graver of New Bavaria, Ohio including French cameo glass (Galle, Daum, and Arsell), formerly sold at Sotheby's, New York, King Farouk Auction, February 11, 1924.



French Cameo glass vase, signed "Galle", 11 1/2" x 12" x 12"



French Cameo glass vase, signed "Galle", 9 1/2" x 8" x 10"



Early XVI style 19th century Gilt wood Aubusson upholstered parlor set, 4 pieces, just of stock, L. 12"

French Cameo glass vase and covered box, signed "Galle", 11 1/2" x 12" x 12"



French Gilt 19th century mirror, 24" x 24" x 24"

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