

Creative Living

Marie McGee editor/591-2300



Thursday, May 7, 1987 O&O

(F)1E

briefly speaking

O SUPPER AT THE MANSION

A benefit dinner for the Henry Ford Estate-Fair Lane at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, is planned for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 4, in the historic mansion. Proceeds will assist in the restoration of the dining room of the 71-year-old former home of Henry Ford, undertaken by the Women of Fair Lane. Restoration of the room was aided by a singular fund-raiser last year, when a new Oriental carpet was purchased. For more information, call 593-555.

O ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB

"Debbuging the Garden" is the topic to be discussed at the meeting at 8 p.m. Monday, May 11, of Towne and Country Organic Garden Club in the Salvation Army Church Community Room, 3015 N. Main, Royal Oak. Ray Latovick, master gardener, will be the speaker. A second speaker will be Dawn Francis, who will discuss organic fertilizers. The public is welcome.

O STUDENT EXHIBIT

The annual student exhibition of visual arts will be held May 16 through June 7 at the College of Art and Design, 245 E. Kirby in the University Cultural Center. Call #72-3118 for information.

O ENGLISH THEATER MUSIC

Airs and incidental music from English theater works of 1600-1700 are the focus of the final concert of the season for Orana, a new-borough/new classical ensemble, at 8 p.m. Saturday at 543 Fourth, Ann Arbor.

The Ann Arbor Morris and Sord will perform folk dances of England at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6 and \$4 for students and senior citizens. They will be available at the door or in advance by calling 663-7962.

O HARBINGER CONCERT

The Harbinger Dance Company, in residence at Oakland Ridge Campus, will perform at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Smith Theater. Tickets are \$10 and \$8 for students and senior citizens. For more information, call 471-7700.

Highlighting the dance program are "Belle Isle Days," "The Pull of Calgary" and "Waiting for the Echo."

O SPRING ARTS FESTIVAL

The Michigan Guild of Artists and Artisans, in conjunction with the city of Plymouth, will hold its annual spring arts festival in Kolog Park Saturday-Sunday, May 30-31.

The juried two-day festival will feature the exhibition and sale of work from more than 100 fine artists and crafters from Michigan and throughout the United States.

Please turn to Page 4

Update

Sheet music and record collectors will find treasures among the music collectibles booths during "All Things Musical" at Livonia Mall this weekend.

But wait, there's more, including some concert band-type compahs.

The presentation also makes it possible for those seeking live music entertainment for weddings, graduation, holiday parties and club bookings to do so during the three-day musical showcase and clinics.

Valuable information for the public as well as the professional musician will be discussed during the daily clinics.

Among the exhibitors will be Dr. Leonard Smith's Detroit Concert Band, the Livonia Youth Symphony, Louis Santo, representing the National Sheet Music Society, the band "Express" and the Max Davey Singers. "All Things Musical" is free. For more information, call 761-1220.

Sosin collection

Shining examples of studio art glass

STARTING AND developing a collection in the beginning of a new art form has been a rewarding experience," according to area resident Jean Sosin.

The Hilberts and Jean Sosin collection provides a unique opportunity to observe the growth that has taken place within the studio art glass genre from its early stages to its current manifestations. The collection will form the core of "25 Years of Studio Glass" on display through June 15 at the University of Michigan-Dearborn library.

The Sosins became interested in studio art glass during what may be described as epiphanic moments. Jean Sosin was at what she describes as a "low point in her life." Suffering from myasthenia gravis, a visit to Habitat art galleries in Southfield lit the studio art glass fire within her. "WHEN WE WALKED in, I was overwhelmed by the beauty of the glass around me. That evening filled me with excitement."



Mark Peiser's "A Rainy Day in Waikiki" is among the 76 pieces of studio art glass on exhibit.



Jean and Hilbert Sosin: "Starting and developing a collection in the beginning of a new art form has been rewarding."

Hilbert Sosin was drawn in after watching a glass-blowing demonstration by Herb Babcock at the Center for Creative Studios. He describes that experience as "like watching a ballet dancer." Entranced by the work of skilled artisans, Sosin joined his wife in her enthusiastic advocacy of the developing art form.

The Sosins began collecting art glass in 1971 when the movement was still in its relatively early stages.

"During the early years of the studio glass movement while artists were developing their talents and reputations, the price of glass was not exorbitant," Jean Sosin recalls.

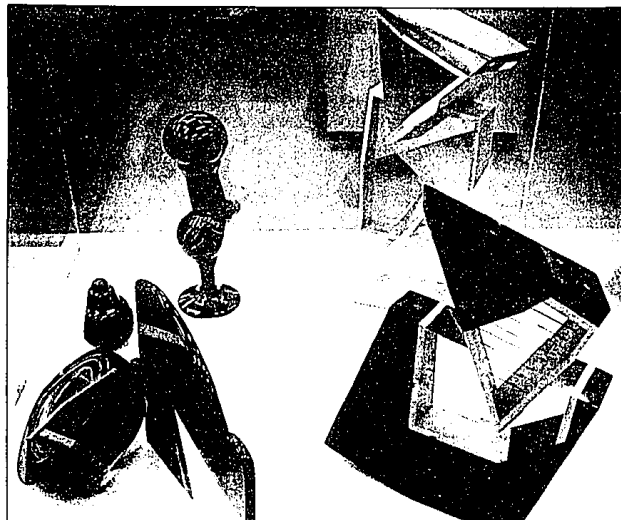
"Thus, my husband and I were able to acquire a representation of the majority of artists involved in the movement. Since the number of artists were few, we were able to collect important artists in depth, and we continue to do this."

In the immature stages of the studio glass movement, artists strove to solve technical problems that inhibited the reach of their creative visions. Many of the earliest pieces are simple, functional forms such as vases and paper weights.

As their technical mastery grew, artists' work became increasingly more daring. Sculptural forms supplanted functional forms. The earliest pieces make use of a single technique such as hot blowing while the most recent works employ the simultaneous use of multiple techniques such as etching, sandblasting, assembly, casting and slumping.

THE SHOW IS ORGANIZED in such a manner as to highlight this impressive development.

Please turn to Page 4



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Some of the work of artist William Carlson of Dover, Ohio. Carlson is one of the Sosins' personal favorites.



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Marijn Auchterlonie of Franklin and Janet Randall of Flushing look over one of the artist's works.

NEWSMAKER IN THE ARTS

Computer scare prompts 'dream' gallery

By Mona Grigg
special writer

When Elmer Kapp, founder of the Livonia-based Kapp Companies, was blinded at age 18 by ammonia while working in a blueprint company, he could have retreated into the shadowy world of the blind and stayed there. Instead, he simply switched gears.

Encouraged by a friend, he began selling drafting supplies to engineers and architects, traveling by bus with a guide dog at his side. He still had the two qualities any good salesman needed to get ahead — he could talk and he could listen.

He went around to the small job shops connected with the auto industry, and if he had one frustration, it was that he and his dog were not able to traverse the difficult corridors of the Big Four auto factories.

"THAT'S WHERE I came in," said Kapp's oldest son, Dennis, 39. "Actually, I started working for Dad when I was seven, reading the mail and doing office chores — and I would have started sooner if Dad had let me."

Seated in his modern, art-lined office above the showroom of Northwest Blueprint, the headquarters of the Kapp Companies on Farmington Road in Livonia, Dennis Kapp, president of the "15 or so" companies his family now own, laughs as he recounts his actual entry into the business: "When I was 11 years old, Dad had to give up his last guide dog and he always told people, 'I don't need another dog. I've got Dennis!'"

By the time the younger Kapp was 14 he had acquired a driver's license and his first briefcase, and was knocking on the Big Four engineering department doors.

Kapp credits Jerry Larsen ("A nice fellow at General Motors") with opening the door for him at GM's Tech Center. "Jerry took this young kid and helped him — I don't know what he saw there, but he introduced me around to many others, and it was like they all wanted to help this young kid."

Kapp said he would always ask each of them if they knew of any others who might want his services. "So they'd call up their friends and say, 'I'm sending over this kid, Dennis the Menace, to see you.'"

Kapp said his father taught him to "build a territory, hire a salesman; build a territory, hire a salesman — and when you have enough salesmen, you hire a sales manager."

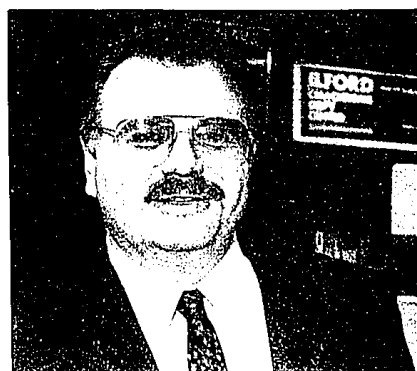
HE DID EXACTLY that, he said. "And each time I'd hire someone to do my job, I'd have to find a new job for me. That's how we got into artist materials."

The jump from drafting to artist materials seem a natural step to Kapp. In the mid-'70s, Northwest Blueprint was already a leader in sales, import and export of drafting supplies.

"But computers were getting big," Kapp noted, "and though we didn't know how, we knew it would radically change the drafting business. So we began looking at related things to insulate ourselves from computers."

Art materials seemed to be the answer, Kapp said. "We thought fine art wouldn't likely be changed much by computers, so we added the related materials and Northwest Blueprint became an art store as well."

Please turn to Page 2



JOHN KRULL/photo

Dennis Kapp's innovative Norgraphic gallery helps him and provides support for artists.