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Benefit plant sale is show's finale

The immediate past president of the Builder's Association of Southeastern Michigan hopes sales at the annual Builders Show plant auction are as strong as current real estate sales.

"There isn't any area that residential sales aren't going well," said Dennis Dickstein, president of Ralph Manuel Realtors of Birmingham.

"With interest rates down, more homes are made more affordable to more people," he said.

Ralph Manuel is one of the more successful real estate companies in Oakland County. It has four offices, one each in Farmington and Rochester and two in Birmingham. It represents 22 builders and developers and recently became involved in property management.

Dickstein, has served the Builders Association for 20 years, 16 of those as a board member and five years on the executive committee.

FOR THE PAST TWO years, Dickstein has served as chairman of the Builders Home Flower Furniture Show Plant Auction, which benefits the

Michigan Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

This year's show is slated for March 19-27 at Cobo Hall.

"Each year all of the floral arrangements and many of the blooming plants and shrubs are placed on the auction block at the show," said Dickstein.

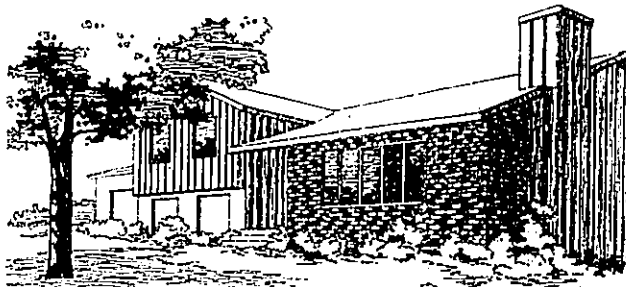
"We've noticed over the years, that a lot of the show visitors come back to participate in the auction.

"The auction normally goes on for about two hours. In that time, we process over 200 sales," he added.

How did Dickstein come to preside over the sales?

"Well, I've been known to purchase a few plants over the years," he said smiling.

Multiple Sclerosis is a chronic progressive disease of the central nervous system. The Michigan Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is the only voluntary health agency solely dedicated to serving people with MS and their families and supports nationally sponsored research to find the cause and cure for MS.



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