

Gallery showcases Southwest jewelry

By Linda Ann Chomin
special writer

Step inside the Plymouth art gallery, Native West. Suddenly, you are transported to another land, another culture: that of the Native American tribes of the Southwest.

Friday through Sunday, Dec. 14-16, Native West, in celebration of its one-year anniversary, will draw on another resource of the Southwest: silversmith Martin de Macias Neal of Albuquerque, N.M. He'll demonstrate the skills he uses in the art of creating Navaho- and Zuni-influenced, inlay jewelry.

"You have to have a lot of patience for the inlay work," he said during an interview in Plymouth. "There's basically four steps involved in making inlay jewelry."

"First, the silver work is done; this gives you the skeleton. Then comes the stone cutting. I cut each stone separately."

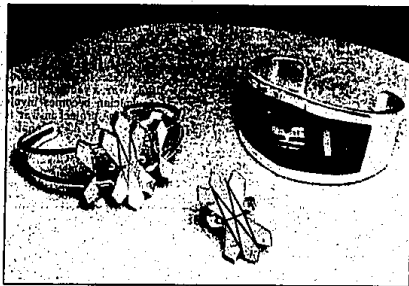
"Next comes setting the stones into the silverwork with different types of epoxy. After which, I let the stones and silverwork set for two days. Then, I grind and polish the surface until it is smooth as glass."

Neal leaves no detectable evidence of the numerous pieces of jewelry he has made. "I don't want a stone that went into making the final creation."

NEAL ESTIMATES that he has been creating jewelry for 22 years. He uses a combination of techniques gained from the Zuni and Navaho.

"From the Navaho, I learned a lot about silverwork," Neal said, "Navaho silverwork is a lot heavier." Neal said a lot of the inspiration for his pieces stems from the environment. "It was always around the environment," Neal said, "because my mother has worked 30 years at a Native American trading post" (in Gallup, N.M.).

He grew up around the silversmiths who worked at the trading post. Soon, he became captivated by



At right: a contemporary silver bracelet set consisting of a circular, coral, inlay medallion of the sun with wings of inlay coral ascending the chain of the necklace, pierced earrings and bracelet, all set in a framework of silver. The set is priced at \$2,250. Neal estimates that he has 40 hours of labor in the stunning coral set.

the art of creating silverwork.

In his early teens, he learned silversmith techniques from three Navaho artists: Mary Dea, Mary Morgan and the late Charlie Grey.

In 1974, Neal spent time with friends at the Zuni Pueblo. Here, he received his introduction to stone cutting and inlay techniques. For the next three years, he studied lapidary skills with his close friend one of the foremost Zuni artists, the late Daniel Eracho.

From this diverse background, which included earning a Bachelor of Anthropology degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz, Neal developed a highly refined style of creating jewelry.

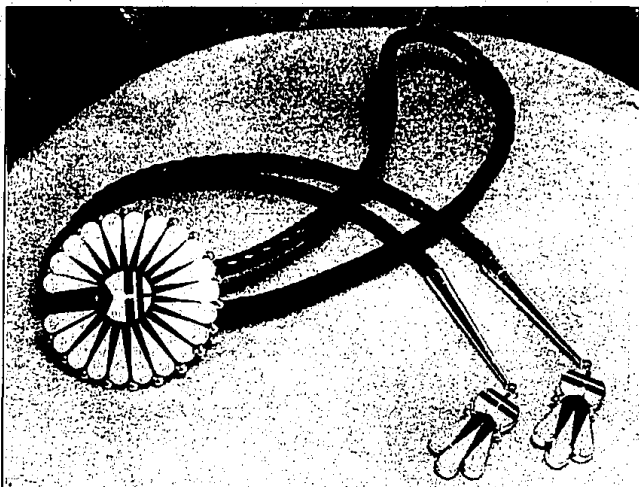
APPEARING in each of Neal's pieces is the sun. "The sun, for a lot of Pueblo tribes, is the giver of life,"

Neal said.

Neal's Surface necklace set consists of a circular, coral, inlay medallion of the sun with wings of inlay coral ascending the chain of the necklace, pierced earrings and bracelet, all set in a framework of silver. The set is priced at \$2,250. Neal estimates that he has 40 hours of labor in the stunning coral set.

Neal creates contemporary as well as traditional pieces, all with a Southwest Native American theme. During the demonstrations at Native West, he will be creating a pair of inlay earrings.

Along with Neal at the gallery this Friday, Saturday and Sunday will be the nationally known trader, Edwin "Bing" Crosby, who has three dec-



photos by JIM JACQUEL/Staff photographer

A surface bolo, by Martin de Macias Neal, is created from inlay turquoise and jet with tips of silver. The silver neckwear is priced at \$575.

ades of Native American art expertise.

"Bing is bringing tons of Hopi, Navaho and Zuni jewelry," said Becky Dodson, co-owner of the art gallery, Native West, with her husband, Doug.

The gallery exhibits Southwestern art, both traditional and contemporary. Included in the Native Ameri-

can art inventory are oils, watercol-

ors, acrylics, hand-crafted sterling silver jewelry, pottery, home furnishings, rugs, sand paintings, kachina dolls and coyotes carved from cottonwood.

When you visit Native West, the cold, Michigan winter seems to disappear as you are warmed by the culture from sand-colored

landscapes under the hot sun of the Southwest.

Native West is at 863 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth. Gallery hours for the holidays are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday noon to 6 p.m. for information call 455-8838.

Lamp stand a fairly good buy

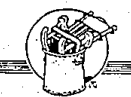
Q. This walnut lamp stand with square legs is 29 inches high and the top measures 17 by 20 inches. It was purchased in Ohio for \$45 in 1971. When was it made and what would it cost today?

A. This stand was made in the mid-19th century and would probably cost \$285 to \$285 today in an antique shop. Since that beats inflation, it was a fairly good investment.

Q. The attached mark is on the bottom of a figurine group consisting of a boy in a sailor suit and a girl in an old-fashioned blue and white dress. The figures are 13 and 12 inches tall. I would appreciate your opinion of their value. Do you know what the mark means?

A. Your figurines were made by the Gebrüder Heubach (Heubach brothers) in Lichte, Germany, during the late 1800s. A dealer would probably price them at \$400 to \$500 for the pair.

Q. I have a bronze figure of a young boy dressed in a suit. He has both hands in his pockets and is hold-



antique or junkie

James G. McCollam

log a violin under his arm. It is 16 inches tall including a wood base. It is signed "J. Garner." Can you tell me anything about the origin and the value of my young violinist?

A. Jean Garner was a well-known French sculptor in the 19th century. He probably modeled the original clay figure about 1875. Your bronze statue was probably cast from the original about 1900. I find pieces similar to this selling for \$500 to \$600.

Q. We have a bisque finish cookie jar that is marked with crown and wreath "Royal" above the crown, "F.M." inside the wreath, "Bonn, Germany" below. It is decorated

with lavender and pink flowers with gold trim. Can you tell me when this was made and its current value?

A. Royal Bonn porcelain was made in a factory established in 1755 by Franz Mehlert. Your cookie jar was made in the early 1900s and would probably sell for about \$100 to \$110.

Q. We have an Ingraham banjo clock that has two round wooden pots on it instead of the usual brass brackets. Can you determine when it was made and what it might sell for?

A. Apparently you have the Ingraham "Nile" model made about 1900.

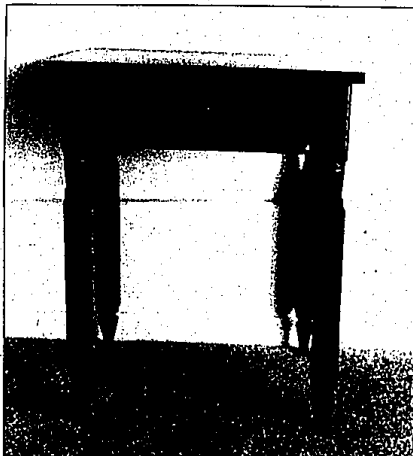
It is currently selling for \$265 to \$285 in good condition.

On books: "Early American Pattern Glass" by Bill Jenks and Jerry Luna, published by Wallace-Homestead, an imprint of Chilton Book Co., Radnor, Pa. 19089, \$29.95 plus \$2.50 postage of at your local bookstore.

This is one of the most important books on collectibles to be published this year. More than 1,000 patterns or alternative names are listed, illustrated and priced. No dealer or serious collector should be without this book, bound to become the bible of its field.

Send your questions about antiques with pictures, a detailed description, a stamped, self-addressed envelope and \$1 per item to James G. McCollam, P.O. Box 1087, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556. All questions will be answered but published pictures cannot be returned.

McCollam is a member of the Antique Appraisers Association of America.



This lamp stand, bought in 1971 for \$45, is worth up to \$285 at today's prices.

creative impressions

This column appears regularly. Send news items to: Creative Impressions, Creative Living, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, 48150.

ART SHOW

The Sinai Hospital Guild is sponsoring the sixth annual Sinai-Hill Day School Art Show through Jan. 7 at the Detroit hospital, 8767 W. Outer Drive.

More than 400 works of art, paintings created by students ages 5-14 of the Farmington Hills Jewish day school, are hung throughout public areas of the hospital.

The mounting exhibition celebrates the holiday of Hanukkah and provides a cheerful atmosphere for guests, employees and patients.

Theme for this year's show is based on the Torah's story of creation. The "Bible" student artists worked within the theme, painting colorful portraits of their families, bold landscapes and shimmering celestial bodies. Sinai selects one piece of art from the show each year for its annual holiday greeting card.

A highlight of this year's show was the annual latke party Sunday. More than 600 guests dined on a traditional Hanukkah meal of latkes, or potato pancakes, with accompaniments. The luncheon concluded with a concert by the Hill student choir.

DSO STATUS

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra increased ticket sales by 28 percent and revenue by 45 percent in 1989-90.

"An excellent artistic product and improvements in programming and the appearance of the hall had a dramatic impact on ticket sales," said Robert Miller Jr., Detroit Symphony

Orchestra Hall board chairman.

An audited summary of the year-end financial statement showed the DSO met or exceeded goals of the five-year business plan in all financial categories, Miller said.

The annual fund raised almost \$5 million, thanks in part to a Skillman Foundation grant. A fund-raising appeal to corporations and government sources raised \$9.2 million with \$3 million from a supplemental state allocation. The volunteer concert series raised \$200,000.

The educational concert series reached 32,000 young people. The DSO performed free concerts for such groups as the American Red Cross, the NAACP, Detroit Aglow and the International Freedom Fest.

The first African-American Composers Forum was a big success. "The hall restoration is complete, one of the finest conductors in the world today, Neeme Jarvi, is on board as music director, and we can now turn our thoughts towards recordings and a major endowment campaign, two of the most important building blocks for today's orchestras."

U-M CONCERTS

The Little Singers of Paris, a group of boys sometimes called France's "little ambassadors of peace," will perform tonight, Thursday, Dec. 13, at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor as part of the University of Michigan concert series sponsored by the University Musical Society.

On Monday, Jan. 14, the society will present Leontyne Price, soprano, at 8 p.m. at Hill Auditorium. For tickets or ticket concert, call 761-2538 or 763-TKTS. They can also be

bought in person at the Burton Tower ticket office on the U-M campus.

ART AWARDS

The Arts Foundation of Michigan announces that nominations are open for its annual 1991 Michigan Arts and Patrons Awards. This marks the 16th year the foundation will honor Michigan artists by awarding cash prizes.

The arts awards are given annually to Michigan artists in recognition of outstanding achievement in varying fields. Three artists will receive \$5,000.

Patron awards are bestowed upon individuals for outstanding service in support of the arts. Patrons receive a commemorative plaque of Pewabic Pottery.

Winners are recognized at the foundation's annual Michigan Arts Award ceremony in May. The deadline to submit nominations is Jan. 16. All nominees must live in Michigan.

The foundation has honored 80 artists and 39 patrons since the awards were established in 1976. The foundation was established in 1966 as a nonprofit organization that encourages and supports excellence in the arts through a variety of granting programs.

For nominating forms, write or call the Arts Foundation of Michigan, 1352 David Whitney Building, Detroit, MI 48226 or call 964-2244.

POETRY CONTEST

"When we choose the \$1,000 grand prize winner, we always look for a new, undiscovered poet," says Robert Nelson, American Poetry Association publisher.

"We're always happiest to recognize ordinary people who write ex-

traordinary poetry. Anyone can win."

The grand prize is \$1,000 and the first prize is \$500 in the APA contest. The 152 prizes total \$11,000. There is no entry fee.

Poets should send or more original poems, no more than 20 lines, along with their name and address on the top of the page to American Poetry Association, Dept. CO-95, 250-A Potrero St., P.O. Box 1803, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. The deadline for postmarks is Dec. 31.

All submitted poems are considered for publication in the American Poetry Anthology, a collection of current verse.

As a bonus, entrants receive the Poet's Guide to Getting Published, a four-page booklet.

The APA has sponsored poetry contests for nine years. It has awarded \$200,000 in prizes to 3,500 winning poets.

YULE FEST

The Detroit Symphony's 1990 Christmas Festival ends with DSO music director Neeme Jarvi leading the orchestra in a New Year's Eve gala, "Night in Old Vienna," at 9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31.

The evening includes waltzes, polkas and marches by Johann Strauss, Josef Strauss, Lehar, Suppe and Offenbach.

The audience can dance to the music of the Mack Pitt Orchestra onstage at Orchestra Hall following the concert.

There will be the traditional countdown to midnight and a glass of champagne or soft drink is included in the price of each ticket. For tickets, call 833-3700.

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