

# Creative Living

CLASSIFIED REAL ESTATE

Mary Klemic editor/644-1100



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## Art Beat Many hands, hearts make art work

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 605 E. Maple, Birmingham 46009.

For information and reviews of musical performances, please turn to the Entertainment section.

Fourteen-year-old violinist Jeffrey Evans, a student of Jerome Stasson of West Bloomfield, is the state of Michigan winner of the Music Teachers National Association Selmer String Competition that took place recently at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

Jeffrey has been studying with Stasson for the past five years. Saturday, Jeffrey will compete with the winners of the states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Wisconsin (the East Central Division) at the University of Michigan School of Music.

Jeffrey is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Mark Evans of Romeo.

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association is presenting the 11th annual Michigan Fine Arts Competition.

The competition provides a showcase of work by Michigan artists and an educational opportunity for regional audiences. The exhibition will run April 4 to May 2. Awards are Best in Show (\$2,000, sponsored by the Arts Foundation of Michigan), second prize (\$750), third prize (\$500) and additional prizes totaling \$750.

Participation is open to all artists 18 years old and older who live and work in Michigan. Entry deadline is Friday, Jan. 24. Call the BBAA, 644-0866, for information.

WQRS-FM and Jones Floor Covering in Birmingham are teaming up and promoting "wall-to-wall" good will.

Now through March 31, for every square yard of floor covering sold at the Birmingham business, 707 S. Eton, \$1 will be given to the non-profit cultural organization of the customer's choice. A list of several such groups is available at Jones Floor Covering. Call 644-4483.

Sally Swart of Birmingham is one of 423 poets whose work has been published in "Down Peaceful Paths, Vol. XI."

The 248-page book, published by Quill Books of Harlingen, Texas, is a collection of poetry designed to promote and revitalize an interest in poetry and give recognition to deserving novice poets.

The contents, referred to by the publisher as mostly "good old-fashioned" poetry, both rhyme and free verse, offer sincerity, wisdom and insight. Swart's poem, "Apricot Glow," was selected from a field of nearly 2,400 submissions.

Swart and her husband, Ken, have lived in Birmingham for 3 1/2 years and are active in St. James Episcopal Church.



photos by JERRY ZOLYNSKY/self photographer

The tiles in the mural at Detroit Country Day School include a variety of designs depicting the natural area at the school — some with three-dimensional additions, some with imprints.

By Mary Klemic  
staff writer

Inch by inch, piece by piece.

That work of art — a 120-square-foot Pewabic tile mural — recently installed in Detroit Country Day School's new Middle School in Birmingham is the result of the dedicated work of many hands and hearts over many months.

Detroit Country Day students, parents, faculty and staffers, with the encouragement and financial help of such groups as the Friends of the Arts and the Oakland Cultural Council, worked together to make the mural. The project was coordinated by Pewabic Pottery.

"EACH TILE could stand alone," art teacher Marilee Tatterday, who initiated the project, said the morning of Jan. 9 at a ceremony to dedicate the mural.

"However, when all of these tiles are joined together, all of the energy behind them, it becomes something truly beautiful. It... will be a constant reminder to me of the spirit we have when we join together."

"We are very proud of this mural. We are very proud of the 1,300 people who participated in making this mural," said Sue Donnelly, past president of the Friends of the Arts.

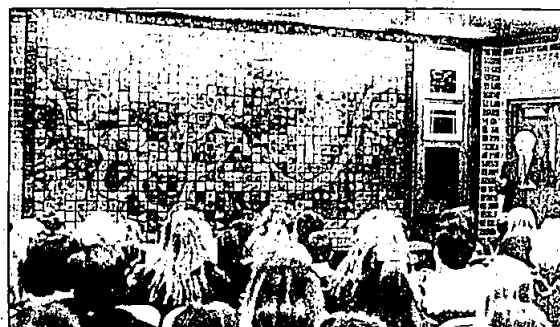
THE TILES carry miles of smiles. The mural is a topographical dep-

iction of the natural area surrounding the site of the new building at 13 Mile and Lahser, showing the Rouge River tributary that flows through the grounds and is studied as part of the Middle School environmental science curriculum.

Each student and faculty member, from pre-kindergarten through high school, designed a 4-by-4-inch tile to be placed in the mural. At the dedication ceremony, students proudly pointed out the individual tiles they made and showed their delight with the total effect.

"I think it's really neat to see," said seventh grader Nikki Karchon.

Please turn to Page 4



The winding tributary of the Rouge River near Detroit Country Day School can be seen in the 120-square-foot mural installed in the new Middle School building. Here Jerry Hanson, headmaster at Detroit Country Day School, congratulates the students and others who worked on the art.

## Designer shines with glass act

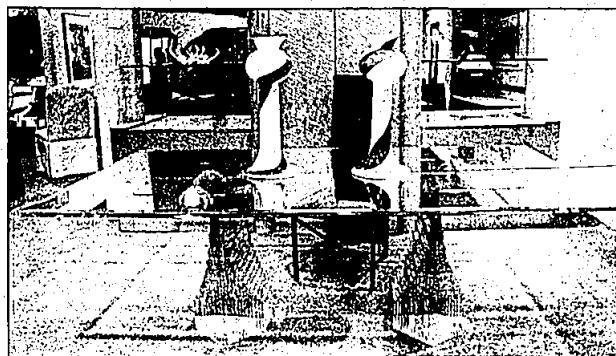
By David F. Stein  
special writer

It's every designer's dream. See a sketch turned into reality in a matter of days, then have the finished product whisked out the door before the ink is even dry on the price tag.

For furniture designer Hal Brownfield of EasyGlass in Troy, 1891 was that kind of year. Last July, the former automotive engineer turned his glass fabrication business into a furniture factory. Now, Brownfield's all-glass cocktail, sofa and dining tables are selling as fast as he can produce them, locally and in trendy markets like California and Florida.

BROWNFIELD'S DESIGNS reflect his training. They have the mathematical precision and strength of great bridges or other engineering feats — man or woman shaping the material world but forced to follow the imperatives of physical law. "They have a structural look, an architectural look, a boldness if you will," Brownfield said. "Our furniture is in the bases, they almost have a life of their own."

These bases are built up from one-half-inch-thick, rectangular pieces of plate glass, which are beveled, polished and then glued in layers. A 4-by-7-foot dining table might be made from as



DAVID F. STEIN

Glass furniture offers a clear option for many a decor. Designer Hal Brownfield of EasyGlass in Troy is finding a strong market for his all-glass cocktail, sofa and dining tables.

many as 120 blocks of glass and weigh as much as 500 pounds, depending on the design.

Brownfield's first four lines of tables derived from the basic rectangular blocks of glass are the Manhattan, the Staircase, the Pyramid and the Butterfly. Prices are comparable to higher-end traditional furniture.

THE MANHATTAN base suggests a giant suspension bridge. But in all the designs, the layered blocks of glass generate curves, much like a bar graph, as well as interesting patterns of refracted light.

Brownfield's Staircase series features staggered blocks of glass winding up a spiral.

This design, in particular, takes advantage of a new colorless glass, called Starphire. By eliminating 99 percent of the iron normally present in glass, PPG Industries created a glass without the familiar green tinge.

Please turn to Page 4

## Hides present history

Exhibitions, 5D

By Mary Klemic  
staff writer

The flat figures painted by husband and wife Bill and Kathy Brewer of Illinois bring history to life.

The artists' works — watercolor on tanned animal hides — are reproductions of Plains Indian artifacts. They are on display this month at Mesa Arts, 3200 Franklin Road in Franklin.

Scenes include horseback riders chasing buffalo, or warriors in a warrior society parade in front of teepees. They are modern versions of photographs, Indian writing to record exploits.

"They used photographs to show what they had done," Kathy Brewer said.

"The Indians painted every aspect of their lives."

Movie audiences have seen some of the Brewers' work. The couple made props and set decorations for the Oscar-winning "Dances With Wolves."

FOR HIDE paintings, the Brewers use deer and antelope hides from

Please turn to Page 4

## Don't be too camera shy to vie

Did you ever take what you knew was a prize-winning shot and then wonder if it could capture first place in a photography contest?

Well, there's a competitive spirit in all of us, and unless you enter your picture in a contest, you'll never know how you'd do.

Today, I'm going to give you some advice about photo contests — where to locate them and how best to go about entering the competition. After all, you may win an exciting trip, new camera equipment or some useful cash.

THE BEST source for finding contests is the news media. Your local newspapers always announce photography contests and quite frequently sponsor their own contests. Check out one of the many photography magazines available. They always announce contests, too. Major shopping malls in the area



photography

Monte Nagler

often conduct contests and, of course, camera clubs in the vicinity welcome your best shots in their competitions. And your favorite camera store can also keep you up to date on photo happenings. Knowing what judges look for in a good photograph can be a valuable guide when entering a photo contest. Usually, judges base their score on three criteria.

FIRST is subject matter. A judge will ask: Is the subject unusual, or, if commonplace, is it treated in an un-

usual way? Does it stand apart from other entries and command attention? Are my emotions stirred and is the picture communicating anything to me? In short, does the image have impact and "stopping power"?

Second, judges will take a critical look at composition to determine if all the elements of the picture are arranged in the most effective way. They'll ask themselves: Is this photograph simplified and uncluttered? Is there a strong idea being expressed and does the composition complement the subject?

Third, and equally important, is the technical quality of the photograph. A judge will look for sharpness, proper exposure and good color saturation. He or she will look for a clean slide or print, and, if the photo is matted, will want to see neat, well-cut mats.

MAKE SURE you read all the en-

tries rules carefully and abide by them. You wouldn't want that special shot to be disqualified on a minor technicality.

Very important, shoot those subjects that interest you. By putting your own feelings and emotions in your photography, you most certainly will increase your chances of producing a prize-winning photo with impact.

Shooting for the judges and not for yourself will result in pictures that will lack that all important ingredient — you!

Keep it fun, enjoy the competition and try to use photo contests as a means of improving your own photographic skills and interest.

Monte Nagler is a professional photographer based in Farmington Hills.



Monte Nagler's silhouetted photo of two boys fishing has been a prize winner. Notice how many of the elements for prize-winning photos that he writes about are present in this picture.