

Leonardsburg

Self-taught artist creates tiny village

By SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The little town of Leonardsburg sits within the city limits of Farmington, underneath a nine-foot tree owned by Keith and Vicky Leonard.

Keith Leonard, a pharmacist at Bi-County Community Hospital in Warren, has been designing his miniature ceramic village for almost 20 years now, serving as its planning and site committee.

Leonard began making the little houses as a pastime. His hobby grew to perfection. Leonard's fictional little village also draws from a real life village near Delaware, Ohio, which bears the same name.

"I started building villages when I was seven or eight years old," Leonard said.

Leonard began building paper houses as a youth. Paper turned to ceramic and his current stained glass endeavor.

"This particular village is ceramic."

Some 42 houses, trees and figures grace the bottom of the tree. There's Scrooge and Marley's office, a barber shop complete with red, white and blue stripes, a village gazebo and a miniature Christmas tree lot.

"The one I did this year was a flower shop and greenhouse," Leonard said. "Last year, I built the barber shop and the post office. I usually do one or two (miniatures) a year. This year, I only did one because it got quite involved."

It's in the details

With painstaking care, Leonard cut the glass for the greenhouse window. The poinsettias inside the greenhouse are red-dyed baby's breath set in miniature pots. Icicles hang from the building's eaves.

Leonard is quick to admit that the greenhouse is his favorite in spite of, or because of, its difficulty and intricacy. Except for a few

houses taken, Leonard's craft has been self-taught.

Glass polishing and cut fingers have not deterred Leonard's artistic quest. Recently, he added stained glass to his ceramic hobby.

The couple have two grown children, Marlie and Keith. Both are Harrison High graduates.

Part of the family

"They have kind of grown up with the tree," said nurse Vicky Leonard, Keith's wife. "When the children were young, the figures beneath the tree would move around mysteriously, Vicky said with a laugh.

"But nothing was ever broken," she said. "Even the dog was good."

One house depicting a pharmacy and office includes a sign called Dr. Coral, named after a young intern who Leonard befriended and encouraged to go on and study to become a doctor.

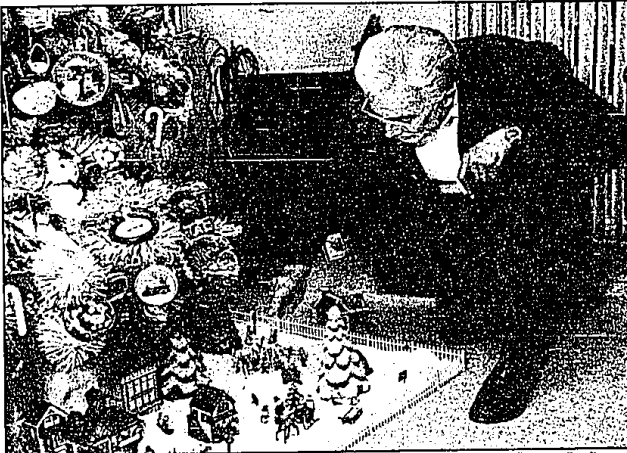
A Victorian-style house is called "Aunt Len's House." In total, there are 42 square feet of village.

What's next?

"My daughter has requested an artist's studio," Leonard said. "She does a lot of painting." Leonard is already pondering how he will make the miniature easels.



Pride and joy: Keith Leonard shows off his latest creation, a miniature greenhouse. The small building was no small undertaking. It includes intricate details, right down to the miniature poinsettias.



Small scale: Keith Leonard towers above his small village. The artist is largely self-taught. Each item shows painstaking attention to detail.

Window contest winners listed

By SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The winners of the Downtown Farmington holiday window decorating contest prove there can be pages of happiness in the city.

The winners are:

- Hollywood Grille — overall design.
- Donovan's Country Store — creative design.
- Lace Curtain Shop — original design.

The prize was \$500 each to the winners in free advertising space with the Farmington Observer to be used within the next year.

Judy Downey, executive director of the Downtown Development Authority, and Rhonda Sharpe, of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers advertising staff, judged the contest.

"I was shocked when Judy came in (informing of the win)," said Sandra Cloutier, a co-owner of the Hollywood Grille with Damon Ajourny. "I've always worked on the windows."

Hollywood Grille's holiday decorations feature a stand-up figure of Marilyn Monroe and James Dean in one window and stocking stuffers in the other.

"We brought the theme from the inside to the outside," Cloutier said.

At Donovan's Country Store, Ann Donovan and her partner, Peggy, entered the contest because they liked the old-fashioned theme.

"We worked on the windows for 21 days," Donovan said.



HILL BREZLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Creative window: Donovan's Country Store took the category.

Their decorations featured an Old World Irish theme.

"We dressed the Santa as he would be in Ireland," she said.

The ornaments on the 7½-foot tree have a similar theme. The Donovans also placed a harp, a traditional Irish symbol, on the tree, which is decorated with 800 lights.

"But, it doesn't scream 'Neon Shamrocks' or anything," Donovan quipped. "We were really thrilled."

Betty Jarvis, owner of the Lace Curtain Shop, is a second-time winner in the window decorating contest.

"I enjoy doing my windows very much," Jarvis said.

Her entry features a Granny in an old-fashioned dress that Jarvis made. The figure is seen wrapping Christmas presents. The Christmas tree is decorated with old style candlelights.

Colleagues mourn former C'ville trustee

Members of the Clarenceville School District family attended funeral services Tuesday for a man who had served the district as trustee for more than 10 years.

Michael Manore, 50, of Livonia died of leukemia Saturday at Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hills. Manore was first elected to the Clarenceville Board of Education in 1980. He served two terms and had been elected to a third term when he resigned in February 1991 after being diagnosed with leukemia.

Funeral services were Tuesday in the Church of St. Alexander in Farmington Hills. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

Manore, a community planner who worked for several communities, including Canton Township and Taylor, is survived by wife, Diane; daughter, Heather Hilton; son, Jason; and 6-month-old grandson, Joshua.

"He lived long enough to see his grandson; he was happy about that," said Linda Ahnert, Clarenceville trustee who served five years on the board with Manore.

Ahnert called Manore a mentor to new trustees elected to the board.

"That was his biggest thing — he was a mentor to new members.

He was there for me when I came on. His first thoughts always were for the kids, how something would affect the students. He put kids first, rather than administrative politics."

Since 1987, Manore served as executive director of community development for the city of Taylor. He previously had worked as a community planning consultant at Parkins, Rogers & Associates and as director of planning at Wade Trim & Associates.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University and a master's from Wayne State University.

Grant will aid teen mothers

The St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center of Farmington Hills has received a \$250,000 grant from the Skillman Foundation.

The foundation, founded in 1960 by Rose Skillman, is a private grant-making foundation with assets of \$300 million. The foundation makes grants in the areas of children, youth, basic human needs, community-wide collaborative efforts, culture and arts, and education.

The grant will fund the center's "Transitions" program for teen mothers and their babies for 1993. The program, initiated in January of 1992, will provide residential and support services to pregnant teens in need of a stable living situation to prevent homelessness. The program will also provide a temporary home, parenting instruction, counseling, medical care and nursing supervision for young mothers with babies who are born with medical problems.

Operated by the Daughters of Charity, the centers serves more than 200 children and their families on a daily basis.

City of Farmington Hills NAME THE PARK Contest

All residents and their families are invited to help the Department of Special Services name the newest addition to the city's park system. The recently purchased 85 acres (formerly known as the Sod Farm), located on Eight Mile Road between Halsted and Gill roads, will be developed into a sports and family recreation complex. Over the next couple of years, baseball, softball, soccer fields and court sports will be developed on this property. However, at this point this park needs a name and we want your ideas.

In 35 words or less, give us your suggested park name and a brief explanation supporting your idea.

Name of park:

Explanation:

Name of entrant:

Address:

Phone number:

ENTRY FACTS:

- Entrant must be a resident of Farmington Hills
- Enter as many times as you wish, but only one entry per form (copies of this form will be accepted)
- The winner will be announced March 8, 1993
- In case of duplicate winning entries, the first entry received by the Department of Special Services will be selected as the winner
- All entries must be received by 4:30 p.m. January 4, 1993
- The winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate to one of Farmington Hills' renowned restaurants and a \$50 certificate for any Farmington Hills recreation program

Send entries to:

Name the Park Contest
Dept. of Special Services
31555 W. 11 Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48338-1165

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HENREDON

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Elan dining room table.....	\$1944
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French Collection Dining table.....	\$1028
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James River Occasional Pieces.....	\$229 to \$887

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Henry Ford Collection Drop leaf dining table.....	\$1124
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