

Artist from page 1C

and was sent to labor camps in Germany, France and Czechoslovakia.

His wife, Emilia, said his work has been influenced by his experience in the war and by "man-kind itself." Their son, Tomasc, also interjected comments, in Polish, as his father spoke and Palmer translated.

Derbich has done paintings, mosaics, murals and stained glass windows for more than 50 churches in Poland. He has a wide range of artistic themes and media, including abstract composition, landscapes, portraits, murals and religious paintings.

His work has appeared in numerous exhibitions and one-man shows in Europe. Another exhibition of his work will be June 5-29 at Madonna University's library building, 36600 Schoolcraft in Livonia.

Hours will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. This will be his third exhibition in the U.S.

His abstract works often show gnarled hands and tormented faces. They depict allegorical features, full of rebellion, fear and terror. Derbich said his art also illustrates love.

One painting with birds surrounded by hands and faces, Derbich said, shows the contrast between the peace in nature which was created and the worries and uncertainty that man developed by trying to make an ordered world.

When asked about the inspiration behind another painting, Derbich said: "All my paintings have to speak for themselves. It's what you feel."

Some of his work may take one hour to complete. Some works take two years, with constant revisions

until Derbich feels that it's finally right.

The Derbichs moved to Farmington seven years ago to be near their daughter and her family, which includes her husband, David, and children Maria and Alexandra.

Talent seems to run in the Derbich blood. Derbich's mother was known for her realistic impressions of animals; Emilia painted for a while and has since quit. Emilia's children show artistic promise.

A diary that Derbich keeps includes daily recordings of what happened during the day. Each page has drawings, sketches or a clipped piece of art. Some pages hold doodles by his granddaughters, including an impressive ink likeness of Derbich.

It's hard to say exactly how much time he spends

on his work, but he estimates about six hours a day.

"If Farmington or Farmington Hills provided me with a studio, I would work 12 hours a day," he said, laughing.

His wife said some days Derbich doesn't talk much at all.

"Some days he's quiet and it's because he's working on something and he's thinking it through," said Emilia Derbich, who as a young woman was studying to sing and gave up her training when she married and had children.

"In the beginning, I thought he was mad, but then I realized it was his talent." When asked if his art fed his soul with a spirit and zest that he obviously has for life, he shook his head and said: "No, my wife."

ANNIVERSARIES

Patee

Walter and Doris Patee will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary later this month.

They were married May 27, 1944, in Bushnell Congregational Church in Detroit. They lived in Oak Park for 13 years; Farmington Hills for 21 years; Cheboygan for 10 years and Ocala, Fla., for four years.

Walter Patee served in the U.S. Air Force in 1942 and was stationed in Georgia, Texas and overseas.

Walter worked as a design engineer at Ford Motor and Doris worked as a paraprofessional at Oakland Schools and Farmington Public Schools.

To celebrate their 50th anniversary the Patees will take a trip to Seattle and Vancouver as well as a family weekend at Crystal Mountain.

They have a son, Kirk of Novi, and a daughter, Jill Rogers of Columbus, Mich. They also have four grandchildren, Laura and Kristen Patee and Keri and Erin Mann.

Hills house is considered for national register

The Royal Aldrich House, 31110 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Oakland County, will be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Michigan Historic Preservation Review Board.

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of properties that are deemed to be worthy of

preservation because of their importance in American history and culture.

Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our national heritage.

Listing in the National Register provides the following benefits to historic properties:

■ Recognition that a property is

of significance to the nation, the state, or the community.

■ Consideration in the planning for federal or federally assisted projects.

■ Eligibility for federal tax incentives and other preservation assistance.

Listing in the National Register does not interfere with a private property owner's right to al-

ter, manage, or dispose of property.

Listing does not mean that limitations will be placed on the properties by the federal or state governments. Public visitation rights are not required of owners. Neither the federal nor the state governments will attach restrictive covenants of the properties or

seek to acquire them.

Any comments and questions you may have concerning this nomination and the National Register program should be directed to: State Historic Preservation Office, Bureau of Michigan History, 717 W. Allegan Street, Lansing 48918-1800, phone, 517-335-2719.



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