

## 'American scene' art display set by Nichols

The Garret Studios and Gallery 3219 Farmington will hold the first of a series of one-artist shows with works by Alice Nichols of Farmington.

The exhibit opens Friday, March 26, with a 7:30 p.m. reception and continues through Saturday, April 10.

The reception and a second one, March 31, 1-4 p.m., are open to the public. The theme of Mrs. Nichols' show is "American Scene" and the 35 works on display were inspired by family vacations to the west coast, Midwest and far west. They are done in pen and ink, watercolor, mixed media, oil and acrylic.

A former public school art teacher now teaching at Oakland Community College, Mrs. Nichols has a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan and a master's degree from University of Michigan.

Her paintings have been in many art shows including the 1974 Hartland show, the 1975 Michigan State Fair exhibit and recent Palette and Brush and Farmington Artists Club shows.

She has had one woman shows at University-Liggett School and the West Bloomfield Orchard Mall.

Mrs. Nichols has won many awards local in the most recent of which have been in

the Farmington Artists Club art show. In 1972 she won a blue ribbon for watercolor, another blue for pen and ink and a best of show.

Mrs. Nichols and her husband Donald

have two sons, Kevin and Tim. She is business manager of the Garret Gallery, directs the senior citizen painting classes and the picture-lady program in elementary schools.



Alice Nichols frames and mats her paintings for her show which opens at the Garret Gallery Friday, March 26. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)



A trip to Wyoming stimulated Alice Nichols' interest in the buffalo. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## At annual ball

# Police reserves honor buddies

By RON GARIBINSKI

The Farmington Public Safety Department proclaimed last Friday recognition night.

It was a time to honor the 18 active public safety reserve officers who give their time and service freely to the community.

Honored was Mrs. Robert Houmaert, who patiently waited at home for almost two weeks while her husband spent 331 hours on road patrol duty during 1975.

Honored was Sgt. William Jenkins, who is retiring from the reserve and after 19 years of service. He was one of the original public safety reserves joining the department when it first began back in 1958.

Sgt. Jack Wilson, Robert Redore, Art Grass and John Slaters were presented special certificates of appreciation for their dedication over the past decade.

Since they are moving from the Farmington community they are leaving the reserve and their wives.

Every year the City of Farmington hosts an evening of dining and dancing for the reserves and their wives.

SINCE THE reserves are not paid for riding patrol or responding to emergencies the city decided in 1967 that an awards banquet would be the best way to reward them for their service to the people of Farmington.

This year's program, the ninth annual awards banquet, was at Vladimir's in Farmington Hills.

After dinner, Range Officer Norm Madden presented an award for the top reserve shooting expert of 1975 to Sgt. Bill Tracy.

Tracy was high scorer in the department as he marked 290 out of a possible 300 score.

The most impressive shooting award went to Lt. Gerald Vasko. Sharpshooter medals were presented to Robert Houmaert and Sgt. Charles Zimmerman.

Officer Madden also presented marksman medals to Donald Wolf, Kenneth Adler, Timothy Hinkle and Thomas Housman for their performance in the pistol range.

Director of Public Safety, Daniel Byrne, was on hand to present the five certificates of appreciation and police coordinator Sgt. John Santamaria, also Houmaert, his special service award.

The special service award was conferred several years ago and is given to the reserve who takes the most hours of patrol duty during the year.

SEVERAL YEARS ago, the department thought it was also should have the wife of this award winner because she is the one who gives up the most of her hours spent with her husband.

Several regular public safety officers and city officials, including City Manager Robert Headman and Mayor John Richardson, also attended the banquet.



Reserve Sgt. William Jenkins and his wife Jean admire the special certificate of appreciation he received from the Farmington Public Safety Department at the Ninth Annual Awards Banquet. Jenkins is retiring after serving 19 years on the reserve force. (Staff photo)

## Hot dog - 'Hot Fudge' show to hit national television

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Seamus, the greasy monster on WXYZ's Hot Fudge Show, owes his musical education to Dan Vessian of Dan Vessian Associates, Farmington.

The next time someone sings to the man, I see more when I talk to Seamus, it will be to Vessian's music on national television. The program goes into syndication April 1.

It means I can see more when I talk to a person with problems, too. Vessian, a Plymouth resident, explains. People learn to solve their own problems by talking to others.

A good children's show should entertain and teach them something. Vessian, the musical producer of Hot Fudge, says. It's a very difficult task. There's a line between entertainment and education. You either educate too much or entertain too much. It should be 50-50, he says.

Vessian, 31, has written songs for Seamus Street and the Electric Company. He has also written the background music for a locally produced feature cartoon, "The Gaffer."



DAN VESSIAN

TED POTER produced the "Crunch Bird" and "The Rubber."

Vessian met him by coincidence. This business is being in the right place at the right time. Talent comes next, he says.

With luck, he wrote a song for Seamus Street, which Vessian, who lived in Detroit, wanted to know if I wanted to take lessons, he remembers. He played some notes on a harmonica for me and asked me later if I could remember what note he was playing. I couldn't recognize any of them, but I took the lessons.

He studied clarinet and saxophone until he was 17.

The keyboard instruments just fell into place when I started composing.

When he was 18, he made his first attempts at songwriting.

You compose because you like it, he says. You should write as often as possible.

Of the 18 songs, he writes each week only one or two are considered good material.

You combine the bad ones with new ideas, he says. If you listen to music every day, you have to be careful not to copy. To copy isn't to be bad. You should alter it enough to call it your own without sounding like a liar in front of the public.

IN COMPOSING, my dad is Bert Bacharach, he says. Most of his songs are ballads in three-fourths or four-fourths time.

Cliff Fleeter, a song he wrote with sports announcer Ernie Harwell, was given by Harwell to Joe Fricano. It was recorded, but never released.

When Fleeter played a concert in Detroit, he sang Vessian's song. It was an ego trip for me, he says, proud of the memory.

Contemporary music can't junk, he says. It's maturing rapidly. Three chords met as played by Elvis was a little mediocre in terms of intelligent music.

I don't want to be a snob about this, he says. Disco music is more organized. It's more meaningful musically, melodically. At least, they're using five or six chords.

He hopes no one ever hears a song he wrote and drops it. They (one).

It was terrible. In fact, my barber cut my hair. He was a singer. I believed him without hearing him.

He installed both the barber and the song in a recording studio.

It was I that the barber sang so badly. The words were mediocre. The melody was kind of stupid. I don't want anyone ever to hear it again, he says.

IF THEY put it in my cassette, I'll be happy. I'll know no one will ever hear it again.

## C'ville plans career fair March 29

Claremont Junior High will hold its second annual career fair Monday, March 29, 7-9 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

The junior high is at 3270 Middle Belt north of Seven Mile.

Eleven student companies have been hard at work producing a variety of craft items. Visitors will be able to purchase handmade doghouses from the Damsel Factory, and ceramic necklaces from the Clay Products Co. Candies will be sold by the Whisker Wax Works along with many more handicraft items.

A nice girl like you  
likes a jumpsuit  
that's a little bare.  
And a lot of fun.

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## hudson's

