

Cher's baby rocking in a cradle of love

"Rock-a-bye-Baby, Rock-a-bye-Blue Your cradle is flying, flying to you From over the treetops your cradle will fall and soon you'll be rocking in a cradle and all."

Cher sings a lullaby to Baby Elijah Blue. Chastity looks on, gently rocking the little boy in his beautiful cradle. Daddy Gregg Allman is there, too, the whole family fascinated with the infant son and brother.

"I got to pick the wood for the cradle," Chastity will tell you proudly. "I'm a sister now." "And I got to make it." This from the artist who designed and executed the American Indian-Mexican cradle which superstar Cher uses for her infant son.

Timothy Korzon, 28, of Bloomfield Township made the cradle in the Franklin Country Workshop. Recently he took it aboard a plane and delivered it to Cher.

THE STORY began last February when Tim's wife, a singer who uses her maiden name, Sherry Fox in her professional life, went to Los Angeles to audition for a major record company.

Sherry and Tim didn't like Los Angeles at all. And still don't. They went out "reluctantly" but the opportunity for Sherry to audition for Eric Jacobson of Warner Brothers Records (among whose credits is

the Lovin' Spoonful) prompted the trip. Sherry auditioned and Jacobson found the singer he'd been seeking for a new group — Indigo. Their first record album will be out Sept. 15 with Sherry as the female lead singer.

While all this was going on, Tim had to find something to do. A master artist carpenter, he still didn't mind taking what work was available and found himself doing carpentry for Don Rickles, Jim Nabors, Herb Alpert and Gene Hackman, as well as Cher.

Cher, at this point, was within three weeks of expecting her new baby. "I had no way to reaching her," Tom says. "She was surrounded by her staff and her secretaries. I'd given them my designs for the cradle I'd thought of, and I presumed she'd seen them."

"It was only one day I was waiting in the kitchen to speak to one of the secretaries about the sketches, when Cher walked in, that I found out she'd not seen one of the sketches," Tim says.

"SHE LOOKED at the ones I'd brought. 'Who's that cradle for?' she asked. I replied, 'For your new baby.' That was the beginning of an hour-long discussion which led to Cher's giving Tim a check and a commission to make the cradle."

They looked over hundreds of different kinds of wood. Chastity got

to pick. Her first choice, Brazilian rosewood, was so expensive that it had to be overruled. The second, black walnut, it just one of the 100 pieces of wood laminated in the cradle with a natural oil finish. It took 160 broad feet of wood to fashion the cradle, and 500 hours of work went into the effort.

Tim, with characteristic modesty, gives credit to the friends at Franklin Country Workshop who gave him both space to work and actual hours of help.

"The guys were really wonderful," Tim says. "David Rybicki, Michael Hagge and Nick Kulich couldn't have been more helpful. The effort to finish the cradle in less than a month's time was something else. They sanded and rubbed for me when I was doing other things and helped in every way possible."

Mrs. Lang heads Beaumont benefit

Mrs. Samuel Lang of Bloomfield Hills has been named honorary chairwoman of a fundraising drive to help finance the new multi-million dollar William Beaumont Hospital-Troy, scheduled to open the middle of next year.

A benefit concert will feature pianist Roger Williams, TV personality Frank Blair and the Max Davy Sextet and Orchestra. It will be Sept. 18 in the Baldwin Pavilion at Oakland University in Rochester.

Mr. and Mrs. Max Davy and their Concert Series, Inc. of Farmington Hills, is co-sponsoring the benefit.

Committee members, including members of the staff and trustees of William Beaumont Hospital, and the Troy Jaycees, met recently in Mrs. Lang's home.

REPRESENTING the hospital are Richard C. Gerstenberg, chairman of the hospital board of trustees development committee; John B. Poole, trustee; and Kenneth E. Myers, hospital director.

Also, Kenneth J. Matzlik, assistant hospital director; Bayard F. Lawes, audio visual director; William E. Brian, director of the hospital development office; and Carol Williams, assistant development director.

Troy Jaycees and their wives working on the fundraiser are under co-chairmen Douglas Krucz and Art Abbot.

Members and wives on the committee include Dick Augustyn, Greg Merrill, Terry Social, Mary Anne Soberg, Bill Balesy, Bill Cryderman, Ann Cruce and Joe Verryser.

The William Beaumont hospital guid and doctors' wives are also helping to plan and stage the benefit.

MRS. LANG's late husband, Samuel Lang, served for many years on the Beaumont Hospital Board of Trustees.

During August and September a series of teas and coffees, highlighted by fashion shows, will be held to promote the benefit. Tickets for the Sept. 18 event may be purchased at the Beaumont cashier's office in Royal Oak. Tickets for lawn seats are \$5. Reserved pavilion seats are going for \$12.50, \$25 and \$50 per person.

William Beaumont-Troy is being built in the northeast corner of the city on Daquandre south of South Boulevard. It will be a 250 bed, general care hospital, six floors high, located on a 46 acre site.

TIM SPENT hours in the library researching all kinds of Indian books to come up with the proper mood for the design of the cradle.

Just as it was finished, Elijah Blue was born. If the baby had been a girl, Skye Blue would have been her name, as Cher was determined to have "Blue" in the baby's name.

Cher, married in 1964 to Sonny Bono, was divorced from him Oct. 27, 1973, and married Gregg Allman June 30, 1975. While their marriage has had many turbulent periods, Gregg has been at her side since the birth of their son.

Tim has already put a high chair for Elijah Blue on the drawing board and made a model which was given to Cher by many of her friends at a baby shower. Cher loves it. It will go with the cradle.

It will be part of a whole new concept which Tim foresees for the young Korzons.

SHERRY'S FUTURE rests on the Indigo record which will be out in six weeks. Tim sees his future in his art.

"I only design for people I like."

Tim will tell you, "If I feel good about the people, I want to make furniture they want and will love to live with."

Tim anticipates a great deal of traveling as Sherry sings with Indigo and he takes commissions on designing furniture.

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