

Graphics, just for the love of it

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

The custom-made graphics that are now being featured in Pictures Galore & More, some sober, some whimsical, but all personalized, are the work of Ed Gandolfo.

"The gallery is my only outlet now," Gandolfo said of downtown Farmington's showcase for area artists that is on the southwest corner of Grand River and Farmington Road. "Because my work is all made-to-order I can't sell a thing at the art shows; all I can do is take orders."

Even so, being a part of Farmington Community Center's juried show this spring kept the designer busy filling orders for two weeks.

"Every one of them is a challenge," he said of the orders that ask for letters which spell out names woven into the shape of a hobby, a profession or a special interest of the individual.

"I had one request to do a turtle and I never did find out the significance of that one," he said.

"The most requests I've had is for soccer players because that is such a popular sport in Farmington now. But even for those, no two is ever alike. I don't carry a standard truck or doctor or animal that is just stamped out and filled in with a name."

THE SALESMAN for a fabrication company in Plymouth says he is doing exactly the amount of art work now that he has any desire to do, and he will never make it a full-time profession.

"It's relaxation for me. It's creative. It's a challenge and enjoyment."

"I worked in a graphic design house once on a commission basis after a layoff and that lasted seven months, just until I got another job. That was work. That was labor. This is pure enjoyment with no life-or-death deadlines, no overhead, just the love of it without any hassle," he said.

Gandolfo started putting shapes and letters together when he was asked to do the graphic art for electric control panels by the company he worked for 15 years ago.

That led to doing brochures, some photography, business cards and logos. That in turn led to graphics he would give as gifts to relatives and friends.

"Then they started telling me what they wanted for the next birthday or anniversary," he said.

"Now between the house warmings and the new babies and the graduations, I think everybody I know has a graphic of mine hanging in their home."

ONE OF THE graphics Gandolfo designed in the meantime was the logo for Alfa-Graphics, when he decided to

form his own business for the order-taking.

Because the name is taken from the words "alphabet" and "graphics," he says his 4-year-old twins have been known to substitute the name of his company for the word "alphabet."

"They are somewhat as I once was, preferring the straight draftsman-like lines, drawing the mechanical things. I never did have a desire to draw trees or flowers, but I find I'm loosening up a bit with the people and animals I'm doing now."

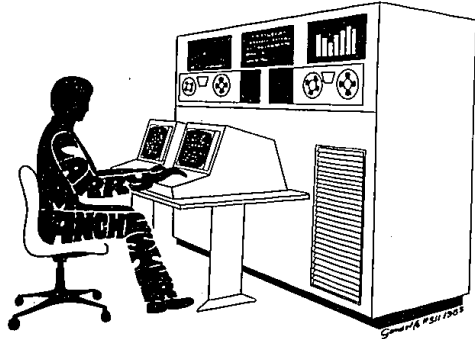
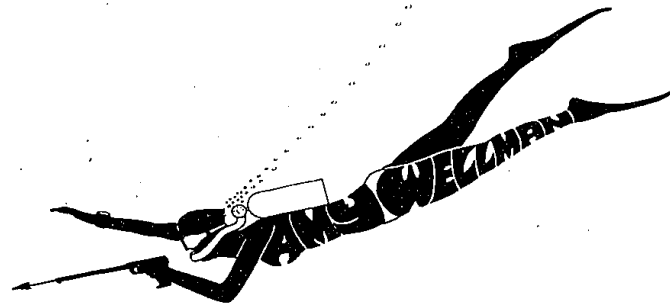
"Maybe that comes with the experience I've gotten for taking on those challenges of drawing a dancer or a swimmer or a backpacker."

"There just seems to be no end of the requests. That's what makes it the enjoyment it is," he said.

Gandolfo's work is done black on white, or black on any color of the client's choice, and can be purchased framed or unframed.



Ed Gandolfo



Katcher Family slates Aug. 27-28 reunion

Descendants of the Katcher family who lived in the Russian Ukrainian town of Pogrebische many years ago will reunite at a Southfield hotel on Aug. 27-28.

Approximately 150 of these descendants, who now bear about 27 various surnames will gather at the Sheraton-Southfield Hotel for a weekend of nostalgia, socializing about their heritage, their roots, and their memories.

Included in the planned events for the weekend are a banquet, dance and a picnic at David Shepherd Park in Oak Park.

Participants will come from Montreal, Winnipeg, Toronto and Windsor, Canada; from Virginia, Massachusetts, Florida, Illinois, New York, and California; and from Washington, Cleveland, Bay City, Marshall and Ann Arbor.

From the immediate communities, family members will come from Southfield, Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield, Farmington, Oak Park, Franklin Village, Farmington Hills, and Birmingham.

Included on the committee who have planned the event for more than a year are: Sylvia Efrusy, Baruch and Sola Rosenber, Leo Rockkind, Carol Sala-

zenstein and Molly Weston of Southfield.

Also: Irv and Nettle Katcher, Larry Krohn and Mac and Ruth Waxer of Oak Park; Elaine Feinman of West Bloomfield Township; Lynne Buck of Grosse Pointe Shores; Jack Efrusy of Harper Woods; and Debbie Reeck of Taylor.

For more information call Molly Weston at 353-5680.

Orchids and Onions nominations sought

The second annual Orchids and Onions community service program officially kicks off this week with nominations sought from the public. Orchids and Onions, sponsored by the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), solicits public feedback via balloting on local architecture and design, awarding those projects cited with either an Orchid or an Onion.

C. Welborens mark 65th

Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Welborens, residents of Farmington Place, will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary Aug. 29.

The couple have five daughters, 15 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

The purpose of the awards program is to encourage public awareness of the environment in the tri-county area including both good and bad examples of architecture, landscaping, signs and interior design.

An Orchid is a project that exemplifies quality, good taste and design excellence. An Onion might be cited for lack of landscaping or insensitive use of our natural resources.

The event is being sponsored by ASID with the support of Michigan Council for the Arts and Designers Lighting Forum.

"Last year's response to Orchids and Onions was tremendous," said Julie Baba, ASID program co-chairman. "The public was given an opportunity to register their complaints against unsightliness, and they did. They also overwhelmingly voted in the interest of

preserving the area's landmark structures."

Among the Orchid winners, five were cited for historic preservation: Mackenzie House, Northville's Mill Race Village, New Center Commons, a Woodbridge carriage house restored by an architectural firm, and Silver's headquarters.

THE JURY will be composed of Louis Cook, Detroit Free Press; Karl Greimel, dean of the School of Architecture, Lawrence Institute of Technology; Gerald Peters from ASID; Daniel Shahan, president, Albert Kahn Associates Inc.; Stephen Squillace, Illuminating Engineering Society; Caroline Torley, ASID; Leo Hanson, vice president and general manager, WQRS-FM; and Hal Youngblood, producer, WJR-AM. The jury will review the nominations submitted, and the winners will be an-

nounced at an awards brunch, Sept. 24 in Savoyard Club.

Voting categories include historic preservation, graphic design and signs, landscape design, environmental planning, energy conservation and interior design in public buildings.

Ballots will be available through Labor Day, Sept. 5 (the nomination deadline) at Birmingham Community House, Birmingham Public Library, Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit Public Library, Emily's, Jewish Community Center, Lawrence Institute of Technology, Southfield Public Library.

Or, those interested may submit their nomination by letter, indicating the reason the nomination deserves an Orchid or an Onion and the nomination category.

Letters should be mailed to: Orchids and Onions, 29145 Telegraph Road, Southfield 48034.

The Pontiac Professional Photographers Association's
PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW
August 22 — September 5

FEATURING ...

- Richard Frye
- Clyde R. Haskill
- Lyn Jolley
- LaZaroff Studios

SPECIAL EXHIBITS ...

- Detroit Professional Photographers Association
- 1982 Kodak Scholastic Award Winners
- Professional Photographers of America

Telegraph & Elizabeth Lake Roads
Waterford Township
Daily 10-9, Sundays Noon-5

pontiac mall