

# Suburban Life

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## Hill Billy Snap Shooter

### Joe Clark gallery of prints dedicated in Buggy Works

A gallery of the works of Joe Clark, better known as the Hill Billy Snap Shooter and winner of Farmington-Farmington Hills Artist-in-Residence Award in 1976, has been dedicated in Buggy Works Restaurant on Orchard Lake and 13 Mile Road.

Clark acquired his Hill Billy Snap Shooter trademark and title from his roots and his photos and poetry on rural Tennessee life.

He is probably best known for the collection of rural photographs used in Jack Daniels advertisements, but his work has also hung in the Smithsonian Institute of Art and has been published

in Life, National Geographic, Time and Newsweek.

Now in his 80s, he resides with his wife, Bernice, and son Junebug on three acres in Farmington Hills. The family also owns a farm in Cumberland Gap, Tenn., with a garden that produces poke salet and Tennessee beans.

"I could never give up my salet, beans, cornpone and possum gravy," Clark says, with his southern drawl.

His feelings about possum are summed up in one of his books, "Everybody loves a good possum dinner, but the possum."

CLARK WAS born in Cumberland Gap, population 81, and raised with nine sisters and brothers in a log cabin which enabled the inhabitants "to see the stars at night through the roof," he said.

Much of his philosophy reflects this heritage and literally thousands of his published photographs document a vanishing way of life in the hills.

Clark left his mountain home during the '30s to seek work in Detroit. On the job as a night watchman for a large department store, he entertained fellow workers with stories about his hometown; tales that the city folk enjoyed but found hard to believe.

The changing point of Clark's life came when those fellow workers gave him a \$12 "folding box" camera just prior to a trip back home and asked in return for visual proof of his stories.

The visual proof he brought back

were snapshots of a hillbilly mountain funeral in a mist rain that were sold to Life Magazine and used as a 14-picture spread.

Meanwhile, with but a fifth-grade formal education, Clark was teaching himself to read and write through a correspondence course.

He did his homework by writing letters full of homespun philosophy that were ultimately published in a Detroit newspaper, and those letters led to correspondence, and then romance and marriage to Bernice Krent.

Today Bernice Clark, with tutelage from her husband, is a recognized photographer in her own right.

A photo taken by Junebug Clark, when he was six, was published in the book "The 200 Best Pictures in the First 20 Years of LOOK."

THE RECURRING theme of Clark's photographs is the lives of people, their joys and tribulations, seen in a simple and direct manner. Many are award winners, and many have been called "memorable" or "historic."

Conventional assignments have called for creating portraits of business and industry leaders, which included Henry Ford and Lee Iacocca.

The gallery in Buggy Works contains 13 original signed prints and accompanying poetry of life in the Tennessee hills, some of which have been published in one of Clark's many books.

The Buggy Works is actually a perfect home for the gallery. Entering through a turn-of-the-century street of shops, the restaurant is filled with authentic early American decor collected by its owner Don Payne.

"Diners," Payne says, "can call for reservations and ask to be seated in the Joe Clark Room."

Reservations are made by calling 533-9900.



A mural print of the Joe Clark photo "Baptizing in Olds Towne Creek," shot in Cumberland Gap, Tenn., in 1938, was exhibited in Smithsonian Institute from March 1982 through March 1983.



Joe Clark



"We didn't fight germs when I was a kid. We often . . . alive," Joe Clark writes under this photo called "The Community Dipper."



The caption under the photo called "Aunt Tilda" (at far left) reads: "If there is anything you want, just ask for it and we can show you how to get along without it." The caption under the photo called "The American Worker" (at near left) reads: "I ain't doin' quite as well as I expected, but then I never really expected I would."

## Items are gathered for the auction block

Friends of Farmington Community Center are gathering up items now that will go up for auction Friday, April 26.

The annual event, one of the center's major fund-raisers, begins at 7:30 p.m. when almost every room in the building is filled with items for the silent auction that continues through the evening.

At 9:30 p.m. Charles Kinsey of Charles Kinsey & Associates will wield the gavel for the live auction. Wine and hors d'oeuvres are served throughout the evening which winds up with coffee, refreshments and a door prize.

Among the gifts and services already donated slated for the silent auction are dinner for two at 220 Merrill Street, cross country skis donated by Benchmark, tickets to the Fisher Theatre and various video club memberships.

Some of the items going on the auction block are a hot air balloon ride donated by Eagle's Nest Balloon Rides, lunch with Ernie Harwell, a champagne flight for two over Detroit donated by Tradewinds Aviation, dinner for two at Win Shuler's in Marshall which includes a round-trip flight in a private plane donated by Sky Trak Aviation and a weekend overnight package for two at the Sheraton Oaks in Novi.

The volunteer auction committee continues to accept gifts through Monday, April 21, by calling the center, 477-9404.

Advance tickets are available now in the center, 24708 Farmington Road, for \$3, or \$5 per couple. They can also be purchased at the door.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Among the items going up for auction Friday, April 26, an unusually high number of them are hand created. Needlework, high quality craft pieces and art works have come in large number from the instructors who work in Farmington Community Center for the silent or live auctions that have become the center's major fund-raiser of the year. Auction committee heads Flo Kaston

(at left) Penny Sage, Marge Sartini and Gloria Walpa have amassed about 200 items that will be spread throughout the building for the silent auction, or go on the auction block. Advance tickets are still available in the center. Because of the limited number the house can hold, it is very unlikely that tickets will be available at the door.

## Youth plays pops

Metropolitan Youth Symphony presents its Spring Pops Concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20 in Southfield High School auditorium, on Lahser and 10 Mile Road which will round up the season. Formed three years ago in Southfield, the symphony now boasts 236 members hailing from 40 surrounding communities.

A special feature of the evening will be the presentation of \$1,500 in merit scholarships, one of which will go to Howard Collins, a trombonist from Farmington Hills.

Musicians, grouped into three orchestras according to age and proficiency are led by Alan MacNair, Douglas Bianchi and Judith Culler.

The playbill lists Mancini's Pink Panther, McCartney's Ebony and Ivory, Williams' Highlights From Evita, and Chabrier's Espana.

Concert tickets will be available at the door for \$3.

Persons interested in learning about the symphony's 1985-86 auditions are invited to call Sharon Zamczyk, 477-2894, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

## Business and ethics is conference topic

A "Business and Ethics" conference will be hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 20 in the church, 26185 Farmington Road. Registration at the door will be followed by the conference in the fellowship hall that will run until 12:30 p.m.

The six-member panel will consist of Jack Padgett of Albion College philosophy department; Fran Cikalo, national sales director of Mary Kay Cosmetics; Steve Barnaby, editor of the Farmington

Observer; Kathy Carrick, assistant vice president of Michigan Bell; Connie Jaiswal from Burroughs World Headquarters; and William Fish from School of Human and Education Services, Oakland University.

There will be two recesses when the panel members will be available for individual discussions, plus an hour for questions and comments from the audience.

The \$3 registration fee, payable at the door, includes coffee, tea and doughnuts.