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Pan flute dates to dawn of time

When the sound of the pan flute floats through the pavilion and out over the hill at Meadow Brook Saturday evening, it will be an echo in time. The pan flute or the flute of pan dates back 6,000 years — one of the oldest known musical instruments.

Gheorghe Zamfir, pan flute virtuoso, born outside of Bucharest, Romania in 1941, son of a vineyard owner, will bring four pan flutes with him for his appearance with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, each capable of playing 20 octaves. Not only does he make them himself from the finest Chinese and Japanese bamboo, but he composes and arranges for them as well. He has expanded on the traditional 20-tube version, his now contain 22, 25, 28 and 30 tubes.

In his lifetime he has gone from a little boy guarding goats in the Romanian hills to an internationally acclaimed artist with 33 platinum records to his credit.

And even through his musical talent was recognized early on, he has worked very hard to perfect his many musical skills. At 13 he learned to play the accordion and after pleading with his father, was enrolled in the local music school at 14. But, there was no one to teach him accordion, so he was admitted to the pan pipes class.

He graduated from the Bucharest Conservatory after studying harmony, counterpoint and piano. Later he specialized in music education and



Pan flute virtuoso Zamfir says his instrument dates back 6,000 years and is the oldest instrument in the world.

was conducting Mozart and Beethoven for orchestra. He also studied voice and spent 12 years in a Romanian opera chorus and developed a liking for Verdi and Puccini. At one time he was conductor of a 350-member Romanian folk ensemble, later a much smaller one. He still has students in Paris and Switzerland, has a home in Paris and another outside of Montreal.

Zamfir's repertoire ranges from Mozart, Debussy, Ravel and Stravinsky to Romanian and other types of folk music, pop, jazz and disco. For concert information, call 377-2010.



Troy needlepointers William Beeler, left, and Arlon Quigley met for the first time in Jacobson's needlework department. They soon found that in addition to sharing a window display of their

outstanding needlepoint, they share an interest in golf and community activities.

Needlepoint Retirees find it fun, challenging

By Corinne Abelt
staff writer

TROY RETIREES Arlon Quigley and William Beeler say needlepointing is an interesting, productive way to pass time. Neither falls into an explanation of muse-induced inspiration or unsatisfied, creative longings. Both matter-of-factly say they saw people doing it and decided it didn't look that hard.

Needlepoint pieces by these two relative newcomers to the craft fill a display window in the little lobby at the back parking lot entrance to Jacobson's Home Furnishings store in Birmingham.

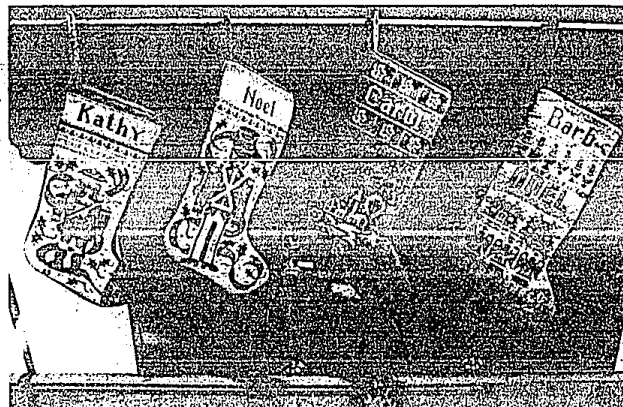
It's part of the month-long Customer Exhibit in the needlework department on the lower level of the store. Other needlepointers who are or were clients are: Dr. Robert Brownlee of Wisconsin, who still orders his supplies from there and has his canvases framed there; and Dr. Benjamin Grundfest of New York, regarded as the department's "pro" stitcher who likes to do advanced "trophy" pieces.

This isn't meant to take anything away from these local guys who can hold their own with the rest of the pack nicely, thank you.

Beeler, who was an automotive engineer with Ford Motor Company, said he started 1½ years ago. "I just thought there was nothing to it. My mother-in-law and my wife's aunt needlepoint and when I watched them I said, 'I can do that.'"

He started with six inch squares, a cardinal and a unicorn, that he bought at Frank's. He recommends that for beginners. They're easy and they go quickly. Since January he's finished three of the four Christmas stockings he's making for his daughters.

"The stockings (canvases) didn't have names, I put all the names in. They're gonna be for my daughters — they don't know it yet," he said with a wry smile. He added, "I do



William Beeler made distinctly different Christmas stockings for his four daughters. He put the names in without benefit of pattern of instructions and said it wasn't hard.

wood working. I make my own frames. It's not difficult. I just bought a book and that's it." As to whether he was thinking about making Christmas stockings for his seven grandchildren, he smiled and said, "I'm not taking that order — yet."

Quigley, former counselor at Clara Barton Junior High in Royal Oak, said he has no idea how long it took him to do the 14-piece manger scene. "I always have several things going at the same time." He remembered asking his wife about 12 years ago if it was hard to do. "She said no, it's easy. I went out and got a kit. I never look inquisitive."

He said that he spent a lot of time in doctors' waiting rooms be-

fore his wife died and said, "While I was sitting there I'd pull it out. When I fly, I take it on a plane. I can't read on a plane, but I can do needlepoint."

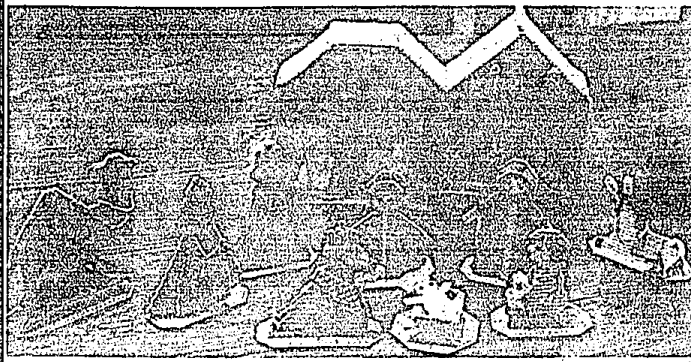
He likes to do pictures, particularly frame, canvases with the picture in yarn. (which still has to be covered) rather than printed or painted on.

The men hadn't met before they arrived at Jacobson's to talk about their work although both play in the senior men's golf league in Troy. Almost immediately they

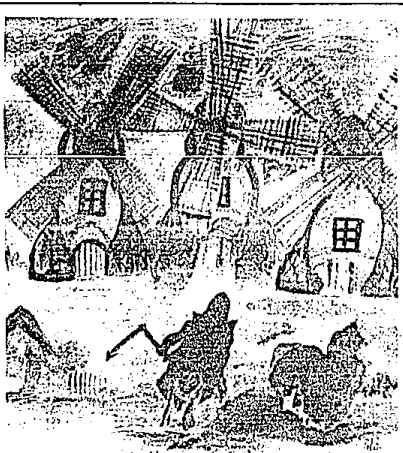
were discussing stitches and asking each other questions about particular pieces and the techniques and yarns used.

Quigley said lots of people see him doing needlepoint, since he works on it in airports and waiting rooms — whenever he knows he's going to be sitting idly for a period of time. Women will frequently comment on his work and how unusual it is to see a man needlepointing. Seldom if ever does a man broach the subject with him.

Staff photos by Jerry Zolnysky



Arlon Quigley is just now finishing the angel for the top of the stable. Then his manger scene will be complete. It is done in shades of yellow, gold, blue and other colors. There are two chickens in the loft of the stable.



JERRY ZOLNYSKY/staff photographer

Plymouth celebrates art

Among the 215 artists and craftsmen featured in the 9th annual Art in the Park in Plymouth Saturday and Sunday will be Pierre LeClerc of Bloomfield Hills. Businessman as well as artist and published author, LeClerc draws from a strong background in music and literature for his inspiration. Above is a scene from "Don Quixote" and below is one from "Madame Butterfly." He works in water color and Magic Marker. The show, in Kellogg Park in the downtown area, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

