

Farrell to discuss Manoogian exhibit

One of this area's charismatic speakers on art history, Michael Farrell, will highlight the Cranbrook P.M. lecture series with a discussion of American Art and the exciting Manoogian exhibit scheduled to open in March at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

The series at Cranbrook House Library will be 8 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 26 through March 12.

As a complement to the lectures, Farrell will lead a tour of the Manoogian Collection at the D.I.A.

on Sunday, April 1. Reservations for the tour are limited and may be secured through the Cranbrook P.M. office.

Starting from Colonial times through the Jacksonian Era, the Civil War and finally the Centennial Exposition, the American perspective will evolve through the paintings of artists such as Smibert, Copley, Peale, Stuart, Cole, Harnett, Eakins and Innes.

For information call Cranbrook P.M., 645-3635.

Some orchids can be houseplants

Orchids, orchids, orchids! They grow on trees in the Amazon and they grow in the Arctic Circle. In fact, probably 35,000 species of orchids are in the world, ranging from less than one inch to more than 10 feet tall, blooming at various times of the year.

To survive, these lovely plants may attach themselves to other plants, such as trees, for support or even grow in subterranean areas. In the Middle Ages and before, orchids were believed to be helpful for sexual problems. Today the most important orchid (*Vanilla planifolia*) produces vanilla, and what would we do without that flavoring?

THE GREEK philosopher Theophrastus, who lived around 300 B.C., first called this family of plants orchids.

Because of the doctrine of signatures (meaning that if the plant looked like a part of the body, it probably was in some way connected with it for healing or other purposes), the orchids tubers were associated with fertility and virility. As the years went by, this myth was perpetuated.

In the Western Hemisphere, the first reference to orchids was in an Aztec herbal of 1552. Then in the 18th century, the Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus classified many plants, including orchids, that he placed in the genus *Epipendrum*. The family is now *Orchidaceae*.

In China and Japan, orchids were grown for their fragrance and were often depicted in art.

ABOUT 1750, interest in orchids began in Europe, when trading increased and orchids were brought from the Bahamas and the West Indies (especially Jamaica). Sailors often brought these exotic

down to earth

Marty Figley



MARTY FIGLEY

This *Cattleya* Hybrid White Fall, was filled with lovely white blooms last October.

plants into the country and reported that they grew in trees. This started the thought that they were parasites, which is erroneous. Even Captain William Bligh sailed again (after the mutiny) to the South Pacific and returned with 15 orchids.

Soon other countries were conducting orchid expeditions, with England leading the way. Eventually John Lindley, a professor of botany and secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society, started modern orchidology as we know it today.

Most orchids grown as houseplants have a pseudobulb, which acts as a storehouse of nutrients and water. Some grow with their roots in the

ground, while others, as mentioned before, have roots that cling to objects above the ground.

A MYTH persisted for years that these exotic plants were difficult to grow in the home. But now we have learned that they can, and are, being grown by many enthusiasts and their popularity is increasing.

Hybridizers are constantly working to bring new species to the grower, ones that can more easily adapt to various temperatures.

Some orchids are propagated by tissue culture, called meristemming. In fact, I have a Black Jewel Orchid (*Ludisia laevis*) that was dis-

covered by this method. I'm anxiously waiting for the first bloom.

Adequate water and nutrients will ensure successful orchids in the home, when temperatures are 74 degrees by day and 63-68 degrees at night. Humidity should be 20-50 percent, and air circulation is a must. Bright light is needed for many, but some prefer a less bright area (avoid western exposure), and generally are grown in the steamed bark of the Douglas fir tree. Fertilizer ratios depend on the size of the pot and the time of year.

THIS INFORMATION came from "The World Wildlife Fund Book of Orchids" by Jack Kramer (Abeville Press, \$65 hardcover). It is a very interesting reading that it is hard to put down.

In addition to the information, 212 full-color photographs fill more than half of this coffee table book. Each is accompanied by historical information.

"Many of the orchids photographed for this book were from my own collection gathered over a period of 15 years in Chicago, Ill., and Marin County, Calif.," Kramer wrote.

"The plants were grown in a garden room in average home conditions and my former shop (The Garden District) in the Napa Valley."

So, it can be done. The World Wildlife Fund is concerned about the diminishing supply of orchids in the wild. That problem is also addressed.

I'll be talking about herbs and books at 1 p.m. Friday at the Bloomfield Township Library, in connection with a photographic display of the gardens at Cranbrook. You are invited.

Celebrating gardens

Cranbrook Gardens Auxiliary is presenting "Photographs in the Gardens" Feb. 16-22 at the Bloomfield Township Library, Lone Pine at Telegraph, Bloomfield Township.

The works in the exhibition include the 1989 photography contest entries along with a display of bridal photographs, volunteers at work in the gardens, and archival pictures of the history of the former estate gardens of George and Ellen Scripps Booth.

There will be a series of events in

conjunction with the exhibit: 7-9 p.m. Thursday, opening; 1 p.m. Friday, "Herbs and Garden Crafts," Marty Figley; 1 p.m. Saturday, book talks; 2 p.m. Sunday, "Art in the Garden," Betty Frankel; 7:30 p.m. Monday, "Gardens of the Riviera," Allison Jones; 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, "Photographing Wildflowers," James Wells; 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, "Cranbrook Gardens Four Seasons," Ralph Mize; and 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, "The Booths and Their Gardens," Mark Cole.

To register, call 645-3149.

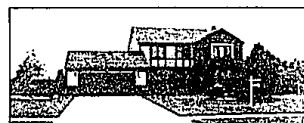
Poetry readings slated

The second program in the Up-ton Poetry Series will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Marcotte Room of the Southfield Public Library, 26000 Evergreen, Southfield.

Poets Henrietta Epstein and Mi-

chael Laughlin will read from their work and will be available for book signings after the readings. For information, call the Poetry Resource Center, 972-5580, or the Southfield Library, 354-9100.

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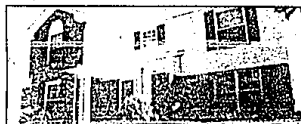
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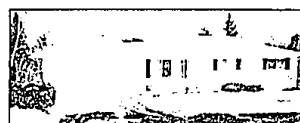
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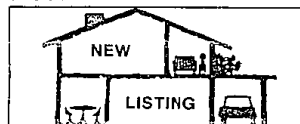
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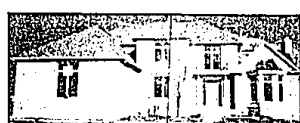
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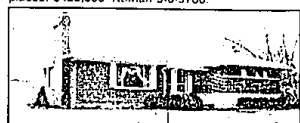
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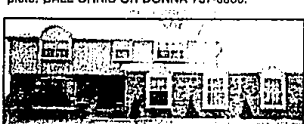
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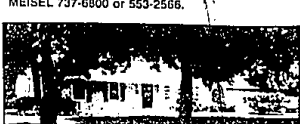
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