

Creative Living

CLASSIFIED REAL ESTATE



Marie McGee editor/591-2300

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(F11)

Washington would have slept here

By Louise Okrutsky
special writer

JERRY AND JUDY KAHLER faced a dilemma many avid collectors would like to have. Their accumulation of antique furniture and George Washington memorabilia had grown too large for their Birmingham home.

Instead of whitening down the collection, the Kahlers added to the house, a colonial built in the mid-1930s.

"I needed more wall space for my collection," he said. His 15-year collection of Washington memorabilia began as a general interest in colonial America and blossomed into an avocation. It manifests itself in the many engravings and prints of Washington and his family members which hang on the walls.

The gem of his collection is an easel featuring a soft sculpture of Washington in full profile. About the right size to be placed to a shoulder, it was worn at one of the many public funerals which marked Washington's death. It's been museum verified as authentic.

Kahler's story of finding it in an antique shop is the sort of tale collectors love and dealers dread.

"The dealer I bought it from knew it was old," he said. "But after I bought it I told him what it was."

His collection complements the couple's 18th century antique and reproduction furniture. The Kahlers wanted any addition to their traditional home to blend in with the original structure.

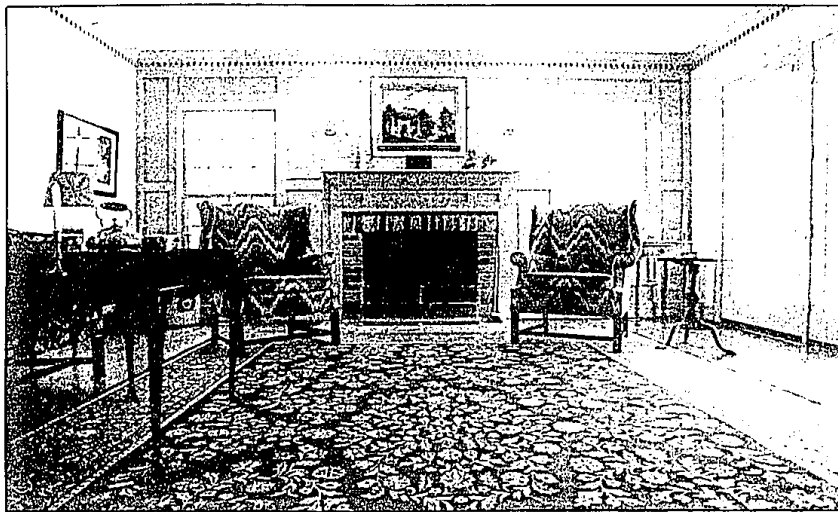
THE ADDITION BLENDS seamlessly with the original house. Planned in collaboration with Kellett Construction Company and architect Lawrence Hornbeck, both of Bloomfield Hills, the addition was begun last July and finished shortly before Christmas.

It adds 1,202 square feet to the L-shaped house. The new family and master bedroom above it are built on the site of the house's original garage.

Working with Dave Kellett Jr., vice-president of construction, Jerry Kahler designed the raised paneled wall behind the fireplace in the new family room. Thirteen panels in the wall represent the original 13 colonies according to Kahler.

The couple knew what they wanted. Ideas for the house had been honed on the family's annual outings to Williamsburg and Washington's home, Mt. Vernon.

The mantel and the dentil mold-



The mantel wall of the new family room has 13 panels, symbols of the 13 original colonies.

ings are other examples of designs done on site by Kellett. Linking the family room to the older part of the house is an adjoining octagonal-shaped morning room. An eight-sided carpet is being specially made for it.

"The room was designed around an old Ohio corner cabinet which dominates the area. It's filled to overflowing with Judy Kahler's collection of antique crocks. "When I first started collecting them they were inexpensive," she says. "They got expensive. Now I collect snuff boxes."

Her collections of rose medallion

china and snuff boxes are in evidence on tables throughout the house. She and her husband share an enthusiasm for the 18th century antiques.

"I really love wood furniture. It's awfully hard to walk past a piece of mahogany," she said.

YET THEY ALLOW their house to be a home instead of a museum. Upstairs, it's easy to surmise that their daughter, Holly, 14, has taken over the old master bedroom. Its period wallpaper is almost obscured by her collection of Detroit Platoon posters. The Country Day School student is a basketball fan.

"I put up with the antique stuff," she says, smiling.

In the airy new master bedroom suite, the couple's bed is a reproduction of a Charleston rice bed, so called because the carvings on the bedstead resemble rice. Over the bed is a portrait of Martha Washington. On the bed is a coverlet with the date 1838 woven into it. "It was made in Germantown, Ohio but my nephew found it in Pennsylvania," she said. "It was woven by Peter Loring, whose work is well known. His shop was across the street from the church we were married in."

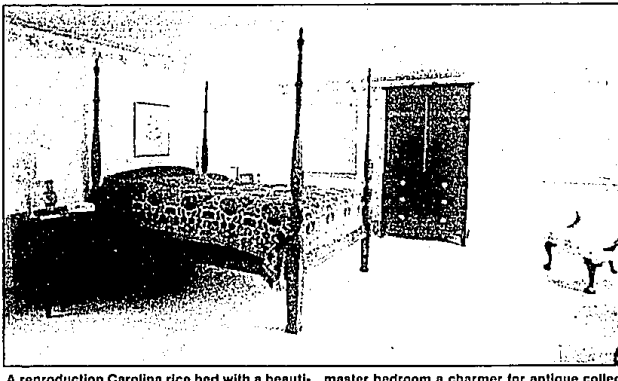
Staff photos by Blake Discher

WHILE THEY ENLARGED their house, they also refurbished the kitchen. New cabinets, a wide plank wooden floor and white ceramic counter tops were installed. Although their tastes are rooted in the 18th century, their home's ready for the 21st.

"They've updated it for the '90s," Kellert said. "It can stand the test of time for 30-40 years."



The octagonal morning room in the new addition has a pleasant view of the family room as well as of the outdoors.



A reproduction Carolina rice bed with a beautiful blue and white Ohio coverlet, 18th century torse, comode and English highboy make the new master bedroom a charmer for antique collectors.

Schoolcraft program highlights antiques

"Treasures from Yesterday," a five-part program series on antiques, will be 7-9 p.m. Thursdays starting March 29 at Schoolcraft College, Livonia.

The programs will focus on antique furniture, works of art, silver, china and objets d'art, jewelry and gemstones and American toys and dolls.

Instructors will share information on antique treasures that may be stored in the attic or basement, or waiting to be identified as valuable.

Fee for the series is \$54 (including registration cost), or \$10 per individual program (plus \$4 registration fee). For registration information, call Schoolcraft College Continuing Education Services, 462-4448.

SESSION ONE March 29 will feature James R. Krol, graduate gemologist of the Gemological Institute of America and the Canadian Gemological Association, and a Fellow of the Gemological Association of Great Britain.

"Jewelry and Gemstones" will be the subject of Krol's session. He will speak about the four C's of the business: carat weight, color, clarity and cutting.

Krol will discuss antique and period pieces of jewelry, including precious and semi-precious gemstones.

SESSION TWO, April 5, will bring appraiser Barbara Book to the classroom to discuss "American Toys and Dolls."

Book is a member of the International Society of Appraisers and the International Society of Fine Arts Appraisers Ltd.

Her prized antique toy collection includes a complete, rare Schoenbut circus, tent and several glass-eyed animals, circa 1918. Her doll collection includes Lenchi, Kathy Kruse and German bisque.

The next three sessions will feature appraiser Frank H. Boos.

OWNER OF the Frank H. Boos Gallery in Bloomfield Hills, Boos was the first U.S. agent for Christies of London. He has handled more than 2 million objects for appraisal locally, nationally and internationally, for collecting, investing and decorating.

Registrants are encouraged to bring small items, except furniture, to the classes for identification and verbal appraisal. College credit is offered.



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Picked for collection

"Pleasantly magenta," dye on silk by Tina Dupke of Birmingham, was selected for installation in the Birmingham City Hall by Mayor Randy Judd. The art is the Jim Atkinson Purchase Award at the annual student show at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association. The juror for the adult students was Marjorie Levy, dean of the University of Michigan school of art. It continues through March 24. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 1516 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham.