

Creative Living

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Bob Sklar editor/953-2113

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Antique bottle buffs to show wares

By Linda Ann Chomlin
special writer

Antique fruit jars with cast-iron closures, pickle jars and bottles will line exhibitors' tables at the 18th annual antique bottle show sponsored by the Metropolitan Detroit Antique Bottle Club Sunday, July 28, in the Livonia Holiday Inn, 1-275 and Six Mile.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. "As antiques go, they're very affordable," said Troy attorney Richard Roosen, club president.

More than 80 dealers from six states will

offer wares for sale. A free appraisal will be given with paid admission for any early American bottle, jug, or jar brought in to knowledgeable collectors at the show.

"Old bottles is a term of art. To be considered old, bottles had to have a lip that was hand-finished, not finished by a machine," Roosen said.

Antique bottles and jars tell the story of our ancestors. Aqua, amber, crystal clear and rare ruby red bottles relate what life was like in the 19th and early 20th century.

"THE FIRST American glass house was

built in 1619," Roosen said. "Michigan had two glass houses, one in Mount Clemens and one in Saginaw."

"The natural color of glass is aqua, resulting from the sand and some of the other chemicals used to make glass," Roosen said. "Glass houses were located near sandy areas or beaches."

"In collecting, the most common color is clear or aqua, next is amber, then the rarest, ruby red," he said.

Roosen collects medicine bottles, "the old snake oil bottles," from 1820 to 1906. "I've always liked the old snake oil bottles," he

said. "I used to collect cure bottles. Now I collect bottles with Indian names."

ANTIQUE BOTTLES from \$5 to \$40,000 will be available for purchase at the bottle show.

"Most of the collectors concentrate on American bottles but some collect British, particularly ginger beer bottles," Roosen said. "The small seven-ounce soda bottles are becoming rare."

The 60-member Metropolitan Detroit Antique Bottle Club includes collectors who are museum curators, affiliated consult-

ants, police officers and attorneys. The club focuses on old bottles, jars and glass-related antiques ranging from hand-held items to coin-operated machines.

"There are 80 bottle clubs nationally and even a national bottle museum in New York," Roosen said.

"For as little as 50 cents to \$1, you can get into bottle collecting," Roosen said. "In fact, we give away bottles to the kids coming into the show, guaranteed to be 50 years old."

Admission to the 18th annual antique bottle show is \$2.



In the Fashion Room, decorated with period wallcoverings and drapes, a peach organdy party dress from 1917-20 hangs on the door. A uniform, possibly worn by a World War I nurse,

hangs on the cabinet. A dark ivory wedding dress with exquisite detail is displayed on a dress form.



Alissa Bogorad, a docent from West Bloomfield, models an open embroidered cotton dress from the Fashion Room. The white, floor-length dress, dating to 1905 has three-quarter length sleeves. She holds a silk parasol from 1900.

Right: Bonnie Dale, a docent from Farmington, models Eva Pettibone's silk and tulle ballerina-length wedding dress from 1926. The Fashion Room includes several wedding gowns from the early 1900s.



Staff photos
by
John Discher

Vintage wear Fashions from past spotlighted

By Janice Tigar-Kramer
special writer

BROWING THROUGH the new Fashion Room at the Farmington Historical Museum, you can't help wonder what Lucy Putnam East looked like in 1901 wearing her thin, off-white cotton graduation dress, or how Edessa Warner looked covered to the ankle in her beige linen duster, a coat worn in the 1900s just to keep dust off clothes while riding in an open car.

Located in the home of Michigan's first three-term governor, Fred Warner (1905-11), the Fashion Room is filled with vintage clothing and accessories dating to the mid-1800s.

Besides cotton and muslin blouses, wedding dresses with veil beading, taffeta party clothes and everyday dresses from 1850 to 1930, the col-

The hand detail on the garments is gorgeous. These clothes are treasures.

— Nancy Leonard
museum committee

124-year-old house at 33805 Grand River, a room once marked for the museum's library.

THE IDEA to turn the master suite into the Fashion Room came last fall when the Farmington Players, a local theater group, invited the museum committee to help themselves to excess vintage clothing in the costume room.

Committee member Nancy Leonard couldn't pass up the offer and ended up with five boxes full of clothes, some from the wardrobe of Gov. Warner's wife, Martha, and eldest daughter, Edessa Warner Sloucum.

"I was thrilled," said Leonard. "We weren't sure at the time what to do with the clothes, but the offer was too wonderful to pass up."

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lection includes glass-beaded purses, mop caps, camisoles, coats, hats, bathing suits and even undergarments. The display also includes a flicus, a triangular scarf worn over the shoulders to cover a low neckline, and jabots, pleated cloth or lace used to dress up a blouse.

The Fashion Room, decorated with period wall coverings and drapes reflecting the Warner era, fills the old master bedroom of the

Artist links cultures via brushwork; art show triumphs

SCANNING THE artscene:

It's a winner. Livonia artist Christine Wong's first one-person show presents more than 60 watercolors she has painted using Chinese philosophy and techniques. The show runs through Friday in the lobby of the Livonia City Hall, Farmington Road and Five Mile. Her imaginative art tracks 14 years of blending innermost feelings with inventive brushwork. Her paintings spur heartfelt messages about life's vast bounty. The show chronicles the skill, spirit and confidence the China native has acquired through the creative strokes of her Chinese brush. "I have to stand up to paint," she told the Observer. "I use my whole

body. It's mental and body. I put my whole self into it." Her work truly spans the vastness between East and West. One of my favorites is "Panda Bear." Dashes of green accent this wistful black and white portrait, which captures the loving bond between mom and cub. The eyes of these huggable Chinese bears are arresting. Another standout is "Waterfront," a haunting pastoral scene of a Chinese waterfront. Jagged hues of brown, blue, green and black unite in a splash of splendor and intrigue. I also like "Tiger and Cub." A cute cub sleeps peacefully on the outstretched paw of its mother, a keen sentry with ears raised, whiskers perked, back tightened and eyes riveted, amid the cover of nature.



Bob Sklar

The cat's orange and black stripes are lifelike. Purity, freshness and serenity mingle in "Flower Fairy." She's dressed in native purple-yellow garb, black hair blowing in the wind, brows arched over dark eyes, a basket of flowers in hand. "Clown-Balloon Man" underscores Wong's enchantment with America's spirit. Decked out in circus wear, tugging on balloons and with a big red nose and long purple hair, the

clown is an instant friend. With its wealth of quality art -- spread among 275 artists and crafters from around the country, Plymouth's Art in the Park is fast becoming a showstopper on the local art fair scene. Artists came from as far away as California and West Virginia as well as Canada and Michigan. Many buyers came from the northern reaches of Oakland County. The arts fest started in 1980 with 30 artists displaying their work in Kellogg Park. Amid rising popularity and participation, Art in the Park has spilled over into the downtown streets that surround the village square. "We've not only gotten good crowds but they've also shown good intensity," said hometown artist

Tom LeGault, who lives two blocks from Kellogg Park. "I've had a hard time keeping the walls filled. Waves of people keep coming in and buying," the acrylic painter said in the shade of his canvas booth at the 11th annual Art in the Park July 13-14. "I think this show's come a long way," said LeGault, making his first appearance in it. His artwork -- traditional, contemporary and abstract -- ranges in price from \$75 to \$300. Unlike other artists who bring only finished work, LeGault completes many of his paintings at the show as visitors watch. "I'm pretty productive here," he said. "Giving people a chance to watch a painting go from a raw canvas to a finished look adds to the

overall interest level." Suzanne Lifton, whose Paper Made Creative Collage is based in Farmington Hills, was another first-timer at Art in the Park. She noticed the great variety of fine art and craft items, "not only in price but in quality." Lifton combines papers and yarns with natural objects like stone, rocks and fossils in an abstract design. Her artwork ranges in price from \$35 to \$165. "For me, Art in the Park was great," Lifton said. "Yes, I'd go back." Event director Diane Quinn noted the impact of the show best: "Art in the Park is simply Plymouth at one of our town's finer moments." Bob Sklar is assistant managing editor for special projects.