

Painted hides offer look at history

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tanners around the country, including Michigan. The hides are tanned by an Indian method that makes the hides white and fluffy.

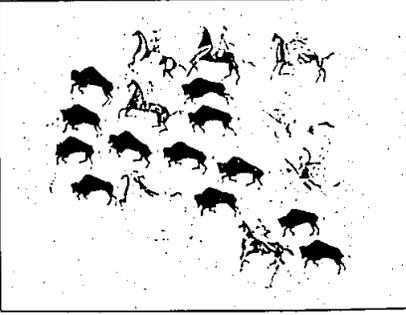
The artists outline the figures with colored pencils and paint them with watercolors.

"All these things were available (to the Indians)."

Records from trading posts and other sources give the Brewers information about what colors would have been used by the Indian artists.

Different clothing and hair styles show the different tribes — Arapaho, Cheyenne, Crow.

The works feature such details as braided horse tails, but omit others such as buffalo bleeding from wounds, because modern audiences prefer no bloodshed, Kathy Brewer said.



The hides on display at Moss Arts, such as this depiction of a Crow Indian buffalo chase, are painted in a way the Indians would have done a century ago.

Moss Arts hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Call 851-0949.

Mural displays special spirit

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of West Bloomfield, who made one of the tiles making up the river.

"It looks really good," said second grader Jimmy Goldberg of Bloomfield Hills, who also made a river tile.

YOU CAN explore the mural with your hands as well as your eyes. It features a variety of tiles, some with imprints and some with three-dimensional additions.

Some tiles carry part of the overall scene, as pieces of a jigsaw puzzle carry parts of a total picture. Others feature objects seen on the grounds — a leaf, an animal, a tree, footprints.

Darker tiles border the mural and feature symbols of the staff people who made them — crossed pens for an English teacher, keys for a

maintenance worker.

PEWABIC POTTERY provided artistic direction and technical expertise, and helped in organizing the project. The internationally known artist David McCall Johnston of Farmington Hills, artist in residence for the 1990-91 school year, assisted with the graphic art work.

The project took five years of planning and one year of work, Tallerday said.

It involved such steps as going to Pewabic Pottery for brainstorming sessions, obtaining an aerial photo of the quadrant of land, walking the area and writing letters of support. Objects from the natural area were brought in to make imprints in some tiles.

The Oakland County Cultural Council awarded a \$1,000 grant to Detroit Country Day School for the project. The Friends of the Arts contributed \$12,000.

Furniture designer steers clear

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Overall, about one-third of Brownfield's pieces are now being built out of the Starline glass.

GLASS FURNITURE, a long-time favorite in Europe, is gaining strength in the United States, Brownfield said.

"There's a fundamental swing towards more contemporary (design), glass furniture can fit in any decor. It just makes the area seem bigger and more alive."

Brownfield expects this newfound popularity to last.

"Space for homes is getting more at a premium. I don't think it's a fad at all."

It's environmental, when you're done with this piece in 30 years, you're not trying to bury plastic, you can re-grind it and return it to beach sand."

In contrast to traditional wood furniture from established manufacturers, Brownfield said glass furniture can be custom built to dimension with virtually no material waste.

LOCAL STORES are impressed with the potential of Brownfield's designs.

"He has an innovative way of using glass," said interior decorator Mark Morganhart, owner of Sherwood Studios in Southfield and West Bloomfield.

"And glass is popular because of its ease of

maintenance and durability, and it gives you a very large item with very little visual space used."

"Glass is big now, it's really an art," said Chuck August, who is with sales and design for Englander's of Birmingham. "It fits in with lacquered, wood or upholstered furniture; it lightens up a room."

BROWNFIELD'S INTEREST in the new product grew out of a retirement business, Easy Houseware, started nearly five years ago in Naples, Fla.

The store started with hardware and household goods, then gradually moved into glass furniture and decorative items.

EasyGlass in Troy was started in November 1990 with the intention of providing replacement glass for tables or mirrors needing repair.

But fascination with glass, and what Brownfield saw as a market opportunity, led to experimentation. By last April, Brownfield had his first designs. By July, his first sales.

NOW, ALREADY-SOLD tables are being shipped as fast as they can be built. And the process from new design to finished table can take only a matter of days.

Products in development include tables built of circular or oval building blocks, the Halo and Crescent, and a line of all-glass accessories, such as bookends, clocks and candlesticks.

Get into spring of things for season events

It's not too early to think spring. If you're planning a spring season bridal show, fashion show or garden event, we'd like to hear from you.

We'll consider announcing your program in our special bridal, fashion and garden sections this spring. Calendars in the sections will cover March, April, May and June.

Mail announcements to: Special Sections Editor, Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

Include the name of the event, the event sponsor, the type of event, the time and location, the admission and a daytime phone number we can publish.

Deadline for submissions is March 1.

Center sets weekend showroom sample sale

Hundreds of clearance items from the fabulous showrooms of Michigan Design Center will be on sale to the public in MDC's annual Sample Sale Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 18-19.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday at MDC, 1700 Stutz Drive, three blocks east of Coolidge and north of Maple (15 Mile) in Troy. Consumers will find incredible savings of 50 to 70 percent and more off showroom list prices.

The Sample Sale will be in the Mid-America Room, with entry at the north end of the building. Admission charge is \$3, with 50 percent going to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit at Children's Hospital.

MDC, THE resource marketplace for the interior design profession, finest interior furnishings from the top names in the business.

Normally open to the trade only, MDC will be open to the public for this special sale. Showrooms will be closed but lighted for window viewing.

All clearance merchandise from participating showrooms will be sold as is, and all sales are final. Payment must be made by cash or check only.

There will be no charge for take-with-items; other delivery arrangements must be made with the showrooms at the customer's expense. Delivery must be accepted within 10 days.

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