

FRIDAY



Ridgedale Players present Ken Ludwig's mystery-thriller "Postmortem," 205 W. Long Lake Road, Troy. Call (810) 988-7049.

SATURDAY



Winter Freeze Regional Chili Cook-off, VFW Hall, 16736 Ecorse Road, Allen Park. Doors open 11 a.m., refreshments, food, entertainment, (313) 783-3122.

SUNDAY



Join vocalist Trudy Mason and pianist Delma Reid on a "Sentimental Journey" in song at Trinity House Theatre, Livonia. Call (313) 464-6302.



Hot fix: Ice carvers from Japan, Switzerland, and Canada will join participants from across the United States for the Plymouth Ice Spectacular through Jan. 15.

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

KEELY WYGONIK, EDITOR • 313-953-2105

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1996 • PAGE 1 SECTION B

Auto designers share artistic concepts

By Linda Ann Chomin
Special Writer

Ever wonder what automotive designers who create those concept cars do in their spare time?

Members of Chrysler Corporation's design staff reveal a multitude of talents in works ranging from paintings of golf courses to fine jewelry, sculptures, ceramics, drawings and photography in an exhibition offering an alternative perspective Jan. 12-27 at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association in Birmingham.

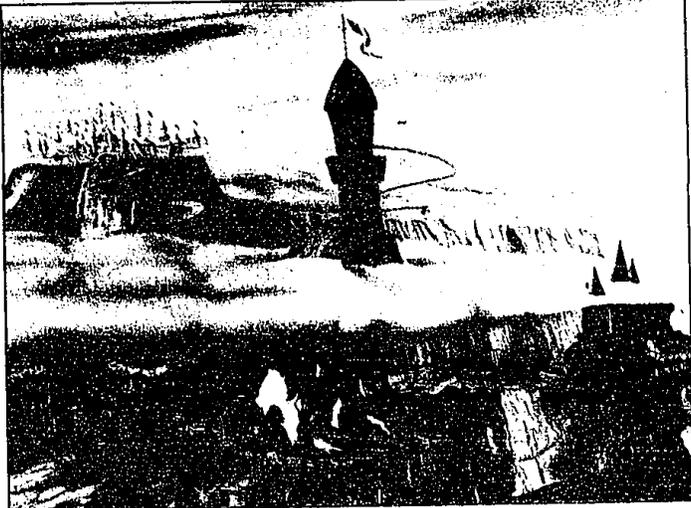
Jerry Paskowski of Clarkston, a chief designer at the Chrysler Technology Center, curated the exhibition from responses received after fliers announcing the show attracted the interests of 16 Chrysler designers.

A metalsmith in his spare time, Paskowski will show a copper car model, sterling silver cocktail picks, and a contemporary "mother" necklace made for his wife.

Creativity

"The exhibit is a mix of mediums showing the various types of talents from his relief to whirligigs by people creating the ideas, shapes and forms that make up Chrysler vehicles. This shows the other side of a designer, their creativity. Creativity isn't something you turn on at 8 a.m. and shut off at 5 p.m.," Paskowski said.

Jack Crain came up with the concept for his four-by-five foot abstract painting while on business at Goodyear Tire. The Birmingham resident, who earned his master's degree at Wayne State University, is a chief designer in the advanced packaging studio at Chrysler. His most recent projects include the Viper Coupe and Proxler, a hot-rod like car reminiscent of a classic car from the 1930s scheduled to begin production in 1997. Crain created the graphic acrylic painting using



Pure fantasy: This painting is from Ron Mills' series on the Rapunzel fairy tale. Mills is from Southfield.

"Chrysler designers: other art forms"

What's an exhibition of art work by 16 Chrysler Corp. designers with a gala evening to benefit the BBAA at the Chrysler Technology Center.

When: Jan. 12-27. Opening reception takes place 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 12. Regular viewing hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

Where: BBAA, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, north of 14 mile, Birmingham.

Special event: A gala evening to benefit the BBAA education center building fund 5 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Jan. 27, at the Chrysler Technology Center in Auburn Hills. Tickets are \$175 per person. Semi-formal dress. Contributions are tax deductible. For ticket information, call (810) 644-0800.

blue, purple and yellow.

"I think the exhibit's interesting. It's really a man's holiday," said Crain, a 1966 graduate of Center for Creative Studies in Detroit.

"The painting's really design related. It's a graphic of a tire pattern, the imprint the tire makes on the ground that struck me as interesting. I thought it would be a good crossover. People are going to expect things that are automotive related."

A woodworker by hobby, Crain will also exhibit a whirligig of a dog sitting on a basketball. The canine's mouth opens and shuts while his tail goes round and round.

"It's not very painterly but I'm creative in what I do. I don't decide to do a piece (in order) to enter a show," said Crain, who loves dogs

but is allergic to them.

Steve Ferrario loves golf. Paintings from the Troy resident's series spotlighting Michigan golf courses will be on display in the BBAA exhibit.

Ferrario is a graduate of the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, and University of Texas in Arlington. One of the paintings features the ninth hole of a Robert Trent Jones course in Gaylord, which was published in a golf magazine a few years ago.

"I thought since I really like golf, I'd paint different courses around the state. Watercolor has so many different techniques, I used a variety from very transparent to opaque," Ferrario said.

Beverly Hills resident Julie Dolan, a senior designer who works on the next generation of vehicle coming out of the Jeep Truck advanced packaging studio, will display a bowl crafted from silver in a class at the BBAA. Other works in the show include paintings by Ron Mills of Southfield from his Rapunzel series, and color photographs by Eli Nichols of Plymouth featuring scenes of the small Michigan town of Dismore as well as a sailing scenario after the 1988 Port Huron to Mackinac race.

Designers in the exhibit include Trevor Creed, director advanced and exterior Jeep Truck interior design, color and trim, West Bloomfield; Mark Hall, Rochester Hills; Susan Inward, Troy; Harlan Kifer, West Bloomfield; Norm Kleiner, Commerce Township; Gordon Machek, Farmington Hills; Bernie Snyder, Royal Oak; Ernie Willoughby, Lake Orion; Robert Hubbard, Clarkston; and Larry Miracola.

Benefit

In conjunction with the exhibit, Chrysler is sponsoring a benefit Jan. 27 at its Technology Center in

Auburn Hills. Proceeds go toward the BBAA's Education Center Building Fund.

Eighteen years ago the BBAA, a non-profit regional arts facility serving more than 60 southeast Michigan communities, bought four portable classrooms from the city of Detroit. After the roof caved in recently, the decision was made to build a new structure, tentatively estimated to cost \$850,000, to serve the 1,500 students taking weekly BBAA art classes.

Francois Castang, Chrysler vice president of engineering and BBAA advisory council chairman, proposed the idea for the benefit in hopes of raising money needed to build six additional classrooms at the BBAA. In turn, the BBAA came up with the concept to showcase other art forms created by Chrysler designers.

"This is the first time we've done something of this nature," said benefit chairperson Helen Febbo.

"Chrysler has been very generous to us so we said we'd like to feature your designers. The benefit is going to be a gain evening with concept cars and antique cars."

According to Rick Dodge, Chrysler's manager of vehicle development and operations, guests can expect to see concept cars like the Ecco, Aviat, Atlantic and Chrysler 300 as well as 1966 production vehicles. Historical vehicles restored to their previous glory range from a 1909 Hudson to a 1931 Imperial.

Dodge cautions people planning to attend the benefit to wear comfortable shoes as a tour of the tower building will kick off the evening. Dinner and dancing in an orchestra will follow.

"If you've never been in the building, it's quite impressive," Dodge said.

THEATER REVIEW

Three titans: William J. Norris (Henry Ford, left to right), Booth Colman (Thomas Edison) and Arthur J. Beer (Warren G. Harding) perform in Meadow Brook Theatre's production of "Camping With Henry and Tom."



By BARBARA MICHALS
SPECIAL WRITER

"Camping With Henry and Tom" explores the historical fact that in 1921 President Warren G. Harding was invited to accompany Henry Ford and Thomas Edison on their annual camping trip. Attempting to answer the "why?" of this, playwright Mark St. Germain offers a fascinating glimpse into the trio's private lives, and an outstanding cast at Meadow Brook Theatre vividly portray the famous men.

Ford and Edison had been camping together for years, originally with naturalist John Burroughs, and they were usually accompanied by hordes of reporters and photographers. St. Germain imagines Ford, Edison, and Harding temporarily escaping the press by sneaking off into the solitude of the Maryland woods where they can

speak "off the record."

They become stranded when Ford's Model T crashes into a deer and then a tree. While the conversations are fictional, the playwright has heavily researched current events and politics of the period as well as the trio's known personal philosophies. His conclusions are both intriguing and convincing.

Ford comes across as a vicious antagonist, Harding as a pathetic anti-hero, and Edison as the voice of reason.

William J. Norris makes Ford a man you love to hate; he is smugly overconfident, icy-hearted, and hypocritical, and he sure exerts at it. Though he starts out as a friendly host, he soon reveals his ulterior motives for having invited the President along.

Threatening to reveal what his research staff has uncovered about the President's extra-marital affairs, Ford attempts to pressure Harding into selling him a hydroelectric plant at an absurdly low price and assisting with Ford's own presidential ambitions.

To Ford's surprise, Harding is delighted to let the truth out so that he can step down from a presidency he never wanted. Arthur J. Beer does an excellent job of humanizing Harding, whom history is seldom kind to when analyzing his scandal-ridden term of office.

Harding can't bear to see an injured deer suffer and longs to meet the illegitimate daughter he's been hiding from knowing. He earns Edison's respect by being very aware of his own inadequacies.

Booth Colman's wonderful portrayal of Edison makes him a natural scene-

"Camping With Henry and Tom"

Where: Meadow Brook Theatre, campus of Oakland University, Rochester

When: Through Jan. 28. No shows Mondays Jan. 15 & 22.

Tickets: \$20-\$28.50, senior citizen, student, group discounts available. Call (810) 377-3300 or (810) 645-6666. Groups (810) 370-3316.

See REVIEW, inside

Go 'Camping With Henry and Tom'