

Working with glass fascinating to George Wilson

George Wilson sells insurance, but to him, broken glass is more than just an insurance claim.

His hobby is making various stained-glass objects, such as lamp shades and candle holders.

His most involved project was a lamp shade with more than 300 separate pieces of glass, which took him about 150 hours to put together.

The Gagetown resident, 46, got involved in the hobby in November, 1978, when he took a class offered by the Caro Schools Community Education Program.

His first project, made in class, was a six-sided candleholder, with 18 separate pieces of glass.

"It was kind of fascinating and I just wondered if I could do it," he explained, as to why he got involved.

Prior to then, his major building effort had been remodeling of his Gage Street home and office (an effort still underway), including building of some kitchen cabinets. (The afternoon of the interview, he was working on a canvas top to fit over a framework he built to be mounted on his snowmobile, to convert it into a portable ice fishing shanty.)

THE BASIC PROCESS IN making stained-glass objects is quite simple. It's the execution that is difficult.

First, the creator needs a pattern of what he is going to make. Patterns can be drawn or they can be purchased.

Next, the shape of each piece is traced onto the glass from the pattern. Each piece is then cut out with a glass cutter and trimmed with a router.

An adhesive backed copper foil tape is then applied around all the edges of each piece of glass, to provide a surface for the solder to adhere to. Acid must then be applied, so the solder will stick to the copper.

The pieces are then soldered together. The final step is cleaning the greasy-like acid off and applying various chemicals to the soldered joints to get them the desired color (silver, gold, etc.)

The process is similar for making stained glass windows, such as for churches, except that instead of soldering the glass pieces together, they are inserted into what are called cames, H-shaped lengths of lead.

The came is then melted to form a solid bond.

perfect for them to fit together.

Wilson's approximately 150 hours of effort in doing the project was spread over one month's time.

HIS WORKSHOP CONSISTS of a card table in a corner of his insurance office in the front of his house. Whenever there is a lull in business, he works on his stained-glass projects.

If the lamp shade, now sitting on top of an old lamp obtained from a neighbor, were for sale, Wilson figures it would be worth at least \$500, and that would be basing his labor on the minimum wage rate. If he were to charge what a craftsman would charge, it would be worth considerably more.

The insurance agent has lost track of the number of stained-glass objects he has made since the first one 14 months ago.

There are some six lamp or ceiling fixture shades he has made in his home, plus some miscellaneous items. He has made lots of similar items as gifts or to give away, including a three-panel stained-glass window for an old home. He has also repaired a few old stained glass shades that were damaged.

UNTIL ONE OF HIS latest projects, he has never charged. For \$40 - far below what it is worth - he made a terrarium for a friend to

give to his wife for Valentine's Day. Except for the red heart, it is made of clear glass. It consists of 79 pieces of glass.

Wilson isn't planning to change careers, but is willing to make objects on commission. "If somebody wants something, I'll do it." Joking with his wife, Glenda, he said, "I think I'll make one lamp a month until I turn 65 and retire."

the not-too-serious idea being he could then sell the lamp shades as retirement income.

The Wilsons have two children, daughter Lonnie and son Leigh, both in high school.

Though he may make some money from his hobby in the future, it is still a hobby. "It's better looking at a soldering iron than looking at the television."



FINAL TOUCHES -- George Wilson completes soldering of a stained glass piano, to be used as a jewelry box or for some other purpose.

Letter to the Editor

Claims taxes are unfair

Dear Editor:

The American dream. Going, going, and almost gone! It is not happening by the deceit or trickery of some foreign power, but is happening in our own Washington, D.C., by the very representatives who supposedly elected to carry on the tradition of fairness and justice to all.

From tea party days to this, taxes have been fairly and equitably assessed. But no more. A majority of this Congress and the president are about to eat the forbidden apple by unfairly taxing a small (in voter strength) but important segment of our economy.

This outrage is called the oil windfall tax, unethical if not illegal. Bellowing about profits without regard to the investment, these vote getters at any price, are out to assess the ones holding the stock certificates in the petroleum industry a tax bite like the world has never seen. Thus far it is not whether they are going to do it, but on how much to gouge.

When before has our government singled out anyone to pay taxes above someone else? When before have we penalized success in only one field? Now that the

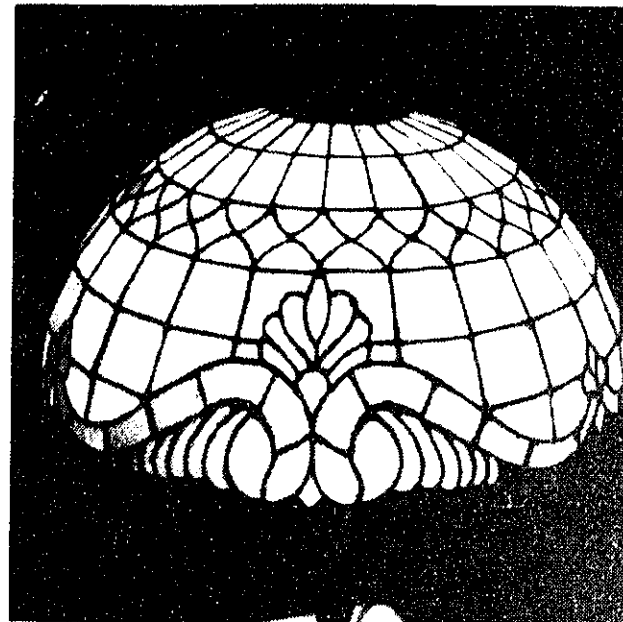
pandora's box is opened, who will be next? Will it be land owners who have seen their farm values rise from mere hundreds to thousands per acre? Could it be union laborers, whose remuneration quadruples those earning the minimum wage? Could it be the professional people who rake in ten times what their predecessors received in the past? Could it be yesterday's "fools" that bought gold mine stock and now are millionaires?

When Congress and the president have finally flung away the last of their windfall on people pleasing outlays, and the crisis becomes a crunch, we will no longer be in the "garden."

In that rapidly approaching time, there will be no funds and no incentive for this great industry to meet our needs. With its bank robbed, and its investors shy, where will the billions come from to venture further, dig deeper, and synthesize fuels for our energy independence?

Rail at big oil if you will. Gloat over this outrage if you can. But I cannot. I feel sad. For the dream is now tarnished. For some it is gone.

C. Louis Severance
Akron



LENGTHY EFFORT -- It took George Wilson about 150 hours to make this stained glass lamp shade, which contains 303 or 309 pieces of glass.

Police nab 2 for car theft

Coming Auctions

Saturday, Feb. 23 - Steve Meyers will sell farm machinery at the place five miles east of Elkton or 1 1/2 miles north and five miles west of Bad Axe at the corner of M-142 and Pinnebog Rd. Boyd Tait, auctioneer.

Saturday, Feb. 23 - Dale Schantz will sell farm machinery at the place located two miles north and 3/4 mile west of Uby on McIntyre Rd. Ira, David and Martin Osentoski, auctioneers.

Saturday, March 8 - Clarence Pivalowski will sell farm machinery at the place located two miles west of Minden City on Bay City-Forestville Rd. Ira, David and Martin Osentoski, auctioneers.

Saturday, March 15 - Marion A. Elenbaum will sell farm machinery at the place located one mile west, two miles north and 1 1/4 miles west of Owendale on Kilmanagh Rd. Ira, David and Martin Osentoski, auctioneers.

Wednesday, March 19 - Sylvester and Jeanette Osentoski will sell farm machinery, Holstein cattle and feed at the place located five miles south of Uby on M-19 and two and 3/4 miles west on Spencer Rd. Lorn Hillaker, auctioneer.

Thursday, March 20 - Herbert and Larry Rich will sell farm machinery, including tractors, and feed at the place located three miles south of Argyle on M-19 and a half of a mile east. Lorn Hillaker, auctioneer.

Friday, March 21 - A.J. and Allan McCarty will sell Holstein cows, dairy equipment, farm machinery and feed at the place located two and a quarter miles north of Argyle on M-19. Ira, David and Martin Osentoski, auctioneers.

Saturday, March 22 - Vincent and Della Wolschleger will sell farm machinery at the place located seven miles east and 1/4 mile north of Uby. Ira, David and Martin Osentoski, auctioneers.

Two men were arrested by Cass City police Thursday night on charges of larceny from an auto after they were caught in the Charmont parking lot.

Arrested were Clifford D. Souleyrette Jr., 17, of Hazel Park, and Noel G. Powell, 17, of 5506 E. Deckerville Road, Deford.

Officers Duane Sprague and Ken Schott were patrolling through the lot at 11:30 p.m. when they spotted one man inside a pickup truck and another looking into a car.

When they spotted the officers, the one got out of

Young found innocent of assault charge

A Tuscola County District Court jury Feb. 7 found Edward Young innocent of a charge of assault and battery in connection with a supposed incident Sept. 8 in a Cass City bar.

Young, 24, of Elkton, had been charged on a complaint from Jay Lee Owens of Davison, who claimed the defendant had hit him inside the Colonial Bar, 644 W. Main Street.

Tuesday in district court, Judge Richard F. Kern levied a \$100 fine against Richard Randall, 25, of Rossman Road, Kingston, assessed him \$150 court costs and placed him on probation for driving under the influence of liquor.

Randall earlier pleaded guilty to the charge, for which he was arrested by sheriff's deputies Dec. 19 in Fremont township.

Jan Mathew Nickens, 21, of 4088 S. Kingston Road, Kingston, was sentenced Monday to five days in the county jail for assault and battery, to which he pleaded guilty Feb. 4.

Kern also fined him \$97 and assessed \$53 court costs.

The charge was in connection with an assault Nov. 28 on Wayne R. Wilcox at the Kingswood Inn near Kingston.

The other man temporarily disappeared but was found crawling on his back underneath the truck.

Police held the pair and waited until the owners of some nearby vehicles came out of the Charmont.

Michael G. Palmer discovered a pair of gloves and a box of .22 caliber shells missing. The one man had been seen inside his truck. A glove was found in the truck of one of the suspects.

The console-mount trash container taken from the car of Donald D. Sowden was also found in the suspect's truck. Roger G. Roof said the console glove box and shift lever in his car had been damaged but nothing was found missing.

Souleyrette and Powell were taken by police to the county jail. They were released after posting bond, pending appearance in district court.

Auction Sale

Located 2 miles north, 3/4 mile west of Uby on McIntyre Road on:

SATURDAY, FEB. 23, 1980

Commencing at 12:30 p.m. Sharp

B&C Lunch Wagon on Grounds

Note: This machinery has always been kept under cover and is ready to go to work.

1975 Allis Chalmers 7040 diesel tractor, 20 speed transmission, cab w/air conditioning, AM-FM radio, 8 track tape, duals; Gleaner C2 Bean Special combine, 14 foot grain head, 6 row corn head; 1966 Gleaner E Bean Special, 10 foot grain head, bean header, straw chopper, air; 1978

New Idea hay conditioner, 9 foot, used 1 season; Gehl hitthrow blower; Allis Chalmers 4 bottom semi-mount plow; Allis Chalmers 8 row planter w/transport; John Deere 4 row planter John Deere grain drill; New Idea manure spreader; cultivating tools and many other farm tools not listed. 10 foot P.U. camper, gas or electric, refrigerator, gas appliances; 1973 Ford station wagon; 1967 Ford tilt cab truck, 18 ft. 480 bushel grain box w/dual 3 stage hoist, cattle racks, belt tandem. Small jewelry wagon, large machinery will be sold early.

Announcements made day of sale take precedence over printed matter.

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS AT SALE OR STOLEN ITEMS -- ALL SALES FINAL

TERMS: Cash or checks with proper ID. Nothing to be removed until settled for.

CLERK: Osentoski Auction Service

DALE SCHANTZ, OWNER

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