

WEEKLY VISIT

Sculptors Convert Barn into Studio

By JOE CADARIU
Business Editor

On the outside it's a typical red barn. But on the inside it's a veritable museum.

Two sculptors recently moved into the empty barn next door to Albans at 188 N. Hunter, Birmingham, and converted a part of the former riding place for cattle into a "way out" studio called Architectural Sculpture.

Malcolm Moran, 38, and Don Luby, 37, first met while stylists at Chrysler Corp. Both designed displays and exhibits for the auto corporation.

AND ONE of his largest works hangs from the ceiling at the Rotunda in Dearborn. It is a 40-foot in diameter "mobile." According to Moran, "We deal a great deal in 'Space Sculptures' of which there are two types.

"One is 'mobile' and the other is 'stable.' The mobile moves, the stable is stationary."

Moran, who has been a

"sculpting vagabond" for the past decade, recently returned from Europe where he consulted with the world's leading sculptors.

BORN IN Seattle, Wash., Moran last year was art director for his hometown's "Century 21's World's Fair."

Education includes tours at University of Washington, Art

Center School in Hollywood, Calif., and Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Work of the team can truthfully be called "Space Sculpture," interior styling and murals for the Boeing 707 jets in among other work they have done.

Shopping center sculpturing, which includes the large fountain at Northland, Detroit, is

not bad work according to the sculptors, but they're more interested in putting into practice their contemporary ideas for residential sculpturing.

And the barn on Hunter is their laboratory.

SURE ARE glad summer's coming," said Luby. "We don't have any heat here except these fluorescent lighting lamps."

The lamp hangs from the primitive ceiling, along with a regular light bulb which is covered with a brightly painted empty wine bottle.

It must be said the interior of the studio is "Early American"—very early.

THE WAITING room contains various models of their work which are used for exhibitions and for sale.

The "Inner Sanctum" is the work place where a table of cement sits inconspicuously surrounded by a stuffed hawk, owl, two geese (the hen has recently laid eggs and is patiently waiting for the hatching), and two goldfish.

"We got the goldfish from the dime store when they were giving them away," said Moran. "They are models for some of our work."

THE PAPER-THIN walls are covered with various objects from a map of the Birmingham-Bloomfield area from newspapers which concern the sculptors.

Moran and Luby are artists in the true sense of the word. They traded their business suits for tracks and plaster-covered trousers.

Working conditions are like the ones that artists tried to deal with at the turn of the century—but the studio is quiet.

"We like it," they said, "and hope to stay here quite a while. More than anything, it's good to us and we hope can be as beneficial to the Birmingham area."



Two contemporary sculptors recently moved into Birmingham. They "modernized" part of the red barn next to Albans on Hunter. Don Luby (right) is working on a screen wall statue. His partner, Malcolm Moran observes. In the foreground is a model of a fountain they are doing for a St. Clair Shores couple.

THEY SET up their Birmingham studio after opening an island office on San Juan Island above Seattle, Wash.

The "brothers of the brush" (Luby is bearded, Moran has a moustache) have achieved world-wide fame for their work. They collaborate on some ideas and projects and work separately on others.

Luby, married and the father of three children, is credited with the large rooster which rests in front of Wonderland Shopping Center in Livonia.

When asked what years he worked at Chrysler's, Luby stroked his beard and asked partner Moran, "What year is this?"

AS IT TURNED out, the bearded sculptor was doing standard styling from 1956-60. He is a former Fine Arts student at Wayne State University, Detroit, and since finishing school he has primarily done commission work in metal sculpturing.

"We opened the Birmingham studio so that what we could get away from the stock-type styling we've been doing for the past 10 years," said Moran.

"We design contemporary sculpture that will agree, complement and integrate with contemporary architecture," he commented.

100 YEARS AGO
Lack of Ammunition Ends First Naval Battle

By LON K. SAVAGE
Special Writer

Henry Eagle, captain of the navy steamer USS Star, scanned the shoreline as he moved his ship around Sewell's Point 100 years ago this week. Suddenly he spotted what he had been looking for and swung his vessel about.

It was the evening of Saturday, May 18, near Norfolk, Va., and the Eagle had seen a group of Confederates erect a barricade. It was the beginning of the Civil War's first naval battle.

Minor as it was, it attracted wide attention that week—alongside other important news: North Carolina's secession and Kentucky's proclamation of neutrality.

Eagle's shots caught the Confederates without a usable weapon. So, the Star—and a federal tug which joined in the bombardment—fired unopposed.

session for May 1: on that day the legislature had called a convention for May 20. And on that day the convention unanimously voted to leave the Union and join the Confederacy.

On that same May 20, Kentucky's pro-southern Governor Magoffin issued a proclamation ordering for his state, warning both sides not to send troops into Kentucky. The proclamation probably reflected the opinion of most Kentuckians, but it was far from realistic. Within four months, both armies would be fighting in Kentucky and Kentuckians would be fighting in both armies.

That same week at Wheeling on the Ohio River, more than 400 men from throughout western Virginia gathered before a flag-bedecked stage and, after three days of debate, proclaimed their right to separate from Virginia and form a separate state. It was the first important step toward creation of the state of West Virginia.

Next week: A hero is killed.

DOWN TO EARTH
Columnist Gives Hints For 'Feeding' Roses

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Roses did not seem to like our winter this year and most home growers report a loss from a third to one half of their total roses. It will be a chance to try some of the new varieties which have been selected to withstand tough winters.

The proper feeding of roses now is a good way to build up their health. It is best not to feed them the first year you have them. A good food has a formula of 5-10-5 or 4-12-4. That high center figure means that the emphasis of the food is on flower formation with phosphorus as an important ingredient. Superphosphate can be purchased and this food is very choice.

HERE IS YOUR feeding schedule for roses; when the growth four inches high; when the roses are in their first bloom in the spring, and six weeks later.

Do not feed later because a soft growth would result. Keep primrose away from the vicinity of roses as the seeds and plants toxic to each other.

Marigolds will be a mainstay in many gardens this year. Some of our local gardeners grow the plants from seed hoping to come up with a pure white flow. Mrs. Burlingame won the prize which has been offered by a national seed company. When Cortez conquered Mexico, he discovered marigolds growing there. He took the seed to Europe where they soon became favorites. The devotees would take bouquets to the altar of the Virgin Mary and they became known as "Mary's Gold" and then as Marigold.

and sheets of moss so that the soil and plantings will not leak out. Here is your chance to create a real conversation piece for your garden.

Your selection of plants will be governed by the amount of light the basket will receive in its location. Possibilities include dark leaf double pink flowering begonia, a small Sain; Francis nestled in a basket with attractive hanging vines (electric blue in color), pink complemented the driftwood in shape, a basket of hanging tuberose rooted begonias, ferns with melon colored tuberose rooted begonias with the green, a colorful basket could have red geraniums, yellow nasturtiums and crystal palace lobelia (electric blue in color), pink empress geraniums with a variety of colors.

Now you are on your own but do try having a hanging basket for an accent in your garden. Be sure to use plenty of peat moss to assure a spongy content of the soil.

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Features

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NATURE NOW
Waxwing Aristocrat In the World of Birds

By Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

As you read these lines our spring bird migration will be at full tide. In our suburb we have noted a number of these travelers including the black and white warbler, brown creeper, the gray-checked thrush, hermit thrush and white-throated sparrow and the kinglet. On May 3 we were especially pleased when our bird-minded neighbor spotted 16 cedar waxwings perched on the lower limb of one of our large oak trees. This behavior is typical of the species for they frequently dive into a tree as one bird, perch close together and then take wing in like manner.

SOME CEDAR waxwings are few as evidenced by the Christmas bird count in the Detroit Audubon Society. In the territory studied they noted 117 of this species.

These birds nest from on North Carolina and Kansas in the north to Canada. They are found in the Northern United States to South America.

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Are We Good Credit Risks? He Says 'Yes'

Birmingham realtor Harry C. Walsh has an answer to a complaint about Birmingham, Bloomfield people.

The complaint: "People in Birmingham-Bloomfield don't pay their bills. People living in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area are the worst credit risks in the country."

Walsh, of the realty firm of Weir, Mammel & Snyder, Inc., 218 S. Woodward, replies: "The truth is that the area enjoys the very highest credit reputation, equal to any residential community in the country."

"I HAVE talked to a dozen local merchants who all curse this ill rumor."

"I have a welcome, solicit, and even prefer the charge account method of doing business in this area."

"They all report that slow and poor accounts are at a minimum, well below averages found elsewhere in similar shops."

"Birmingham Credit Bureau is disturbed over the persistence of this rumor; their record will prove how false their feeling really is, based on long experience in the area."

"THE CREDIT bureau has sought without success to date printed or published matter relating to this subject. They can find absolutely nothing to support the rumor, and they have made extensive inquiry, including telephone calls, to the conclusion that it is just a simple:

"THE rumor results from jealousy and the combination of successful people and a fine residential community creating a natural target for criticism."

THE YOUNG ARE fed less frequently than most birds because the parents use the method of regurgitation. Frequently they bring a cropful of berries to be disgorged one by one into the gaping mouths of the young. The parents are devoted to one another and to their family.

NO SONGBIRD is the cedar waxwing. Silent for the most part, it achieves little more sound than a "gentle hiss" or a hushed whistle.

The waxwing's "togetherness" extends to their food habits, for one can sometimes see them perched in a row passing a juicy cherry or a fat caterpillar from beak to beak. The bird's fondness for cherries gives it the common name of "cherry bird." Their diet includes a wide range of fruit as well as insects and their eggs.

IT IS ESTIMATED that 30 waxwings will eat 30,000 canker worms in a single month. It is well that this glutinous habit is generally beneficial to man since they do steal some fruit from the orchards they frequent.

The cedar waxwing makes a large, loose nest of almost any fibrous plant material. It may be built in a cove or a deciduous tree. The fact that it is often made in a group of cedar trees suggests another common name of "cedar bird." The nest to six granular eggs are spotted with black or brown.

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Nest Dearborn in his "Birds of Democracy" the cedar waxwing "the tip of our feathered aristocracy." We agree with this statement and might add that of our own. Their delicate blending of pastel colors, coupled with their great neatness, makes them particularly satisfying to the bird lover.

Obeying Directions

Des Moines, Iowa, city officials called a motorist into court to find out why he snipped the file numbers from four traffic tickets when he paid the fines by mail.

The motorist said that he was only following the directions clearly stated on the tickets—"A record should be kept of the summons when you send the summons and required fine to municipal court by mail."

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