'Carnival' Ends Year For Players

For the final production of their 40th anniversary season, the Birmingham Village Players are presenting "A Thurber Carnival", on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and May 10 and 11 at their Chestnut Street playhouse.

The nine-member cast, directed by William A. McCall, are literally whirling merrily through James Thurber's mad, mad world of words and music. To emulate the staging used in the original Broadway production, set designer Russ Dunbar and stage manager John Hall designed and built three, seven-foot diameter turntables which swing cast members and 52 different sets into view.

CREDITED WITH the choreography for "A Thurber Carnival" is Elizabeth Boyne, who received great acclaim for her dance sequences in "Once Upon a Mattress" earlier this season. The orchestra is co-directed by Mrs. John Schmidt and Gordon F. Jeynes.

In the production, which is a series of comedy and dramatic sketches written in Thurber's typical style of satirical wit, are Robert Davis, Mrs. Edwin W. Deer, G. Thorndyke Dwelley, Theodore F. Etter, Mrs. John Hall, Mrs. Frances J. Matousek, E. Nelson Kimball, Arthur T. Iverson, Jr. and Barbara Harned. The producer is Charles N. Blunt.

TICKETS FOR the May 4, 10 and 11 performances can be purchased at Grinnell's, Birmingham. The entire house for the evenings of May 3 and 5 have been sold to the Collegiate Sorosis Alumnae Chapter of Birmingham and the Birmingham Women's Club.

To conclude their 40th anniversary celebration, audiences at the 4th, 10th and 11th performances will be given a "behind the scenes" tour immediately following the final curtain.

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

MULTI-TALENTED Birmingham artist Svea Kline was inspired to do "The Cat of Piazza Venezia," a metal sculpture of rectangular pieces of copper and stainless steel soldered together, by a painting she made when she visited Rome last September. (She was in Italy to see the Bienale Arts Festival.) The transition was a natural one for Miss Kline who finds she moves from two- toward three-dimensional forms in art.

Sculptor Tries Variety of Media

By CORINNE ABATT

Birmingham artist and gracious lady Svea Kline has two loves in her life—her own career in sculpture and her work as a teacher of sculpture.

Miss Kline came to this country from her native Sweden. She studied at the Chicago Art Institute, won a scholarship to Cranbrook and studied with and assisted Carl Milles at Cranbrook for eight years.

She started out at a painter, but in her own words, "I switched to sculpture because I wanted to feel my painting."

SCULPTURE TO Svea Kline means a variety of media—bronze and other metals, wood, ceramic tile, glass—"anything that's three-dimensional." She is constantly experimenting to achieve new effects and sculptural qualities.

Several years ago she was deeply involved in "gemmaux" which is a kind of painting with glass. Bits of colored glass are painstakingly arranged on a background layer of glass. The multi-step process is completed when the panel is baked and cooled. An example of the artist's work in this area is her 50-glass mural in the teen department of Hudson's Northland store.

NOW, SHE states that she is getting away from gemmaux.

"I have started to do relief in glass and decorative panels," she said.

Describing the new work which resulted from constant experimentation and a kind of happy accident, she said, "I get a depth and sculptural quality in it. It's so clean and pure—and it also has the sculpture that I've been after for a long time."

The glass relief panels—as beautiful at night as with the early morning sun streaming through them—are sometimes all glass and sometimes combined with metal.

One glass relief and metal panel, which she describes as more architectural than some others, hangs in the front window of her studio living room on Brownell. It won honors at the Michigan Artist-Craftsmen Show at the Detroit Institute of Arts about a month ago.

ANOTHER example of her work in glass—a mixture of gemmaux with high relief in glass is in the Howard Plating Company in Royal Oak.

Two pieces of the artist's work in ceramic tile can be seen in this area. There is the large ceramic tile mural in the Detroit Broach and Machine Company in Rochester, which is a picture story of the company's history. The other example is the ceramic tile murals in the childrens' room of the Flint Public Library. The latter depict fables, fairy tales and Mother Goose rhymes.

WHILE MISS Kline is deeply involved in her own work and so vitally interested in experimenting that she hardly has time for other things—as she puts it—she has a boundless enthusiasm for the work of her students and her teaching career.

"Teaching has played such a great part in my life," she said.

She teaches classes in sculpture for the Bloomfield Art Association which she said has "one of the loveliest galleries." Work of her students will be exhibited there May 5 through May 26.

She also teaches at the Flint Institute of Arts, where, she has been for 17 years.

One of the most rewarding things about her work in Flint has been the fine man shows of many of her students held at the Left Bank Gallery in Flint—a gallery which she considers unique because it gives the highly qualified non-professional a chance to exhibit. These juried shows have been a starting point for many artists who have gone on to win honors in professional shows.

MISS KLINE is also on the faculty of the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Me., and will teach there during August. She considers this picturesque school, which is located high on a bluff overlooking the ocean and was founded by Mrs. R. Spencer

(See SCULPTOR, 3-D)

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Old Books Make New Friends

Examining two 17th Century Spanish books received at Seaholm High School last week are (from left) librarian Curt Lather and American Field Service exchange student Jose Luis Jaime from Saragossa, Spain. The books were sent as a good will gesture by Jaime's father, who collects old and rare books. Lather is looking at the "Historia de la Conquista de Mexico" (History of the Conquest of Mexico) by Antonia de Solis y Rivdeneyra, published and printed by Joseph Llopis, "Impressor de Libros," (presser of books), in Barcelona, Spain, in 1691, while Jaime glances through "Discurso del Oficio de Bayle General de Aragon" (Discourse on the General Bailiff of Aragon), by Geronymo Ximenez de Aragues, published and printed by Juan de Lanaja y Quarta in Zaragoza, Spain, in 1630. "If the library is the eventual recipient, they would be very valuable as examples of early printing and bookmaking for use and study by the printing classes. They are beautiful examples—with old binding and leather thongs that tie in front," said Lather.

Triple Quartet Gives Concert At Seaholm

Once again the Grunyons are returning to Birmingham! The Grunyons, which is a "triple quartet" amateur singing group, will be putting on a second concert at Seaholm Auditorium at 8:15 p.m. May 10.

The group was founded in June 1949, principally from former members of college singing groups. Since that time they have rehearsed about once a week and have built a repertoire of many dozens of songs. They have made many public appearances at social and charitable functions, both in Michigan and Ohio.

The Optimist Club of Birmingham is sponsoring their concert here. Among the Birmingham members of the group are Thomas Hemenway, 254 Westwood, Birmingham, Stephen Houser, 1944 Yosemite, Birmingham, George W. McClellan, 1185 Lake Park, Birmingham, and Philip N. Skillman, 1289 Stanley Blvd., Birmingham.

Tickets are available at Lake Jewelers and Greenfields or from any Optimist Club member.

ART FOR ART'S SAKE

How Do You Choose a Painting?

By CAROLYN HALL

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the first weekly column by Carolyn Hall, Mrs. Hall, who has taught for the Bloomfield Art Association and at the Detroit Institute of Arts (as well as North Dakota State College), studied at Cranbrook where she received a bachelor of fine arts degree in painting and a master of fine arts degree in design. She has exhibited in the Michigan Artists, the Michigan Artist-Craftsmen and the Syracuse Ceramic National shows — and elsewhere. She has been very active in the Bloomfield Art Association and has been a member of its board of directors for the past four years. She married C. A. (Cap) Hall in 1952; they have three children: Randy, 9, Claudia, 8, and Garrett, who just arrived April 16.

Choose a painting as you would choose a friend.

Paintings, like friends, can be cheerful, comforting, flamboyant, colorful, serene, steadfast or depressing, controversial, even dull. Paintings say things about people. They state the artist's feelings and ideas about his subject (or lack of one). They say what sort of thing the owner feels is significant.

A painting worth having, like a friend worth having, depends on how warmly you respond to each other.

BE SURE to pick a painting you really like. It sounds silly to say something so obvious, but many an hospitable homeowner wants EVERYONE to like the painting and offend no one. This is as impossible as maintaining a completely neutral point of view about politics. (If you aren't for you must be against).

Some subjects and styles do have more general appeal than others. Flowers, landscapes, children and sea scapes are usually safe, popular choices. But if the painting is too conservative it will lack any distinction and interest. Since you will see the painting more than anyone who visits, get one that means something to YOU.

HAVE YOU happened to visit a home beautifully done in a handsome decorator scheme and yet feel that something is missing? Usually that something is a personal thing that identifies the owner's individuality.

Paintings make a strong personal statement. Artists aim for more than a patch of color on your wall.

Don't feel hampered in your choice by your color scheme. Starting out to search for a painting that is a particular size with specific colors to match the drapes and go over the sofa is like choosing a friend of a specific size and shape to fit a low chair you happen to own.

Nearly everyone has a fairly well developed set of color preferences. Any painting you choose is likely to go well in a home with colors you've chosen. (And if the colors

(See PAINTING, 4-D)

Preparations Made for Two Openings

Construction Nears Completion on Gallery

The hammers are tapping away in double-time on "America House-Michigan" as the completion date approaches—with a crescendo for a gala preview is planned for Tuesday night, with out-of-town "dignitaries," the craft gallery's board of selection and many architects as special guests, to be followed by a party Wednesday night for craftsmen from the north central region who are members of the American Craftsmens Council.

THE NEW — and first—branch of the New York America House will be located on E. Maple next to Englander's, which was granted the franchise for its operation. A crafts gallery, it will be stocked only with work from the New York gallery or with work which has passed through its own board of selection.

Both the exterior and interior of the shop were designed by the late architect David Campbell.

"It was Mr. Campbell's desire that this shop have the same award-winning design and standards as the New York America House," said Miss Leota Carroll, advertising director for Englander's.

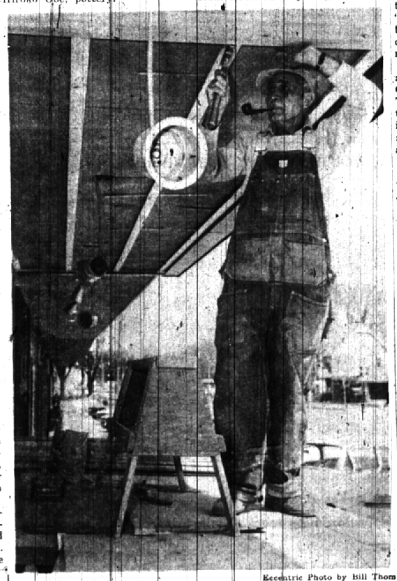
"ON THE EXTERIOR of the shop a rare, imported teakwood is used. Interestingly enough, I think, the teak used on the shop here is from the same shipment that was used in the New York gallery," Miss Carroll said.

"In the space above the windows on the exterior we will eventually have plaques depicting the various crafts," she said. "A design contest will be held among craftsmen in the north central region, and the winner will have his or her work executed on the shop front."

ON THE INTERIOR will be display cabinets (designed by Campbell) handmade of teak with inlaid rosewood appointments, she said.

Craftsmen whose work will be featured at the opening are Auvil of Rochester and Glen Kaufman of Cranbrook, weaving; Edwin and Mary Scheier, ceramics; Karl Drerup and Win Ng, enamelware, and Robert Diebbold and Hiroko Obe, pottery.

Eleen



Eccentric Photo by Bill Thom

CARPENTERS WERE working hard last week to reach the stage where only "finishing touches" were needed on "America House-Michigan," a crafts gallery which is scheduled to open next week. The gallery, located on E. Maple, next to Englander's, is the first branch in the nation to be opened by the New York America House. Seen with hammer in hand is K. Willis of the Chissus Construction Co. of Birmingham.

Illustrators Show Their 'Fine Art'

The fine art of ten Birmingham-Bloomfield area illustrators and advertising artists will go on view Tuesday at Fine Arts in Jacobson's, 325 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

They are among 50 illustrators from Detroit's major agencies and three of the nation's top advertising illustrators who have contributed their work to the exhibition.

THE JURIED SHOW for Detroit area artists offer them an opportunity to exhibit their off-duty "busman's holiday" ventures into the world of fine arts with water-color, oil, charcoal and sculpture materials.

Nationally known contributors are New Yorkers Bernie Fuchs, Coby Whitmore and Austin Briggs. The three offer examples of the trend toward incorporating fine art into advertising illustration. Their signatures appear on advertising art in top-circulation magazines.

LOCAL ILLUSTRATORS whose work will be shown are Richard J. Zayac, 1955 Pembroke; Robert Boston, 3939 Charing Cross; R. L. Sutton, 212 Pilgrim; Robert Konieserman, 1171 Cedar and David M. Hadley, 1583 Cole.

Others are John B. Tabb, 1566 Bowers; Fred S. Cole, 829 Vinewood; Fredrik W. Deuker, 21905 Stahelin, Southfield; Frederick

(See ILLUSTRATORS, 2-D)

Award Presented For Design of New Township Library

Last Thursday at a ceremony in the new library building, an award was presented to the board of trustees of the West Bloomfield Township Library. This award was one of ten awarded to public libraries throughout the country in the first library buildings award program sponsored jointly by the American Institute of Architects, the American Library Association and the National Book Committee.

Receiving the award, presented by Adrian N. Langius, FAIA, Michigan Regional Director of the American Institute of Architects, was the board of trustees, Mrs. Richard A. Freund, chairman; Mr. William J. Deyers; Mrs. Harold M. Sader and Mrs. William H. Murray.

Architects for the library were Stickel, Jaroszewicz and Moody, now known as Frederick Stickel Associates, of Birmingham.

ECCENTRIC PHOTO

Sign in for Art Show

One of the big events of the year on the Bloomfield Art Association calendar is the annual student exhibition. This spring, students of BAA instructors Mary Jane Bigler, Kathleen Birch, Robert Broner, Betty Conn, Svea Kline, Albert Mullen, Jack Ramsey, Dorothy Siddall and Mildred Williams will have their big day Sunday when this year's show opens with a reception from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Birmingham Art Center, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road. "Signing in" her work is Mrs. Watson Gilpin (seated) as Mrs. L. Jerome Fink and Mrs. William Lyman—co-chairmen of the show along with their husbands—"take over." Others working on the exhibition are Mrs. Marshall Bennett, Mrs. John Mills, Mrs. Benton Blodgett, Mrs. A. L. McMaughton, and Mrs. Jay K. Esler. The show will run through May 26; gallery hours are 2 to 5 p.m. daily except Mondays.

Husband, Wife Have 'One-Man' Show in Detroit

A local husband and wife team are having a "his" and "hers" two-man show at the Hanamura Gallery in Detroit. The couple is Jack and Daga Ramsey of 143 W. Merrill, Birmingham.

Ramsey, a painter, and his wife, Daga, a printmaker, both have studied at the National Academy of Design and the Art Students League in New York City.

In addition, Ramsey has studied with Victor D'Amico and Leo Manso in New York and Zoltan Sepeshy at Cranbrook. He received his bachelor of fine arts degree in painting from Cranbrook in January, 1962.

Mrs. Ramsey studied with Antonia Frasconi and Seong Moy in New York and with Laurence Barker at Cranbrook. Ramsey has 13 paintings and six temperas in the show; Mrs. Ramsey has 24 serigraphs, woodcuts, collages and etchings. The exhibition will run through May 11.

COPY DEADLINE

All copy for the Arts Section is due in The Eccentric office by 5 p.m. Friday preceding Thursday publication.

In 'Story' Cast

Robert Holland of Birmingham will appear in the cast of "West Side Story" which is being presented this weekend on the DePauw University campus where he is a sophomore.

Robert is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Holland, 4195 Butternut St.