

At 76, Drust finds joy in new hobby

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS BOROUGH - Never knowing he had an artistic bone in his body, Joseph Drust, 76, just wanted to take up a hobby to pass the time after his retirement. He is now an award-winning wild-life sculptor. Who could have imagined it? Certainly not him.

Drust specializes in lifelike replicas of birds ranging from hummingbirds and songbirds to ducks and falcons. As a member of the Keystone Carving Club, Drust has participated in many shows and competitions, in which he has won first place a few times.

Drust credits the late Richard Disque and Ron Ushing for providing him with information on carving, essentially getting him started.

His newfound talent continues to surprise him. "I feel great (after I finish a piece). I have to stand back and ask myself, 'Did I do that?'" said Drust, who worked for Coca-Cola Co. for 42 years and who served in the navy during World War II.

His sculptures look as delicate, strong or fierce as their true life inspirations. Exquisitely detailed and delicate carving coupled with the rich and natural colors painted on each bird, making Drust's artistry evident. "The only thing I ever painted before was a wall or ceiling," he said modestly.

Drust uses many tools to help him turn a hunk of wood into a figure you'd have to look at twice to make sure it wasn't alive. A variety of knives, power tools and sand paper help him in his creations. He uses a heated power tool to create each feather. It takes about 100 strokes per inch to make a good naturalistic feather.

He usually uses Tueplo wood from the swamps of Louisiana because it is soft and easy to work



Joseph Drust shows off his incredibly life-like sculpture of a Peregrine falcon. Many of the hummingbirds who usually come to a feeder right outside the window tend to flee after just a glimpse of the falcon.

with. He finds his models in specialized wildlife books, which many times include step by step instructions, measurements and tips on painting.

Never keeping track of how many pieces he has made or how long it takes him to make them, Drust estimates he has made approximately 40 sculptures in the last six years. He has donated them to various organizations, including an auction held to benefit the pediatric ward at Mercy Hospital. He hopes to donate one to the Back Mountain Memorial Library next year.

It's important to Drust that this hobby remains just that, a hobby. Drust does not take orders, as he feels it would put a time frame on the whole thing and take the fun out of it. "I don't want to make a job out of it," he said.

"Every time he does a piece he does it that much better."

Lillian Drust
Dallas Borough

His most recent masterpiece is a full-sized Peregrine falcon, a predator that feeds on smaller birds. Its fierce eyes and hook beak leave its admirer a bit uneasy. Not only are its measurements accurate along with the coloring, but the intensity of this predator is also captured by Drust. It took him 400 to 500 hours to complete the falcon. He adds it to a collection that includes doves in flight, a miniature red tail hawk and quail.

Lillian, his wife of almost 50 years, thinks it's great what Drust

is doing. "Every time he does a piece he does it that much better," said Mrs. Drust, who won't let him throw away his very first effort, a tiny Mallard duck. "I'm happy for him because it gives him something to do."

Mrs. Drust said it's nice to travel with her husband to the different competitions and meet all kinds of people. "I just really enjoy it."

One woman unknowingly gave Drust the highest compliment. While his daughter was in the hospital, Drust brought her one of his ducks to cheer her up. While it was setting on the dressing table, a nurse spotted it and exclaimed how beautiful it was. When she was told that the Drust had made it, she replied, "But how did he stick all those feathers on there?" Drust figured she needed glasses, but nonetheless was pleased.

Harvest Assembly to host dinner Aug. 4

The Women's Joy Fellowship of the Back Mountain Harvest Assembly will host a dinner meeting on Mon., Aug. 4.

Dinner starts at 6 p.m. in the social room of the church at 340 Carverton Road, Trucksville. Guest speaker will be evangelist Reverend Gayle A. Brostowski.

Dinner is free and area women are invited to attend. Reservations are requested. Please call Ann at 675-0036 or Bernie at 696-4516.

Kingston High class of 1942-44 to reunite

Graduates of the 1942/43/44 classes of Kingston High School will get together again at their Annual Clambake to be held at the Irem Temple Country Club's Rod and Gun Club, Dallas, Sat., Aug. 30 from noon until 7 p.m. Cost is only \$25. There will be food and beverages served all day long during above hours.

Any former members of KHS are welcome to join in the fun, renew friendships and make new ones.

Reservations should be made by Aug. 12. Anyone interested should contact one of the classmates listed: Alice John Butkiewicz, '42, 675-4133; Jean Post Thomas, '43, 288-6421; Betty Benner Swainbank, '44, 287-3503.

Grace Community bible school

Sonrise Balloon Adventure Vacation Bible School will be held at Grace Community Church, Memorial Highway, Dallas, across from Chapel Lawn Cemetery, July 28-Aug. 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Children from four years of age to the completion of sixth grade are invited to attend. Featured will be Bible lessons, fun, crafts, and fellowship. For more information, call 675-3723.

Huntsville UM holds multicultural study

The Huntsville United Methodist Church is having a study called "Living in a Multi-Cultural Society". Study leader is Catherine Lashford. The study will be held each Tuesday night at 7 p.m. during the month of July at the church. Refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome.

Sibling Class to be held at Nesbitt

Wyoming Valley Health Care System will offer a Sibling Class for children ages three to 10 who are awaiting the arrival of a new baby brother or sister. Classes will be held Sat., Aug. 9 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the first floor of Nesbitt Memorial Hospital, 562 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston.

Children will learn how to properly hold a newborn and will receive a tour of the Obstetric Suite. The Sibling Class is designed to promote family bonding and decrease the anxiety siblings may feel with the arrival of a newborn. This class is coordinated by the Family Outreach Community Services Department of Wyoming Valley Health Care System.

Parents are not present during the class but may participate in the obstetric tour. For more information or to pre-register your child for the Sibling Class, please call 552-8632 or 1-800-838-WELL.

Relatives of 142d infantry sought

Anyone related by birth or marriage to a veteran of the 142d Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment of the Civil War is asked to send any information, such as copies of rosters, letters and other memorabilia, to Donna Dillon, P.O. Box 165, Scottsdale, PA 15683. This information may be used in a book that Ms. Dillon is currently working on concerning the 142d. The Regiment was formed from eight counties: Westmoreland, Fayette, Somerset, Venango, Monroe, Mercer, Luzerne, Union and played a vital role in the American Civil War.

GOH Parents Club to hold Crab Fest

The Gate of Heaven Parents Club of Our Lady of Victory Church will hold an all-you-can-eat Crab Fest on Fri., Aug. 22, from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Church Hall, Harveys Lake. Tickets will be limited to 200 and can be obtained by calling 675-3354.

Aaron Baker enters basic training

Army Pvt. Aaron C. Baker has entered basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, GA.

During the training, he will receive instruction in drill and ceremonies, map reading, tactics, military customs and courtesies, and first aid. He will develop basic combat skills and experience using various weapons available to the infantry soldier.

Baker is the son of Bruce A. Baker, Harveys Lake and Carol T. Miller of Plymouth.

He is a 1997 graduate of Wyoming Valley West High School, Plymouth.

Pack 281 attends Camp Acahela

Cub Scout Pack 281 of the Dallas United Methodist Church are, from left, 1st row, sitting, Paul Yurchak, Matthew Glicini, Zachary Halbing, Kyle Hazleton, Charles Young, Tommy Zalenski; 2nd row, kneeling, Chris Borthwick, Michael Hazleton, Andrew VanLoon, Brian Goehringer, Adam Sulewski, Jonathon Pall; 3rd row, standing, Cheri Daube, Keith Hazleton, John Sulewski, Eric Goeringer, Matthew Daube, David Kowalek, Josh Halbing, Davud Glicini, Robert Glicini and Jan Goeringer.



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ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

GRANGE NATIONAL BANK 90th Anniversary

The Trust Department of Grange National Bank will be holding an "Estate Planning" Seminar this month for anyone interested in obtaining information on the professional services being offered by our Trust Department. Our guest speaker will be David B. Hiscox, Esquire of the law firm Rosenn, Jenkins & Greenwald, LLP. The following topics will be discussed:

1. The Need for a Will
2. Duties of an Executor
3. Living Trusts
4. Inheritance Taxes

The seminar will take place Wednesday, July 30, 1997 at Pickett's Charge in Dallas, PA. Social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. with refreshments, compliments of the bank. The presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. and continue until 8:00 p.m.

The public is invited to attend - Reservations are required due to limited seating - RSVP by July 28, 1997. You may contact our Trust Department directly by calling 717-836-2100 or our toll free number which is 1-888-214-9132, or by contacting any one of our branches listed below.