



ALLAN ACKMAN'S ART is weird and wonderful, full of detailed figures and faces of creatures and humanity. He says he does not pre-plan the shapes, rather they evolve and make sense after completion. Mr. Ackman and his art were the subjects of a TV interview with Allan Spraggett recently.

Allan Ackman creates

Reality of life in unique art

Allan Ackman's paintings are weird and wonderful and full of detailed figures and faces of creatures and humanity. Just when you think you've figured out what he's trying to say, up pops another face to change the entire meaning.

Allan explains the inter-mingling of life portrayed in his paintings as his expression of the sphere of life. "All life, animals, plants, humans, we're all interlocked in the sphere," he says. "All of life is part of reality and that's what my paintings show."

There's been a gap of 30 years since the last time Allan painted with such seriousness. He says he's painting now because he's driven to paint. "I do what I have to do, not seeking an ego expression," he explains.

Humbling

Allan considers painting a humbling experience, somewhat like a miracle. "I wonder how it can come through me," he says. "Many creative people have had the feeling they weren't creating, that they were merely the vehicle for bringing reality into focus."

"What I do is release that which was there all along." Apparently Allan is as surprised with the results as are some people who view the paintings. He does not pre-plan the shapes. Rather, they evolve and make sense after completion.

T.V. show

A couple of his paintings have been explained after the fact on a recent T.V. program by Allan Spraggett, a writer and broadcaster interested in psychic phenomena. Emerging from a skull-like form painted in November of 1973 were the faces of Henry Kissinger, ex-president Richard

Nixon, and the Watergate team of Ehrlichman and Dean. On careful examination one can see the face of President Ford become apparent.

Allan claims that at the time of the painting he had nothing in his mind concerning these men. This fact impressed Spraggett who found interest in a painting finished also in November of 1973 that clearly outlined the map of Cyprus. It was not until July of 1974 that Turkey invaded the island of Cyprus.

Time elastic

Artist Ackman has a simple explanation. He considers time to be elastic. "The past, present and future are all here," he says. "Reality exists, some behind us and some in front of us. We're able to travel other paths in the geography of life at certain times."

He feels some of his paintings are of the Fifteenth Century, of the Gothic period. "I feel I've lived through that period," he says. "That I understand it. By letting yourself go in your creativity you pick up memories of the past, maybe as far back as 1,000 years."

Miracles

"If we try to stay where we are and make little improvements that's not creativity," the artist explains. "It may be two or three hundred years later when humanity travels to that part of geography."

He sees little significance in creativity when it's the same as everyone else and believes strongly in the miracle of discovery. "To capture the elusive thing, the special look in a little bird's eye—that's the miracle," he says.

Mr. Ackman works in his studio at Animation Film Productions in Moffat.

Bus lines form company

Three companies with long-standing operations in bus transportation in southern Ontario have banded together to form a new company, United Trails Inc.

Involved in the amalgamation are Habkirk Transit Service Ltd., of Seaford, which operates in the Huron County, Windsor and Leamington area; I and H Coachways Ltd. of Simcoe, operating in Simcoe, Port Dover, Stratford, Goderich, Ayr and Cambridge and Lishman Coach Lines Ltd. of Kitchener, serving the Waterloo region, Paris, Brantford, Guelph, Elora, Fergus, Acton and Milton.

The new company is planning a major expansion in its charter bus service and package tour business.

Between them, the three companies and their subsidiaries carry 18 million passengers a year and their vehicles travel about 4.5 million miles a year.

Operations include charter buses, inter-urban bus routes, school buses, airport limousine service and package tours.

License transfer of licenses to the new company has been approved by the Ontario Highway Transport Board.

Matt Leidl of Simcoe is president of United Trails. Les Habkirk of Seaford is

vice-president and Ross Lishman of Kitchener is secretary-treasurer. His brother, Nelles Lishman, also of Kitchener, is chairman of the board.

Mr. Leidl said the merger will make United Trails the largest and most modern privately-owned carrier in southern Ontario, with 126 vehicles and 185 employees.

"And we're entirely Canadian owned," he said. Head office is in Kitchener.

Ross Lishman said the

owners of the three companies decided on the merger to meet the challenge of competition from larger companies and provide economies in operations that result from a larger company.

"The trend is for large operators to buy up smaller companies," he said. "We decided that we'd pool our resources rather than be swallowed up by an outside company."

Hinton's store for sale but business as usual

There have been quite a few rumors around town, of late, concerning the future of Hinton's 5 cent to \$1 store. Some stories report that owner Bert Hinton is going out of business, others say he is selling the store.

The true story is, according to Mr. Hinton himself, "The business is for sale, but I am not going out of business." Mr. Hinton will run the store until someone buys at which time he will leave. There will be no liquidation of stock and business will not be affected at all.

Mr. Hinton decided to sell his store after severing connections with Stedman Bros. once they became American

owned. This company was the local store's major supplier. He found it too difficult to find good suppliers for his store. "I feel," Mr. Hinton explained, "That I have an obligation to the people of the community of Acton to insure availability of merchandise." He went on to say the store would not be closed, or out of business. "At no time will there be an empty store on the main street. Business will continue as usual once the store is sold."

During the week of Jan. 20 to 26 several motor vehicle collisions were investigated by the Guelph O.P.P.

Legion news

by Gary Dawkins
The dance committee has been pleased lately with the response which is getting to their weekly dances. On Saturday the Shanyes played to a capacity crowd and by all reports it was a most enjoyable evening. Next week the dance will feature Johnny Tocher, a well-known area musician.

Gord and Kay James conducted the regular Saturday night euchre which is held in the Games Room. Winners for the ladies were first, B. Johnston, second, A. Morley and S. Morley, had the hidden score. A. Gordon captured first prize for the men, R. Pallister was second and W. Lamb held the hidden score.

Draws
The monthly draw was held by Norm Price this past week. Winners for January are first, W. Coe \$217, second, R. Pallister \$144 and W. Coe received \$18 for selling the winning ticket (to himself)! Ron Cooksey was the only winner this week in the daily membership draw. Other

names drawn were: R. Louitt, D. Broostad, M. Pope, N. Owens and J. Feenstra.

Branch Sports
In the Ping Pong Challenge League, S. McCristall and B. Dyck defeated A. Nolan and P. Dick on Jan. 23. On Jan. 24, D. Arbie and J. Mason defeated D. Dick and A. Hall and on Jan. 25, R. Holmes and G. McPhail successfully beat off a challenge from S. McCristall and B. Dyck.

In the Industrial Dart League the D/Gees, Bull Winners and The Lions all had a successful night picking up six points a piece. Present standings are: Bull Winners 64, D/Gees 58, The Lions 53, Feather 50, Conroy Kids 46, The Stripes 46, Moon Beams 46, Knick Nocks 43, Yogi Bears 42, Odd Balls 41, The Heads 41.

Standings in the Industrial Cribbage League are: 230 Club 106, High Tones 105, Firemen B 102, Campbell Const. 95, Lo Tones 91, Legion 2 91, Firemen A 90, Legion C 85, Dilation Saw 84, Ink Spots 83, Can Dos 76.

Erin land procurement

Recent land purchases of the Grand River Conservation Authority include one acre with house in the township of Pilkington for the West Montrose valley land project, ten acres, township of Erin for the proposed Everton reservoir and 150 acres in the township of West Luthar for the Luther Marsh conservation area.

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