

Renewed interest

Stained glass keeps police officer busy



By MAGGIE HANNAH Herald staff writer

Never judge a book by its cover is one of those old sayings you know but tend to ignore until you meet someone like artist Frank Rivier. He stands six feet tall, weighs around 200 pounds, has broad shoulders and is very definitely a big man in the eyes of the average citizen. In blue jeans, cowboy boots and dark glasses he looks more like a football player or a rodeo cowboy than a man who turns out oil paintings and stained glass creations. That's where the casual air and loop-sided grin are deceptive. The revival of interest in stained glass provides a ready market for the lamps, mirrors and windows he produces. "I don't know what brought it back," he says, "but I foresee a big market in stained glass. I was in a restaurant recently that had let a huge contract for light box effects and Tiffany lamps. The place had a warm atmosphere and the glass seemed to add to it. Maybe that's why it's catching on". Mr. Rivier has been studying stained glass for about a year and has been working on actual cutting and making

for the past six months. He is self-taught in glass.

"I spent most of the winter reading and studying glass and drafting designs so everything would be ready this summer when I went to the actual work," he says. "Then I worked until my hands got to sore and I had to go back to painting".

The artist will eventually develop callouses on his fingers from using his glass cutter, Mr. Rivier explains, but until this happens the hands become blistered and may even bleed if an artist works too long on a creation without a break.

Although he has only recently begun working in glass Mr. Rivier has been painting for about 2 1/2 years. He says oil paintings fascinated him while he was in school but he could never quite grasp how the artist created the effect he did with various works.

"I wasn't the type of kid to sit down and study," he chuckles.

He fooled around with painting over the years until he met someone in Milton and began taking lessons. That led to lessons from a Port Credit artist. Now when he looks at what he started doing and compares it with his present paintings he sees

Mr. Rivier likes to paint in modern chromatics and tries the style as the same but the effect is totally different.

to get the most effect from the least number of colours, he says. His ideas come from pictures in books or advertisements as well as real life.

He works on a wet canvas, he says, as opposed to artists who paint something and let it dry before tackling the next section.

"When I started something I work until it's finished," he says. "I wouldn't know how paint would react on a dry canvas because I've never worked that way. I couldn't do a piece and set it aside and do more on it tomorrow. It wouldn't feel the same then".

A four foot square canvas takes a minimum of 16 hours of work and Mr. Rivier says he spends a minimum of 40 hours a week on his art. At present he works in oils but he admits he'd like to try acrylics.

"I've been wanting to try acrylics for a long time," he says. "I'd like to use acrylics and modelling paste and build a 3-d thing right off the canvas. It's just another experiment I'd like to try".

Mr. Rivier has done a couple of one-man shows at the East Gate Mall in Hamilton and his work is on display at the Art Ark and Indian

Wells Golf Club in Burlington.

Selling his work has never been any problem and he jokes about trying to hide from customers for a while so he can stockpile enough work to have a really big show. He's hoping to manage it by next fall.

"It's just an experience I want to have," he says. "I want a minimum of 200 paintings although I'd like to have 400, and two dozen each of Tiffany lamps, windows and mirrors in stained glass".

He sells his 16x20 inch canvases for \$55. This gives him about \$5 over his wholesale costs and the price of a frame. He has also sold some canvases to a Kitchener firm which makes reproductions of them.

Art began as a means of relaxing from the daily grind for Frank Rivier and has grown in importance until he now sees it as something to do in the future after he leaves the Halton Regional Police Force. He'll head for New Hampshire where his wife's family lives and buy a summer gallery where they can both work on their own art form, he says.

Mrs. Rivier is a trained fashion designer, her husband says, although she never worked at it, but recently she has become hooked on

ceramics and is taking lessons.

"When she gets right into it that will give me an excuse to get a really good kiln," he says. "Then I can bend glass for my work too".

The Rivier children find their father's art a source of interest too and Mr. Rivier explains that his five-year-old son loves the glass while his six-year-old daughter is fascinated with painting.

"They used to stand around and ask questions until I'd get annoyed," he says, "but they seem to understand now when I'm busy and they get almost as absorbed as I am. If I'm doing glass my son is glued to my elbow and my daughter never comes near me. When I'm painting it's the other way around".

Just how soon he'll be ready to retire and start taking his art seriously is something he won't say. Mr. Rivier started out as a cadet in Oakville in 1959. He was made a sergeant six years ago and has been in Georgetown just under a year.

Although the dangers of his job don't bother him, he says he does feel sick when he sees scruffy-looking children wandering around the race-track while their parents ignore them as they blow their welfare cheques at the betting windows.

Halton Regional Police sergeant Frank Rivier works in stain glass and oils. Just over two years of hard work on his hobby have turned it into a profitable avocation. His dream is to hold a really big show but sales are so good he can't collect enough work for one. Dad's hobby is so contagious both his children and his wife are now also into art. Mrs. Rivier in pottery their son in glass and their daughter in oils.

Halloween night visit planned by Red Cross

Senior citizens and other patients at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital will have a special group of visitors Halloween night when the costumed members of the community's Red Cross Youth club drop by to say hello. As reported in last week's Herald, Georgetown is one of only two Ontario communities that supports a chapter of the non-profit fund-raising Red Cross Youth organization. Chapter chairman Rosemary Basking of Rexway Drive subsequently contacted The Herald, however, to explain that there is much more to the organization than was reported.

Mrs. Baskin clarified the matter, explaining that almost every Ontario school has its own chapter of Red Cross Youth, usually referred to previously as Junior Red Cross. Georgetown and Guelph, though, are the only Ontario communities with Red Cross Youth chapters outside the schools, she said. WELL-KNOWN The efforts of the Georgetown chapter are well-known and much appreciated at the Ontario division headquarters, which received a \$500 contribution from the local volunteers early in 1977. Thus far this year, Mrs. Baskin reported, the Georgetown chapter has raised more than \$400. A six-year resident of Georgetown, Mrs. Baskin has headed the local chapter since January, 1977, succeeding past chairmen Margery Shrubsole of Limehouse and Mrs. D.A. Thorogood of Georgetown. Lorna Thoms is presently vice-chairman of the local chapter. Mrs. Baskin told The Herald she has been an active supporter of Red Cross Youth since her childhood in Sudbury. There, she became president of the high school Red Cross organization and later secretary of the organization's inter-school council. A veteran of Red Cross leadership training, Mrs. Baskin joined the Georgetown volunteers and now supervises some 20 local members. All are students attending grades six through nine, and most attend Holy Cross Separate School. Mrs. Baskin noted that Iona Lobb's grade six class at Holy Cross has been particularly successful with its annual bake sale, aimed at raising funds for Red Cross Youth. All money collected for Red Cross Youth is allocated by division headquarters to finance remedial dentistry, emergency medication, transportation and accommodation and the purchase of crutches for needy children in Ontario. TEAM OFFICIALS Recipients of Red Cross Youth funds are first assessed by a team of officials who represent the various groups associated with the Red Cross Youth movement. To raise funds locally, the Georgetown chapter has undertaken a number of public activities and recently staged a children's carnival at Mrs. Baskin's home. Pet contests, bake sales, Christmas carolling and a dance-athon, sche-

By PAUL DORSEY Herald staff writer

When the Georgetown Little Theatre's first production of the new season, The Rape of the Belt, takes to the stage Oct. 18, local theatre patrons will have an opportunity not only to enjoy the farcical, ribald comedy of Benn Levy, but a chance to watch a rising, young star in action.

At 15, Melissa Bell can already lay claim to four years of stage experience that has included local roles in two successful musical comedies.

A lifelong Georgetown resident, Melissa has had no trouble making up her mind about pursuing a career in acting, despite the fact that she has just entered Grade 11 at Georgetown District High School. In rehearsal for The Rape of the Belt, she accents the stage comfortableness with her character and confidence in the handling and delivery of her lines. Derek Joyne, who is directing the play was impressed enough with Melissa's ability that he ignored the obvious problems involved in casting so young an actress opposite an older lead actor and awarded her the role of Hippolyte.

In Benn Levy's The Rape of the Belt, first produced in 1957, Hippolyte is an appealing, young Amazon princess who shares the common chauvinism of her fellow Amazons and regards all males as inferior beings. Melissa arms the role with a flagrant disdain for two male visitors to the land of the Amazons, Hercules, played by Bev Nicholas, and Theseus, played by Hon. Hill. British actor Richard Attenborough took the role of Theseus in the original production, incidentally.

The Rape of the Belt is loosely based on the Greek legend in which Hercules, who becomes Hercules in the Levy version, sets about to steal Hippolyte's girdle or, in this case, her "bell". Needless to say, talented Little Theatre veterans Nicholas and Hill contribute strongly to turn an already witty farce into what Mr. Joyne describes as "a real knock-about comedy". Nevertheless when auditions for the play were held early last month, it was Melissa Bell who proved to be the dynamic force among the entries.

"Leads tend to go to the more experienced actors," Mr. Joyne pointed out, "but Melissa read very well and ended up getting a part in the play she wasn't even trying for". As mentioned, Melissa herself is not without experience. She was already in love with the theatre and determined to turn her interest into a career when she won her first lead role in the local high school production of Ten

Nights in a Bar Room. Her success then in the role of "Little Mary" led to a supporting lead role in last year's How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, produced again primarily by high school students.

Between school terms this year, Melissa had a walk-on role in the Halton Summer Theatre Company production of Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire. And last Monday, she learned she had won the lead role of Rosie Alvarez in Bye Bye Birdie, the highly successful rock musical which will be staged at the high school Nov. 24 and 25 and Dec. 1 and 2, under the direction of the Little Theatre's Vera MacDonald.

On Oct. 18, Melissa will become the youngest actor to carry a lead role in a Georgetown Little Theatre production play. Mr. Joyne, who first saw The Rape of the Belt in its original 1957 production, calls the comedy "a commentary on man's place in a woman's society", which, despite some interesting questions that must be raised, "is not meant to be taken seriously".

Melissa will lead a cast of ten in old Greek dress onto a stage prepared by the Little Theatre's backstage crew to represent the battlements of an ancient castle in mythical Themiscyra. Presently, of course, the stage at Howard Wrigglesworth public school, where the production will be presented Oct. 18 through 21, is occupied only by a handful of chairs.

Three nights a week for six weeks, members of the cast and crew assemble at the school for rehearsals. Mr. Joyne watches and listens from the comparative darkness of the hall while the cast runs through the script with the help of prompter Ferrienne Waters. In its early stages, the play is a fluctuating series of changes and ad libbing as actors experiment with readings and movements.

Joining Melissa, Ron Hill and Bev Nicholas in the cast of The Rape of the Belt are Pat Windsor as Antiope, Ashley Joyne as Zeus, Tiffany Hamilton as Hera, Mary Gobel as Hippobomene, Susan McGowan as Diasta, Kelly Crawford as Anthea and

Kathy Ballinger as Thalestris.

For Melissa, acting onstage appears to be an extension of day-to-day living. Ask her to recall when she first started acting and she will tell you that she has been acting, in one sense, all her life.

When the time for onstage performance arrives, however, feeling comfortable in the limelight is only one factor to be considered. Developing her character and role, defining motivation for the lines and actions and projecting the personality to fit the audience's expectations constitute a form of escape for her. Melissa says she has pursued her fascination with acting since she was eight years old, when she and her classmates wrote and performed classroom skits for one another.

Melissa is well aware that theatrical acting is an "unstable" career to embrace, one which, at best, is among the most time-consuming activities.

Her one complaint thus far, however, is that she has yet to find "a really good dramatic role I can get my teeth into". She is, as a result, eagerly

awaiting an opportunity to audition for the lead role in Veronica's Room, a drama which the Little Theatre will present next spring.

After that, of course, all the world's a stage, and Melissa is also eager to test Mr. Joyne's assertion that opportunities await Little Theatre alumni who are seeking professional involvement with the stage. Melissa herself would like nothing better than to be accepted for studies at the esteemed Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, England.

Meanwhile, local residents should take advantage of one of their few remaining opportunities to catch a rising star when she makes her debut next month in The Rape of the Belt.

The Georgetown Little Theatre will present Cinderella during the forthcoming Christmas season, followed in early spring by When We Were Married, a comedy which will be adjudicated for the province-wide annual stage competition and by Veronica's Room, which will end the Little Theatre season.

Quarry blasts upset family

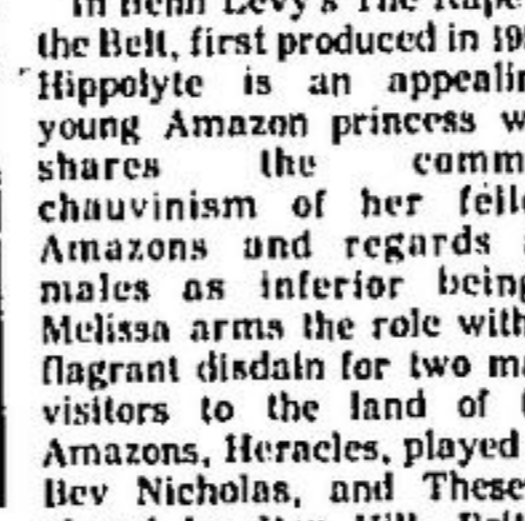
Special to The Herald James and Pamela Sheldon, who put modelling clay behind pictures on their living room wall to stop them from being affected by blasting at several nearby quarries, are among 150 area families who have joined forces to oppose plans for a 640 acre quarry on Niagara Escarpment land. Although the Niagara Escarpment Commission has not studied the application by Standard Aggregate of Markham, Ont., commission director Gerald Coffin says it seems certain the application will be rejected. He said the council of Halton Hills region, of which Georgetown is a part, has recommended that the land's preserved status be retained. The escarpment commission which in a preliminary plan

designated the area as controlled and not for excavation, will release a final plan after public hearings later this year. One Georgetown realtor estimated the value of the land at \$600,000. Mario Venditti, Halton Hills planning director, said the company proposes to rehabilitate the land, create two lakes and turn it over to the local conservation authority when quarrying is finished. James Sheldon, head of a 150 member ratepayers group opposing the new quarry, said it would add another 1,200 trucks to those already working on about nine quarries in the area. Sheldon, who has a 12-acre property about 500 metres north of the proposed operation said the physical appearance of the quarry also is a concern.

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Fifteen year-old Melissa Bell is just one of the many cast members in the Georgetown Little Theatre's production of "The Rape of the Belt", premiering on October 18.

Caledon candidate says no

Special to The Herald CALLEDON—Dr. Robert Williams, the last reeve of the former Chinguacousy Township, as announced he will not be running for Caledon council in the November municipal elections this year.

Dr. Williams said Wednesday, he had planned to make a political comeback, but decided against it because there were "a lot of new faces" running. Town council has been in a rut, he said, but he thinks there may be some significant changes in council after the Nov. 13 election.

Alex Raeburn, Ward 1 (former Caledon Township) regional councillor, has challenged Mayor John Clarkson for Clarkson's present position on council. Clark Glassford, Ward 1 area councillor, will seek the regional seat for the ward.

Leo Beckett, area councillor for Ward 4 (the former Albion Township) has challenged regional councillor Emil Kolb for the ward's regional seat. Joan Graham, area councillor for Ward 2 (the former Township of Chinguacousy) has said she will not run, but Gord Mothershead has said he will seek election to that post.

While Dr. Williams, a veterinarian, was Chinguacousy reeve, much of the Bramalea City Centre, the Civic Centre and Bramalea was developed.