



Marcus Knoespel (left) and Eric Knoespel of Artcast Inc. with Hollywood star Anthony Quinn and the life-size styrofoam and wax model of Quinn's sculpture.

Photo by Nik Burchell

Anthony Quinn here to produce life-size sculpture Local firm, Hollywood legend team up

Local art foundry Artcast Inc. has a very famous client—two-time Oscar winner Anthony Quinn.

The Georgetown company has been commissioned by Quinn, who is an accomplished artist as well as an actor, to produce a life-size sculpture of Quinn's 17-inch bronze sculpture entitled "Spirit of Zorba." Quinn's gallery representative, Wendy Whelan of Meier-Naef Gallery in Barrie, said Quinn's sculpture, which represents himself as Zorba, was

done in 1984. The Hollywood legend played Alexis Zorba in the 1964 movie "Zorba the Greek."

Quinn, 83, was in town recently to visit Artcast and work with the company's artists—technicians who are producing the life-size sculpture of his original piece. Eric Knoespel and his son, Marcus, of Artcast Inc. joined Quinn, his wife Katherine, children Antonia, 5, and Ryan, 2, and gallery representatives Whelan and Peter Meier for a working lunch at the North Halton Golf and

Country Club.

Knoespel said it has been great working with Quinn, who won best supporting actor Oscars in 1957 for his roles in *Lust for Life* and in 1953 for *Viva Zapata*.

"For one thing he knows what he wants," said Knoespel. "He's a down to earth man, a very straight forward and very pleasant person."

An Artcast artist/technician spent about a month sculpting a rough replica of Quinn's original work out of styrofoam and wax. Then she and Quinn worked together on the finishing touches. A rubber mold will be made from the styrofoam and wax model. A wax duplicate will be made and used for casting the bronze sculpture. It will take about four months for the life-size sculpture to be complete. Whelan said the Artcast model will be included "as a work in the making" in an art exhibition and sale of Quinn's work at the Columbus Centre in Toronto from December 5 to December 20. Quinn is to be there Dec. 5 and 6.

Meier said he decided to steer Quinn to Artcast because he had worked with Knoespel before.

"They have a very good reputation in Canada, and in general, as a high quality art casting foundry," said Meier.

Whelan said Quinn is used to working with larger foundries but "he quite liked the atmosphere" at Artcast and working with Knoespel.

"He was extremely happy with the sculpture," said Whelan.

Quinn, who has appeared in many films including *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* in 1957 and *Lawrence of Arabia* in 1962, has had an interest in art since he was very young. As a boy he often accompanied his cameraman father to the Hollywood film studio where he worked. To generate extra income he would wander around the studio drawing portraits of stars he admired.

He was also a talented sculptor and won his first state-wide California competition with his sculpted bust of Abraham Lincoln when he was 11.

—By Lisa Tallyn staff writer

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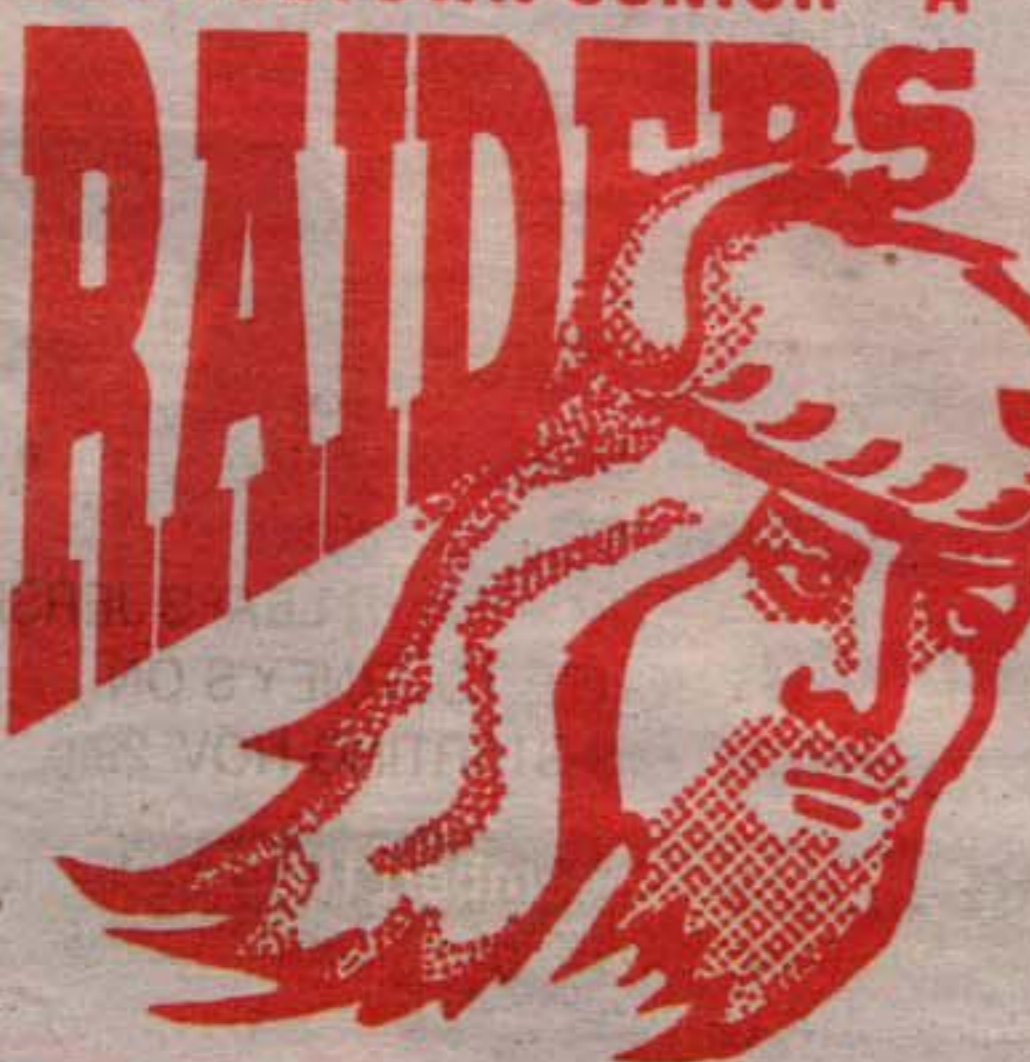
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