

FROM The RIVER'S EDGE

By
George MacAlevy

Immediately north of Salishan Lodge, Immonen Road heads east from Highway 101. A half mile down this road, one finds two of the ancient art crafts being practiced by dedicated artists. They may think of themselves as craftsmen, rather than artists, but then, they did have to learn a craft in order to practice their art in the form and medium they chose.

Alder House II is the name of the glass blowing studio where three young artists practice the ancient art. They do not use

molds to mass produce any single piece. Each piece turned out is a unique creation that will never be duplicated exactly. The work of three men is represented. I watched two of them at work. These three are Ed Williams, James Kingswell, and Eric Berlin.

Berlin was just finishing a vase when we arrived. He then started another piece which he said was to be an experiment in a new form. He first blew a venetian flask shape and worked that up to a size. In the process, he rolled the dark amber glass in a thin film of copper sulfate spread on a marble slab. After shaping and working this into the half blown piece, he added blobs of molten glass of a lighter shade of amber and worked and molded the result into the full sized object. The fine paisley-like color pattern had expanded and covered the whole flask in an intricate design. The hand tools used to form the shape were made of cherry wood. They are

poor heat conductors, enabling the artist to freely handle the tubes at one end while the other end glowed red from heat of the glass furnace.

The end result of Berlin's experimental piece will not be known for a while. Before he finished with what he called the first stage, he had flattened the flask into a basic four sided diamond shape, pinched the flaps inward to form deep concave sides, and flared the neck into a wide mouthed flare suitable for pouring or simply as a flared vase top. Then he put it away in the oven for a 24 hour anneal. Berlin did not reveal what he intended to do next with it.

Discarded liquor bottles and other miscellaneous bottles of no value are the source of the glass used by this trio. The worthless discards of a throwaway society are thus recycled into things of beauty by these artists. Many of their creations are also usable. I purchased a miniature wine jar with two matching goblets created by Ed Williams. These were of a deep amber glass with a moon pattern in blues worked into the surface. Bea purchased a vase in the same dark amber with the blue paisley color pattern worked in. This piece was done by Eric Berlin. Each piece is signed by its creator. The three piece set is alike enough to definitely be a set, but the two goblets are not identical twins. Each has some individuality.

It is fascinating to watch a shapeless blob of molten glass gradually take form as these artisans work; rolling the molten mass on a marble slab; blowing a pocket in the rounded mass; reheating; shaping by rolling against the cherrywood form tools; cooling; more reheating; swinging the piece back and forth in a pendulum motion to elongate it; forming a flat bottom by rolling the base against a cherrywood flat; attaching to a rod by a blob of molten glass; filing a cut at the neck; fracturing the object from the blowing tube; pinching the sides and punching in the deep concaves; reheating; forming the neck and lip; and finally snapping the creation

from the rod and into the annealing oven.

A few hundred yards west of Alder House II is the Mossy Creek Pottery on the same road, featuring Handmade Stoneware by Bob Richardson. While we didn't see Mr. Richardson at work, we did see several historic eras of pottery were evident; from some that reflect the ancient civilizations of the past to the Pennsylvania Dutch of our own period.

Beauty plus utility is a feature of the Richardson pottery. It is fired at 2400 degrees to make it oven proof. These creations can be used as well as admired.

There has been some decided efforts to make Lincoln County the Art Center of Oregon. The presence of these two enterprises helps to strengthen that effort. No trip to the Glenden area should omit stopping in at these two studios. Revival of the ancient arts ranks in importance with creating the newer arts.



SANDY PLAYER seems to question the call of the umpire. The season is coming to a conclusion for most area summer baseball teams.

(Post photo)



THE CAMERA shows the view a center fielder has during a baseball game. Most summer baseball team's in Sandy have

now completed play or will be doing so soon.

(Post photo)

National hot rod race set

Portland International Raceway, still ringing from the back-to-back 5.96-second runs of Don Garlits on July 7, opens its doors to still another major event, the National Hot Rod Association World Championship Series Points Meet, this Friday and Saturday nights (July 27-28).

The world's fastest drag strip will offer a total purse worth nearly \$30,000 to nearly 300 drag racers in every category of competition—top fuel, funny car, pro stock, competition, modified, super stock and stock eliminators.

Friday's qualification and world record runs will commence at 3 p.m. A special attraction the first night of this season-highlight event will be the first-ever West Coast appearance of the Coca-Cola Cavalcade of Funny Cars, six hard-running Eastern ground-pounders featuring the "Wonder Wagon" Barracuda of many-time world champion Don Schumacher plus Dave Condit's "L.A. Hooker" Mustang and Roger Lindamood's "Color Me Gone" Dodge Charger.

First-night feature events begin at 7:30.

Saturday, the track will be open from 11 a.m. on, first for additional qualifications and then at 6:30 for the important final eliminations.

Fly fishing clinic set

Pete Kelly, nationally known fly fisherman, will present his second summer fly fishing seminar at Clackamas Community College July 27, 28 and 29. Kelly also spoke to an international fly fishing conference in Iceland during the past year.

The seminar is open to anyone interested in learning about fly fishing equipment, techniques and the habits of fish. Instruction begins at 7 p.m. Friday night and ends with an all day fishing trip Sunday on the Clackamas River.

Since 1965, prices of manufactured products rose 21 per cent. Average hourly wages rose 42 per cent during the same period.



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