



Briefs

Museum names Appelhof curator

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Ruth Ann Appelhof, a former member of the humanities faculty at Cayuga Community College, has been named curator of painting, sculpture and graphic arts at the Birmingham Museum of Art.

Appelhof, formerly associate professor of humanities and art instructor at CCC, comes to the museum from the Lowe Art Gallery, Syracuse University; and prior to that, from The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City.

Appelhof, a former Skaneateles resident, received her M.A. and M.Ph. from Syracuse University and is completing her doctorate in humanities at the same university, focusing on museology, philosophy, and 19th- and 20th-century American art.



Ruth Ann Appelhof ...named curator

Art program underway

AUBURN — Art in My Life, a pilot art awareness program for third graders is underway at the Schweinfurth Art Center in Auburn. Susan Marteney, the art center's education coordinator, began the program with Genesee elementary school students and faculty.

In the presentation, "Who Is An Artist?" children will meet and talk with Bob Dorsey, nationally known illustrator from Auburn, whose exhibition The World According to Bob Dorsey is currently on display. Throughout the program, exhibitions at the art center will be used to illustrate concepts and provide material for discussion. Art in My Life will culminate during the month of May when Both Ends of the Rainbow, the third annual children and senior's art show will be on display. Art in My Life has been made possible in part by the city of Auburn's current year contribution to art center operating expenses.

Extension focuses on marketing

AUBURN Marketing Your Small Business will be offered from 7 to 10 p.m. March 4 by Cayuga County Cooperative Extension. John Aronson, training director for Genographics Corp. will explain marketing plans and Tom Kirkwood, marketing director at New Channels, Cable TV will show participants how to create an advertising plan. Those enrolling are asked to bring copies of company logo, artwork and details of campaign. The session will be held at Fram, Home and 4-H Center, 248 Grant Ave. Pre-registration is requested. A small fee will be charged.

Senior art sought

AUBURN — Area senior citizens are reminded that the time is drawing near for the third annual exhibition of senior's art work at the Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center. Both Ends of the Rainbow III will be on display in May (also Older American's Month) at the art center with work from both seniors and area school children.

Seniors are requested to submit work in the following categories: painting, drawing, weaving, sculpture and ceramics. All work submitted must be ready to hang and should be labeled with the artist's name, address, medium, title, dimension and insurance value and delivered to the art center by April 19th.

Kite workshop planned

AUBURN — The Schweinfurth Art Center will present the first of this year's An Afternoon for the Family series with A Kite Making Workshop from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10. The workshop, conducted on a walk-in basis throughout the afternoon, will teach participants how to make simple traditional oriental kites from Japan and Vietnam. The workshop is free and open to all. A similar workshop for advanced kite-making will be presented Sunday, April 14, 1:30-4:30, with area kite experts. The Kite Workshops are presented in conjunction with one of the art center's current exhibitions, Colorful Kite Tales.

Art Center plans fundraiser

AUBURN — The Friends of the Schweinfurth Art Center in Auburn are planning a fundraiser made possible through the donated services of artist Claire Randall Morehouse of Aurora. The fundraiser will be a raffle, with the winner receiving a watercolor or pencil portrait of the house or building of their choice. The winning ticket will be drawn during the opening reception for the children and senior's art exhibition, Both Ends of the Rainbow, which is also the Art Center's fourth birthday party, Sunday, May 19th. Samples of Morehouse's work are on display at the art center.



Historian Helen Ionta sets up Skaneateles Driving Park model.

Citizen photo by Beth I.

History

Town historian relates life of Skaneateles driving park

By BETH BATLLE
Citizen Correspondent

SKANEATELES — East Genesee Street where the Kennedy Chevrolet garage now stands was once the site of an enclosed half-mile horse racing track complete with a grand stand which sat 600 to 800 people.

Town Historian Helen Ionta has compiled the history of Skaneateles' famous race track, or "Driving Park" as it was called.

The track was developed by the Skaneateles Driving Park Association. Augustus Earl served as the Association's president. Henry Hubbard the secretary and Joel Thayer, treasurer. A newspaper announcement of the Park's grand opening for the fourth of July appeared in the June 9, 1870 issue of the "Democrat".

However, the enclosed track formally opened on August 19 and 20, 1870. Three races were run the first day and four the second. A purse of \$1,500 was offered as an inducement to draw celebrated horses from around the country.

Townpeople offered up their private barns to accommodate the many horses entered in the contests, horses that came from Rochester, Buffalo, Seneca Falls, Auburn, Cortland, Syracuse, and Hamilton. Skaneateles had two local entries from Mr. Conover and Mr. McLaughlin.

Officiating from their lofty seats in the "knobby" judges' stand were Julius Earl of Skaneateles, Mr. Kerr of Auburn and Perry Cornell of Marshall, Mich.

The trotters carried such names as "Black George," "Kellogg," "The Mathews" and "Lady Allen." One driver was spilled from his sulky, another was accused of holding his horseback so another could win, and a third was thrown in an impromptu mule race.

These first races created so much interest that the Association decided to hold them on the second day of the October Farmer's Fair. Racing became so popular that this practice continued, with the number of racing days increasing to two, then three days. Season tickets sold for \$1.

Then interest waned. By the middle of the 1880's, racing at the

"Driving Park" had completely slackened

ended. Revival came in 1888 when Thomas Hoeller, Jr. refitted the track. Horse trotting and racing again flourished up to the turn of the century, with the best attendance occurring in 1897 when 1,000 people gathered at the hot and dusty track. Races were run on the summer holidays, as well as the two Park Association days in August and the Farmers' Fair.

Skaneateles horsemen, according to the January 5, 1888 issue of the "Skaneateles Free Press," included: Walter H. Cornell, John J. Squires, Thomas Hoeller, Will G. Cuddeback, John McLaughlin, Jim Ferris, Prof. Miner, John Coons, James Paul, M. Brounstein, J. Horatio Earl, Edward Powell, Edward DeWitt and Mr. Sewart, Mulroy, and Blair.

John Dent and Merton Wicks of Skaneateles, along with "Curly" Coyne of Marcellus were popular racers, as the sport continued into the 1920's. Miss Frances Finch, a local school teacher, often exercised Dent's horses for him at the track.

The track was also the site of other interests. During the 1890's, under the supervision of Fred R. Krebs, bicycle club races were held on the track. This was followed by motorcycle practice riding in the late 1920's when horse racing

other building were taken leaving only the horse barn, occasionally horses were still

For a while, too, Mark Wain (farmed the land in and around track.

In 1947 Clayton Pilot of Marcellus erected the present garage site. An era of exciting races at Skaneateles Driving Park came to an end.



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