

AROUND & ABOUT

'Dance For A Farm' In Castleton Sept. 16

Ten years ago there were 3,572 dairy farms in the state of Vermont. Today that figure stands at less than 2,500 according to the Vermont Department of Agriculture. Each year Vermont loses more than 10,000 acres of farmland to non-agricultural uses, according to a 1979 National Agricultural Task-Force study. In 1986 alone, Vermont lost more than 10 percent of its farms. "When farm income is cut there is a dramatic effect on the rural economy. Rural people are losing access to the land," said Anthony Pollina, director of Rural Vermont.

The difficulties and rewards and other issues affecting today's family farms will be celebrated and explored in Susan Sgorbati's presentations of "Dance For A Farm," to be performed at the Anderson Farm in Castleton on Saturday, Sept. 16 at 3 p.m.

This work is a collaboration between dancer/choreographer Susan Sgorbati and two other dancers, designer Daniel Michaelson and fiddlers Jim Burns and Ed Lowman, who are also known as "The Will Dicker Boys."

Sgorbati is on the faculty at Bennington College and is the past director of the Governor's Institute on the Arts at Castleton State College. Known for her "site-specific" dances made for natural and man-made environments, she last toured the state in 1988 with her Factory

Tour.

Michaelson has designed sets and costumes for theatre, dance and opera. Formerly the resident costume designer at the Juilliard School, Michaelson has also been a Muppet Maker.

The Will Dicker Boys have delighted old-time music enthusiasts throughout New England for more than 10 years. They evoke an image of rural America in its earliest, least intellectualized form with their brisk, articulate fiddling and vocal pyrotechnics.

The Anderson Farm on the East Hubbardton Road in Castleton began as the Ransomvale Farm in 1799 when Lemuel Ransom married Betsy Hicock. In the early 1800s it had a brief history as an inn where horses were changed before and after the steep climb over the notch to Pittsford. One of the Ransom sons farmed in each generation until 1915 when Grace Ransom married Fritz Anderson and settled in the old house. Their sons, Chester and Ellis and their families, continue farming there today.

Information about the performance, presented by Castleton State College, can be obtained by calling the Castleton Fine Arts Center at 468-5611, extension 258. Donations are requested and will go towards a fund for local farm families to purchase subsidized tickets to arts events. The rain date will be for the following weekend, Sept. 23 at the same place and time.

'God Bless Irving Berlin' at Southern Vermont Art Center

Final rehearsals for the cast of singers and musicians in "God Bless Irving Berlin" are being held at the Southern Vermont Art Center. Performances on Saturday, Sept. 16 and Sunday, Sept. 17 at 8:30 p.m. celebrate the musical genius of America's best-known songwriter.

The "God Bless Irving Berlin" program was written by pianist, singer and raconteur, George Devens. More than 40 of the composer's well-known and important songs will be performed including "Doin' What Comes Naturally," "Play A Simple Melody," "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and "Steppin' Out with My Baby."

Joining Devens will be singers Ed Bort, Jane Davis, Ray Purdy and

for their extraordinary vocal talents. Actor Gene Sirot of Dorset plays Irving Berlin's agent in the memorable Hello, Hello Operator Sequence while young ballet dancer Lisa Kern appears in a solo with Ed Bort in "Be Careful, It's My Heart."

Devens will be joined on stage by musicians Marc Cohen, violin; Brian Duffany, saxophone; Don Purdy, trumpet; and Maeva Richmond, saxophone. The concert will be held at the Art Center's Arkell Pavilion.

"God Bless Irving Berlin" is being sponsored by the Jelly Mill and Friends.

Tickets for the concerts are available by calling the Southern Vermont Art Center's box office at 362-



Young Dancers

Students of the MW&D School of Dance in Cambridge, N.Y., began their fall semester on Sept. 11. Pictured, standing (l. to r.), are Annika McIntosh, Tana Becker and Heather Couch; seated/kneeling, Colette McClellan, Elizabeth Winn and Elizabeth Lucrezio. For more information on classes, call (518) 677-5606.

From Colors That Shock to a Multitude of Dots: The New Show at the Beside Myself Gallery

By BILL REED

Gene Rogas and Andrew Schneller enliven the show at the current exhibition at Beside Myself Gallery, the first by virtue of his unusual sense of color and the latter by his craftsmanship.

Rogas brings some of the sub-tropical hues of his Louisiana to the West River Valley, making hay fields blue and yellow and turquoise and barns several shades of orange. The effect is that of messing with the knobs on a color TV, zapping the familiar and banal into hyper range with an interesting, if somewhat disquieting, result.

Schneller, from Westminster turns the knobs back down and makes still-lives of apples, a conch shell, vases, flowers, a teapot and bowls of more traditional coloration. He nevertheless adds something to this domain — and in almost abstract depictions of a dappled forest floor and the rocky summit of Mount Monadnock — by painting with considerable mastery and in a style which avoids the cliché inherent in the subject matter.

One large painting owes something to Giorgio Morandi, the modern

a man who makes ends meet by working in a restaurant, clearly uses his classical training to advantage.

Michel Moyses may very well have similar training; I suspect he may from some of the competent draftsmanship in his work. But he does not let that restrict him. He eschews the tidiness of Schneller and

REVIEW

of his co-exhibitor David Utiger (more about him in a bit) by tacking his work on paper directly to the wall, forsaking the niceties of frames and glass.

He also permits himself graffiti and smudges in the margins, the glueing of plexiglass panels onto the paper (in mockery of a traditional presentation?) and the addition, in one case, of the billowed triangle of a taped-down garbage bag.

The effect, yes, is of unbridled freedom — not bad to be alluded to, after all — and some of the work, because of its resolute allegiance to visual liberty, has graphic grandness, especially the large black-and-white pieces.

David Utiger must bristle at Moyses's freewheeling. He, Utiger,

A Visit by Teddy Bear Designer Linda Spiegel

On Saturday, Sept. 16, local teddy bear lovers will have a rare opportunity to see one of America's foremost teddy bear designers at work. Linda Spiegel will make her fourth appearance at the Rosebud Toy Company's Bearatorium in East Arlington.

Spiegel, the president and designer of the Bearly There Company, began making her bears in her California garage in 1976. Her amusing renditions of antique-styled bears have since gained her international renown and popularity.

From the humorous Sugar Boom Boom to Spanky, her newest creation featured on the June, 1989, cover of Teddy Bear and Friends Magazine, Spiegel's designs hold great appeal for both the avid, knowledgeable collector and the person simply looking for a bear to love.

Spiegel will be in the Bearatorium from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m., making bears, answering questions and autographing her bears.



Linda Spiegel

The Bearatorium is located in East Arlington's Candle Mill Village, easily reached from Route 7 or Historic Route 7A.

For more information call Nick Morgan at 375-2839.

very highly colored. In Utiger's case, it's Vermont valley with dramatic skies, instead of "Mom," a coiled serpent or homage to Harley-Davidson.

Phoebe Knowles, the final painter at Beside Myself, leaves all complication aside and renders sun-lit Vermont landscapes with children, ponies and balloons.

The show continues through Oct. 10, daily 2-5 p.m. at the gallery on Lathrop Lane, off Route 7 south of Manchester Village.

Hildene Dried Flower Show Entries Due

If the enthusiasm generated at the Hildene Dried Flower workshop held in August is any indication, the third Annual Dried Flower Show at Robert Todd Lincoln's home in Manchester on Oct. 20-29 is destined to be a blooming success.

Lou Crawford of Dorset, show committee member, reminded competitors that applications for entries are due by Sept. 15.

Of the 10 classes in the show, eight classes are limited to five entries each. The remaining two classes have unlimited entries.

suitability for display in a particular room of the Main House at Hildene or to recall one of the special events associated with the Lincoln family.

Application blanks are available at garden clubs in Vermont, New York and New Hampshire, or can be obtained at Hildene. Entries are \$5 per arrangement. Confirmed entrants are invited to bring one guest and attend a preview reception at the Main House on Oct. 12. For applications, or information, call Lou Crawford at 867-4465, at Hildene at 362-1788, or write her at Box 377, Manchester,