

Larson festival poster available

MOUNT VERNON — Poster collectors have the opportunity to snatch up the first of what organizers hope will be a series of annual Skagit Valley Tulip Festival posters.

Larry Galen Larson of Galen Design, Mount Vernon, designed and executed the poster in a splash of solid colors that draws the viewer into the spirit of spring, he said.

The festival begins April 4.

The poster is designed after the Tulip Festival logo, which incorporates four tulips representing the community effort behind the festival, Larson said.

"I wanted to let people know this festival is a lot fun, and to get them excited about spring," he said. "My heart jumps when I see all the color in the tulip fields, and I wanted to communicate that feeling."

Larson plays with his tulip shape and incorporates it into all parts of the poster, from the Dutch maiden's skirt and hot-air balloons to the birds and clouds in the sky.

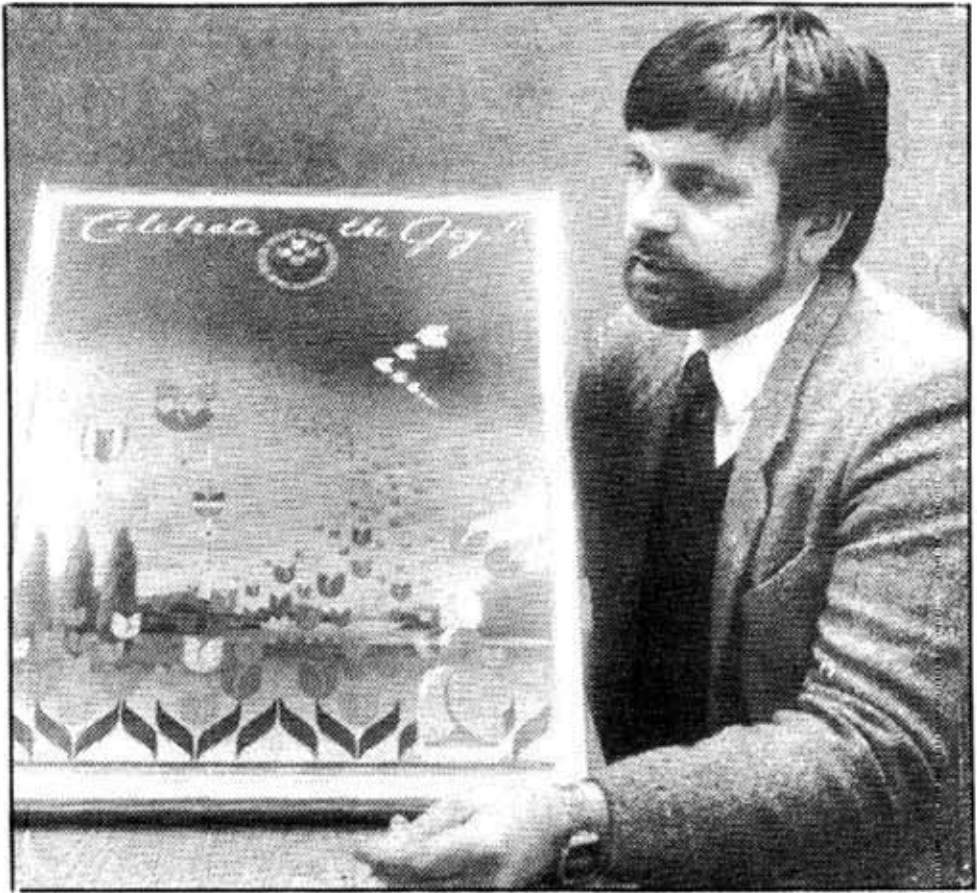
"I've always been impressed with the harmony in nature. The tulip shape is repeated as a reflection of that," he said.

A special printing technique has allowed for "the richest solid colors possible" on such a poster, he said.

Larson has signed and numbered a set of 110 of his posters. Larry Ashby, Tulip Festival spokesman, said 10 of the posters have been given to various chambers of commerce and municipalities in recognition of support for the festival.

The other 100 are being offered in thanks for \$75 sponsorships to the festival. About 50 have already been sold to local individuals and businesses, Ashby said.

The remaining signed and numbered edition prints are



Kim Thomsen / Skagit Valley Herald

Larry Galen Larson displays the new Skagit Valley Tulip Festival poster.

available by calling Ashby at 336-9555.

Unsigned festival posters also are available at various retail stores in the region for \$15. Those stores include Heritage Galleries and Skagit Station Gallery in

downtown Mount Vernon.

"With time, festival posters become coveted works. Many galleries sell posters from events that happened 7 or 8 years ago. We hope this is as successful," Larson said.