

1991 festival poster focuses on 'cycle of nature'

Posters lead list of items sanctioned by festival board

MOUNT VERNON — The 1991 Skagit Valley Tulip Festival poster is the second in a series of three by Mount Vernon artist Larry Galen Larson.

The three posters, for the 1990 through 1992 festivals, will each represent different Skagit Valley scenes captured at different times of the day, but will all blend with similar colors, Larson said.

While the 1990 poster featured the Vela Luka Croatian dancers and Mount Baker, the 1991 poster puts the focus on nature by incorporating trumpeter swans, he said.

"Swans are certainly an indicative symbol of nature in the Skagit Valley," Larson said.

The departure of the regal, migratory birds from the valley also signals the time that colorful tulip blooms will soon appear in the fields west of Mount Vernon.

"They signal the advent of the tulips that are soon to follow," he said. "This poster will show the cycle of nature. The swans leave and the tulips arrive."

This year's scene looks to the south, toward La Conner, and depicts the valley floor just after a spring rain shower, he said.

The posters are available at nearly 40 locations, including art galleries, bookstores and grocery stores, in Skagit County.

The 1990 poster was an award winner, capturing the

state Department of Tourism's "Georgie Award" and the Northwest Festival Association's award, each for best poster.

In 1990, Larson signed a contract to develop festival posters through 1992.

Each year, Larson said he is aiming to "capture different vistas and as much beauty of the Skagit Valley as I can."

Larson also designed the first official festival poster in 1986, along with the festival's logo.

Subsequent posters have been designed by Ann Alexander and Tori Lenze in 1987; Susan Hughes Hayton, photographer Cathy Pearson and producer Kris Molesworth in 1988 and Don Smith in 1989.

The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival board must approve products to carry the festival name and receives 10 percent of the proceeds of the sale to support planning for future festivals.

In addition to the poster, other items sanctioned by the festival board include:

- Postcards.
- T-shirts, sweatshirts.
- Wooden products.
- Wine by Mount Baker Vineyards.
- Mugs.
- Coin purse.
- Key chain.
- Spoons.
- Bumper stickers.



Scott Terrell / Skagit Valley Herald

Larry Galen Larson shows off the 1991 Skagit Valley Tulip Festival poster and the corresponding Mount Baker Vineyards wine label which he designed.

- Wine glasses.
- Guide book.
- Pins.
- Lighter.
- Wooden postcards.