

# Valley Losing One of

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The mid-Ohio Valley is losing one of its most outstanding and unusual artists.

By the time this is in print, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick (Margarethevon Glenn) Luther of Devola will be getting settled in their new home in Philadelphia, having left Devola on July 17.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Luther are artists. He does fine wood carvings and intricate inlay work, but her talent — creating masterpieces of art from paper and scissors — is extremely rare.

Not only does Mrs. Luther cut large pictures comprised of many figures, but she is well known for her silhouette portraits. Hundreds of these charming pictures, most often of children, hang in homes in Marietta and Parkersburg.

To her, anything and everything suggests a picture, landscapes and buildings, flowers and animals, grasses bending in a breeze or a bee exploring the heart of a rose.

Perhaps most of all, Mrs. Luther prefers to cut the Madonna and Child, or a scene from some well-loved fairy story.

It is impossible to describe the intricate loveliness that she creates from a piece of paper and a pair of tiny scissors. It has to be seen to be believed, and even then it is hard to credit ones own eyes.

### Fascinated By Silhouette

"When I was 13 years old, one day I saw an ordinary, solid silhouette in a shop window. I was entranced with this heavy, black-on-white picture and immediately went home and tried to make one," she smiled.

From that day on Margarethe Luther has never lost her fascination with the art possibilities offered by paper and scissors. Entirely self-taught, she has worked to develop an art that she has brought to an unbelievable degree of perfection and beauty.

In fact, so rare is her skill in this field that there is no name for it in the art world, nor is there anyone else known who can duplicate the exquisitely fragile pictures she creates with her tiny scissors.

"For want of a better name, I call my work, 'Scissors Art', but that isn't very descriptive," Mrs. Luther, a small, shy, unpretentious woman, smiled.

Mrs. Luther starts with a piece of tough white paper which she paints black on one side. On the white side, she pencils in a rough sketch.

Then she cuts away every-



MOVING — Mr. and Mrs. Frederick (Margarethe von Glenn) Luther of Devola who have received wide recognition in the field of art, are

moving to Philadelphia. The Luthers have lived in Devola since 1955 and will be missed in art circles in the mid-Ohio Valley. (Photo by Helen M. White.)

thing but the web-fine lines of the sketch and just the right areas to give it all a correct accent. When this is completed, the picture-to-be looks like a mass of tangled black threads.

The finished cut - out, filament fine and fragile, is turned black side up, carefully straightened and mounted on white paper or silk with specks of paste sparingly applied from the tip of a needle. The result is breath taking.

Mrs. Luther, a native of the small Baltic Sea country of Estonia, is also an accomplished artist with oils, water color and pastels.

### Took Lessons At Five

"When I was only five, I be-

gan studying painting and drawing and piano in Petersburg, Russia. The outbreak of World War I put an end to all that," she smiled sadly.

From then on she and her parents, who were personal friends of the Czar, were refugees fleeing from the wrath of the Bolsheviks. Later, when World War II erupted, she and her husband and two small sons were again in the slogging refugee columns wandering over Europe.

But through all this, Margarethe von Glenn Luther managed to hang on to her faith and her tiny scissors.

The Luther family came to this country in 1955 and settled

# Outstanding Artists



**RARE ART** — This Nativity scene made by Mrs. Margarethe Luther of Devola is cut from one large sheet of black paper. Fine details in her cuttings are so delicate that they

cannot be seen with the naked eye giving an ethereal, over-all aspect to each work of art she produces. Mrs. Luther has brought her self-taught skill of

making pictures from paper and tiny scissors to such a high degree of perfection that she stands alone in this field of art. (Photo by Helen M. White.)

in Devola. Their two sons, Lars and Holzar, are married men now each holding a doctorate in their chosen field. During the time they lived in Devola, Luther worked for Neil Christy. "The Christys were lovely to us. We shall certainly miss them," they said.

Mrs. Luther worked at the Marietta Public Library for nearly 10 years and more recently, in a large Marietta department store in their art and gift department on a part-time schedule.

In Philadelphia, Luther will manage the grounds of the

large, 17-acre Glen Foerd estate lying along the Delaware River. At present the estate is owned by Mrs. Florence Foerderer Tonner.

## Estate Given To Church

The 88-year-old multi-millionaire has given her entire estate and priceless art collection to the Lutheran Church but reserving it as her home as long as she lives.

Under their contract with Mrs. Tonner and the Lutheran Church, Mr. and Mrs. Luther will have their own large home on the estate and be responsible only for overseeing the men employed to keep the lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers and gardens in order.

"I will now be able to devote my time to my art," Mrs. Luther said. "In the winter, Fred will have some spare time for his art, too," she added.

Sad to leave their many good friends in this area, they are nevertheless excited over the new prospect.

Sad to see them go, their host of friends and acquaintances are happy for the advantages the move offers them.

The mid-Ohio Valley has lost a pair of charming residents as well as a rare and famous artist.