



David Lassman / The Post-Standard

MARVIN DAVIS, 91, has an exhibit of his paintings at Soule Branch Library. The one he's holding is titled "Red October." More of his work is on top of the bookcase in the background.

HIS ART SPANS THE AGES, AND MEDIUMS

How about that Marvin Davis. He's got a new art exhibit at Soule Branch Library, 101 Springfield Rd., near Le Moyne College. Marv's in his 91st year.

Marv tells me he has about 30 works at Soule, many of them startling and colorful abstractions. "That's the way my mind works," he explained.

Actually, the man's an artist in many mediums, from two-dimensional to sculpture. Back in 1996, I interviewed Marv about his interest in painting chairs and other pieces of furniture in bright colors. He's still at it.

This is not surprising when you consider all the places he's been in his nine decades. He's been a

dancing teacher, a stage hooper, a medic during World War II, a salesman of women's apparel and the owner of yogurt shops. He told me he got into art while selling on the road and started sketching on his order forms.

Later, he took lessons and enrolled at University College. He got into the SU School of Art as a painting major. He told me the other day that he got his degree.

One thing Marv's cut back on: danc-

ing in public, which he started when he was 4. "I've hung up my tap shoes," Marv said.

The Soule Branch Library exhibit runs through March.

'Scrumptious!'

Remember Orville BBQ?

It sat along East Genesee Street in DeWitt for years. The BBQ was owned by the Papageorge family. George and his wife, Julia, had the place 40 years.

I got into the restaurant with an inquiry from Betsy Price of Jamesville, who wrote asking if any of my readers know the recipe for the pork BBQ sandwich served by the Papageorges. Betsy says, "my parents took us there when we were kids, and I haven't ever had one as good as they were. Scrumptious! I remember the waitresses wore dresses with corsages and were super nice."

I passed the buck to Ed Hutchison, the former Onondaga County legislator who's moved to Mississippi and has a huge archive of information on DeWitt, Lyndon and Fayetteville. Ed says he's completed thousands of family biographies of early residents of those communities.

Ed writes that Orville BBQ "was the source of many happy memories for me and many others. My wife and I ate there often while we were dating. As we will soon celebrate 50 wonderful years of marriage, I can easily date the 1950s and early '60s as the glory days of the old BBQ."

Reach Ed and his project at erhutchison@comcast.net.

The war effort in Syracuse

I was reminded recently when I wrote about Nena Dunn welding airplane engine mounts during World War II that Syracuse had a number of factories that converted to war production during those years. Nena worked for Carrier Corp. at its South Geddes Street plant, which is now the site of Fowler High School.

My friends at the Onondaga Historical Association, Dennis Connors and Tom Hunter, scratched their brains and came up with: Brown, Lipe, Chapin, military vehicle gears; Smith-Corona, M 03-A3 rifles; Remington-Rand, M1911-A1 .45 cal. pistols and M 03-A3 sniper rifles; Easy Washing Machine Co., anti-aircraft gun mounts.

O.M. Edwards produced metal furnishings for ships, such as desks and file cabinets, in the years leading up to World War II.

General Electric first came to Syracuse during the war, when it built the building that later became Carrier's Thompson Road facility. GE made turbine generators for destroyer escorts. The company also used the former street-car barns on Wolf Street to do radar work during the war. These were the roots of Electronics Park.

Prosperity Co. made portable laundry units for use in the Pacific theater. Syracuse China made land mines and thousands of heavy-duty mugs minus handles for the military.

Dunn, by the way, celebrated her 90th birthday March 14.

Dick Case writes Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Reach him at 470-2254, or by email, dcase@syracuse.com.

