

Von Schleinitz Pays \$35,000 for Painting

Milwaukee Collector Sets Record at Munich Auction, Adds to Imposing Group

By DONALD KEY
Journal Art Editor

A Milwaukee collector of German art, Rene von Schleinitz, has gained attention in Europe by paying \$35,000 for a painting by the 19th century German artist Carl Spitzweg. It was a record price for a work by this artist.

The painting is "Das ist deine Welt" (literally, "This Is Your World"), one of the three most famous works by Spitzweg. The oil on canvas is about 18 by 12 inches, relatively large for works by this romantic painter. Its appraised evaluation was \$18,000.

Von Schleinitz made a seven day trip to attend a Munich auction in December to purchase the work. The sale price was

122,000 marks, plus a 15% commission.

Von Schleinitz, who lives at 1722 N. Prospect av., retired in 1939 as vice-president of the Harnischfeger Corp. Since then he has been in the real estate business.

Largest in US

The Milwaukeean owns probably the largest collection of Spitzweg paintings in the United States. This was the 10th canvas by the artist to be added to his imposing group of German art treasures.

The list includes more than 100 paintings by 19th century Germans of the romantic, genre

A color picture of the painting is on the Picture Page.

school; two sculptures by the early American artist, Frederick Remington; a famed collection of 600 Mettlach beer steins and 200 pieces of Meissen porcelain.

"I must have gone a little crazy at that Munich auction," von Schleinitz said, laughing at himself. "But I went to get the painting and I got it."

Paintings Crowd Walls

He already owned another of the three most famous Spitzweg canvases, a painting titled "The Bookworm," which frequently is reproduced.

The walls of the Milwaukeean's Prospect av. apartment are crowded with paintings by such artists as Spitzweg, Carl Kronberger, Heinrich von Zuegel, Ludwig Knaus, Meyer von Bremen, Adolph Schreyer, L. F. Riefstahl, Hugo Kauffmann, Hans Best, Franz von Defregger and Eduard Gruetzner.

An article on von Schleinitz's collection of paintings was featured in Die Weltkunst, a German art magazine, in 1956. The Milwaukeean has written articles on Spitzweg and Gruetzner for the American German Review, a magazine published in Philadelphia.

Likes Realistic Paintings

"A main purpose behind my collecting is to promote German culture and better understanding of it in America," von Schleinitz said. "But I think a collector should buy what he likes. I like the realistic paintings of real people by Munich artists—paintings that are human and often humorous."

This well describes the paintings in his collection, particularly those of Spitzweg and Gruetzner. In his article on Spitzweg, he wrote:

"... His art is a reflection of the man himself, the painter of color and light. His natural warmth and spirit of good will, his friendly, roguish nature together with his droll humor, are traits which permeate his paintings. . . . He tells a tale, or rather lets us live it, in all its reality and naturalness. . . ."

"Das ist deine Welt," von Schleinitz's latest purchase, shows a man at work at his desk in a high ceilinged room surrounded by a strange environment — a crocodile overhead and a lush landscape outside the window.

This painting and all the works of art in his large collection are held by the von Schleinitz Foundation, which he established in 1951.

"Eventually they all will go to a public museum or art center. I haven't decided which one yet. But I'll have to make up my mind soon. . . . I'm in my seventies, you know."

Heat Supply Is Restored

Electric Co. Reports Service Is Normal in All Downtown

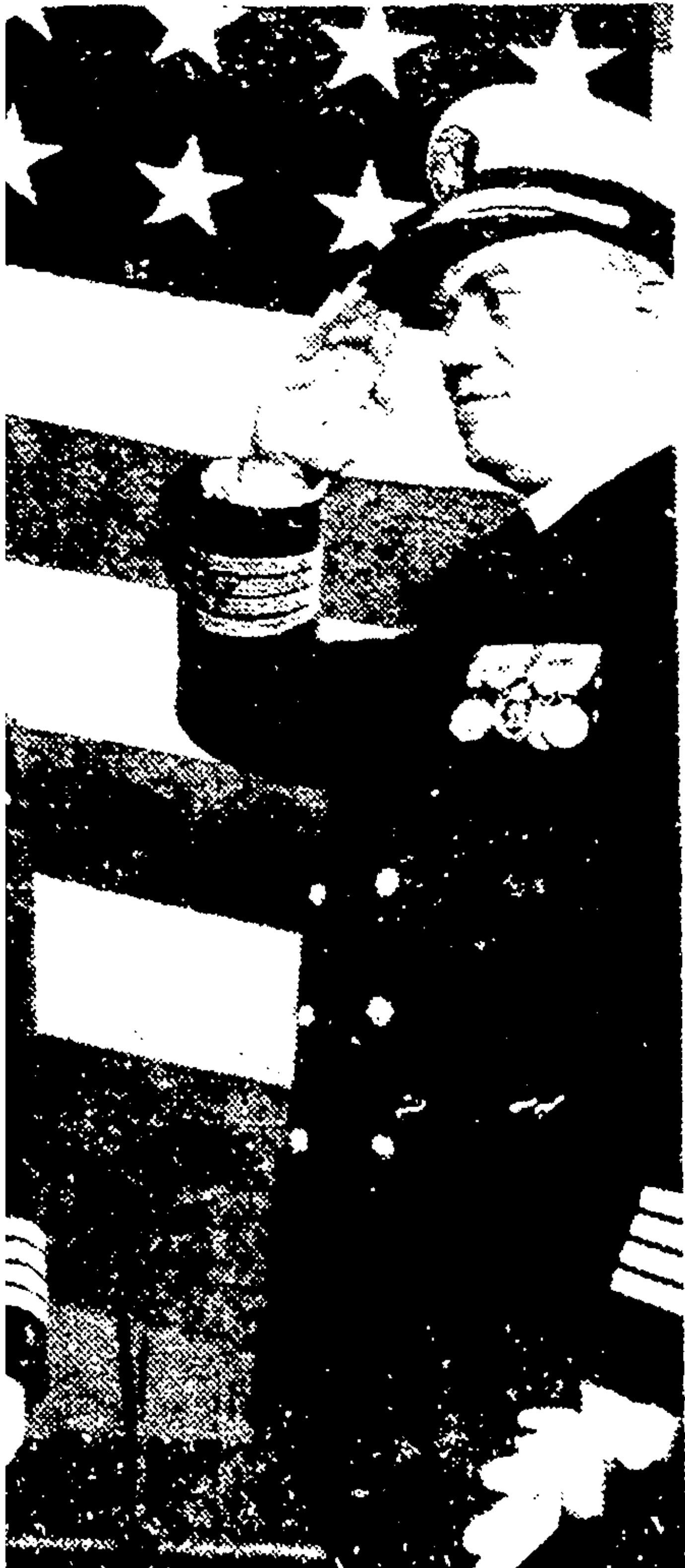
Normal heat was restored Friday to all of a downtown area in which some buildings had been heatless since Sunday, the Electric Co. said.

The area affected was east of the river. The last part where service was restored was the south half of the downtown area east of the river.

The service had been disrupted when water from a broken main flooded a heat tunnel. The 16 inch steam line which was affected is still out of service temporarily.

Steam now flows through an eight inch line and a newly laid 10 inch line on N. Water st. between W. Wisconsin av. and W. Michigan st.

Electric Co. crews will continue their work on the 16 inch line.



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