



Stained Glass Mastery

Phil Watkins, Jr. of Englewood is well along in the process of restoring Rosemount's "Kingdoms of Nature" stained glass window which looms over the staircase in the entry hall of the mansion.

A fourth generation craftsman, whose great grandfather came to Colorado in a covered wagon toting glass and some art supplies in 1868, Phil has such an excellent reputation he can pick and choose his work - be it original designs or restoration projects.

He chose to bid on the Rosemount job because he views the museum as a particular prize among historic buildings. "I'm impressed. I visit historic houses wherever I go and I just don't think there's a house like it, still with the original furnishings and the things people used. Pueblo really has something here."

The 9' x 13' window is divided into 6 36" x 49" sections and 6 27" x 36" sections. They are installed in a metal frame surrounded by a glaz-

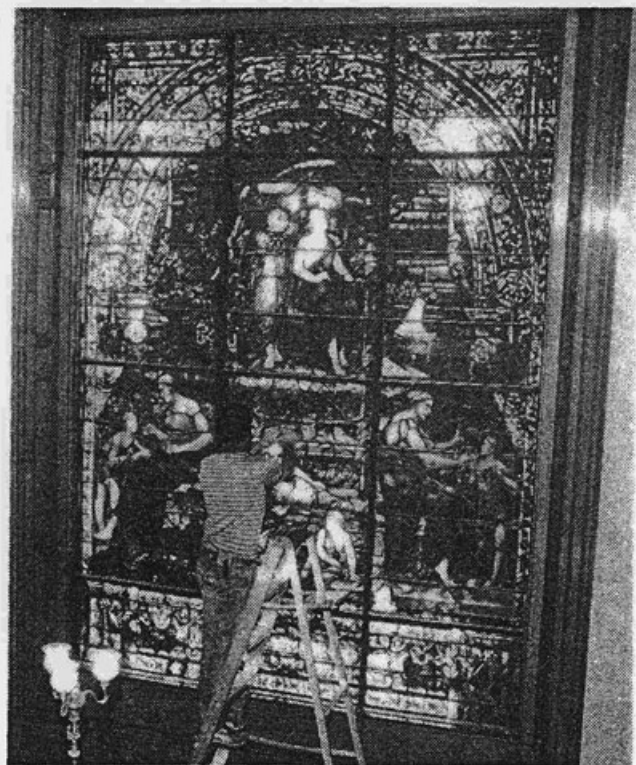


Photo by Dave Roscover, Pueblo Chieftain

ing of lead to which stained glass cement has been applied, making it watertight and more rigid. The window's glass was painted and fired in a kiln as opposed to being designed with a collection of colored glass pieces. Different metals or minerals are what give the paints their vibrant colors. Over nearly a century, the window has bowed out in several areas and this is what Watkins is meticulously repairing.

About three-quarters of the window is being removed, restored and replaced, piece-by-piece. Watkins is working from a shop set up in the basement of the Museum. The restoration timeframe will depend upon how easily the pieces come out, Watkins notes.

He counts 31 years in the stained-glass business saying he started sweeping floors for his father at the age of 10. "I was born to the life and have worked my way up through the business."

His family's history in the craft stretches back 200 years before its arrival in Colorado. On his tally of restoration projects are the Brown Palace Hotel, St. John Cathedral and Montview Presbyterian Church in Denver and Pueblo's Sacred Heart Cathedral which he and his father worked on about 30 years ago.

Guests are welcome to view the restoration process as the Museum is maintaining regular hours.



ROSEMOUNT VICTORIAN HOUSE MUSEUM

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