Another set of shelves is stocked change colors, "Gary said, "It just takes a little more mental preparation — kind of psyche myself up to do goblets."

He has to keep the individual sections evenly heated or the weld won't hold. Also, the glass will crack if a hotter section comes in contact with a piece not quite as hot.

Then, by putting silver or gold in the flame and letting the fume ride the flame to the glass, iridescent colors are created.

"It's the fuming technique," he said, holding a rod a little thicker than a fireworks sparkler. "On the end of this rod, I have a little bitty piece of silver."

"And over here," he said, pointing to another rod, "I have gold. You can get from blues to greens to yellows — it all comes from silver," he said. "And the reddish, pinkish, purply tints come from the gold."

When wine is poured in the goblet and the stem separately, it will yet again change colors.

"It's still hard for me to understand exactly how it happens," Gary admitted. "You can get it to change so much."

Gary has been at his art, and sometimes craft, for about three years. "To be able to know the feeling of creation is just incredible. I define art as something I do for myself. Craft is something I do for other people," Gary said. "I do incorporate my art into my crafts, of course. But I've done some festivals where I didn't mass-produce anything. And trying to get a certain price for them, well, people at festivals haven't been prepared to pay."

"I got discouraged doing festivals, then I realized I should keep them separate," he said. "I'll have the stuff I really put a lot into for my art shows, and the crafty stuff that I can do more of will be for festivals."

One of Gary's early exhibits took place at the Vermilion River Festival last year. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness of the poor condition of the waterway, which, if corrected, could be a recreational asset to the area.

"I just wanted to do something really out there, something that really didn't look like your average fish," he said. "I told people who came to look that this is what the fish are going to look like if we don't start taking better care of our river."

Gary also is involved in a drumming group, writes music and poetry and has participated in poetry slams.

"As far as the production goes, I want to be able to live the life I want to live," he said, adding that he'll get up at 7 a.m. but sometimes not make it to his shop until four hours later.

"I'm working in my garden, cleaning my house. Spending time with my family and my son."

Gary also is involved in a drumming group, writes music and poetry and has participated in poetry slams.

"I'm playing music and doing poetry — these things seem to be more of my hobbies, which glass was at one time," he said. "But now I have made it my job, my hobby, my art. It's all of these things."

"It's more tangible. It's beautiful. Glass is something people can look at and give it to somebody. I can sell it to somebody," he said. "And if I had to chose one of the three to be able to provide for me, this would do it better than the others."

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