

Coming soon: Eggshelland, the movie

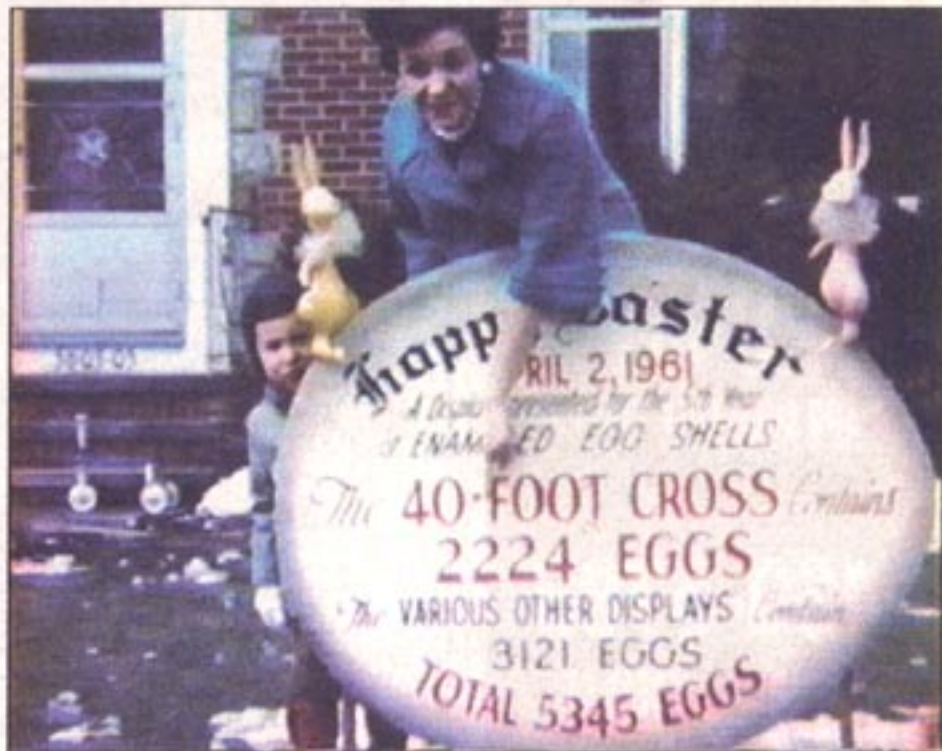
Documentary chronicles the Manolios and their annual Easter egg-stravaganza

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LYNDHURST — This Easter season, residents will be able to see Eggshelland on the big screen.

Ron and Betty Manolio, who have been decorating their Linden Lane yard with thousands of colored egg shells for 52 years, are the subjects of a documentary that will premiere at 7 p.m. April 17 and 18 at Cedar Lee Theatre, 2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights.

"Eggshelland: The Movie" follows a year in the life of the Manolios as they planned and set up their annual Easter display for 2004.



SLENDERTHREAD MEDIA/SPECIAL TO SUN NEWS

This still from "Eggshelland: The Movie" shows Betty Manolio with the sign for the 1961 Eggshelland display.

Producer and director Christopher Noice, who was then living in Mayfield Heights, came up with the idea for a documentary the first time he visited Eggshelland in 1985.

"When you see it for the first time, it's just amazing," he said. "It just seemed natural that this would be a good documentary."

Treat like family

It took several years for Noice to secure a camera for the film, but once he did, the Manolios embraced Noice and producer Julie Matthews with open arms.

"They treated us like fam-
See MOVIE, A10



The Manolios (literally) weather the elements to prepare Eggshelland. Here Ron drives in the stakes for eggs during heavy rain. The display was hit by 16 inches of snow in 2008, an ice storm in 2002 and a hail storm in 1998.

MOVIE

From A1

ily, which is how they treat everyone who comes to Eggshelland," Noice said. "They would always invite us to stay for dinner, and they would take us on rides to the park in their Plymouth."

Betty Manolio said that she and her husband were more than happy when asked to be a part of the film.

"We first noticed this nice young man filming at our house in Easter 2003," Betty said.

"He was so nice that when he asked us if we would allow him to make a documentary, we couldn't say no."

Starting in the fall

The documentary shows footage of the preparations for Eggshelland — which usually begin in the fall — right through to the colorful end, when visitors from all across the region flock to Linden Lane to see the display.

The 1½-hour film includes comments from the Manolio family, which includes five children and several grandchildren, neighbors, friends and awestruck visitors.

However, the film is more than just a documentary about the technical side of putting 40,000 eggshells on a front lawn, said Matthews, who lives in Sagamore Hills.

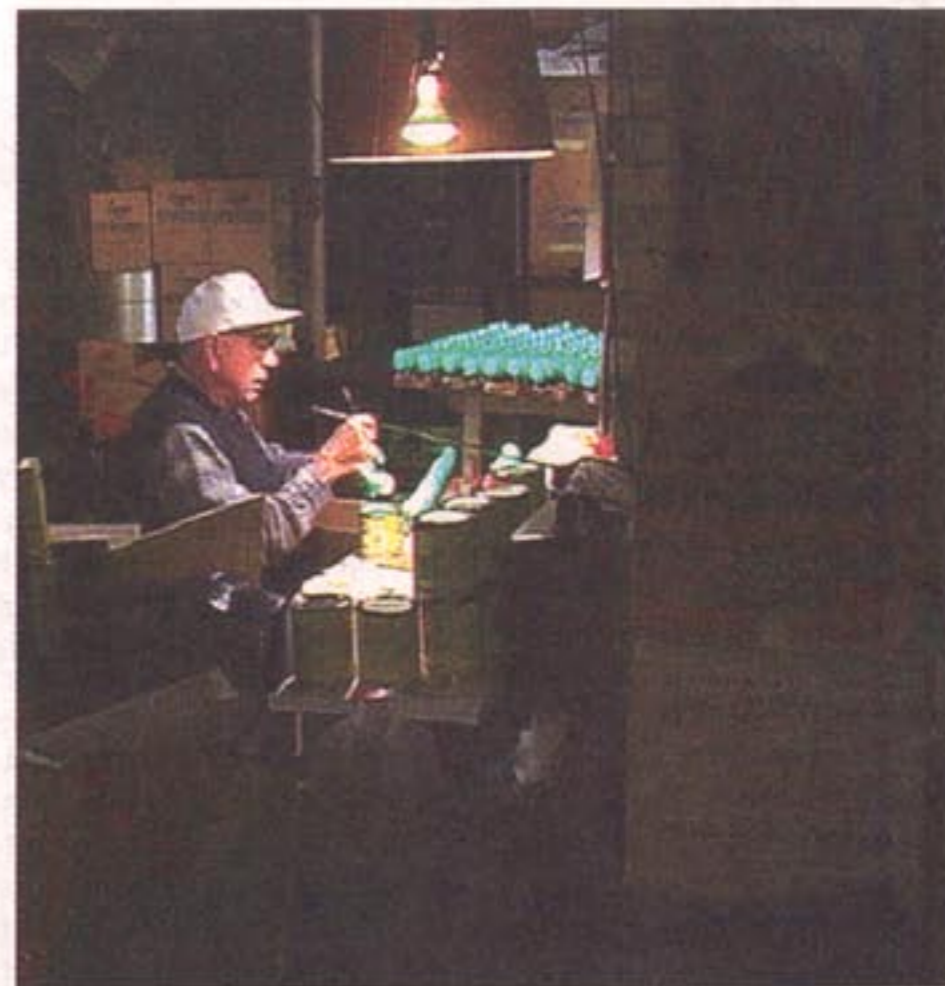
"It's more than just a 'how did they do that?' film," she said.

"It's a story about the love the Manolios have for each other and how they've remained committed to their marriage and to their community for decades."

Most of the Manolios large family will be on hand for the premiere, Betty said.

"I've already seen it," she said. "It's very funny in parts — especially where Ron and the kids are trying to put the display together. It's really very, very nice."

The film is being released by Noice and Matthews' production company, Slender-Thread Media.



Ron Manolio spends countless hours painting eggs to prepare for Eggshelland. This year's display will include around 40,000 eggs.

They are sending "Eggshelland" to film festivals in hopes of giving the movie the widest audience possible.

Meanwhile, Eggshelland will be on display from April 5-20 at the Manolios' home on 1031 Linden Lane.

This year's theme, Zoo's Who, will take around 40,000 eggs to create the peacocks, parrots, lions, elephants and other animals that Betty sketched and Ron and the rest of the family put up.

The Zoo's Who theme was originally planned for 2008, but the Manolios had to scale back their design because of a snowstorm last March. Easter was March 23 last year.

To purchase tickets for "Eggshelland: The Movie" visit clevelandcinemas.com. For more about the movie, visit eggshellandmovie.com. For more information about Eggshelland, visit eggshellandohio.tripod.com.