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Suzy Pomeroy, left, and Frankye Cartner show off their creations inside the partners' studio in Gridley. The women

make a variety of stained-glass windows, lamps and other items and even teach classes on the art.

Ancient glass art alive in Gridley

By Julie DeForest
MERCURY-REGISTER STAFF WRITER

GRIDLEY — The art of stained glass has reached dizzying heights in the hands of greats such as Tiffany and Frank Lloyd Wright and the tradition continues quietly and unabated in a busy workshop in Gridley.

Frankye Cartner and Suzy Pomeroy are the owners of Stained Glass Junction, a workshop, supply and retail outlet for the area's booming art glass community.

With a mailing list of more than 600 customers and hobbyists, along with several large commissions per year, Cartner, Pomeroy and two full-time employees spend long hours keeping the 800-year-old art alive.

"Stained glass has changed very little since the very begin-

ning," said Cartner. "Things are easier to work with but the properties have not changed at all."

Using traditional tools and materials, the pair has spent the last 10 years creating countless art pieces, publishing six books of their unique designs and creating and repairing windows for area churches and homes.

Their expertise in the intimate world of art glass is well-known and as members of the International Art Glass Association they are in demand as teachers and lecturers.

For now, the shop is focused on the extensive production needed for the annual Angel Preview set for October. More than 400 angels will be on display for those ready to get a jump on Christmas shopping.

Prices at the junction are very reasonable compared to what

they might be in a major metropolitan area. Special pieces are available from \$20-\$2000.

For those who wish to venture into the craft of art glass, eight-week classes are available at the workshop for both beginners and the more advanced ranging from \$48 to \$80 and teaching both lead and foil construction.

Homeowners who want to add a touch of elegance to their lives can commission a stained-glass window or art piece from the shop within their own spending guidelines.

One of their most famous commissions came from Dollywood, the Tennessee theme park owned by country music star Dolly Parton. Years ago when the park opened, Cartner and Pomeroy kept the park gift shop supplied with busy glass butterflies - Dolly's trademark.

The artisans are just finishing

a five-year project to replace 16 windows at St. Isadore's Catholic Church in Yuba City.

The dynamic team credits the success of their partnership to a strong foundation in friendship and caring.

These feelings of warmth spill over into everything they do, making students and customers feel happy and comfortable.

"Suzy and I are both earth mothers and we try to make everyone that walks into this shop feel at home," Cartner said. "So if for no other reason, we would be here for the friendship and the camaraderie of all the people."

Stained Glass Junction is located in Gridley at 1563 Hwy 99 and is open Tuesday through Saturday. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except on Wednesdays when the workshop closes at 4:30 p.m.