

Collects Art, Paints Her Own

by DOROTHY JEAN BENJAMIN

A new apartment-dweller in Birmingham brings with her skill in doing public relations work, in painting modern canvases, experience in adult education teaching, plus a determination to keep time to devote to her eight-year-old son.

Mrs. Muriel B. Last is a brunette with a serious streak that looks at things like a YMCA's need for a swimming pool and a memory for the funny things that have happened to her.

She proudly hangs an Aaron Bohrod painting on her wall and laughs as she tells how she met the noted artist in Chicago. Reporting for a dentist appointment, she was introduced to another lifelong patient, Bohrod, who gurgled "how-do-you-do" through a mouthful of apparatus. It was later that the dentist gave her the painting.

ALSO ON THE SEVERE MODERN WALLS of her black and white apartment at 1468 Southfield, Mrs. Last has hung a fresco done by Sarkis Sarkisian, Detroit artist under whom she studied oil painting.

She has lived in the Detroit area for several years, doing special correspondence work for a trade newspaper, and this month became publicity director for Detroit's Jewish Community center. They moved to Birmingham Sept.

STILL STORED IN THE BASEMENT, for painting, unpacking, carpeting as a problem for the busy young career woman, are her oil paintings. Using gesso board because she likes the "tooth" it has to grip her thin layers of over-painting, she experiments in flat areas with vibrant colors showing through deep used glazes.

She taught oil painting at Manhattan Y.M.C.A. branch, while teaching drama sections of Wayne university's health education department, and has led classes in effective speech at the Y.W.C.A.'s northern branch.

ALTHOUGH LAST YEAR she had two of these adult classes running all winter, this year she is saving time to spend with son Michael. He goes to City and country schools, where she has joined the school's PTA.

Busy on Monday nights with board meetings for the Central branch of the Y.M.C.A. in Detroit

(she is on the board of management), she also belongs actively to the American Educational Theatre association and the Speech association of America. She has a life membership in the Art Institute of Chicago, regrets missing their gallery talks and special programs for members.

ORIGINALLY FROM HIGHLAND Park, Illinois, she is a University of Chicago graduate. It's funny," she says, "that at first I came in scientific work, but I kept up on the humanities. When I came to Detroit, I had to take my choice between technical writing or creative efforts.



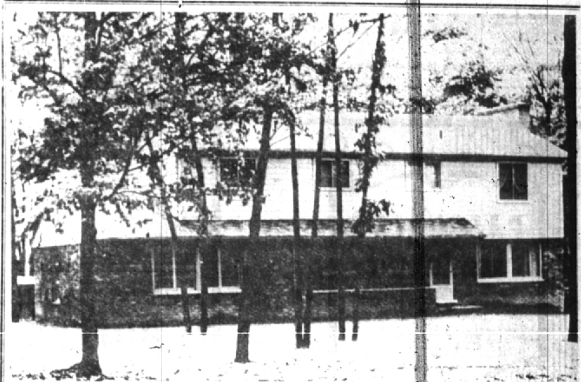
A WINTRY BOULEVARD is subject of Aaron Bohrod's painting, hanging in Mrs. Muriel Last's new apartment. Her wall of rough yellow brick accents other white walls and black furniture and brings out warm tones in the Bohrod and the Sarkis Sarkisian painting under her arm. She and her son, Michael, live at 1468 Southfield. (Eccentric Photo)

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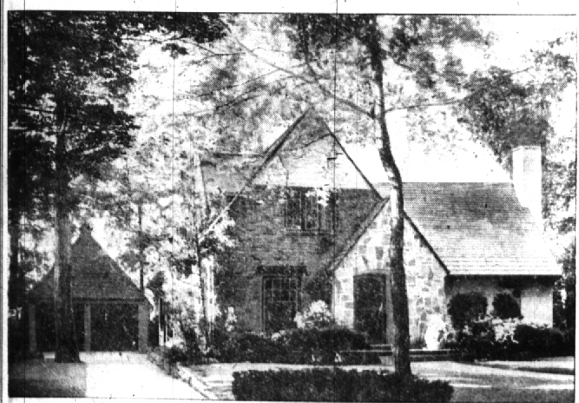
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Walter S. Ryan of Woodward avenue returned from Europe last week aboard the SS Independence. Crew members took care of the passengers' luggage in the absence of longshoremen. Ryan made his third trip to Europe to visit the fourth International Machinery exhibit held this year in Milan, Italy.

Five months were required to set up some of the huge manufacturing machines at the exhibit which was open from Sept. 14 to 23. Germany showed the greatest number of machines, followed by Italy. Two local companies, Micro-matic Home company and the Michigan Tool company were exhibitors. A German company showed the first fully automatic boring coordinator with automatic positioning. Ryan represents both European and American machinery companies. After eight days in Milan he went to Rome and then to Portugal. After visiting Lisbon and Madrid he boarded the SS Independence at Gibraltar. A. J. Cronin, the author, was also aboard.

Mrs. Ina McPhee, who has lived in Alaska for 15 years, arrived at the home of the Emerald Kleins last Thursday. Mrs. McPhee, who is Mrs. Klein's mother, plans to make her home in this vicinity.

Judith Blake, whose engagement to Lawrence Churley was announced recently, has been feted at several showers. Mrs. Lee Maloin entertained at a miscellaneous shower at her home in Hobbley for Judith and Mrs. Charles Brady of Rivenook road invited friends to a "personal" shower at her home. Mrs. Stephen Churley of Groesbeek Pointe also gave a miscellaneous shower.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Guy spent 10 days in Chicago recently before they returned to Verona Circle with Guy's father, Frank Guy, who plans to make his home here. The trip to Chicago gave them a chance to see their daughter, Judy.

Members of the Royal Oak Beverly Hills Dance club report their first dance Saturday evening was a great success at the Sylvan Glen Country club.

Nyle C. Jessup, who is known to many Royal Oakers as a science teacher at the Clara Barton junior high school, is also an artist at legitimate. As a magician he entertained the young guests invited to the Kephart Walker home on Olvin Sunday afternoon to celebrate Cherry Walker's eighth birthday. Watching the magic tricks were Judy Dunn, Christi Hart, Polly Stagg, Linda Holzman, Joyce Maki and Cherry's cousins June Demaree and Linda Shepard. The three cousins wore identical dresses, smocked in white. Clifford Walker, Cherry's three year old brother also enjoyed the show.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Rayma have named their fifth son Eugene Lawrence. He was born Sept. 30 in Detroit.

Lupton School Pre-school mothers will meet at 8 o'clock in the school on Wednesday, Oct. 20, to hear Hazel Dunlop discuss holiday decorations for the home.

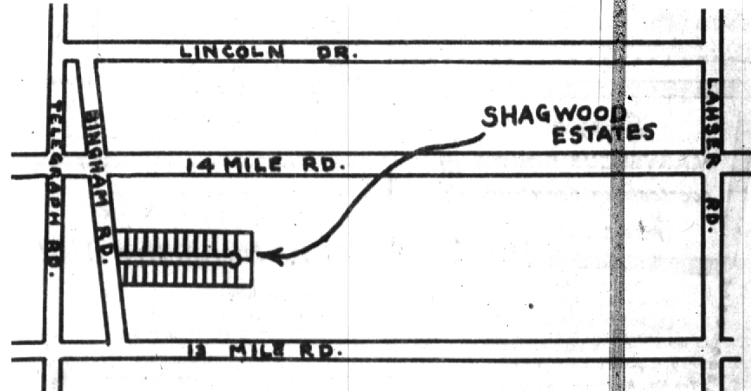
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