



ARTIST GENE SHACKLETT was on hand at the Birmingham Arts Center last week to paint watercolor portraits of young visitors to the Birmingham Arts Festival. Doing some lily-sitting for himself is two-year-old Carolyn LeVeque, sitting on the lap of his father, D. E. G. LeVeque. The wide range of activities during the three-day event included art exhibits, studio tours and an original musical comedy, "The Bloomingham Newcomers."

Many Activities Spark Festival

By JERRY HAYS
Special Writer

The Arts Festival arrived in Birmingham with a flurry of activity, including a parade and a play, last Thursday night.

The parade of cars took place down Cranbrook Road to the new Arts Center and was followed by groups of people heading for the paintings, drawings and other art work.

The Festival Art Market turned out to be the center of activity. Customers milled around the bins of painting and around the new 1500 square foot exhibit gallery.

HOUSING A collection of prize winning painting and sculpture exhibits, the gallery of the Arts Festival Exhibition was limited in number of exhibits to allow each piece sufficient display space.

The fictional Rice family moved to the area and their lively experiences were featured in the play "The Bloomingham Newcomers."

Dean Coffin's recipe for comedy proved most successful when he pinpointed the humor in everyday suburbia. The presentation was backed by fine characterization,

such as the psychologically-oriented moving men.

ISABEL HAMELHOFF'S musical score of 11 original songs had a freshness that kept the show moving quickly.

Especially delightful were "Come of Mind and Beer," "Tender Lovin' Care" and "We're Having Relations."

The entire cast was notable for its zest and enthusiasm. From the role of the farm boy Fanny Rice, Winnie Coffin harvested a bumper crop of humor.

Around her characterization, Bob Dearth proved a winning partnership as Herb Rice. He was warmly received for his "Song of Detroit."

Local Best Sellers

- FICTION**
- Ship of Fools—Katherine Anne Porter
 - Golden Rendezvous—Alistair MacLean
 - Youngblood Hawke — Herman Wouk
- NON-FICTION**
- Six Crises—Richard Nixon
 - A Bridge for Passing—Forl Buck
 - Oh Ye Jies and Jupes—Virginia Hudson

2 Local Quartets To Participate in Freedom Festival

Two quartets members of the south Oakland County Suburbanettes, will participate in the opening event of the 1962 International Freedom Festival tonight at 8 at Cubo Hall, Detroit.

The "Cracker Jills" and the "Yankee Misses," are both part of the Suburbanettes. The former group will also sing at the festival awards dinner.

The Suburbanettes are members of an international women's organization founded to promote barbershop quartets. The county group includes five quartets.



"The roundup of arts, crafts and sculpture is on again in Franklin," says exhibits co-chairman Mrs. William Pearce as she admires the sculptured figure done by artist Barry Shaw-Rimington (right). Also approving the entry is Ralph Smith, president of the Franklin Association, the sponsoring organization. The exhibit will be presented in conjunction with the village's annual barbecue roundup, scheduled for Sept. 15. Mrs. Pearce's husband will assist her in planning the arts show.

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN SECTION D

Polpourri

by ROBIN BAHR

Everyone connected with the Arts Festival must be feeling proud.

They deserve to be. It was a tremendous undertaking, involving hundreds of people—merchants, artists, city officials, members of the Bloomfield Art Association, St. Dunstan's and the Village Playhouse.

It required weeks of work and city-wide cooperation. But the benefits to be gained by an arts festival and this particular one, Birmingham's fifth, can't be underestimated.

Besides bringing official recognition to the arts, the festival provides the artist with the impetus to create and with an opportunity for his work to be seen.

The year's work was outstanding. In addition to the art, which included crafts, sculpture and painting, there was the fun and excitement of original musical comedy with "The Bloomingham Eccentrics," the children's theatre by the Cranbrook Summer Theatre School and the tours of artists' studios.

The only thing missing were sidewalk cafes, which added such leisurely, light-hearted gaiety to past festivals.

Even without that, the festival was an unqualified success drawing greater audiences, involving greater participation—bringing quality and variety to its events.

Summertime seems to be the time for arts festivals all the world over.

The Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy (which will include American dance trouper, Dana Vass of Birmingham) opens July 21.

The Stratford Shakespearean Festival opens its 10th season June 18-Sept. 29.

Spoleto may be a little out of reach, but Stratford, Ont. is right at our fingertips and hundreds of people from here and all over the world attend every year.

Members of The Village Woman's Club will be taking their third consecutive trip to see "The Tempest" July 25.

Founded by a Stratford journalist in the small Canadian town, the festival began with a small repertory theatre under Tyrane Guthrie. It has grown to include music and art, as well as Shakespearean and modern theatre.

This year's theater offerings include "Macbeth," "The Taming of the Shrew," "The Tempest," and "Cyrano de Bergerac."

In music, there will be Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Gondoliers" and weekend concerts by the National Memorial Orchestra; in art: exhibits of painting, theatre memorabilia, and handicrafts; and, for the first time, Shakespearean seminars.

A lecture on "The Tempest" will be given July 17 by MSUO scholar, Robert Hoopes.

(See POTPOURRI, 4-D)

IN THE BOOKCASE

Novel Structured Around a Poem

"PALE FIRE," by Vladimir Nabokov; G. P. Putnam's Sons; N. Y.; 315 pp — \$5. Books reviewed in The Eccentric have been loaned by LaBelles and the Village Bookshelf.

Reviewed by Scott Tuttle

Nabokov's new book is a weird one. He has written the book as though one of its characters was

purportedly writing about the poem another character had written. Briefly, Nabokov's novel is a book about a poem.

The first 20 pages of "Pale Fire" are a Foreword by Dr. Charles Kinbote, explaining how he happens to be the one to publish and write a commentary on the last poem of his friend, John Shade. The poem is called "Pale Fire."

After the first paragraph, the reader's ears prick, metaphorically, and he begins to perceive a story quite different from Kinbote's version.

THE NEXT 50 pages are a reprint of the poem in four cantos of rhymed couplets. The reader now adds the character, John Shade, his history, and his household, to the novel.

Next is the commentary by Dr. Kinbote, and the reader's novel grows as the full intricacy of Kinbote's personality reveals itself.

Nabokov here gives free rein to his delight in playing with words and associations and this section is full of allusions and symbols.

THE SCENE OF action is "New Wye" where "the River Egg" flows, and Kinbote is the exiled king of "Zembla." Shade's wife is, naturally, "Sybil," and the man with the gun, whose progress is carefully noted, is "Gradus," a member of the "Shadows."

The final scholarly touch in Kinbote's book is the index, which is a very funny and necessary part of the novel.

NO OTHER modern novel ends (See NOVEL, 2-D)

Alumni Association Announces Officers

CRANBROOK—The Cranbrook School Alumni Association has announced its officers for the 1962-63 board of directors.

They are Sherwin M. Birnkranz, re-elected president; Stephen C. Miller, re-elected vice-president; Michael B. Redfield, secretary and James C. Holmes, re-elected treasurer.

New members named to the board of directors are Gordon Craig and David Raymond. Re-elected was Arthur J. Brandt, Jr.

2 Artists Work Together; Establish Separate Styles

It is rare to find two artists who think and work together, yet paint with distinctly individual expression.

However, Dorothy and Frederick Simper, whose paintings are currently being exhibited at Jacobson's new Fine Arts Gallery, are able to do so.

"It's something that delights and even—at times—surprises them."

"We do paint differently," says Mrs. Simper, "but we are interested in each other's work and we find our differences complementary."

WHAT IS similar about their work is the presence of feeling. The means of conveying feeling differs in their use of color, line, and perspective; but the feeling exists in everything they do—in landscapes, people, even still lifes. There is always a highly personal projection of mood or emotion.

"WE ARE concerned with composition," says Simper. "This is what painting is really about—creating design and pattern through contrasts. But we want to go beyond that and to paint what we see with the feeling we have for the subject."

THIS SAME personal expression can be seen in their selection of subjects as well. "Much of what they paint reflects the beauty they find surrounding them."

They live in what is still country, on Spring Lake Road, off Middlebelt. Twelve years ago they bought the land, cleared the wild growth on top of the hill and built a simple modern house of weathered logs and huge glass windows.

The hill slopes down on one side to a wooded pond; on the other, to a narrow winding creek.

THERE ARE beautiful rose bushes planted in sunny spots on the lawn. A homemade swing hangs from a huge old oak for their two children, Walden, 10, and Tony, 9.

They built a bird house, especially for wrens, near the roses. All kinds of birds make their homes there.

Everything you see is beautiful and natural. This is what they use to create an evocative and intimate color of birds incorporate into their lives.

Walden, their daughter, paints too all kinds of subjects: animals, people, and still lifes. Right now she is busy designing doll's clothes.

Art to them, as it is to their sons for either child. "We just talk art all the time," says Mrs. Simper. "Sometimes they watch us, sometimes they ask to paint with us. Of course we're pleased and work with them but we are purposely letting them develop as naturally as possible."

One particularly interesting work in Walden's room was a paper doll dressed in pieces and bits of different fabrics and decorated with tiny beads and sparkles. It was entirely covered with scotch tape.

"This is actually a collage done when Walden was in kindergarten. She didn't know what a collage was," said Simper.

"THIS IS why we emphasize freedom for the child and for art. The artist is constantly finding the 'accidental' development in his work," he explained. "You work with it a little; it becomes interesting, and this can lead to an entirely new means of expression like the collage."

Freedom works two ways. As a result of the liberty they give to their children and feel about art, the Simpers remain free in their own development. They have evolved individual techniques but are able to grow as artists because they remain open to the new experience, the new discovery.

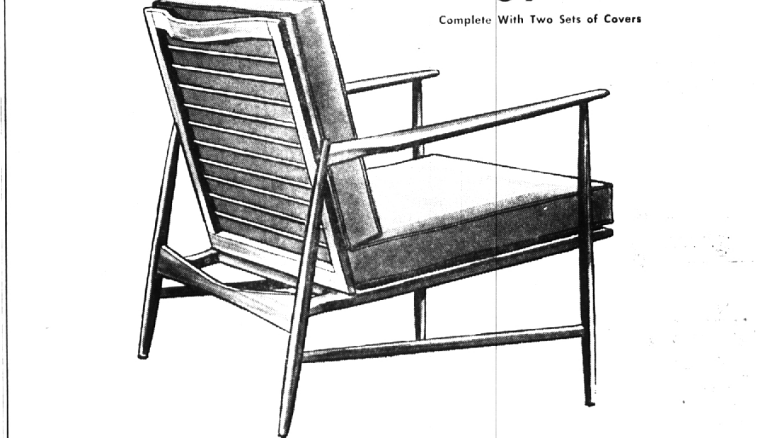
IT IS rare to find this combination. Their art reflects it and it is a happy art to see.

Art lovers who want to spend a delightful hour or two can see the Simpers' "two-man" show at Jacobson's galleries through July 6.

Birmingham Actor

Paul McGaffey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald McGaffey of 233 Danes, Birmingham, will be seen in the role of Adolphus Custis in George Bernard Shaw's "Major Barbara" this summer at the University of Detroit Repertory Festival.

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