

THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN
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'Would-be Artist' Gets Her Instruction Air Mail

By GLORIA JESSUP
Special Writer

The sign of the Spanish bowland knot denoted a painting by Alice Bennett. Mrs. Bennett—who calls herself a "would-be" artist—is a comparative newcomer to the area, having moved to Birmingham in 1961. She resides on Tudor Lane, Dorchester Hills, with her husband, Keith Bennett and their two sons, Keith and Dave.

Mrs. Bennett has only been painting for about 2 and one-half years. It all began, as many things will, through one of her children. Son Dave came home one day to ask permission to spend the night with a new friend. (The family was then living in Needham, Mass., while her husband attended the Sloan program at MIT graduate school to obtain his masters degree in industrial management.) Being new in the area, Mrs. Bennett went with Dave to meet the friend's mother, Mrs. Patrone.

MRS. BENNETT admired Mrs. Patrone's paintings and made the customary remark, "I wish I could paint."

"You can," returned Mrs. Patrone. "Why, I can't even draw a straight line," said Mrs. Bennett.

"I will teach you," said Mrs. Patrone—and thus began a friendship and the beginning of a wonderful new outlet of expression for Mrs. Bennett.

She was encouraged in her new adventure by her husband, children and by Mrs. Patrone's husband, Cass.

It was difficult at first to achieve the effect she desired because she was accustomed to fine detail. (Mrs. Bennett is a qualified top draftsman and did this kind of work during the war. She is also a licensed pilot and was a member of the civil air patrol Auxiliary Air Force during the war.)

Local Actor Appears In One-Act Plays

Appearing in "Study in Color," by the Rev. Malcolm Boyd, currently running at the Concept East in Detroit, is Phil Purcell of Orchard Lake.

Others in the cast of the three one-act plays, which had their world premiere at Will-O-Way Theater in Bloomfield Hills last fall, are Woodie King and Cliff Frazier, both members of the original cast. Purcell, King and Frazier have all studied at Will-O-Way.

MRS. PATRONE (Chris) gave this advice to her pupil and friend: "Painting should be a suggestion of what you want. If you want detail—take a photo."

Taking this advice coupled with Cass Patrone's suggestion to paint bold and with reckless abandon, Mrs. Bennett (Rusty) began to develop a love for painting as a fulfillment of expression.

When the year in Needham was over the family was transferred to the Detroit area and Rusty could no longer take her lessons as before. Letters took too long, because the mood or spirit would be lost in the time lapse.

CASS PATRONE hit upon an idea by chance one day.

The canvas could be sectioned off (mostly into four sections) when Mrs. Bennett became stuck and needed help, she would turn on her tape recorder and say which coordinate she was in, and then she would tell what she had already been used and what effect she wanted to achieve.

She would include a pencil sketch with the tape and send it air mail to Mrs. Patrone.

Mrs. Patrone would listen to the tape, record the advice and air mail it back to Mrs. Bennett. When the painting was finished, a picture would be taken and the result sent back to Mrs. Patrone.

This is truly studying via long distance.

IN ADDITION to this method of air mail lessons, Mrs. Bennett travels the 830 miles to Needham about every three or four months for more instruction.

She is planning such a trip in the near future and then will be content to wait for the summer sojourn when all the family goes East.

Each summer the two families spend a month in Rockport, Mass. They rent apartments and while the ladies paint to their hearts content, the gentlemen relax, take the children fishing or, all together, they go on picnics.

MRS. BENNETT prefers to paint with oil as opposed to watercolor. (See ARTIST, 5-D)



AMONG THE photographs on display in the "Photography in the Fine Arts" exhibit at the Cranbrook Academy galleries is "Mountain Village in Winter" by Peter Keetman. The traveling exhibit is being held jointly with another entitled "Design Investigations" featuring work of students of design at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. The show will run through Mar. 8. Galleries are open from 2 to 5 p.m. daily except Monday. There is an admission charge on weekends.

Photography Show Displays Fine Art

Reviewed by ROBERT L. OSBORN
Sensitive and powerful describe "Photography in the Fine Arts," now exhibited at the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

The innocence of Irving Penn's most coddle of eggs and the impact of William Sienkewicz' "Morning Arrival" remind us that all things are sacred in pictures handled by sensitive individuals.

THE WORK of men like Karsh, Avedon, Halsman, Heyman, Penn, Kane and Sienkewicz should not be ignored. It represents the basic honesty and vitality which most photographers admire and strive for.

These are the works of men who are influencing the present generation of photographers. Whatever one's interest in photography, artistic or technical, he can, and should, view and enjoy "Photography in the Fine Arts."

WORKING ON a sketch for a new painting is Mrs. Keith Bennett of Tudor Lane, Birmingham, Mrs. Bennett, who prefers oils to watercolor, has been painting for only two

and one-half years mainly under the tutelage of a former friend and neighbor in Needham, Mass., to whom she sends, air mail, sketches and descriptions of her painting projects.

FROM THE BOOKCASE:

On a Slow Boat in China

THE SAND PEBBLES by Richard McKenna. Harper & Row, Publishers, 1962. 208 pages and illustrations. \$4.95.

By W. SPRAGUE HOLDEN
Professor of Journalism
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This oddly-named book—a fat one of 597 pages—takes the reader back to the 1920s and puts him aboard an obsolete U. S. gunboat in China. The Sand Pebbles are the officers and men of the USS San Pablo, on duty in an upper tributary of the Yangtze River.

The San Pablo is older than Nevada-born Jake Holman, an engineer who has made a career of the Navy, seven years of it in China.

Holman and the San Pablo are the two chief actors in a drama that begins at their moment of meeting, and which comes to a bloody climax in the 1925-27 revolution that put Chiang Kai-shek and the Kuomintang on top in China. It is bleak stuff to read. In 1963, about Chiang as a marauding revolutionist.

"THE SAND PEBBLES" is as ponderous at times as the USS San Pablo when the ship moves from its moorings on a mission. It is a book that has long, arid stretches when nothing much moves, and neither does McKenna's reporting of it.

Yet there is a constant fascination to the narrative; a kind of sea-washed nostalgia, a feel of the authentic McCoy throughout.

Many stories steam quietly along at the same time. Jake Holman has two love affairs that beguile him until book's end. One is with ship's engineer; to Holman a ship is a live thing and the engines are its heart. You wonder how in the world McKenna can make an overhaul of the San Pablo's defective power plant exciting—yet he does.

As a sea writer, McKenna's Moby Dick is a ship, and his Chinese girl, Maily, to whom he is married despite the Navy's coldly official demerit. Against odds that become a roaring vortex, Burgoyne and Maily fight hopelessly.

THERE IS Lieutenant Collins in command of the San Pablo, who regards himself as the personal representative of President Coolidge in China; and who thinks and talks in coldly fierce, patriotic stereotypes.

There is Lynch, who hates Holman, and Harris, who leads the black gang in an attempted murder of the Chinese girl, Maily, to whom he insists he is married despite the Navy's coldly official demerit. Against odds that become a roaring vortex, Burgoyne and Maily fight hopelessly.

"THE SAND PEBBLES" has many merits. It is a good story, despite length and unevenness of writing; and its insistent climax puts the reader along.

The conflicts are admirably arranged. They range from savage little feuds in the San Pablo's engine room to the great engulfing battles between the Kuomintang and the Western enclaves. The slow buildup of the latter, the flexing

tensions, are handled well in the large and in detail. Although this is his first novel, McKenna is no peach-fuzz prodigy. Now 50-ish, he came late to fiction. Into this work he poured much of what he learned of China during ten years with the Navy in the Far East. In 1953, he retired from the Navy after 31 years of service. Since then, after graduation from the University of N. C., he has devoted himself, as the blurb writers say, to writing.

FINALLY, "The Sand Pebbles" restores to the Harper Prize Novel contest series some of the prestigious luster that a recent selection of two had sandpapered off. It is a book club selection—or you can wait and see it as a movie.

children), the providing of funds for free eye examinations and glasses for any child who might need and can't afford them.

PROVIDING BELTS, capes and helmets or "safety patrol" students in both public and parochial schools; and contributing their time, talents and funds to Camp Mah-Goo-Tah-See for the support of the local YMCA and the Birmingham Community House.

The appearance of Fred Waring next month will be his second here for a Lions Club concert and will mark the ninth club concert since the series began in 1936. Others who have given performances are Roger Williams (also twice), Don Cossack, Guy Lombardo and Ferrante and Teicher.

TICKETS ARE available at Grinnell's, Waback Pharmacy, Wilcox and Drug Mills Pharmacy, Mitty's Record Shop and the Hunter-Maple Pharmacy as well as from any Lions Club member.

Among the major service projects supported by the Lions are a seven-month trip around the world in the same school system. The following letter was written after they had spent a few days on Oahu Island, Hawaii.

AL was our first introduction to Hawaiian hospitality. A native-honoi Hawaiian with Japanese ancestry, he was returning from a trip to the mainland and he sat next to us on the plane. The minute he discovered we were "Malahinis" he went to great lengths to tell us of the points of interest as well as the tourist traps on the island of Oahu. Our plane trip lasted four to one-half hours, and four of these were devoted to information and education that I even our best guide books wouldn't tell us.



Four 'Aces' by Montana artist 'Ace' Powell are Dr. and Mrs. Thornton Boileau, 450 Hamilton, Bloomfield Village. The Boileaus are sponsoring a two-day exhibit this weekend of Powell's work (the first "east of the Mississippi" of his paintings) at the Birmingham Community House. Powell, who once knew and painted with the famous Charles Russell, has been invited to show his work by the Hummer Galleries in New York. He was the first living contemporary artist to hold a one-man show at the Denver (Colo.) Art Museum, and he has had a sculpture exhibit at Newhouse Gallery in New York. Hours for the exhibit here will be 1 to 10 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday.

Carefully unwrapping paintings by Montana artist "Ace" Powell are Dr. and Mrs. Thornton Boileau, 450 Hamilton, Bloomfield Village. The Boileaus are sponsoring a two-day exhibit this weekend of Powell's work (the first "east of the Mississippi" of his paintings) at the Birmingham Community House. Powell, who once knew and painted with the famous Charles Russell, has been invited to show his work by the Hummer Galleries in New York. He was the first living contemporary artist to hold a one-man show at the Denver (Colo.) Art Museum, and he has had a sculpture exhibit at Newhouse Gallery in New York. Hours for the exhibit here will be 1 to 10 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday.

DANCING, BEACHES, HISTORY DRAW INTEREST

Couple Enjoys Tropical Atmosphere

As soon as Al was welcomed by his family and friends, he brought them all over and introduced them to us. Next, he told us of a good but inexpensive hotel and then he proceeded to call, make arrangements for our stay and even go so far as to bargain for businessmen's rates.

Of course, all cab drivers couldn't be trusted, according to Al, so he drove us to the hotel. With a handshake and last-minute instructions to the desk clerk to treat us right, Al and family.

Now MOVED into our first home - away - from - home (balcony with beautiful view and swimming pool, just three blocks away from Waikiki Beach) we decided to walk down to the waterfront.

This gave us an opportunity to observe a little more of our surroundings, and the full impact of the tropics hit us. The soft "kona" winds, the rustling palm trees, the moonlight reflecting on the water and the beautiful sandy beach, backgrounded by the twinkling light bracelets of boulevard lights on the hillside, painted a perfect picture of romantic Hawaii.

We spent considerable time, even though it was late, in wandering through the . . . "International Village" with all its native huts and planned atmosphere. With such a pleasant glow of romanticism, we decided to call it a day.

Armchair Travelers Go to the Far East

A Bloomfield Hills couple, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D. Williams, will show slides and talk about their trip to the Far East last spring at the upcoming travel session at the Village Women's Club, E. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, will gather at the club at 8 p.m. to hear the Williamses tell of their trip to Japan and Thailand.

Singing Trio Brings 2 'Back Home'

Two "hometowners" will return Saturday night when the "Peter, Paul and Mary" folk-singing trio performs at the Masonic Temple in Detroit.

They are Noel (Paul) Stookey and the group's road manager Jim Mosby.

Both were graduated from Birmingham High School in 1955.

WHILE IN high school, Stookey founded a "rock 'n' roll" rhythm and blues combo named the "Birds of Paradise," which made several appearances on WXYZ-TV and even cut a couple of records.

Stookey went on to Michigan State University where he studied radio and television production, and from there went on to Philadelphia and New York City.

THE TROUPE will not arrive in Detroit until shortly before their performance (at 8:30 p.m.) Saturday, and they must leave again

early Sunday morning. They will return to Michigan, however, the following weekend to play at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor Mar. 2. That performance will also begin at 8:30 p.m.

The trio's first record album, "Peter, Paul and Mary," was a best seller, and their second, "Peter, Paul and Mary (Moving)" was a hit soon after it was released.

STOOKEY is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Stookey, formerly of 288 W. Lincoln, Birmingham, who now live in Pacific Grove, Calif.

Mosby is the son of Mrs. J. Robert Mosby, 789 Shirley Drive, Birmingham.

Stookey has written two of the numbers in the trio's basic repertoire, "It's Raining" and "Early in the Morning." Both are recorded on their first album.

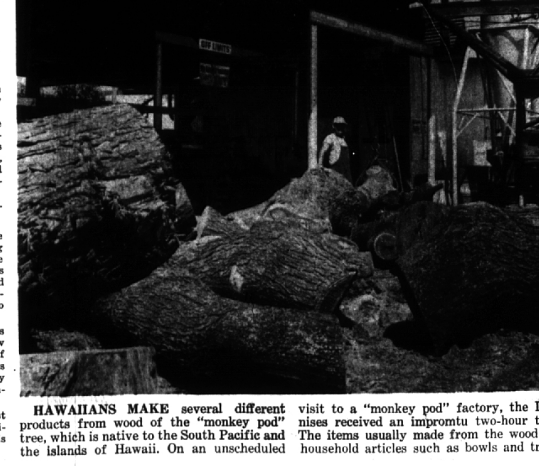
Past television appearances include the "Today" show, Jack Parr's show and the Pat Boone "special" on Thanksgiving Day. Last November they performed at Carnegie Hall.

One of their most recent engagements was the \$1,000-a-plate dinner celebrating President Kennedy's inaugural anniversary.

Oakland U. Chorus Sings in Detroit

The Oakland University chorus will sing with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Ford Auditorium at 8:30 p.m. Saturday. The chorus will join the orchestra in performing "Symphony of Psalms" by Stravinsky for the first Detroit performance of the work.

The concert will benefit the music scholarship program at Oakland University. Ticket co-chairman is Mrs. Walter Skinner of Bloomfield Hills.



HAWAIIANS MAKE several different products from wood of the "monkey pod" tree, which is native to the South Pacific and the islands of Hawaii. On an uncheduled visit to a "monkey pod" factory, the Den-Products from wood of the "monkey pod" trees received an impromptu two-hour tour. The items usually made from the wood are household articles such as bowls and trays.