

ART FOR ART'S SAKE

By CAROLYN HALL

Want to Paint? Why Do You Wait?

Have you always secretly wanted to paint? Go ahead. Start. The worst thing you can do is wait until you have the time. Things you put off for a rainy day or until the kids are grown just never happen.

Begin now by getting a set of paints, brushes and paper or canvas and slosh right in. Once you've started painting you can do necessary tasks in a whirlwind in order to get back on your project. Routine jobs can always wait a little longer or be done in a gay, mad rush.

OR PERHAPS you have the box of paints and you DID start to paint. Then you just ran out of steam, somehow. There are four good reasons why this might occur.

- First, you discover that painting is harder than it looks.
- Next, you find that you don't know how to accomplish the results you want.
- Third, you determine that the painting doesn't look like the picture you had in mind.
- Finally, you decide that it won't look good enough to hang over the mantle as you had planned.

These problems can be solved. It just takes some understanding and evaluating. A thing of value, as the adage states, is worth the effort.

IT'S TRUE, painting is hard work. It is always a surprise to discover how long it takes to do a painting from the preliminary sketching through the underpainting to the finishing touches.

Fortunately, once you are engrossed in the process, the picture seems to go very rapidly.

"Good Heavens!" you wonder as you stretch out the cramped muscle kinks. "Where has the time gone?" Eventually the very process of painting becomes the purpose rather than the desire for a picture.

MAYBE YOU are stymied on just how to apply the paint to achieve certain effects. This is the technical part of painting. You can learn it by plunging in experimentally and discovering for yourself what "works" (looks good or effective).

Or you may approach it in a more organized fashion by taking one of the many adult art classes taught in our area. These classes furnish technical information, encouragement and the stimulation of working with others.

IF YOU'RE a researcher at heart, you can study good paintings both old and new—to discover how the professionals do it. (If you are going to copy at least choose a work of art of top quality so you don't waste time learning poor technique.) Books from the amateur "how to" level to the artist's materials manuals are available in the Baldwin Library or the book and art stores to help you progress.

AFTER ALL THIS, what if the picture doesn't look like the one you had in mind?

Don't feel discouraged. Even with the best of artists, the painted version rarely compares with the imagined vision. In spite of this he paints picture after picture hoping to capture his illusive images.

Many beginners start to paint a picture solely to hang over the fireplace, only to realize it isn't good enough.

Being discriminating, they discover that their appreciation for fine art far exceeds their ability as a

beginning painter. Their first stuff looks amateurish. Why not? It is. **WHO EXPECTS** anyone learning to spell and punctuate to pen a

Jr. High Teacher Attends Institute

Barnum Junior High School teacher Fred Radloff of 1855 Villa, Birmingham, attended the Institute of Biology for Secondary School Teachers held this summer from July 17 to Aug. 30 at Michigan State University.

The biology institute, sponsored by MSU and the National Science Foundation, gives secondary school teachers additional training in biology or credit towards their masters degree.

novel on the first attempt? Beginners should have respect for the learning process. If the first painting is hung in the kitchen or another often seen spot, the neophyte artist can study it for possible improvement. Or he can put it away and then be surprised at his progress when he next sees it.

IT IS POSSIBLE that a new artist will discover that he is not an over-the-mantle type painter. Ordinarily these are decorative, representational serene scenes. Our hero may be a gay, mad modern deep down inside. When children paint they splash vigorously away, expressing their feelings, with little thought of saving the result. This idea comes later when Mom admires the result and tacks it up.

Your early efforts can be done with this same goal in mind: enjoy the process of expressing yourself by painting.

EVENTUALLY YOUR WORK may have more than therapeutic value. You may become a good and serious painter.

Or you may wish the pure pleasure of enjoying yourself and leave the worry of the "exhibition inhibition" to the professional artists.

Be a good amateur. Amateur is not a derogatory term. I chose to think of it in its original sense—derived from "to love." What better motive can there be for practicing an art than the sheer love of it?

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Painting

(Continued from 1-D)

and flowers, the human subjects (mostly women in 19th century dress) seem to blend into nature.

Only the imagination of the viewer can give a role or character to these people.

But they are not the concern of Gisson. The landscape is the important thing. He is not attempting to portray human life, except perhaps the insignificance of man

in the great setting of nature. There is one painting in the collection which should be mentioned in this context, because, unlike the rest, it is a street scene filled with people. No one special, just a large crowd who seem to be enjoying a warm afternoon in Paris.

GISSON'S-paintings are pleasing to look at. They are not particularly stimulating or brilliant, they do not have a particular message or social criticism to relate. They are simply pleasant pictures in decorative frames with picture lights above

that will look "pretty" in almost any setting.

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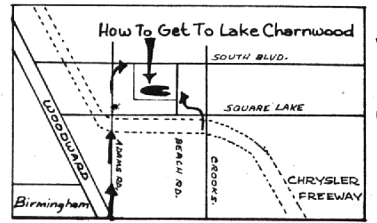
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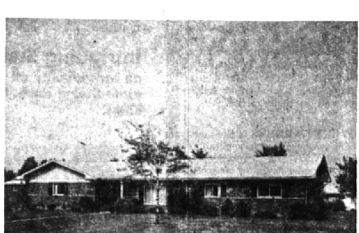
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IDEAL FAMILY HOME ON COURT STREET—Bloomfield schools. This Tri-level with aluminum siding has three twin-sized bedrooms and 2 1/2 baths. Separate dining room and fireplace in living room as well as in 21-foot family room. Built-in appliances in kitchen. Hobby room on lower level. Good value at \$30,500.



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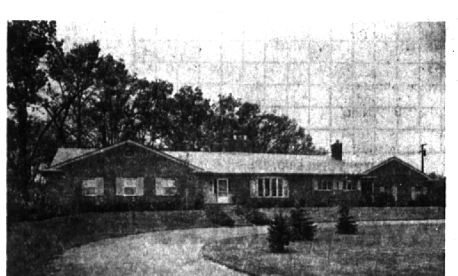
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