

# Birmingham Painter Typifies BAA Teachers

## 19 Artists To Conduct New Classes

By CAROLYN HALL  
Special Writer

"Art is an expression of life," states Edward Praczkowski, new artist-instructor at the Bloomfield Art Association. He is one of 19 able instructors who will be teaching a much expanded program of art courses at the center.

He continues, "Art is expressing one's self to bring out all the beauty, satisfaction and enrichment in life. Painting is an adventure. Life has many moods, and painting should reflect these changes, the angry moments, beautiful ones and the transitions in between.

"It's like a symphony. All those transitional nuances are necessary for the balance and rhythm of the whole."

This fine young painter meets life with eagerness and enthusiasm and an interest in everything.

"I DON'T LIKE the term 'teacher,'" he says earnestly. "I like to think of the students as fellow artists. I say 'come along with me.' 'I'll show you what I have found.' 'See what you can build on this.'"

Honors came to come naturally to Praczkowski. He graduated from Norwich Free Academy and Tufts University with honors, plus the additional honor of continuous scholarships. He was awarded a Boston Museum of Arts traveling fellowship for two years travel in Europe.

He then received honors and kudos for taking such impressive advantage of his travels as evidenced by the show of his works done on tour.

Lucky you might say. But the harder he works, the luckier he gets is certainly true with Praczkowski—although he doesn't consider his single-minded efforts as work but rather as happily taking full advantage of his good fortune.

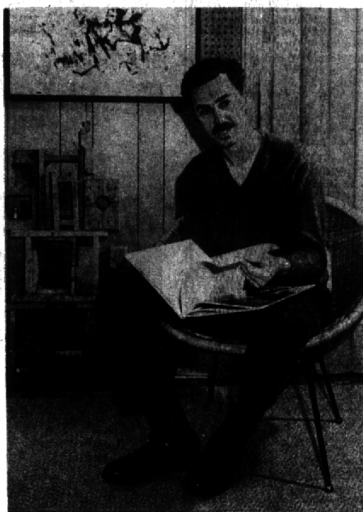
PRACZKOWSKI and his wife Ann live at 1355 Webster, Birmingham, with their two little boys while he earns his M.P.A. degree at Cranbrook. Half the living room of their home is taken up with Ann's silver-working bench.

Ann, a former art teacher, has a scholarship accepted and exhibited in the current Michigan Artist-Craftsman Show.

Oil paintings, tempera and ink drawings show some of Praczkowski's vibrant interest in "everything." His paintings, tending toward abstract, reflect moods and a great involvement with life. He likes people.

Mentioning his teaching experience at the Boston Museum of Art, Praczkowski fondly recalls one elderly student, a little old lady who taught rug hooking. She giggled nervously at the very idea of trying that crazy, modern art.

(See ARTISTS, 7-D)



PAINTER-INSTRUCTOR AT HOME Looking into art book

### Poetry Club to Hold Open Meeting

The Birmingham - Bloomfield Poetry Group will hold a first-time invitational meeting open to all interested visitors at 8:30 p.m. Monday at Alban's, 188 N. Hunter, Birmingham.

Sean Monk of The Time Shop, Birmingham, is hard, or president, of the organization.

# Reception Fetes Two Creators of Medical Series

Robert A. Thom and George A. Bender, artist-author creators of a medical history series of pictures and stories, will be honored at a reception from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, in the Oakland Center at Oakland University. The public is invited.

The reception will open a two-week exhibit of the series sponsored by the Oakland County Medical Society and the University's Division of Continuing Education.

Thom, who lives at 6160 W. Surrey, Birmingham, instructed adult classes in the evening program of Continuing Education at Oakland last year.

RECEIVING VISITORS to the exhibit Sunday will be officers of the society, Dr. Robert M. Bookmyer, president; Dr. Harry Arnkoff, past president; Dr. Robert J. Mason, counselor, 15th district of the Michigan Medical Society; and university officials (Chancellor D. B. Varner and Dean Donald D. O'Dowd).

Thom was commissioned by Parke, Davis & Co. in 1955 to do a series of 45 medical pictures as a tribute to the medical profession. Forty-two have been prepared, and the remainder of the series is expected to be completed this year.

The exhibit, which will be open to the public free of charge through Jan. 26, has never before been shown in the home area of the artist. Exhibit hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

ACCORDING TO Bender, the series has been developed at the rate of six pictures a year.

Extensive research necessitated thousands of miles of travel including a trip to Switzerland to consult with Dr. Erwin H. Ackerknecht, professor and director of

the Institute of the History of Medicine and Biology at the University of Zurich.

"Every effort is made to make sure that each painting is authentic, not only as to medical history and significance," Bender said, "but as to everything to be seen within the picture area."

THE PHYSICAL characteristics (See RECEPTION, 8-D)

# Community House Begins Registration

The Community House experienced its biannual mob scene earlier this week as area residents arrived to sign up for the winter series of craft, hobby and cultural classes.

Monday, the first day of registration, was unusually hectic before noon, with some prospective students arriving as early as 45 minutes before registration began in the 28 different courses being offered this term.

When asked why they arrived so early, many replied that they were unable to register in courses they wanted to take last fall because many class sections were closed a few days after registration began.

OTHERS SAID that they enjoyed the friendly, informal atmosphere of The Community House classes and the well-qualified staff of instructors and wanted to make sure they did not miss their favorite class.

With enrollment nearing a conclusion, Karl Emmanuel, Jr., Commissioner (See HOUSE, 5-D)



MR. AND MRS. EDWARD PRACZKOWSKI, BOTH ARTISTS At her silver-working bench

### ORGANIZATION BEGAN IN 1956

# Village Woman's Club Sees Rapid Growth of Facilities

The Village Woman's Club—a place where women of the community could enjoy stimulating educational and cultural adventures in a friendly atmosphere—turned from dream to reality with the club's inception in 1956.

The organization is now enjoying its second year in a remodeled old English home on Long Lake Road. Once the Charles Winningham House, the building has been adapted to provide quarters for relaxing, working, dining and, most important, learning.

Although the club was organized with avowed educational and philanthropic purposes, little did the members realize the magnitude which would be reached in these fields during the first seven years of its life.

Last year there were more than 30 different classes and special events for members and the community. Almost daily the club was filled with women—and men—pursuing programs of study.

Some days there were two or three classes operating simultaneously.

DURING THE first year of operation it became apparent that more classroom space was needed. In response to this request for increased accommodations specifically designed for teaching, Mrs. Karlton Pierce, program chairman, assisted by Mrs. M. M. Burgess and her remodeling committee, fashioned an education building from a sizable garage on the club grounds.

The continued enthusiastic response to classes this fall has kept the building jumping educationally and culturally.

Once again the Village Woman's Club is offering a series of classes

for the new season, geared to those who want to enrich their educational backgrounds.

Headlining the spring semester will be three new courses, "History in the Making" art, and a night course in Spanish. Last autumn's courses in antiques, Japanese flower arrangement, bridge, French and Spanish will continue.

THE "HISTORY in the Making" series, presented in cooperation with the Division of Continuing Education of Oakland University, will open its eight-lecture series at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 16 when Dr. David C. Potter will discuss the relationship of India's history to contemporary events.

Dr. Potter, recently appointed assistant professor of political science at Oakland University, came from the University of London School of Economics and Science where he received his Ph.D. in 1958-59 he was a recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship.

During his graduate study he spent nearly two years in India where his field was public law, government and public administration. Dr. Potter received his M.A. and B.A. from the University of California.

Another lecturer in the "History in the Making" series will be Dr. Alfred G. Meyer, whose specialty is the Soviet Union and who is a professor of political science at Michigan State University. Additional speakers will be announced later.

ALICIA GONZALEZ Renfrew will teach a new night course in Spanish which begins at 8 p.m. Jan. 16.

Mrs. Renfrew was born in Diramba, Nicaragua, where she received her B.S. She earned her M.A. from Wayne State University in foreign language education.

Currently, she is a teacher and consultant for the Royal Oak Public Schools. She was married in 1962 to James Renfrew, an attorney (See CLUB, 8-D)

Committee members who will be present Tuesday are Mrs. Henry Whiting, Jr., Mrs. Scott Rumely, Mrs. John Phelps, Mrs. Richard Ruppel, Mrs. Donald Green, Mrs. Phillips Flanders and Mrs. Frank Linder.

Also attending will be Mrs. Ernest Jones, chairman of the Birmingham - Bloomfield Hills opera committee.

Music teachers from the Birmingham - Bloomfield area will gather to discuss the first "Overture to Opera" program, at the home of Mrs. Ralph Fox, 855 Ridgewood, Bloomfield Hills, at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

The program will be presented at 8:15 p.m. Jan. 29 at the Bloomfield Hills High School Little Theatre.

THE PROGRAM is open to the public without charge and will consist of four scenes from "La Boheme," "Faust," "Aida" and "Don Giovanni." Dr. David Chiera from the music department at Oakland University is supervising the series.

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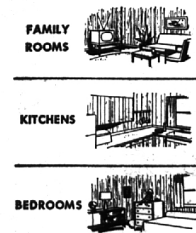
# Hootenanny Time at the Raven

Photo by Sam Fowler

The Topsiders, who previously played 20 weeks at The Raven Gallery, 136 Brownell, Birmingham, have returned with their musical entertainment Thursday through Sunday

evenings, beginning at 9:30 p.m. Members of the audience are invited to get into the act by joining the group onstage at each Sunday's hootenanny.

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