

# Beatniks Uncommunicative, Big Sur Tourists Discover

The Big Sur is an ideal spot to find beatniks. We happened on a nest of them there last week on vacation.

We stopped for a mid-afternoon coke at one of the few places to be found on this wild and lovely rugged coast and wooded valley south of San Francisco.

Avant garde paintings were hung on the walls of this rustic restaurant perched dramatically on a cliff facing the Pacific. The beatniks were haphazardly working, sitting or lounging around.

The sun-tanned young male wore

aged jeans and Greek-sculpture beards. Their mates were slender to the point of appearing gaunt. Perhaps this was emphasized by their long straight manes of hair, loose shift dresses and plump babies.

I smiled hopefully at them. They stared back with veiled eyes, wrapped protectively in their uniforms of unconventionality. No communication. We, my family and I, were out of



MRS. HALL

uniform and who speaks to tourists?

THEY REMINDED me of the first real "artist" type beatnik I ever met. This was in the olden days (college) before they had coined the phrase and art students dressed that way because it was cheap and comfortable.

I'd known fine painters who exhibited their work nationally but never the type who wore a beret, beard and long hair and played the role to the hilt.

many canvases he never finished. "Poor Robert," mused a more mature viewer. "He hopes by playing the role in costume he will magically assume the talents necessary to be a good painter."

MANY "ARTY TYPES" or beatniks imitate the people they admire hoping to be able to live and create as they do.

There is nothing wrong with this system. In everyday life we know it as education; learning the culture patterns of mankind.

People's clothing and actions are announcements of their roles in life. You know who wears grey flannel suits. White tennis shoes and tight pants are the badge of the teen-agers at the moment. A mink stole, careful coiffure high heels typify the suburban matron in full dress. These are the images they project of themselves.

It is only sad if a categorized human is nothing but the imitated image.

THE BEATNIKS were the artists and creative people dressed in unconventional revolt following World War II. This disillusioned group of young minds rejected the world that created a fake Hollywood image of life and the atomic bomb of instant death.

The revolted ideologically to produce the current literature, music and art. The common outward manifestation of this was a disregard for sartorial standards. In the early phase the revolt seemed only confused disillusionment and their elders termed them the beat generation.

Some of these "beatniks" (like Sputnik) have become the outstanding talents of our day. If they dress more conventionally, it is largely for protective camouflage.

HOW ABOUT THESE batches of young new beatniks on the way up? Some of them may be the respected artists of tomorrow. Some will abandon the role for a suit



Something to See

Earth and Sky by Edward Praczukowski and Mirror Image (right) by Ken Wynsma are among the works by five artists at Little Gallery's 14th anniversary exhibition, extended through July 25 at 915 E. Maple, Birmingham. Beside oil and drawing by Praczukowski and lacquer and lacquer collage by Wynsma are water color by Joseph De Francesco, serigraph by Lura Lawler and oil and oil on plaster by Martha Slaymaker.



## Lincoln

Who is to lead? Upon this great election Hinges bloody battle fields, Mighty armies with swords to wield Cross Bull Run, Antietam and Gettysburg.

And that tall man, What of he, A man on horseback To the foe? Far more than this: A hero's role. He lives to free The black from woe.

In the South the threat is this: If Lincoln wins, our land shall split. The Union we will not support. The slavery question must remain Honored, and without a blame. So talks the South.

In the North the cry is this: Slavery was not by God ordained. Black men's woe, their brutish lot, Is black as sin, and has begot A danger to the free up North, As long as blacks remained, in chains.

Election day the die is cast. The vote is split and Lincoln won. It is not strange no trumpet's blast Made him entry on his day? But rather he has need by stealth To sneak to Washington and death.

Before that one, singular fact of death, He found his joy in God, once Heaven sent. Four war years were to bring a change Upon his face, grieved by bloody gains.

His face arched and aged, beyond all time to age. Worn and thin, yet still rail fence straight he stood. These war years marked a double grief, Marked the flight in swiftness from youth to age, Much as a thief steals from war, The little compromise of bartered peace.

So he stood before a theater, one spring night, That by the evening's end would claim his life. And that faint spring, he did not live to see When we would hope, once more we could be free.

By GEORGE GASTON  
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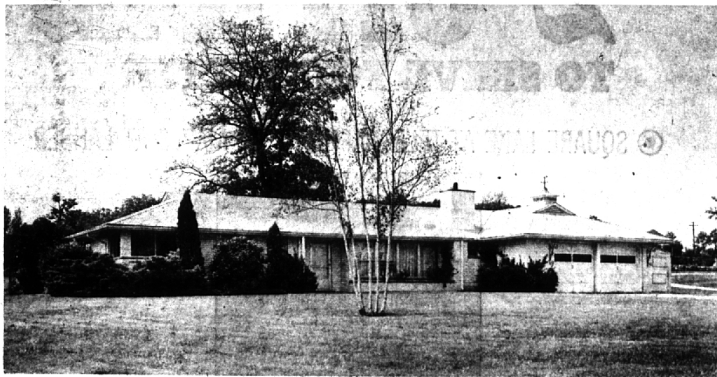
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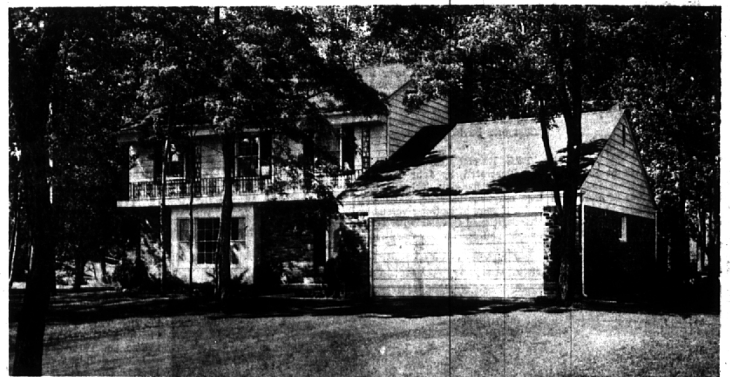
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