

## Traveling the byways

# Northern gallery scene harbors surprises

Story by HELEN ZUCKER

Betty Chamberlain, a regular columnist for American Artist, reports (June issue) that the Midwest has replaced New York as the main source of purchases in art.

Any dubious feelings about Ms. Chamberlain's findings can be quickly dispelled by a random drive through Northern Michigan.

If the playgrounds of Michigan can keep so many galleries afloat, art is not only alive and fairly well, but flourishing in this region of the country.

WHILE PASSING from Petoskey to Oden on a quiet two-lane highway spotted with pleasant frame houses, groves of trees, suddenly there's a lovely, brown structure. A barn? A

theatre? A church? It turns out to be the Petoskey Playhouse Gallery.

The doors are from ancient churches, the dirt floor of the stage has been resurfaced. Under the vaulted ceiling, stained glass from England and Germany, bark textiles and musical instruments from Argentina, Australia, and South Africa, paintings and art objects from Beirut, Lebanon, Iran, Japan, and Scotland are there waiting to be looked at and bought.

The most striking items are parts from a sugar mill in Brazil. These are solid wood, decorative in themselves, although the owners, Rosemarie Burke and her husband, use the mill parts for planters and tables.

After a lifetime of traveling for auto companies, and amassing their extraordinary collection, the Burkes

bought the old theatre and transformed it.

The Petoskey Playhouse Gallery, "Featuring International Art Objects of Quality," opened on July 1 of this year. It's located on Route 31, six miles north of Petoskey, open during summer and fall.

While passing through Harbor Springs, look across Main Street from the Lemon Tree Ice Cream Parlor. Through the open door of the Galerie De Boicourt there's a glimpse of a pleasant profusion of paintings and objects.

The gallery, run by Eva M. Boicourt, of Birmingham has a good feeling about it.

It's been open all winter for the past seven years because Ms. Boicourt feels a responsibility to the year-round population of Harbor Springs as well as the summer people. If this year's heat bills prove too much, the gallery could close for Thanksgiving or when the first snows fall.

Ms. Boicourt plans her shows a year in advance, and at the height of the

season, tries to have a new show every weekend.

AT PRESENT she has batiks and acrylic paintings by Barbara Grundman of Birmingham, and an exhibition of hundreds of prints from the Ferdinand Roten Galleries of Baltimore.

These decorative works have a wide appeal -- Jack Coughlin, Richard Volpe, Kathe Kollwitz, Goya, Matisse, Gauguin. The gallery carries crafts as well. A wooden horse from Haiti is a particularly nice piece.

The gallery is located at 275 E. Main. Ms. Boicourt plans to move her Birmingham gallery to the John Stevens Building on Beaubien in Detroit.

NEAR THE GASLIGHT district of Petoskey Gallery One, a popular shop at 306 Howard is open all year round. (A second Gallery One is located in Alexandria, Virginia). Owned and run by Don McLeod, Jack Harris, and Jack Perry, Gallery One carries a large variety of paintings, objects, sculpture, jewelry, and exceptionally nice Eskimo pieces.

Out of a shipment of 85 Eskimo

sculptures in July, only 13 were left by the end of August. The gallery has 225 professional artists on their list -- 40 from Michigan, the rest from Canada and all across the United States.

At present, Doug DeLind's sculpture

are on display. Slick, but well done, DeLind's Wind Gods and Sun Gods would look great in a garden.

And speaking of gardens -- Michigan artists would do well to cultivate their own.



### Creative stitchery

Mary Zdrodowski, who holds a fine arts degree from Marygrove College, comes to the Farmington Community Center this fall to teach creative stitchery. The art of needleweaving, and incorporating beads, lace, feathers and numerous textures of fibers into a finished work will be taught in the Tuesday afternoon sessions beginning Oct. 4. To register, call the center at 477-8404.



These five Clarenceville High School seniors will be competing for the annual homecoming queen title with the winner of the school-wide election to be announced at halftime at Friday night's game with Woodhaven. The five are Cherie Frechette (center, front row) Chery Kaplan, (front row, left) Carmen Staltmanis, (front row, right) Sue Johnson (back row, left) and Sherry Priami. The game starts at 7:30 p.m. with the dance following in the gym afterwards. Clarenceville graduates will be treated to a reception in the cafeteria after the game. (Staff photo by Art Emanuel)

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