

# Sculptor lines up her troops

Story: CORINNE ABATT  
Photos: DICK KELLEY

When the new west side section of Telegraph, south of 13 Mile opens, drivers will be treated to some unusual public art.

On her property that borders the new road, Mildred Friedman has constructed 37 wood sculptures that she likes to call "my troops." Brightly painted, each one in the row stands as an individual achievement, different from the others, but still part of the attractive total.

Rather than found sculpture, Mrs. Friedman's troops are more scrap sculpture or challenge sculpture.

For many years, the artist, painter, sculptor and fiber worker, has been buying from one lumber yard. She asked if she could collect and carry away the scraps at the end of the week. That's what the 37 sculptures are made of, the odds and ends of the lumber yard. But, they work very well, because Mrs. Friedman is a trained artist and art teacher who can put the pieces together with a flair and a balance that is appealing.

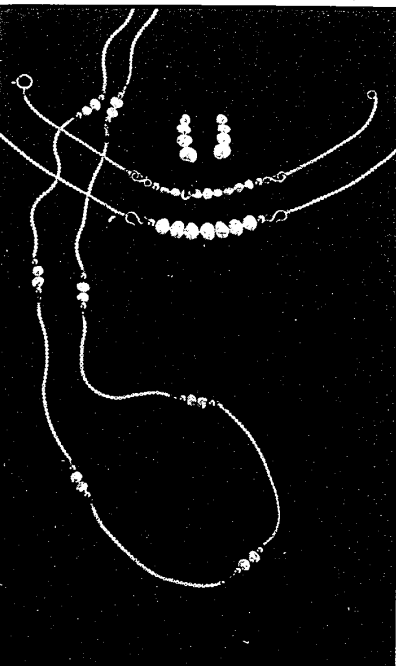
IN ONE, SHE EVEN USED a small discarded window frame and even added a hint of a roof over it.

She walked down the 100 foot row of the works, which she started about February, and said, "I feel mopey because it's all over."

The project began when she was looking for new challenge. Mrs. Friedman is the type of artist who likes to move on once she has pursued one idea or one medium in depth. Consequently, she's an inveterate experimenter — a person who enjoys departing from the traditional.



Mildred Friedman relaxes in her backyard and wonders what she can do for an encore to fill the void created when she finished her roadside project.



She built the outdoor sculptures, one by one, in her studio at 18909 Livernols in Detroit. When the idea to glue them together didn't work, she switched to nails. Each was transported to the back yard of the Franklin home in the back of a station wagon. Each also was given a coat of paint in the yard — red, blue, yellow, black or white. Just to add to the fun, there's one dark green one in the middle of the row and a blue-purple at the end.

Mr. Friedman helped his artist-wife by taking over the responsibility of anchoring them securely to two by fours under ground.

"THEY'RE MY PEOPLE," Mrs. Friedman said. "The people working on the road come over and ask me what these things are that look like people." She thought for a moment and then added, "I still believe that while they are fun, they are good forms and good design. I'm a compulsive worker and I do a lot of work quickly."

Not only is she a compulsive and prolific worker, Mrs. Friedman is versatile. When Jim Hale of the Artists Group represented her (he has since moved to Florida to start a new business), he had many requests for landscapes. Mrs. Friedman accommodated with many landscapes, which sold fast.

She stood in her back yard looking at the work going along on Telegraph and her sculptures which will be seen, or at least partially seen, by the motorists and wondered where she would find her next challenge.

And then, there was just a hint that there might be a much taller, more elaborate companion piece — a sort of leader for the troops.



Sculpture to enjoy from the car is the brainchild of Mildred Friedman who has been innovating through art most of her life. These are colorful and easily seen from either side of Telegraph.

## Scouts set up Camp Arapaho

Girl Scouts from Southern Oakland County moved into Warren Woods this week to set up Arapaho Day Camp for a two-week stay. The use of the woods, on 12 Mile and Haggerty Roads, is a gift to the Scouts from Warren Construction Co.

Nancy Candea, a scout since her Brownie days and now a professional clown, will be a special guest of the Scouts. She will show the campers how to make balloon sculptures.

Camp director Laura VanVleet has arranged an overnight campout for junior, cadette and senior Scouts, as well as a visit from the Oakland County Puppet-mobile. The mobile is an Oakland County service which presents a puppet show, then gives youth the experience of working the puppets on stage.

Andrzej Rzecki, of Common Ground, comes for a performance with "Body Ecology" and a workshop. "Body Ecology," done in mime, emphasizes body awareness and health.

This visit is funded by the Southern Oakland Girl Scouts and a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts.

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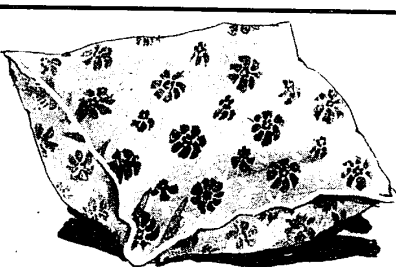
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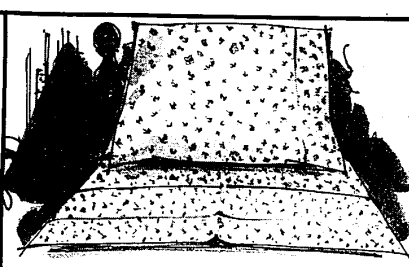
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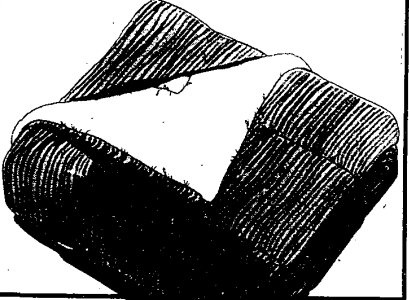
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