

Folk artist — a natural

By Corinne Abelt
staff writer

Barbara Bourgeois-Richards just happened to find an appealing style of watercolor painting that could take her a long way.

Her original paintings and prints, on display at The Tin Soldier, 235 Pierce, Birmingham, miss falling into the cutsey-folk art category because there's a refreshing, natural naivete to her work. Some people work very hard at being folk artists and never quite pull it off. Bourgeois-Richards succeeds where others fail.

Long before Grandma Moses or Laura Ashley appeared to remind us of the gentle life of calico and new mown hay, untrained artists saw their art as a visual way of telling a story. Lack of polish, perspective and knowledge of the rules often resulted in an pleasant, straightforward charm.

Bourgeois-Richards paints vignettes of rural, family life in watercolor with a strong sense of design and a gentle, deft stroke. Many are bordered in hearts or flowers, all of which can be a visual fit. Her husband, Kirk, paints the frames and the rest of her large family including three children 14, 11, and 5, grandmothers, parents aunts and uncles give her lots of support.

BOURGEOIS-RICHARDS GREW up in West Bloomfield and attended school



Christmas card is from an original painting by Barbara Bourgeois-Richards of Romeo.

In Pontiac. She and her husband lived on Bates in Birmingham for about seven years in the 1970s. They now live in Romeo.

"I've always done art (drawing) for myself," she said. "Then, I took a painting course two years ago. This all happened in January."

She said that she was sick for a while and during her illness realized "I wanted to do something with my life."

She said she isn't sure where her scenes come from. "To me, they're just

hard-working, immigrant, country people — it's just in there I guess. Some of the figures are my children, my family. But, around Romeo there are lots of country people and lots of farms."

Once she sits down to paint, the ideas come easily, she draws the scene in pencil and then reaches for the watercolors.

Her prints and greeting cards are on sale at many shops in the metropolitan area, original paintings are available only at The Tin Soldier — and they disappear quickly.



The Kodaly Quartet will be the guests for the second concert of the Cranbrook Music Guild Series at 8:30 p.m. today in the Cranbrook House library, 380 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills. The musicians, Attila Falvay, violin, Tamas Szabo, violin, Gabor Flis, viola and James Devich, cel-

lo, are prize-winning graduates of the Franz Liszt Academy of Budapest. Concert tickets, \$10, and \$5 for students, are available at the door. Parking available in Christ Church lot with shuttle to Cranbrook House.

Troy concert salutes seniors

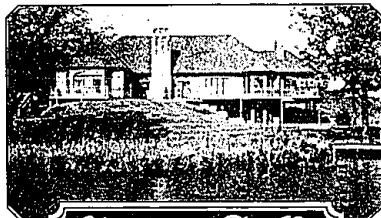
The Troy Community Orchestra will honor senior citizens at its concert at 8 p.m. Friday at Troy Athens High School, 4333 John R., Troy.

Seniors, regardless of place of residence, will be admitted to the performance free.

The guest artist for this concert, "International Impressions," will be Peter Soave, internationally acclaimed virtuoso on the bayan. A relative of the accordion, it is a reed instrument dating from the last century, used throughout Russia and Eastern Europe, only for classical music. Soave and the orchestra will play works by Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev and Brahms.

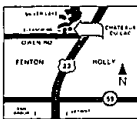
Troy Seniors will be able to ride the city bus to and from the concert free.

To make bus reservations, call Carla Vaughn of Troy Parks and Recreation, 524-3484. Tickets, available at the door, are \$3 adults, \$2 students, \$7 for family single concert and \$15 for family season.



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Feld Ballet at Music Hall Center

Feld Ballet will be on stage at Music Hall, 350 Madison, Detroit at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Nov. 20, 21, 22 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23.

The program will be the same on Thursday and Friday and be slightly different on Saturday and Sunday.

All of the choreography is by Elliot Feld who has been in the forefront of his art since he burst upon the ballet world at age 23 in 1967 as a white kid with fresh ideas.

He created his first ballet, "Harbinger," (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) to music by Prokofiev for the American Ballet Theater.

Since he burst upon the ballet world at age 23 in 1967, Feld has achieved worldwide recognition.

His first ballet, "Harbinger," slated for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, was followed by 47 more for many of the best known companies in the world.

Tickets, at \$25 and \$14, are available through the Music Hall box office, 943-7880.

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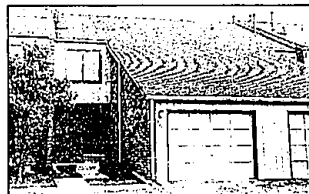
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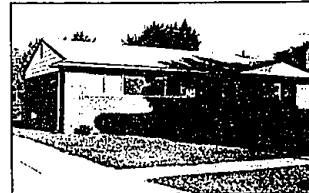
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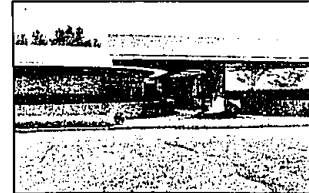
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