

State still has undiscovered art treasures, says auctioneer

There are still undiscovered treasures in Michigan, according to Frank H. Boos, president of Frank H. Boos Gallery, a Birmingham-based auction house.

"Some of the finest known collections of Americana and other art are right here in the State of Michigan," he said. "However, I am convinced that there is still an enormous amount of yet undiscovered art in this state, the value of which is totally unsuspected by its owners."

Boos has had several recent items in

his gallery that substantiate his statement.

On a routine estate appraisal in Birmingham last spring, Boos came upon a painting, "Harvest on the Hudson River," by Jasper Francis Cropsey, a 19th century painter of the Hudson River School.

THE OWNER had bought it from Hudsons for \$600 in 1943. It was sold by Boos at auction for \$49,500.

At the same May auction, Boos sold an Art Deco bronze figure by Demetre Chiparus. He had found it in a closet on

a farm in central Michigan.

Prior to the discovery, only one model of the figure was believed to have existed. The figure sold for \$25,550.

Also on the auction block that day was a painting by Hugo Engl, an Austrian artist. It brought four times the previous world record.

EARLIER this year, the Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church of Ferndale contacted Boos about a marble statue which had been stored in the church basement for years because it was un-

suitable for display in the church.

Boos recognized it as a marble by Chauncy B. Ives, "Undine Receiving her Soul." This 19th century neo-classical masterpiece sold for \$44,000.

"I've had this experience again and again," said Boos, "I can't emphasize too strongly that if anyone even remotely suspects that they have a valuable work of art, they should call a good, professional appraiser. There are many other people out there in Michigan who could also be most pleasantly surprised."

Coddle new trees, plants, shrubs

It's never too late to add beauty to your garden

Just remember that you shouldn't have a trip on the agenda for you will need at least two weeks to coddle new plants. Trees and shrubs, at this date, are generally burlapped and balled for transportation.

Therefore, with newly planted material in July and August, one concern is watering. You always have to be aware in making plant selections that you know your north, south, east and west directions for the needs of particular plants.

According to a national poll, 94 percent of the gardeners grow tomatoes; 66 percent have peppers in their garden; 66 percent grow green beans; and 52 percent grow lettuce. Now you know how you stand in a national garden survey.

If you have children visiting you this summer, you may wish to spark their interest in plants. To develop a habit of responsibility plan to teach them the fun of gardening by having them plant seeds or plants in flower pots which they can take back home with them upon departure. Six-inch pots are an ideal size.

Teach the young person to cover the hole in the bottom of the pot with a broken chard or stones and fill with good soil up to the collar. Maybe lettuce seed would provide a quick, fun experience. Another pot so prepared could contain a petunia or geranium already in flower secured from a local plant center.

THE SECRET is to have the pots put completely together by the new gardener (child). If the young gardener lives some distance away, until departure, the planted pots could be sunk in soil to cut down on drying out. For the trip back home, they could easily be placed in a corrugated box.

Horror. I have been looking through a garden magazine with a full page picture including a gravel path with flowers on one side and grass on the other.

That choice of material looks like bad judgment. The gravel could play havoc with the blades of the mower and such a path would be an invitation for weeds to find an exit to the sunshine.

There is a handy soft-back book for the gardener which has merit. It is "Garden Color," Sunset Books, Lane Publishing Co., Menlo Park, Ca. 94025, 94 pages, \$3.95.

It has an excellent color wheel, and many pages

of colored illustrations of bright flowers. A good portion of the book contains descriptions of particular plants with their hardiness rated by temperature readings.

Happy gardening in July and don't forget to smell the flowers by lounging in a deck chair, enjoying the colors of your flowers, as well as profiles of your trees.



down to earth
Alice Burlingame



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