

doesn't compete with featured art works.

Mixing art and craft items has been a Mullaly trademark - even downtown where the fine art gallery atmosphere prevailed, he says.

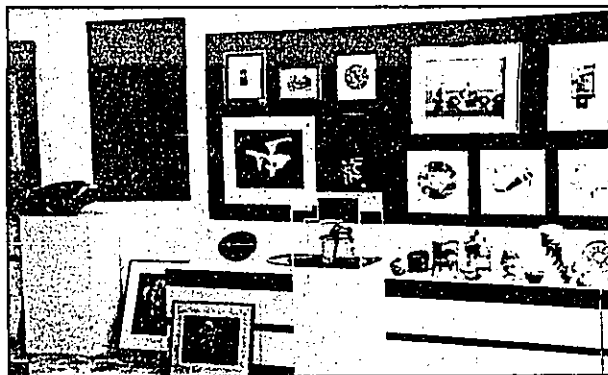
"Being an artist myself, I have a very deep appreciation for the creativity and workmanship evident in a piece of art - whether it's a painting or a clay piece. And not all the work in my gallery is profound art - some are very affordable handmade pieces that are beautiful."

Creating art in several media, Mullaly paints in oil and tempera, he also does calligraphy (which comes in handy when making display labels), makes jewelry, throws and pinches pots, is interested in metalsmithing and printmaking. He's continually taking classes to learn more.

"I wanted a gallery adjacent to my studio to serve as a showcase for my own work as well as for others," he says.

Most of the paintings are from Michigan artists, while craft items are from artisans all over the country. "I attend the American Craft Council's exhibition in Baltimore and buy a lot there," he comments. "Also, I had cartons and cartons of things I'd been collecting just for a gallery somewhere up north."

Bill Mullaly is always interested in seeing new work by artists. "I wanted to be able to show anything that was deserving to show," he says while chatting about his philosophy



FINE ARTS AND CRAFTS— Mullaly's 128 Studio and Gallery carries high quality items ranging from contemporary glass to finely wrought metal pieces.

and art gallery experiences.

His work, tight, highly representational in many cases, has won awards in state shows and is in several collections. When not talking with customers, he works on a several-foot-long painting of a main street in upper New York state. "I guess I've been drawn to downtowns for a long time," he reflects.

That feeling was emphasized as he attended seminars on different types of entrepreneurship, primarily very small retail businesses. He learned that a trend of returning to Small Town, U.S.A. was growing - where proprietors lived "above the

store". Finding a sound, one-story building that was once a bank, Mullaly designed a complete renovation fitted exactly to his needs.

"From the time I found the building until we opened on Memorial Day 1992, was about four years," he comments. "I tried to do some of the work myself, but found that I needed help to meet my deadlines."

That deadline included retirement from his "real" job as a designer for a major auto maker. His early training in architecture helped him create a model of the final design used for the gallery-living space.

There's hardly a need for an

automobile now, he says, as he can walk to just about everything he needs in downtown Elk Rapids. His wife, Barbara, needs one to commute to her job at Grand Traverse Resort in nearby Acme. Barbara also supervises the gallery operation.

Open year 'round, Mullaly's 128 Studio and Gallery recently hosted an exhibition of works by area school children, partly to showcase their work, partly to draw their parents into the gallery.

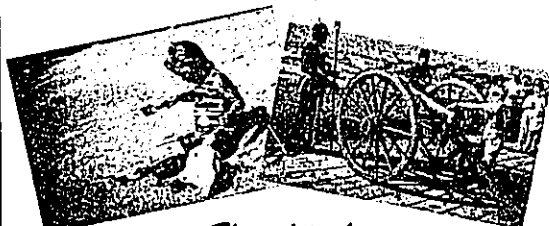
"Word of mouth advertising helps a lot," he says, "but we need to let more local people know we're here."

As the story of the town draws more travelers off the main highway and into bayside attractions, crowds are bound to wander up and down River Street, shopping and perhaps dropping by the bakery just down the street, where coffee and fresh from the oven treats await. Don't miss the muffins and date-filled cookies.

Perhaps they'll find their way across a footbridge to the town's library, situated on what at first seems an island until one realizes there's also a driveway from the harbor-side road. From the glassed-in porch overlooking Grand Traverse Bay, one can read, view the calming water, and enjoy what is probably the most uniquely placed library along Michigan's western shoreline. It's quaint and rather wonderful - just like the town itself.

Please Turn To Page 17

RAMADA® INN & CONVENTION CENTER MACKINAW CITY, MICHIGAN



Heated pool,
hot tub rooms, cocktail lounge, casual to
fine dining, free in-rooms HBO, sauna,
spa pool, game room, senior rates,
coin laundry, children stay free

Ask about our get-away packages, senior rates

Easy access to area historical points of interest
State park, ferry docks and 3 blocks from shopping area

For Reservations Call

(616) 436-5535 OR 1-800-2-RAMADA
I-75 Exit 338, 450 S. Nicolet, Mackinaw City, MI

WHEN is a *Rock*

SOOTHING...
SOFT...

LUSH...
TRANQUIL...



The Rock
Woodmoor
DRUMMOND ISLAND

"I like The Rock. I like how holes are isolated so you can golf in scenic seclusion. I like how the ponds, lakes and waterfalls are too pretty to be called water hazards."

— Rick Sylvain, Michigan Travel Editor, Detroit Free Press

The most peaceful round of golf I've played all year."

— Lynn Henning, Editor, PGA Magazine

1 Night Lodging
18 Holes Golf w/cart

62.50 per person
dbl. occupancy
(includes unlimited golf Sun.-Thurs.)

THE ROCK, 1-800-999-6343