

Burnett from page 1D

Proceeds will benefit the restoration of Cranbrook House, the Booth family home.

"I think Cranbrook has been an inspiration to the artists in the area.

"Cranbrook is such a jewel in our midst that we must cherish it, support it any way that we can."

Admission to Holiday Tables is \$8 at the door or \$7 presale. Shuttle service is available from the Christ Church parking lot. Tickets for Thursday's tea are \$50 each, admitting one patron and one guest. For more information, call 646-3149.

"I'm thrilled with that (this event)... Every table tells a story."

"I'm very enthusiastic about it. I know I had fun doing my table last time."

Burnett and a florist worked on her table for last year's event. It had an Oriental theme, including gold goblets, figures brought from China and rice scattered over the top. A gold coat was draped over the tablecloth. (When Burnett wore the coat after the display, people remembering the table

would tell her, "You're wearing your tablecloth!")

Personal style

Burnett has been busy getting settled into her elegant house. The house is a symphony of style, with high ceilings, cream-colored carpeting and furniture, tapestries, Oriental rugs and a skylight, among other features. Burnett's collection of 116 glass jack-in-the-pulpit works creates an iridescent garden on shelves in the library.

And portraits keep Burnett busy as well. She is working on a painting of a doctor for a dedication of a Flood Hospital branch in West Bloomfield and a painting of Wilma Mankiller, a Cherokee chief from Oklahoma.

Famous faces

Among Burnett's many other subjects are Violeta Chamorro, president of Nicaragua, Muriel Fox, one of the founders of the National Organization of Women, Indira Gandhi, Corazon Aquino (an uprising occurred while the artist was with her), Gloria Steinem and Olympic champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

"I wanted to do her in her

shorts, tearing over a hurdle," Burnett said of Joyner-Kersey. "But she wanted to be in evening clothes."

When Burnett wanted to paint the wife of the prime minister of Greece, she stayed at a hotel outside Athens. "It was pure paradise except she wanted me to get up at 7 and go swimming with her and be in the painting. That was pretty hard to do."

For an Associated Press photograph, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher stood next to Burnett's portrait of her, playfully striking the same pose as she had in the painting. The photograph also shows Burnett laughing. Burnett has encountered some difficult subjects for her portraits.

"Sometimes the subject doesn't want to be painted at all. (Sometimes the sitting is) the first time in years that they were able to sit in tranquility."

Joyce Carol Oates went into a total trance. I would go up to her and see if she was still breathing... (she was) very graceful and very relaxed."

Oates later wrote a poem about the portrait experience and dedicated her book "Do With Me What You Will" to Burnett.

Many interests

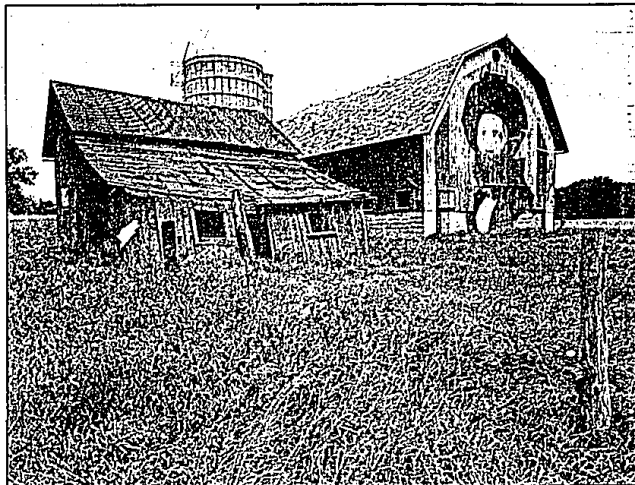
Burnett's life has extended beyond the canvas. She was a runner up in Miss America and pageant and played female leads in the radio shows "The Lone Ranger" and "The Green Hornet."

Burnett has long been involved in political and feminist activities. She was president of the first Michigan chapter of NOW and studied and promoted feminism in China and the Soviet Union. In a luncheon talk at The Community House in Birmingham two years ago, she called herself a "hard-core feminist." That would still apply, she said recently. "No matter how you put it, we (women) are second-class citizens. (It's) going to progress very slowly."

"I would like to see women becoming more aware... of the difficulties in the way the world is treating them. That glass ceiling has got to be beaten."

Is there anything left for Burnett to accomplish?

"I'm really anxious to put my life together into a book. My children will read it and say, 'Mom really got around.'"



Barn trance: This most unusual barn caught Monte Nagler's eye. It's near Fenton, Mich., and that's the famous painter Raphael painted on the side.

Farms yield great photos



MONTE NAGLER

FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

photographer.

Generally speaking, farms are relatively accessible places for photography. Much can be photographed from a country road or from footpaths cutting across fields. Often people have friends or relatives living on farms, or a farmhouse vacation or farmhouse bed and breakfast will offer views of daily life on a farm. Spend some time on the farm and build a rapport with the farmer. This way, you'll be able to get shots you otherwise couldn't. Begin at dawn. It's well worth

getting up early for the light alone — a misty dawn slowly brightening into a colorful sunrise.

And rising early provides you with the first signs of life around the farm. It's when the cows are rounded up for milking and herded toward the barn, or perhaps the tractor is ambling in silhouette under the branches of the blacklit oak tree. Think of the photo opportunities!

With natural early light and fast film, you can get successful indoor shots inside the milking barn or egg collection in the hen house.

Don't forget barns themselves. There are many styles and designs throughout the countryside offering numerous picture possibilities. You can shoot the whole barn at a dramatic angle or you can concentrate on a closeup of a rusted latch.

Always an exciting time on the farm is when animals are born. When a cow or horse is about to

produce a calf or foal, the scene is clearly tense. The farmer and his family are there, an excitement is in the air and the photographic potential is there for you.

Photo possibilities are endless. Just keep your photographic eyes open. You can even move in close on the blades of a plow for an abstract shot.

Take your children to a petting farm, which often can be found in state parks. It's a great place to capture the youngsters' excitement and joy as they're introduced to the farm animals. You'll get memorable candid shots to enhance your family album.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873. His fax number is 644-1314.



STEPHEN CONTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stylish: Patricia Hill Burnett's portrait of the Kughns shows her style. The artist, who has painted people around the world and been involved in many different activities, recently moved to Birmingham.

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