

Owl from page C1

paintings from the book are now on exhibit through Jan. 7 at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wisconsin.

"I'd been telling the story of the owl in my school programs and making mental notes about which parts the children react to and which parts to leave out," said van Frankenhuyzen who travels the state talking about his art to school students and encouraging them to draw. He recently did a two-week residency for Farmington Public Schools elementary students.

"I sketched him when he was alive and took photographs and video. In some cases I made clay models of a flying owl so I could look at the owl from every angle."

Van Frankenhuyzen then made rough sketches for Robbyn to wrap the text around. Like her husband, Robbyn often writes stories and reads them to kids in the schools as a volunteer.

"I wrote several versions," said Robbyn. "I knew what would be effective from when he told stories. The kids are my guinea pigs. Anyone who wants to be a writer should use the resources of kids in the local schools."

Robbyn also used the knowledge she acquired

while growing up on a farm in Hopkins between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, and the years she worked as an animal technician for a veterinarian. In fact, that's where she met Gijbert.

"I met him when he brought in a cat that got kicked by a cow," said Robbyn. Before long, Robbyn and Gijbert were dating and realized they both loved animals and each other. They married in 1981.

"I always loved animals," said Robbyn who wrote magazine articles during the time she worked as an animal technician. "My dad saw the passion I had for animals and by fifth grade I began cleaning kennels for a veterinarian clinic. That's what we tell kids in the school programs. If you love something, make it your career."

The van Frankenhuyzens live by their advice. Gijbert is now busy working on three new books. But there are still days when he and Robbyn take a few minutes to remember Jackson. They'll be sharing those memories with visitors to their annual open house of Gijbert's studio and gallery 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 8-9 in Bath. For more information or directions, call (617) 641-6690.

Polish from page C1

Putting all the facets of that community into focus was a daunting task. Roughly, the exhibit has been organized into themes of worship, business, sports, community life, religious life, organizations, neighborhoods, family and the war effort.

The Poles began coming to Detroit in significant numbers in the late 19th century when they settled at the old "Poletown" neighborhood centered on St. Aubin and Canfield on the city's near east side. In 1970 there were about 900 Polish families in Detroit. Today there are about 600,000 Polish-Americans living in the metro Detroit area. Between 1854 and 1924, 2.5 million Poles immigrated to the United States.

Although many Polish immi-

grants arrived at the turn of the last century, their numbers increased dramatically in the decade of 1910 to 1920 when the Dodge Brothers factory opened in Hamtramck, which swelled to a population of 56,000 by 1930—with about 90 percent of them Polish.

Other Polish neighborhoods grew up around Detroit. Each had their own identity and made a mark on Detroit's history. While Detroit's Polish community has dwindled over the years as the Poles migrated to the suburbs, many reminders of their presence remain, principally in the churches, such as St. Hyacinth, St. Florian and others. Poletown itself along Chene Street is just a shadow of its former glory, much of it having

been devoured by the GM "Pole-town" plant (the Hamtramck-Detroit Assembly Plant).

All the Polish groups are represented. As part of the exhibit, three small-period rooms are decorated to show how a typical living room in a Polish household would look in the 1800s, 1920s and 1950s. All of this is designed to give an accurate if broad representation of the Polish community through the years.

"I hope the Polish people in Detroit will see this and be proud," Majewski said. "I hope that people, no matter what their background, can see what the Polish have offered to the community."

Expressions from page C1

"It's set up like a catechism class so the audience becomes the classroom full of students," said Coumoudours.

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"They're very talented musically and play everything from

heart rending to hilarious music and there will be an afterglow to meet the musicians," said Coumoudours.

A fourth program is yet to be announced.

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