

MARJORIE NAZER

She's quite a gal



BY
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PLANTS SEEM TO LIKE Miss Nazer as well. Tall, almost six-foot geraniums grace the living room of Miss Nazer's Market Street home.



THE BEGINNINGS of a seven-foot rug to be added to the Nazer household. The rug, explains Miss Nazer, will be designed as it progresses.

"I do what I want and like it."
Most of us hold the dream of leaving our jobs and just doing what we want, but very few actually do it and find it to be rewarding and productive.

Marjorie Nazer is one of the few that have made it work and she loves every minute of it.

"It's a joy to be doing what I want when I have the time," said Miss Nazer, a spritely 69-year-old librarian turned artist.

Now that the library has been retired from her daily routine she can concentrate on the things she likes best; painting, sewing, cooking, visiting and talking to everyone. She is busy now preparing for a showing of her work in Toronto this September.

Her work, previously on display at Gallery House Sol, includes over 60 of her oil paintings, linocuts, and embroideries. Bright colors characterize many of her works. "I love colors" she explained. "Many of my paintings are done from memory of the flowers that I have seen or just by mental composition."

Her love of flowers and plants is reflected in her work. Her home houses over 40 houseplants, including a half-dozen, six-foot geraniums. "I don't know what to do with them, they are so big," she added.

Paintings and music play an important part in the life of Miss Nazer. She has had no formal training in art but enjoys working with the oils she paints—with in an attempt to get just the right color that pleases her.

"If I don't like it, no one sees it," she noted. Miss Nazer has another talent that few know about. In addition to painting and embroidery she also designs stained glass windows. One window she has designed is in St. Paul's Church in Norval.

"They came to me in 1960 or '61 and wanted a window that would depict Christ the King, a working Saviour. I designed a window they liked and began working out the final designs of the lead frame. The work was done by a company in Toronto under the supervision of the artist who makes the final choice of colors used in the glass. Each piece was selected by hand."

Miss Nazer is best known as the past librarian of the Georgetown Public Library. "I didn't want the job of librarian when I took it in 1962," she added. "At that time the library was going to close because the librarian and the assistant both were scheduled to go on holidays at the same time and I wanted to keep it open to the public."

Miss Nazer volunteered for the position for the summer and was given a salary of \$200 per month for her work. When the assistant returned from her vacation the library board decided that Miss Nazer would continue to serve in a full-time position made available because the librarian would not be returning.

"I have read everything...well just about. I have read all my life, now I can read detective and spy stories."

Miss Nazer retired from the library after 12 years of service in April of 1974. She remembers some of the more exciting moments in the library's history, such as the day they put down wall-to-wall carpeting in the main section of the library.

"We had to move thousands of books. We started to run out of room for all the books and shelves. But we managed to get enough room for the men to work. They had to completely put down a new floor under the carpet because of the holes and weak spots that were there. Someone could have gotten hurt."

The library used to close in the summer for two weeks but Miss Nazer changed that policy to permit people to use the library all summer. "It was silly closing in the summer. We had enough staff to stagger the vacation schedule to keep the thing open, so we did," she added.

Now that the library is just memories, she still, however visits with the many friends she made through her years of service.

"I'm always stopped on the street or when I'm in the laundromat by people who want to say hello to me, Charlie Brown and Muffin. They remember us from the library and sometimes we talk for hours."

All the children of the neighborhood near her Market Street home know her two dogs, Charlie Brown and Muffin. Miss Nazer noted that they even get special treatment in some stores that usually do not allow dogs.

"They are not dogs, they're people," she laughed.

"One day Charlie Brown got loose in the park while I was walking him; I thought I'd never see him again. I asked a few children in the park who were playing. I described the dog to them and they said 'you mean Charlie Brown' I didn't know what to say, other than yes."

The children reported the dog had headed towards home. He had never gone home on his own and Miss Nazer was surprised when he knew the way.

"I walked along in the direction of home and stopped and asked a gentleman working in his yard if he had seen the dog. I didn't know him then, but hoped he had seen the dog...I was even more worried since he would have had to cross a busy street to get this far."

"He stopped work to talk to me, saying that the dog is probably home by now. I asked him how he knew and he told me that he had stopped traffic along the street to let Charlie cross. Needless to say I was very happy when I returned home and found the dog sitting on the step waiting to be let in."

Miss Nazer remembers the story well. "There are lots of good people in the world," she said.

"I came to Canada in 1929 for a six-month visit with my aunt," explained Miss Nazer. She arrived in Montreal in a blinding snow storm that would have probably scared most people away but the six-month visit turned out to last eighteen months.

After returning to Kent, England for four months to prepare, Miss Nazer has made Canada her home.

"I fell in love with Canada as soon as I stepped off the ship: the beautiful white snow, and frosty air, I love it. Winter is the best season."

There is a disease inherent in the Nazer family and she is no exception. "We all paint," she explained.

"I came to Georgetown in 1956 with my aunt who was 87 at the time and we lived where I live now."

She points out that she will never get a job because it feels so good to be able to do what you do best when you want to do it.

"I came to Canada as an artist and that's the way I'll stay. I'll be kept very busy working on my paintings and visiting friends. Those are the things I do best."



"I WANTED TO BE a professional pianist," says Miss Nazer, but now she plays for the sheer joy of playing.



"THEY ARE JUST LIKE PEOPLE" says Miss Nazer, referring to Muffin and Charlie Brown. In her lifetime she notes she has had nine dogs.



MANY OF THE PAINTINGS done by Miss Nazer are of flowers. "I know just about every flower that grows in Canada," she added.