

Ex-librarian's artwork reflects joyous attitude

By PAUL DORSEY
Herald editor

A family heritage and lifelong involvement in arts and crafts and an enduring love of nature have combined to give Marjorie Nazer's paintings and embroidered works - now on display at Georgetown's Gallery House Sol - a unique and dazzling brilliance that makes up in character what the work might otherwise lack in technique.

Now 75, Miss Nazer became known to thousands of area residents as the community's chief librarian, a position she held for some 11 years before retiring in 1972. It is her prolific output of paintings, stitchings, stained glass windows and other art forms that have caught the public's eye in the years since, however, and the show which opened Saturday at House Sol is Miss Nazer's twelfth at the Charles Street gallery.

Sharing exhibition space with Miss Nazer's embroidery and oils until Nov. 27 are the ceramic creations of Toronto's Oz Parsons. House Sol proprietor John Sommer acknowledged that there are no overt parallels between the two artists' works, but pointed out that Mr. Parsons shares Miss

GALLERY HOUSE SOL presents paintings, embroidery by MARJORIE NAZER pottery by OZ PARSONS until Nov. 27

Nazer's ability to tap some internal energy and let it "run wild" with design and composition. The current show is balanced overall as a collection of traditional craft ideas interpreted with some modern innovations.

A 26-year resident of Georgetown, Miss Nazer has been a "country girl" - in spirit, if not in body - all her life, and pastoral landscapes and floral compositions reflect the high esteem she holds for all things natural. When she immigrated here from England in 1929, leaving behind a childhood filled with arts-oriented relatives ("It was a family disease," she reports, "but a happy one.") Miss Nazer exhibited her woodcuts in Toronto. She regrets having discarded most of the original design blocks used in that work, but is optimistic about soon returning to what was once her predominant pastime.

It is painting and embroidery that now provides her work's focus; she'll paint all day and embroider until the wee hours, but finds mounting one show every year a heavy workload. She shared a House Sol exhibition with Maria Jennings last year.

Relying upon her photographic memory and many sketches she's prepared on outdoor hikes, Miss Nazer will produce random compositions or studied floral arrangements as whim dictates. It's her choice of color that sets the paintings in motion, and the work embroidered purses and cushions as well - invariably captures the "joyous" mood which she admits is her ambition.

While Miss Nazer's method of painting directly atop a lightly-glazed wood surface gives her paintings a "flat" appearance, the color and composition create a veritable whirlwind of activity within the frame. The final effect is one of lightness and brightness.

"Several people at the gallery on Saturday commented on the combination of my work and Mr. Parsons'," Miss Nazer said. "Why, I don't know. Mr. Parsons and I did agree, though, that we both work because we can't help it: we must work whether we're selling or not."

Born Stephen Parsons 31 years ago, "Oz" Parsons picked up his nickname as a young child and is not sure himself why. To overwork a metaphor, however, there is probably fitting irony in the name, given the sense of courage, heart and intelligence this artist's work seems to have derived from some influential wizard.

Whether or not that "wizard" was renowned potter David Long, with whom Mr. Parsons apprenticed for a year following his own emigration for England in 1972, the student is now making some interesting inroads of his own.

GIFT SHOPS
Acknowledging that "production pottery" which involves

commercial work to be sold wholesale to chain stores and classy little gift shops, and which dominates Mr. Parsons' current efforts in this country, there are some innovations among his teacups and lamps of real artistic interest.

It was architecture that absorbed the artist in England, and it is architecture that lends his current work its functional nature. But as in the case of all art, some adventures in design make the House Sol show worthwhile: the aforementioned lamp, for example, is of ochre porcelain, topped off with more of the same to make the shade, but this time taking the form of meticulously carved clay strips overlapping to meet in a

cylinder. Thin enough, in fact, to be actually translucent. Translucent porcelain, as any amateur or professional potter will tell you, is a creation to be reckoned with, one that represents new progress in the field.

Elsewhere, as Mr. Sommer himself pointed out, Mr. Parsons has "let himself go" to instill some unique ceramic flower vases with the kind of "zest" and vitality that, for Mr. Sommer, links the work of Nazer and Parsons.

In the latter's work, several flowers are arranged in a thin wedge of a vase that resembles nothing so much as a porcelain envelope with the flowers bursting out. Another vase creation involves three separate "vase units" - all rhomboid-

shaped but differing in size - which fit together in any number of ways to enhance the work's aesthetic beauty to the owner's satisfaction.

A major supplier to the well-known Cars and Cook Nook gift shops, Mr. Parsons now runs his own studio at 575 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.

Too many apples?

Brampton-Georgetown MP John McDermid chastised federal agricultural minister Eugene Whelan in the House of Commons last week for refusing to assist the Apple Marketing Commission in Ontario with a 5,000-ton juice apple surplus. Mr. Whelan said the government had not purchased the surplus apples because there is no place to store them. When Mr. McDermid questioned the decision by the government to allow concentrate from foreign countries to be dumped in Canada, Mr. Whelan responded that the apple industry in Canada is healthy and will not suffer from this practice.

GEORGETOWN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

PARENTS' NIGHT

In order to provide a convenient opportunity for parents to meet the teachers and discuss student progress, a Parents' Night will be held at the school on Monday, November 17, 1980 - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Some parents have been invited for interviews, as noted on the Interim Report, but all parents are welcome to meet the teachers.

Parents who have not been scheduled but wish an interview with a teacher(s) may phone the school office (877-8986) during the day for an appointment time. Appointments may also be made on Parents' Night.



OPTI-MRS. BAZAAR

Tricia Payton (left) 9, and Joanne Totten, 10, try out some of the puppets handmade by Grace Martin at the "Opti-Mrs." bazaar held Saturday in St. Andrews United church on Mountainview Road. The bazaar featured decoration ideas for Christmas, toys and jewellery.

(Herald photo)

Lucky winners

Auxiliary Christmas cake

The Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Auxiliary held a successful cake show and auction Saturday thanks to the many cakes donated by generous supporters. Christine Knapka of Georgetown was the winner of a Christmas cake raffle.

Pipe band quilt

Shirley Snyder of Westcott Avenue in Acton is the winner of a handmade quilt following a draw sponsored by the Georgetown Girls Pipe Band last week. Mrs. Snyder held winning number 2919 to take home the quilt, made and donated by Madeline Piers. The quilt raffle raised \$500 for the band.

Holy Cross prizes

A major draw was held at the Holy Cross Christmas Bazaar Saturday. Winner of the first prize, a gas barbecue, is Vera Girdwood. Winner of the second prize, a hand-made hooked picture, is Marg McCormack. Winner of the third prize, a hand-made afghan, is D. Palmer of Caledon. Fourth prize winner Mrs. John Hulme will receive a \$50 voucher from North Halton Sports.

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NOTICE TO ALL PARENTS RE: P.D. DAY MONDAY NOVEMBER 24th, 1980

Do you need or want GOOD CARE for your child on the upcoming P.D. School P.O. Day? The Georgetown "Y" has a full day of activities planned for children 5 to 12 years at Bronte Creek Provincial Park.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
7:30 - 9:30 a.m. - Arrival and Quiet Activities
(Children may arrive at any time during this period)

9:30 - Bus leaves for Bronte Creek Provincial Park

10 - 12:00 - Children visit the Children's Farm and Resource Centre in groups. Play in Loft, see Farm Animals, view nature oriented films.

12 - 1:30 p.m. - Lunch (bring your own). Free time for exploring the park in supervised groups.

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. - Remaining groups visit the children's farm and the Conico Lane Century Farm

3:00 - Bus departs to return to the "Y"

3:30-6:00 - Quiet activities, games, movies, popcorn at the "Y"
(children may be picked up at any time during this period)

FEE - \$10.00 for 1st. Child - \$7.00 for each additional child in the same family.

Children will be organized in groups of no more than ten to one adult

HOW TO REGISTER: Drop in to the "Y" at 80 Mountainview Rd. S. 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon. thru Friday. Registration will be limited to the first 50 children to apply, so please register early to avoid disappointment.

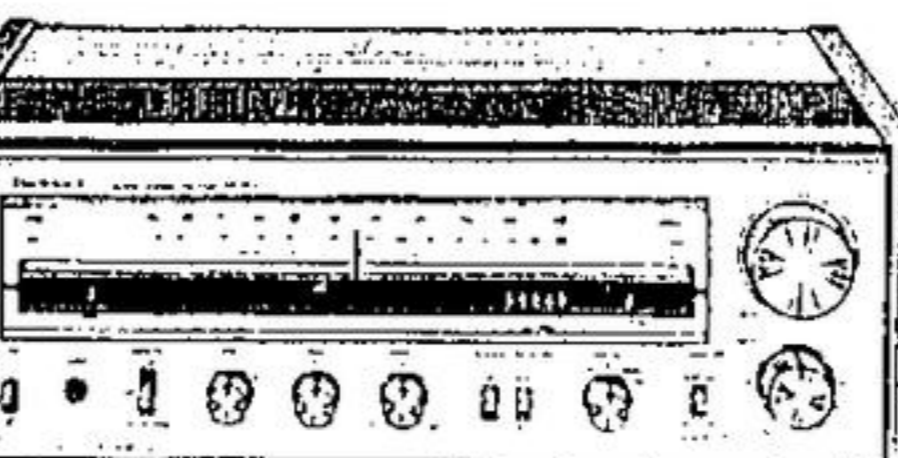
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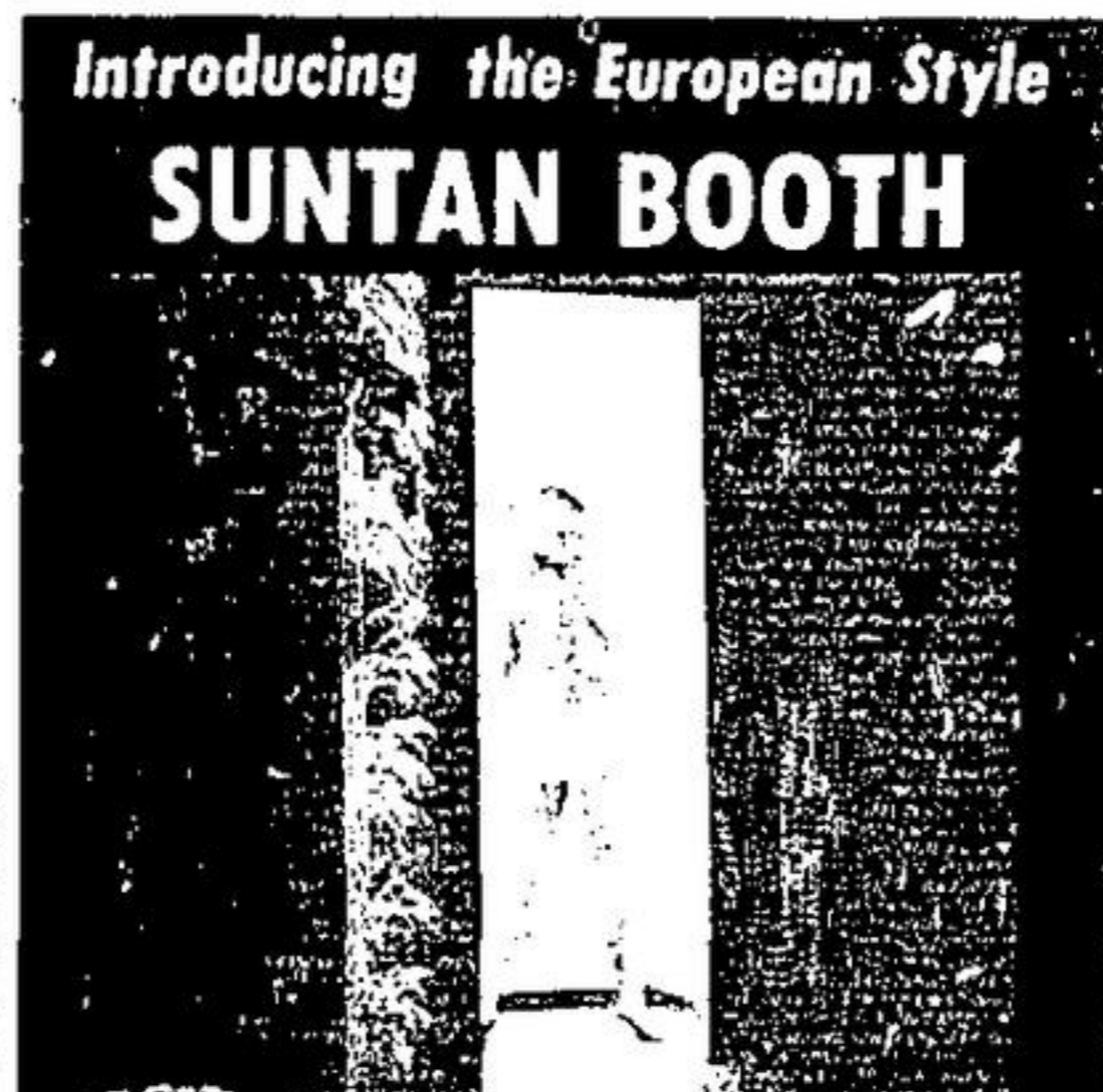


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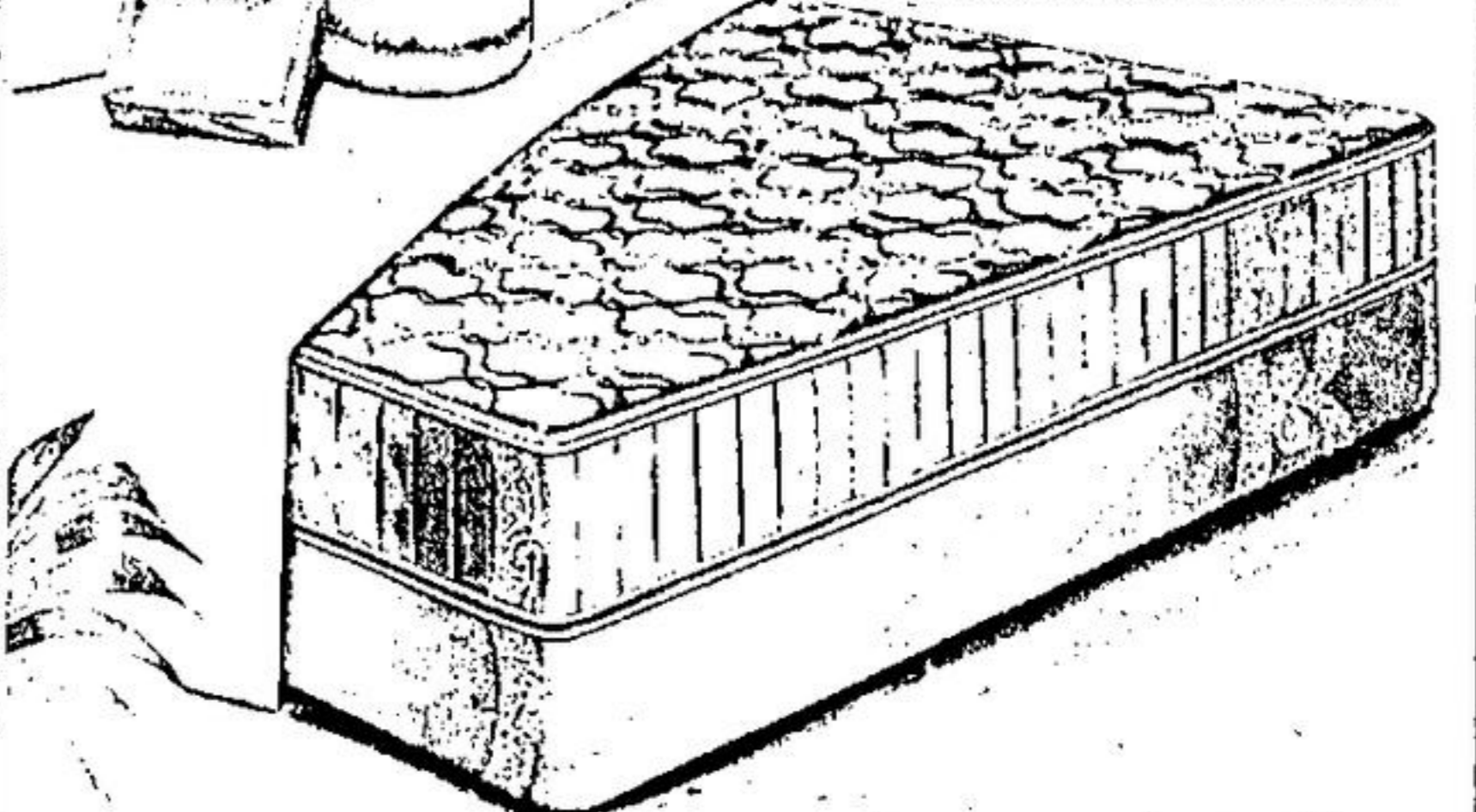
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