

NEW MEXICO IS BECOMING ART CENTER

Tooker Court and Washington Square Have Nothing on It.

PLENTY OF INSPIRATION

SANTA FE, N. M., Sept. 2.—Greenwich village has invaded the far south-west.

This is no more catchy sentence based on a few instances; it is a literal statement of fact.

In two or three New Mexico towns, and in a large section of the surrounding country, there are probably more people of the type called Bohemian than anywhere else in the United States, except in the vicinity of Washington Square in New York and that of Tooker Court, the home of the Dill Pickle Club in Chicago.

And these strangers have come boldly in their proper parts. They have, not to any considerable extent, taken protective color.

Here are to be seen the short-haired women wearing sandals and far-away looks, and the men with the long hair who dream the long dreams and paint the pictures that look not like the scenery and write the poetry whereof the meaning is known only to themselves and God.

It would be unfair, however, to give the impression that this arty folk who have come here are all or even mostly dilettantes and eccentrics.

Both in Santa Fe and Taos are men and women of real achievement.

Many Austin spent a winter here and wrote an excellent novel, and there are a dozen artists in the state of considerable attainment.

One of the most interesting of these is Gustave Baumann, who has with great success revived the little-known art of making color prints by hand from wood.

He paints his pictures in water colors, makes a wooden plate for each color in the composition and prints perhaps a hundred copies, which are much in demand.

REAL ARTISTS' CENTER

But limits of space make it impossible to recount the separate achievements of the many artists who have found inspiration here, and this is a theoretically wild and uncouth country.

The fact of the matter is that probably more of real artistic and intellectual life in proportion to the population is centered in northern New Mexico than anywhere else in the United States.

Boston is an intellectual fossil and New York is an intellectual prostitute.

The people here are a little self-conscious effort to be cultured, and certainly some good things come out of its slums and alleys, but pork there sits somewhat heavily on poetry.

True, the man who paints primarily for the embellishment of calendars and the fattening of his own purse is not unknown in these parts, nor is the chap who paints pictures local color into bad magazine fiction.

But in the main the artists and writers who came here are sincere folk who are trying to get away from the noise and strain and greed-provoking atmosphere of the cities, and to find new inspiration.

The artists, especially, have been successful.

A number of very substantial and worth-while paintings have been made here by men whose work in other places attracted no attention.

Nor is it hard to understand what the artists find here. Certainly one of the essentials of artistic production is an atmosphere of leisure.

It is hard to give yourself up unreservedly to dreams of beauty which probably will prove unprofitable, when you are surrounded by people who are as desperate and feverish hunt for money.

But down here a large part of the population is Mexican, and the Mexicans refuse to get excited or hurry up.

They impart an easy and leisurely tone to existence.

Even the gringos feel this influence to some extent. Undoubtedly New Mexico, as a whole, takes life much more easily than New Yorkers.

LIVING COST NOT HIGH

And the actual cost of decent living is not high here. You can have a cool and quiet room in an abode house and a comfortable bed to sleep in for an amount that would buy you only a precarious and sordid existence in one of our centers of so-called civilization.

Here are none of the costly fleshpots that so often induce the young intellectual aspirant in New York to become a high-priced hag of the big publishing enterprises.

Here, if anywhere, he can be poor without losing health and dignity.

In this country, too, is natural beauty, unspoiled and in great variety.

The greater part of New Mexico remains a wilderness because there is not enough money in the state to convert it into anything else.

In the east the artist who derives his inspiration from nature hunts diligently for unmarred bits of country, but here the parts that show any effect of artificial change are few and small; here is an almost wild and unspoiled land.

It is hard to imagine how a man defeated and confused by the complex life of cities might come out here and sit down under a tree and find himself.

No doubt the rich historical associations of the country have much to do with its charm for the creative mind.

In most of America change has trampled back and the actual scene in each a frenzied struggle that all trace of the past has been wiped out.

But here the past, in a sense, lives side by side with the present. The Pueblo Indians still live almost as they did centuries ago, and the high-perched cliff dwellings of their pre-Columbian ancestors are still here almost intact.

The life of the Spanish folk in many parts of the country is unchanged, too.

For their imagination that like to roam backward through the years this country is rich in inspiration.

TO CURE

For all of these reasons there is an unmistakable tendency toward the formation in New Mexico of a cultural center. The number of artists, writers and scientists who come here year by year increases, and still more significant is the growing number of those who establish permanent homes here.

The buying of abode houses, many of them more than twenty years old and fitting them as modern dwellings without changing their outward appearance, has become quite a local industry.

Some charming effects and some startling ones have been produced. Here, for example, is the residence of a post-impressionist artist.

From the outside it looks exactly like the home of a poor sheep herder or woodcutter. But open the hallways and you are met by walls painted in violet and woodwork painted a mid-night blue, with the light filtering through violet curtains.

The reception room, no less astonishing in its color scheme, is panelled with great pictures of New Mexico scenery as it looks to the eye of a post-impressionist artist.

Following is a list of the things Mr. Ritter found would have to be done before Dobbins could be turned over to a new owner.

The board of public safety must pass a resolution expressing its desire

Suffrage Leaders on Friday Program

A "reminiscence meeting" will be held Friday afternoon, in the Public library, by the League of Women Voters.

A number of prominent suffrage leaders of the city will give three-minute talks on their personal experiences in the struggle for the vote.

Miss Alma Stickle, president of the local league, will preside at the session. The group of women who will speak includes Mrs. W. T. Barnes, Mrs. J. F. Barnhill, Mrs. A. B. Grover, Mrs. Ovid Butler Jameson, Mrs. Linton A. Cox, Mrs. C. E. Kragel, Dr. Mary A. Spink, Miss T. L. Voss, Mrs. Merritt, Mrs. H. C. Morris, Mrs. Henry Kahn, Mrs. Charles Dyer, Mrs. E. L. Lewis, Mrs. Harry Miller, Mrs. William Allen Moore, Mrs. Mary Winter, Miss Belle O'Hair, Mrs. F. T. McWhirter, Mrs. Edgar A. Perkins, Mrs. Horace McKay, Mrs. Helen McKay Steele, Mrs. H. E. Barnard, Miss Mary Nicholson, Dr. Sarah Stockton, Miss Anna Nicholas, Miss Margaret Donnan, Mrs. D. M. Parry and Miss Alice Culkin.

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But another painter from the east clings himself in kilkerbockers and golf stockings and wears a little Alpine cap with a green feather.

The time has come when the Indians have cause to stare almost as much as they are stared at. The sight-seers

is no longer all on one side.

ANOTHER DEMAND ON COUNTY FUNDS

Additional Budget to Finish

Year Calls for \$55,784.96.

Extra appropriations, totaling approximately \$35,784.96, to run the various offices and institutions of the county will be asked of the Marion county council at a meeting of the council next week.

County Auditor Leo K. Fesler yesterday

announced to the county commissioners a budget totaling \$55,784.96 to cover county expenses for the remainder of the year.

A total of \$25,273.55 is asked of the county board of review.

The extra or additional appropriations will be used for the county council at a meeting of the council next week.

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