

## Miss Clapp Paints at 80

# Highland Park Has Its 'Grandma Moses'

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Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

When 80-year-old Miss Margaret Clapp looks at life, she gives it the brush—paint brush, that is.

The "Grandma Moses" of Highland Park paints what she sees with her lovely hazel eyes, everything from flowers to landscapes; to horses galloping through the dust to the starkness of a local freeway.

To her it's all beauty. And her canvases are beauties too.

Admitting her age frankly, she says, "I've never been sensitive about it. I'm 80. My bones are old but my spirit isn't."

Although she was an art teacher at McKinley Junior High School, she never painted then, and explained: "You don't have to be a painter at all to teach art."

### FIRST INSPIRATION

She contends all that's necessary is a good verbal description of what to tell the pupils to do with color and line.

Twelve years ago, fate in the shape of a bouquet of flowers from a friend stepped in and started Miss Clapp on her "hobby."

The flowers were so lovely Miss Clapp said, she kept saying to herself: "I wish I could paint. Then I remembered another friend years ago had given me some paints in a tin box. I went down stairs, found the box, dusted it off, and punctured one of the tubes. The paint was still soft. That was real paint."

The marriage of the poppies and paints produced her first canvas of which a niece commented: "Auntie, if you can paint like that, paint me a horizontal one."

### GIVES THEM AWAY

She did and the lady of the easels began her avocation which has stretched into a

private studio in her home; lessons once a week, and about 100 canvases inside her workshop.

There's no telling how many she's completed because "I've given to all my relatives, cousins and second cousins," she said, not to mention friends.

In addition, Miss Clapp, of 252 S. Avenue 51, Highland Park, gives free lessons once a week to three ladies and gives constructive criticism to six others who paint at their own homes and bring their work to her.

Describing herself as a "church lady," the white-haired 5-foot 2-inch woman is active in the Presbyterian Church of Highland Park, which she has attended since the family "car" was a horse and buggy.

Born in Los Angeles, she boasts her grandfather's home in 1876 at Orange Grove and Madeline was the first two-story plaster house in Pasadena.

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