

Eppley Hotels Magazine Praises Grant Wood and Edgar Britton for Work

THE October number of "Hospitality," a small magazine published monthly by the Eppley Hotels company, contains a brief article on Grant Wood and Edgar Britton, two Cedar Rapids artists who painted the new corn room in Hotel Martin, Sioux City. The Martin hotel, like the Montrose and Magnus of this city, is operated by the Eppley interests. "Hospitality" also carries pictures of Grant Wood and the new corn room.

The article as it appeared in "Hospitality" follows:

"During September, Hotel Martin, Sioux City, completed and opened its Iowa corn room. The new private dining room has a capacity of 24, opens onto the mezzanine, and its decorations are the work of Grant Wood, the Cedar Rapids artist, who decorated the Iowa corn room in Hotel Montrose.

"In the walls are depicted fields of corn, golden sheaves and typical farm scenes in perspective. Above and to a lesser extent are the words of one stanza of the Iowa Corn song:

*Lowly, lowly,
In that land so fair,
Treasures rich and rare,
Wonderful, lowly, lowly,
That's where the tall corn grows!*

"Trapes and chandeliers were specially made for this room. The latter are the only ones of their kind, excepting those in Hotel Montrose. Corn colored incandescent bulbs glow from the tops of upright ears of corn. Pendant "nubbins" and graceful corn leaves complete the chandeliers designed and produced under direction of the Eppley Hotels Company decorating department.

"Commenting upon the artist and the new room, a recent issue of the Sioux City Tribune remarked:

"The best market for worthwhile pictures in the United States is in the middle west. Grant Wood, nationally known landscape painter, told a Tribune reporter Saturday. Mr. Wood, with Edgar Britton, both of Cedar Rapids, are at the Martin hotel where they are painting typical scenes on the walls of the 'Corn Room.' Mr. Wood's murals in an Eppley hotel at Cedar Rapids, have won him high praise from critics."

"Despite jibes aimed at the 'corn' state, there is developing a feeling for culture and for art in this section of the country, which is rapidly making it a place which New York artists look to with longing. Mr. Wood continued. He explains that New York dealers have told him that their best customers are from the Middle West, for the residents of the great cities, living as most of them do in apartments, no longer have rooms large enough to permit the hanging of pictures.

"Discussing the rise of a picture-buying public in Iowa, Mr. Wood described his own experience in his home town, Cedar Rapids, where he has found a ready market for a great many pictures. His studies, a result left in a town, is one of the 'tricks' to which visiting artists of the stage, pop, vaude or concert platform are always taken. "A part of the loft has been arranged to provide a small stage, and when the place is turned into

an impromptu theater for the production of plays by a "Little Theater" group it seats 75 people.

"People whose acquaintance with artists is limited are apt to have notions that an artist should look something like a composite picture gained from 'La Boheme' and stories by Leonard Merrick. To such, a meeting with Mr. Wood and Mr. Britton might, at first glance, appear disappointing.

"Neither of them wears baggy trousers, long hair or tam o'shanter. Both, on the contrary, are keen-eyed young men whose outward appearance does not differ greatly from that of any dozen men of their age picked out at random in the Martin lobby.

"And both smoke a very familiar brand of cigarette."

Artists of "Corn Room" Fame



GRANT WOOD



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