



# Dining & Entertainment

The Beverly Review

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## Frances Badger, well-known Chicago artist, dies at 93

*Vanderpoel ties earned special place in heart for Beverly; work still hangs in gallery at BAC*

by Jimmie Lee Buehler

Frances Badger, described by the Union League Club as one of Chicago's most consistent and active artists, died Nov. 3 at age 93.

She painted enthusiastically until a few years before her death. She had fond memories of visiting Beverly and exhibiting many times at the John H. Vanderpoel Gallery and in the Beverly Art Center concourse.

Badger had won many awards and prizes in her life as an artist. She was a finalist in the 10th, 11th and 13th Alice and Arthur Baer Art Competition. She said she was more thrilled by the \$1,000 third prize in the 17th competition than she was for any other. Her oil, titled "Old Superior Street at Night," won that award.



Frances Badger (from left), Ethel Wirtshafter and Helen Jean Wyatt attend the 100th anniversary celebration of the Chicago Society of Artists. The celebration was held in 1987 at the Vanderpoel Art Gallery in the Beverly Art Center. (Photo by Jimmie Lee Buehler)

The oil "Vollendam Board of Trade" has been admired at the Vanderpoel Art Gallery since Badger donated it to the permanent collection in 1930. It is a wry painting of several pipe-smoking Hollanders with heads together, trading gossip.

She considered it the best of her Dutch series, painted in her studio in the Fine Arts Building from sketches made in Holland in 1925. She had just returned from her first trip to Europe, accompanied by her teacher at the Art Institute of Chicago, Matilda

Vanderpoel (youngest sister of John H. Vanderpoel).

Badger's "Vollendam Board of Trade" will continue to delight visitors to the Vanderpoel Gallery, where it is treasured by trustees and members of the community who remember her fondly.

In 1990, Badger wrote: "The John H. Vanderpoel Art Association and the Beverly Art Center are close to my heart because of my long friendship with the Vanderpoel family." She told how Matilda influenced her when she attended the Winnetka Branch of the Junior School of the Art Institute. Badger's mother took her in a horse-drawn carriage from her birthplace of Kenilworth to the school held at the Winnetka Woman's Club.

Badger created a mural for the Joliet Township High School which hangs over the entrance to the auditorium there. Murals once painted and hung at Oak Park's Stevenson field house were recently restored after being lost since 1966. They now hang at the Oak Park-River Forest Historical Society.

Currently, Badger is represented with four mural stud-

ies through Jan. 9, 1998, at "The WPA Collection of the Illinois State Museum" in the Illinois Art Gallery, Thompson Building on Randolph Street. Three years ago, two of her works hung in a show there titled "The New Woman in Chicago, 1910-1945." At that time, out of 23 artists, only she and Margaret Burroughs (a judge of the current Baer Competition) were still living.

Badger was president of Chicago Society of Artists at one time and had been active in promoting that organization which has had several shows in the Vanderpoel Gallery in recent years. For 66 years, she was an active member of the Arts Club of Chicago and frequently showed her work in its annual members exhibitions.

Badger was buried in Graceland Cemetery after private interment services. A tea in celebration of her life will be given in early December. Memorials are welcomed by the Chicago Society of Artists, 1825 E. Exchange, Crete, IL 60417; or the Hospice of the North Shore, 2821 Central Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201-1221.