



Success of the recent Art Guild's Pre-Christmas Show can be attributed to the willingness of its members to improve their art. Shown here is a class taught by the Helotes Guild's president, Paul Kime. The new and third gallery has a spacious studio where classes are held regularly. Above is the second location of the Gallery.

Photo by Dade Rayfield

## They Knew Helotes When

By Ross Barham

Like most new-comers—when I came to Helotes, I was interested in the past history of this area and the old-timers who made that history. Soon my interest became a hobby which proved very fascinating.

In time, I felt that I was beginning to know the "REAL OLD-TIMERS." I learned that they had been here a very long time. Just how long they did not know. Their origin also was not known, but their ancestors believed that they came from the West. As with all easterly-moving people, it was not too important that they did not know these things because Man was a part of Nature. All things were kin.—The past, the present and the future were one. No one had ever heard the word "race."

Individual land ownership was unknown. There were no orphans. Man did not destroy but took only what was necessary for his sustenance. These gentle folks lived in this area for the same reason that we do. Also, their campsites were selected for the same reason.

Many of our present homes are located on or near their old

camp. I have seen no evidence to indicate that these people lived in teepees—at least not during the last few centuries. Their abode seems to have been a brush shelter built on posts sunk a shallow depth into the ground. Their living area gradually built up from debris that formed a mound which we now call a kitchen midden.

In and around these middens is usually a good place to look for artifacts. I have found among other things iron ore (used for paint) and a sea-shell bead. Since neither is native here this would indicate that there was some trade with other areas. A camp usually consisted of one or two families. Another camp might be a mile or two away, but it was always near a stream. At no time were they ever in this area in great numbers for the reason that there was not enough game and natural food to support many at a time. Corn was a late arrival and so was pottery. The bow was also a late arrival.

Near the top of some of our hills, old quarries can be found where they secured the flint or chert from which they made their tools, spear and arrow points.

Historians are prone to distort,

but the flint and other artifacts left by these people speak the truth if we but correctly interpret what they say. These folks were Indians only because they were called that by the Europeans who came later. Actually, they were pre-historic or stone-age men. They were the "REAL OLD-TIMERS" of Helotes. They were great guys.

With modifications, this story would apply to almost any other area on Earth because all primitive men had many things in common. Somewhere in the past and under the above conditions lived your ancestors and mine. Who are the relatives of the stone-age man of Helotes? This would be a tough question for the genealogist.

(Editor's Note: Since Mr. Barham's interest in the past as revealed by artifacts pre-dates the 20 years of Archeology as an exact science, he is considered by The University of Texas and other groups as an authority on the local prehistoric times. He has contributed his findings in part to the University Museum.)

### Holiday Hint

## Homegrown Ideas Catch The Spirit

Holiday decorating doesn't have to be an expensive process if you plan to take advantage of the many natural plants, bushes and trees in our area which lend themselves so beautifully to decorating.

Cedar, flaked or natural, makes lovely wreaths, centerpieces, door cascades and pillar and arch decorations.

Pyracantha in combination with fruits, nuts, and candles makes a fine arrangement for even the most formal table. . . Or spray it gold for a truly elegant effect. Locust leaves also create a beautiful effect when sprayed.

Holly, of course, is always good and any of the native varieties, with or without berries can be used. Use with pine cones, nuts,

and harvest fruits and vegetables.

Try a new idea this year. Instead of the traditional wreath or Santa Claus use native Texas figurines or stage your own "Pisada" with paper mache angels and figurines made in Mexico, gay straw mats, bright gay "rebozos" and of course a Piñata in the traditional star.

Invest in candles. Any size, any shape, any color will add festiveness to your table, mantel, or buffet. Votive lights in amber, anethist, magenta, green, red, or gold can be very effective.

Bake some "pfeffernusse," "christollen," or "springerle," put a Yule log on the fire, and have a Merry Christmas.

## Subsurface Offices Open To Lay Lines

At a called meeting of the Grey Forest City Council on Monday night, December 4, Subsurface of Fort Worth representatives announced that they had set up offices and yards at Loop 1604 and Fredericksburg Road.

Subsurface is the contractor to whom the contract for laying gas lines for this area was awarded. A spokesman for the group said that lines would begin to be laid this month, as his men are ready

to start work. Large pipes will be laid first.

The City of Grey Forest will provide the natural gas service to customers signed up on certain routes and to the City of Boerne under contract with Grey Forest.

According to Mayor Jack Nottingham of Grey Forest there are a few contract details to be worked out with Subsurface, but work is expected to begin as scheduled this month and move at a record pace.

## Col. Fergurt Burned In Roofing Accident

Retired Air Force Col. Carl Fergurt of Beckcliff is reported

### Kay Mullins Improving

Kay Mullins — 19-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. (Moon) Mullins of Scenic Loop Road—is out of intensive care at the Methodist Hospital where she is recovering from injuries sustained in a car-truck collision which resulted in death for her fiancé, Tom Olafson, also 19. The accident occurred at Loop 410 and West Avenue on Friday, November 25, at about 4 p.m.

The truck, carrying dirt overturned on the car, according to witnesses, following the collision.

Tom was a student at San Antonio College and Kay was home for the holidays from the University of Texas where she had almost completed her sophomore year of work. She finished at John Marshall in 1966, and was a cheer leader as well as serving on the Rampage staff. She and Tom had planned to be married upon completion of their education.

Kay has resided in Helotes for more than ten years.

improved at Wilford Hall Hospital, Lackland AFB after he was saved from possible death by his neighbor narcotics detective E. E. Clark, on November 27.

Clark threw himself on Fergurt to snuff out his burning clothing, which had become ignited by gasoline.

At the time of the accident Col. Fergurt was repairing the roof of a utility room. While saturating tar with gasoline, he was unaware that the gasoline had leaked onto his clothing, and when he struck a match to set fire to the mixture, was engulfed in flames.

The detective rushed to the aid of his neighbor and, in addition to snuffing out Col. Fergurt's burning clothing with his own body, threw dirt on the flaming clothing, then ripped them away. Clark was not injured.

Col. Fergurt was reported to have burns over 30 per cent of his body.

## Sandy Asher Dies Nov. 11

Death came to Mrs. Sandra Sue (Sandy) Asher of Helotes on Saturday, November 11, 1967 in the Methodist Hospital. Born in Dodge City, Kansas on July 23, 1942, she was 25 years of age. She spent much of her early years as a visitor to her aunt and uncle's ranch in Helotes and had a wide circle of friends here.

Services were conducted in Boerne by the Rev. Frederick E. Maples of San Antonio and a former pastor at Leon Springs, and by Rev. Herb Applewhite of the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include her husband, Joe Gilmer Asher, and her son, Joey Lee Asher of Helotes. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. George Bouse of Greeley, Colorado. Her brother, Stanley W. Bouse, is stationed at Naval Air Station, Alameda, California. Her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lee Reed of Sullivan, Mo., and her mother-in-law is Mrs. Robert Asher of Boerne.

pallbearers were Jim, Hugh, Cecil, Donald, Sidney and Archie Asher. Mrs. Asher leaves in addition many close friends.

## Helotes Gets Fashion Shop

Among new businesses which opened in this area last month is Terry's Fashions and Western Wear, which opened its door at Helotes Park Plaza on November 4. This shop which carries clothes for all the family is located adjacent to House & Garden Gift Shop and Ella's Barber and Beauty Shop.

The business is owned by Mrs. Teresa McClellan, wife of Gordon McClellan. They and their three children reside in Helotes Ranch Acres. Mr. McClellan is a composing room foreman for the San Antonio Light.

Shop hours, typical of those kept in the Plaza, are from 10 until 6:30 daily except Sunday and Monday.

Recent business activities in Helotes include the change of ownership of the Enco station in Helotes Park Estates. The sta-

tion is now being operated by A. J. (Moon) Mullins, who with his wife, Maureen, have resided on the Scenic Loop Road since 1956. The station was formerly operated by Ben Havens.

Doc Amend is now open for business at the bridge and is a new addition to the merchants of this area coming back to Texas from Florida.

The veterinarian, Doctor Richard Foster, has also relocated his office to the building directly behind the Andrews Grocery on Bandera.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Conrad won a blue ribbon for an unusual display of their rocks and gems at the recent Rock and Gem show in Mobile, Alabama. They are contemplating trips to other shows—one in New Orleans—in the New Year.

## HELOTES ECHO

"Ye shall know the Truth."

December 8, 1967

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## Christmas

Take time to ponder the true message of Christmas. Check the schedule of your church services. Many are having special Christmas devotions. With a true sense of the eternal message, you can understand fully the Glad Tidings of MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR.



## Helotes Sketches

### Dale Keith Rambles To Top of Billing

By Charlie Moss

Helotes has long been noted as a mecca for Country music. Nationally known stars as well as beginners have wooed the town with their talents. Though throngs from afar have lauded many of them, the Helotes natives have taken one of their own residents to their hearts.

In 1948, a scrawny kid named Dale Keith came from San Angelo to live with the Stanley Hay family. This writer fondly recalls the night when their son, Bobby, came with Dale into the Helotes Inn carrying musical instruments and asked for a chance to play. Wearing blue jeans, they called themselves "The Poor Hoboes." Their lilt-ing music filled the room. Then Dale sang. His immature voice told a simple, heart-breaking story, straight from the shoulder. There was no evidence that he was "shaking in his boots," as he now confesses. Remarks from the crowd were, "He'll go far if he keeps it up."

Dale "kept it up," but not until after his 18-month enlistment with the armed forces in the Korean war.

(Continued on Page 4)

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Dear Mr. and Mrs. Brown,  
Relative to your recent article "The Time Is Now" in the Sept. issue of Helotes ECHO, I feel I must write you to express my gratitude for the boost you so generously gave to those of us who strive to serve this area. It was very heartwarming and written with fine discernment of the situation.

Reciprocity is very necessary in every phase of life.

Nature and the developers of this area have provided a very beautiful setting. It is up to those who live here to maintain this beauty. Homes kept tastefully painted, well-tended lawns and no unsightly additions add to the prestige and economic value of this community.

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Thank you again. From one who is most appreciative.

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## Dale Keith . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

He joined Emil Mann's "Blue Bonnet Ramblers" and spent five years "learning the ropes" as an active professional singer and musician. Then he was ready to fulfill his boyhood dream to have his own band. He formed the "Starlite Ramblers" and developed the style and flavor that has endeared him to hordes of friends.

He attributes much of his success to Master Showman John T. Floore, who recognized his talent and instantly hired him. Dale states, "Mr. Floore gave me the break I was looking for when I needed it. I'll always be grateful."

It was at the Country Store that both week-end tourists and Helotes natives became addicted to the "Dale Keith" sound. While he keeps abreast of new tunes, he maintains the truly country flavor that appeals to both young and old. In his rapid rise, he never lost the humility of the shy, gawky kid that wandered into Helotes Inn 20 years ago.

He quickly became the official band for Helotes civic groups holding benefit dances at the Country Store. Always cooperative, he draws capacity crowds for fund-raising events.

His personal life is a direct rebuttal to the beliefs of many that a musician is a fast-living individual. Dale has been married to Lois Asher of Leon Springs for 16 years. They have a daughter, Carol Ann, four years old. Dale keeps his music activities secondary to his daily work as a sheet metal outside foreman at Judd Plumbing Company. He is an active member of the Helotes Lions Club and belongs to the Presbyterian Church.

He is proud of the fact that half of his six-piece unit are Helotes dwellers. Allen Fischer, his harmonicaist, resides in Grey Forest. Ray Laughlin, his steel guitarist, is building a home in Ranch Acres.

"Before we're through," he says beamingly, "I'd like to see the whole bunch transplanted here."

If Dale is proud of Helotes, the community can equally be proud of the civic cooperation and wholesome entertainment that Dale Keith and the Starlite Ramblers provide whenever they are called upon. The flavor of his music truly reflects the free spirit of Helotes.

Sometimes, exhausted with toil and endeavor,  
I wish I could sleep forever and ever;  
But then this reflection my longing allays  
I shall be doing it one of these days.

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