

For sale, oil paintings for birthday, wedding or holiday gifts. Mrs. Earl Gibbs,  
August 26, 1920, Evansville Review, Classified ad. Evansville, Wisconsin

## Mrs. Earl J. Gibbs Paints Road Signs

### Attractive Boards Are Erected On Highways 13 and 14 to Advertise Parks

New road signs advertising Evansville's city parks and calling the attention of tourists to the picnic, camp, boating, swimming, store and recreational facilities of the areas have recently been erected on highways 13 and 14 just outside the city limits.

The signs which carry picturesque scenes of the parks and Lake Leota, were painted this spring by Mrs. Earl J. Gibbs, Evansville landscape painter, and have been erected on the farms of George Brigham, north of the city on the combined highways 13 and 14; on the Marvin Patterson farm east of Evansville on 14 and on another farm owned by Mr. Paterson south of the Harry Inman filling station on 13.

June 18, 1942, Evansville review, p. 1, col. 6,

Evansville, Wisconsin

(Continued on last page)

## Wives And Mothers Meet Here Tuesday

### Reports Given By Mrs. Gibbs And Mrs. Ray Hubbard On Organization Projects

A large crowd of wives and mothers of men in the service of the United States government attended the organization's meeting in the city hall auditorium Tuesday evening.

The business meeting during which Mrs. Earl J. Gibbs, president, reported on the progress of the Honor Roll board, was followed by an entertaining program. Mrs. Gibbs announced that the board is almost constructed and will soon be ready for her to paint on it the names of Evansville's men in service. She hopes to have it erected before July 4.

Numbers on the program arranged by Mrs. A. J. Scoville, Mrs. Einar Haakenson and Mrs. John Golz included assembly singing; a pageant by the Theta Rho Girls club; solo, Robert Kelly accompanied by Miss Morrison, vocal duet, Robert Kelly and Ruth Morrison; two solos, Robert Erstad, words for which were written by Mrs. Gibbs, and an address by Mrs. A. E. Johnson in which she gave a resume of her recent trip to Texas where she attended the graduation of her son.

(Continued on last page)

A painting called "The Good Shepherd" painted by herself, was last week presented to the Methodist church by Mrs. Ethel V. Gibbs of this city. This canvas is three feet by four feet in size and is very expressive of several great events in the life of Christ and the prediction of his coming in the Twenty-third Psalm. It is said to be a splendid painting and will be much appreciated by the church attendants.

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March 11, 1946,

Evansville Review, p. 1, col. 5, Evansville, Wisconsin

## Wives And Mothers Meet Tuesday Night

(Continued from first page)

A program was presented Tuesday evening under the direction of Mrs. Albert Schudde, Mrs. Ray Hubbard and Mrs. Victor Briggs.

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May 28, 1942, Evansville Review, p. 8, col. 2, Evansville,

Wisconsin

# Wives And Mothers Meet Here Tuesday

(Continued from first page)

Lt. Paul Johnson, who received his wings. The Theta Rho Girls' number was accompanied by Miss Rosemary Hazlett and the assembly singing and Mr. Erstad's solos by Mrs. C. W. Hazlett.

Mrs. Ray Hubbard reported on the soldiers' registration project which the organization has undertaken to assist the Red Cross in making a file of the men in service which will prove valuable in contacting soldiers in case of emergency and will also assist the men in contacting their relatives through the Red Cross. Securing the names in this manner will also be of value to Mrs. Gibbs when painting the names on the board.

Mrs. Ray Hubbard and Mrs. A. J. Scoville, members of the service men registration committee will be at Library hall next Saturday afternoon and evening to receive the blanks which have been properly filled out and to assist in making the proper registrations. Relatives of men in service are urged to cooperate by contacting the committee members during the afternoon or evening.

The following blank has been arranged to secure the information. Those who do not know serial number of their soldier relatives are asked to submit the other information now and the number later.

Soldier's name .....  
 Rank and organization .....  
 Date and Place of Enlistment .....  
 Serial Number .....  
 Date and Place of Birth .....  
 If Married, Date of Marriage .....  
 Father's Name .....  
 Mother's Maiden Name .....  
 Address .....  
 Telephone Number .....  
 If no telephone, give nearest telephone  
 at which next of kin can be reached  
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# Wives and Mothers Meet Tuesday Night

**Mrs. H. B. Durner is Elected Secretary; Entertainment Follows Business Meet**

Paul DeLeon, Sr., was the guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Wives and Mothers of the Service Men's club held Tuesday evening in the city hall auditorium. His address was supplemented by vocal solos by Mrs. Louis Noehring and readings.

Mrs. Herbert Durner was elected recording secretary to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Frank Olson, who resigned when she left for Georgia recently to be near Mr. Olson, who is stationed in an army camp there.

Mrs. Ray Hubbard, chairman of the soldiers' registration committee reported on the address book project and urged parents and relatives of those in the armed force to keep their registrations and addresses up to date.

Mrs. Hubbard, assisted by Mrs. Rus-

sell Losey, has recently compiled a record showing the number of local men in each camp where Evansville is represented. Mrs. Hubbard will be glad to give addresses to citizens who wish to write to the boys or to men in the armed forces inquiring about others in the service. She maintains the address book in her home on South Madison street.

Mrs. Gibbs, honor roll chairman reported that she has a large number of names to place on the roll as soon as the wings for the board are completed. It will be necessary to move the board a few feet before the wings can be added. The next meeting of the club will be Tuesday evening, April 27, in the city hall auditorium.

An afternoon of sewing followed by the serving of tea and other light refreshments will feature the regular meeting of the Congregational Woman's League to be held next Thursday in the home of Mrs. B. A. Meyers, West Church street.

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# Wives, Mothers Will Convene Tuesday Nite



## Business Session And Program Will Feature July Meeting In City Hall Auditorium



The July meeting of the Wives and Mothers of Service Men organization will be held at 8 p.m. next Tuesday in the city hall auditorium at which time the regular business meeting will be followed by an illustration of the painting of the Leota park scene which appeared on the birthday cards sent to the men in the armed forces last year.

Mrs. Earl J. Gibbs, who painted the birthday cards, will be prepared next Tuesday evening, to paint the picture in view of all those present at the meeting. As she works she will explain the coloring and other details which combined have recalled to the minds of many Evansville service men,

(Continued on last page)



# Wives, Mothers Will Convene Tuesday Nite

(Continued from first page)

the good old summer times when they were carefree and whiled away many hours in Leota park and the lake.

Mrs. Gibb's demonstration will be supplemented by vocal solos by Lola Hull accompanied by Mrs. C. W. Hazlett. The program committee is comprised of Mrs. Harry Roderick and Mrs. Lee Milbrant.



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July 22, 1943,

# Mrs. E. J. Gibbs Wins Award On Painting

## Local Woman Enters Picture Of Wisconsin Women In State Wide Poster Contest

Mrs. E. J. Gibbs, Evansville, received honorable mention in a state wide centennial poster contest sponsored recently by The Committee on Wisconsin women, it was announced by Mrs. Herbert V. Kohler, of Kohler, committee chairman. The first prize of \$50 was won by Miss Beverly Catherine Horstmann, LaCrosse, junior student in the Aquinas high school there.

The contest had the "History of Wisconsin Women" as its theme and was open to any women in the state. Mrs. Gibbs' picture portrays Wisconsin women of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The woman of today is depicted by the portrait of a beautifully coiffured, gray haired woman. The only decoration on her black lace dress is a gold star. At her right, and across a rocky bordered stream, which is called the stream of life, a log mill stands with a big waterwheel turning slowly, rivulets of water spilling over the flumes. The wheel is the wheel of time. Near the mill a woman wearing a sun bonnet, hoop skirt and kerchief is carrying a pail of feed for a flock of chickens which are scurrying in all directions. The mill door stands wide and

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# Mrs. E. J. Gibbs Wins Award On Painting

(Continued from page one)

sacks of grain can be seen piled on the floor. The log cabin door also stands ajar, and a bright fire from a huge fire place lights up the interior with its potted plants, braided rugs and spinning wheel. At the back door an open well, with its pointed roof, bucket, rope and pulley are seen. Great oak and maple trees form the background for this part of the picture.

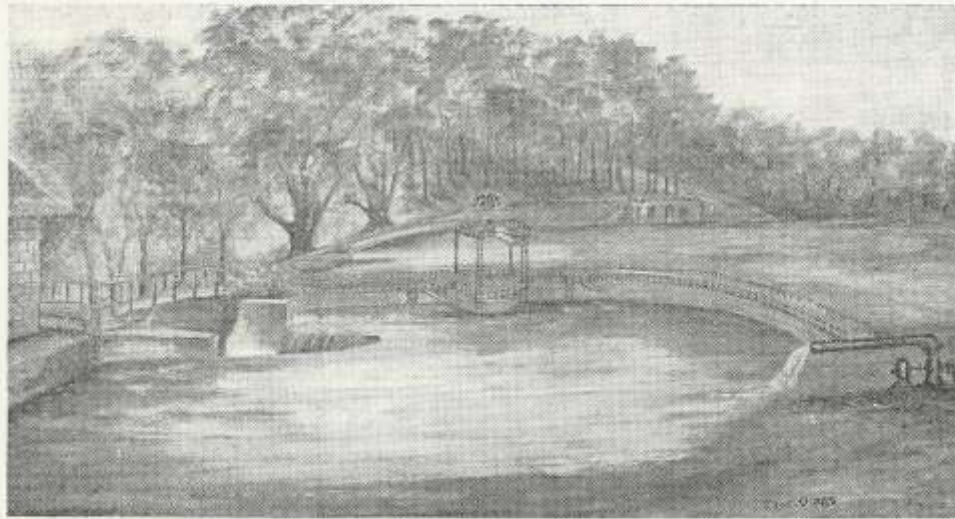
Across the stream, and at Lady Today's left stands the woman of tomorrow. She is poised upon a huge rocky foundation to give the impression of the Wisconsin Dells. She is clad in form fitting aviation garb and has large wings to depict a flying age. She stands beside a modernistic gun its foundation also upon the solid rock. The woman is gazing into the sky at a long, bullet shaped plane which leaves a slender stream of fire as it shoots into the heavens. On its side is lettered, Lady Mars. Willow trees form the background for this part of the picture, the artist choosing a sylvan setting in preference to buildings in rubble.

Across on the lake and disappearing from view is a canoe with an Indian woman sitting in the stern, a papoose is strapped to her back. Her background is a dark fringed pine woods.

April 1, 1948, Evansville Review, p. 1 & 8, Evansville, Wisconsin

**NOTICE: Oil paintings repaired or new ones done to order, also artificial bouquets and corsages made to order. Mrs. E. J. Gibbs, 46 North Second street, telephone 379J. 6-24-4tpd**

June 24, 1948, Evansville Review



**ONE CITIZEN'S IDEA FOR PROPOSED POOL FOR EVANSVILLE**

Above is a drawing made by Mrs. Ethel Gibbs portraying an idea developed by a local citizen for the use of the eastern end of Lake Leota as the proper place for pool. The idea is to build a causeway across the eastern end of the present lake, between the spillways over to or near the present slide. Then cement the bottom, having a hydrant of city water furnishing fresh water at all times to the pool. On the causeway could be erected a life-guard stand, as well as the diving towers.

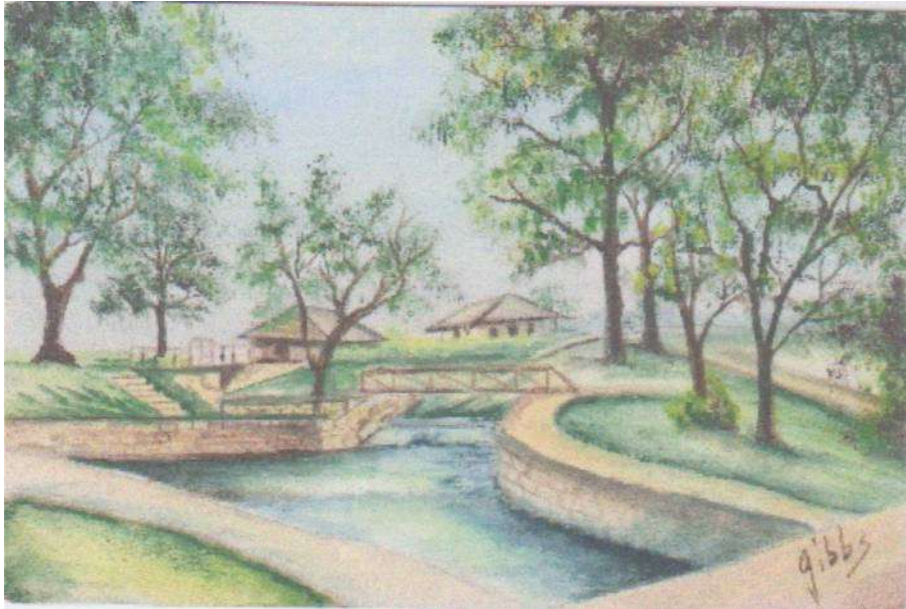
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August 4, 1949, Evansville Review, p. 8, Evansville, Wisconsin



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## Centennial Mural Is Work of Mrs. Earl Gibbs

Several notes of particular interest are brought to light in reference to the scenery which was used as background for the Footville centennial pageant.

The large backdrop was the work of Mrs. Earl Gibbs, who painted it to be used during Evansville's centennial in 1939. The canvas was approximately 35 feet long and 12 feet high.

In keeping with the theme of the pageant the mural depicted an old log cabin set in what was then a pioneer community.

Fortunately Mrs. Gibbs stored the mural, and kindly made it available for the Footville centennial which entertained the largest crowds in the history of the village.

Of further interest it might be mentioned that the wings used in the same stage setting came from the old Magee Opera House where they had seen service for several decades.

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July 15, 1954, Evansville Review, p. 1, Evansville, Wisconsin



## Mrs. Earl Gibbs Exhibits Paintings In Janesville

Mrs. Earl Gibbs, 46 N. Second st., recently exhibited a collection of her oil paintings in a Janesville studio. Although she does much of her work in oils, Mrs. Gibbs is also interested in music and poetry.

Examples of her paintings may be seen in many churches, among other places.

Mrs. Gibbs designed and painted the Evansville service honor roll. As a member of the stage decoration committee for the 1939 Evansville centennial, she painted the backdrop for the "Romance of a Century" pageant. This was also used during the Footville centennial and again in the Magnolia 4-H production of "The Boy Abe."

Mrs. Gibbs, who was reared on a farm in Magnolia township, has been sketching and painting most of her life. She is known throughout Wisconsin as an artist of ability. She completed a course in commercial art at the Federal School of Art, Minneapolis, in 1934. Otherwise, nature has

been her art teacher. Wherever she travels she carries her sketch pad to record her impressions. At the time on a sight-seeing trip, she injured a foot and was unable to walk. However, she enjoyed the trip immensely, because, for once, she had plenty of time to sit and sketch while the rest of the group was viewing the sights at close range.

For a number of winters when Mr. Gibbs managed a fruit-canning plant in McAllen, Texas, Mrs. Gibbs painted scenes in nearby Reynosa and Monterey in old Mexico.

Other outstanding paintings are inspired by memories of her farm childhood and the years she spent on one of northern Wisconsin's chain of lakes. Her poems also are based on Wisconsin scenes, memories, and every-day living.

Paraphrasing Kipling, in describing her paintings, Mrs. Gibbs says "I paint the thing as I see it for the God of things as they are."

A gracious welcome awaits visitors who call at the Gibbs home to view the many lovely paintings which adorn their walls.

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1966 Photo by Vivian Gildner

### MRS. EARL J. GIBBS, 78 DIES THURSDAY, AUG. 4

Funeral services for Mrs. Earl J. Gibbs, 75, who died in a Madison hospital Thursday morning of last week, were held Sunday afternoon in the Methodist Church with the Rev. Eldon Riggs, officiating. Burial was in Maple Hill Cemetery. Eastern Star services were held Saturday night in the Allen Funeral Home.

Mrs. Gibbs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank VanPatten, was born on a farm near Evansville, Oct. 6, 1887 and spent most of her life in the Evansville area. She was married to Mr. Gibbs in May, 1914 and they celebrated their golden anniversary here in 1964. She was a member of the Methodist Church and its auxiliaries, the Eastern Star, the Women's Christian Temperance union and a member of the former Evansville Writers' association.

Survivors are her husband, three sons, Leonard Allen, Vancouver, Wash.; Paul Gibbs, Evansville, and Albert Gibbs, Oshkosh; a brother, Howard Van Patten, Chetek; 10 grandchildren and several great grandchildren. A son, Robert Gibbs was killed overseas during World War II.

Mrs. Gibbs painted pictures for churches in Evansville, Orfordville, and Albany. She designed and painted the Evansville service honor roll, and did a backdrop for the Evansville centennial. Her poems were based on Wisconsin scenes, memories, and everyday events. She presented programs based on her writings in many area communities.

Subjects for her oil paintings included flowers, landscapes, and religious subjects.