

# KELLY'S CORNER

by Jan Kelly

Cookie Woods has the question this week: "What is the bird that sings all night? It seems no matter what time of day or night, I hear this same song." I wish I could say it were a whip-poor-will, a night singer that has become scarce. It is a robin that you hear, a wide-spread and populace species, happy on the muddied nest and letting all in ear-shot know it! The robin is a member of the thrush family, noted for its fluted and fetching warbled tones. The song now is a full-throated "cheerily cherrio cheer" sound. Mid-summer and through the summer rains, it will become a more complete and versatile song. Robins make everybody feel good with their singing, though many people are not aware of what is making them feel particularly light. The ears collect, though sometimes we are not really listening.

The American robin is a thrush, not a robin. The robin is an English species and a much smaller bird. It is extremely popular with the British in story and song and many greeting cards, particularly Christmas cards, feature cock robin: It is a symbol of innocence and appeal. One of the more dramatic cards I have seen was a finely etched and colored representation of the small cock robin slain in the snow by a tiny arrow. This card would evoke true Britannic bestial sympathy.

The early settlers dubbed the larger American thrush "robin" when they spotted a similarity of form and color. Nostalgia named this bird, though ornithologists have fought the incorrect nomenclature unsuccessfully for years. The American robin is a superb nest builder, as well as a songster. The female is the nest builder and builds a "mud cup" nest. Bits of mud are beak-carried and formed by beak, feet, and a bumping motion of the full red breast into a cup. She allows the mud cup to dry for two or three days and then lines it with fine grass. Robins are fiercely parental and have

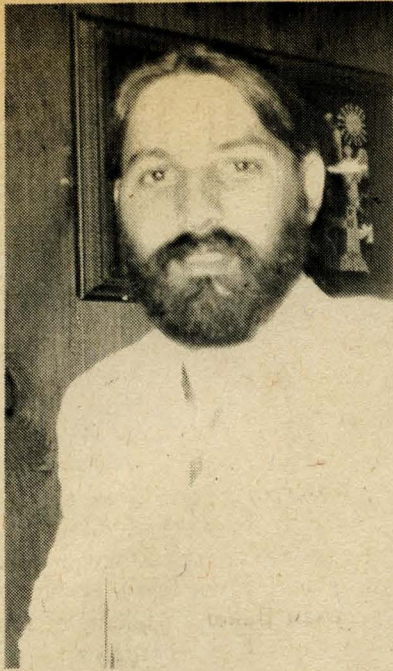
more than one brood. Despite all this work and occupied time, you will be serenaded through the night by this uplifting cheery tune. It is probably the most common "first sound of the morning."

Information like this will make up on quarter of the newly organized Kids Club. Carol D'Amico has coordinated a 10-week program for children ages 6 to 13. The classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays: Tuesdays it's the Explorer's Club from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Dancercise from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. On Thursdays, the Garden Club meets from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, and from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, it's the Video Workshop. If you know of a child who would enjoy the Kids Club, call 487-1702, or write Box 699, Provincetown, MA., 02657, for more information.

Jimmy Joe Roderick had an enlightening and successful exhibition of his artwork at Basil's. Pastel, pen & ink, pencil, watercolors, and oils were displayed. Stonehenge, sunsets, and fantasy scenes relaxed me away from my busy day to a more peaceful plane of life. Mythological characters and exotic gods opened my vision eye-wise and mentally. A small painting of Piggy's old sign looked so normal, until you saw the Star of Bethlehem overhead. But the one that made me smile with affection and gave me a belly laugh was Butch D'Avellar rising out of the sea in a huge shell where Botticelli's Venus usually is in *Birth of Venus*. All is the same except for Butch and his orange juice carton. We now call Butch, "Butch Botticelli" or "Butchicelli."

The Roderick family, mother Edie, dad David, brother David and wife, sister Susie, and sister Zana, prepared a spread of food that you couldn't buy, it was so preciously put together. Supportive friends joined the family in an easy and close gathering. All these factors provided a successful day for all. We enjoyed





Jimmy Joe Roderick

ourselves, learned quite a bit, and had an experience viewing the works of uncommon subjects. Jimmy Joe had a sellout. We're going to have to wait until Fall for the next show, and Jimmy Joe is going to have to get to work since everything is sold.


Jimmy Joe Roderick has been drawing since childhood. When he received approval for a finished drawing, he drew more. The more you draw, the better you get, so the cycle is set. Jimmy Joe went to the Art Insitute of Boston to formalize his natural gift. Working as head cook at the Holiday Inn, the Mews, and now Basil's for eight years, Jimmy Joe supports himself and his art. By his spiritual subject matter, Jimmy Joe wants you to be aware that there is something else there. Call it the mystery of God or whatever explains it to you, but that is the searching quality in these paintings. The purpose is to make people think about something other than day-to-day routine. Jimmy Joe knows he's reaching a bit, but that is the natural flow

of his talent; the subject matter is to induce your mind to think of this world as something more than surface illusion.

His art is not a substitute for the apparent world, but a deepening of view. Some of the paintings are journeys with elves, leprechauns, candles on mountains, and plants and animals which take on magical qualities. These works are time-consuming but pleasurable for Jimmy Joe. The pen flows when creating little worlds.

For these paintings, Jimmy Joe always draws in the mushroom house that is up on Sunny Tasha's property. Naomi Lake's healing symbol of the circle triangle, square and oval, and Eden, the name of his 13-year-old daughter. Jimmy Joe likes to do commissioned work. When people know his style and themes and ask for a specific work in pen & ink or pencil, he is pleased, but his real desire is to paint a giant mural or a ceiling at a church or a public place. He has made several sketches from the last book of the *Bible, Revelations*. The symbols of dragons, stars, and seven centers are all too tempting for the graphic mind to leave. All these images and their skillful wroughting are to tell you that there is work to this world, not another world, not escape, but a more interesting and more aware life to live. We look forward to your Fall show, Jimmy Joe. Let's find a ceiling in need of a masterpiece.

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