

...Let's Go

By LARRY MACARY

In 1959, while touring Western and Eastern Europe, I met an interesting young artist in Warsaw. It was just by chance that I attended the opening of his one-man show in a gallery in downtown Warsaw. His work was extremely impressive and I remarked to the gallery owner that, if possible, I would like very much to meet the artist before leaving Warsaw. That evening at 9 p.m. someone knocked at my hotel door — and there he stood — Tomasz Zolnierkiewicz. Friendly, yet proud — talented and just ready to graduate from the famous Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. His work carried the influence of his noted teacher, Artur Nacht-Samborski. In addition, the work of the French School of Painting had also left a remarkable impression. We became friends and he

showed me the other side of Warsaw — from atop the "Palace of Culture" to the cellar nightclubs, some of which carried his murals on their walls. He could not speak English and I could not speak Polish, yet we communicated very easily. Signs and gestures can be very effective and quite adequate a great deal of the time.

OUR CORRESPONDENCE has been hectic — he must get my letter translated and I his. It is not easy to find a person who can understand English and Polish. All of my contacts for translation have gone and so the last two letters to me have been written

in English. I am sure that it must be very difficult to have a letter written in English there. But we manage. Several of his paintings that I brought to this country have found their way into private collections. Dr. Leavitt, director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, was very impressed with his work. He wanted to have a showing of Tomasz's paintings when he was director of the Pasadena Art Museum — but as you probably know, museum showings are booked up for two and three years in advance these days, so it had to be delayed.

Doug MacFadden, chairman of the Fine Arts Department

at Fullerton College, owns a handsome floral of his — extremely heavy with pigment. Henry Morgan, television personality, obtained a strong figure painting from us. Torrance High School added a fine still-life by Zolnierkiewicz to their growing art collection last year. Anne Graves of Long Beach has a small still-life that I like very much and Jerry Ronan of Alhambra owns a uniquely colored self-portrait that is a gem.

THE LATTER PART of June I will be conducting another Around-the-World Hilton Holidays Tour, and there is a possibility that I may stop off in Warsaw. The tour ends

in Europe where I will send my tour members in different directions — so I will have the opportunity to fly to Warsaw for a few days. Visas have always been difficult to obtain in order to travel in Poland, but tensions seem to be getting less as time goes on.

Tomasz is now assistant professor to Samborski and likes his position very much. Samborski has been professor at the Academy since 1949. Now, at the age of 69, it would be interesting to meet him and talk to him about his early training in Paris, Berlin, and Vienna. His works have been exhibited in

Paris, Geneva, and through out Poland. In 1959 I asked Zolnierkiewicz if he had ever thought of going to the United States, because most Europeans admire our country's freedom and everything else that goes with it. He said he wanted to stay in Poland and help rebuild the country. In his last letter he states that he would now like to travel to the United States and paint for a while — his reasons, "There is something interesting in U.S.A. Art now. How true — the whole world knows it and is trying to catch up with us."

MARCH 29, 1967 PRESS-HERALD C-5
Marine Pfc. Robert R. McCumsey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester McCumsey of 6005 W. Fiat, is in Vietnam with the Third Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, a unit of the First Marine Division. His unit, operating in the Chu Lai area, is engaged in a two-pronged program against the enemy. First, they conduct patrols and operations to search out and destroy the enemy, and then, follow up with a vigorous civic action program aimed at helping the Vietnamese people better themselves both socially and economically.

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