

fewer bricks were used.

**Construction Like Inverted Vessel**

In our attic we have many massive, hand cut and hand pegged beams made of oak all taken from salvaged or abandoned vessels either English or Dutch. In fact the whole construction of the attic is like an inverted vessel and in as good condition as they were when the house was built. After inspecting our entire house one lady remarked as she was leaving, "Oh thank you so much, Mr. Gregory, for showing me your two by fours."

In our main living room which measures roughly 14 ft. x 23 ft., covering much of the floor is a huge canvass which was at one time a sail from a large vessel. In those distant times there was no linoleum so if a floor was particularly drafty from openings between the ship's pine plank flooring used all over our house, some going as wide as twenty-three inches, sail cloth was placed on the floor and then painted to preserve it. After pointing out this floor to someone the visitor asked, "What was sail cloth used for—to wrap a ship in?"

Most of the rooms in our house resemble ship's cabins due to the fact that the door and cabinet frames were taken from the cabins of vessels. As you know there is a definite camber or curvature to all vessels and even the cabin roofs are curved to shed water. The ship's carpenters discarded their levels and built the tops of the door and cabinet frames to conform with this curvature. This is why the old Cape Cod houses are called "Ship Shape". After calling attention to this feature in one of the rooms where the slanting effect is very apparent one member in a party asked me if this was done for the purpose of drainage in the house itself. I felt like saying we do have some whopping big storms in Provincetown but they usually stay on the outside of the house.

We charge the modest sum of twenty-five cents which is a service charge for explaining in detail many of the features of our house. Once in a while we encounter someone who wants to see all they can for nothing which makes things unpleasant for us. A well dressed woman came in last summer and asked how much of the house she could see without paying anything. I don't remember what I told her but I could have said, the outside. Another woman came in with her two sons. They stood in the middle of the floor in our front room. I asked

her if she and the boys wanted to go through the house and she said no, she wanted to go back home and tell the folks she stood in the oldest house in Provincetown. I felt like saying how tragic it would be for me and my family if everybody did what she did.

WORCESTER SUNDAY TELEGRAM, OCT. 28, 1956

*Meet Provincetown*

(She owns and lives)  
(in The Oldest House)

# ARTIST

*Dorothy Lake Gregory*



PROVINCETOWN artist and book illustrator, Dorothy Lake Gregory.

*By Frank Crotty*

**P**EOPLE familiar with the children's book and Hallmark card pictures by Provincetown's Dorothy Lake Gregory are frequently surprised when they see her semi-abstract modernistic paintings.

In more than one Cape Cod art gallery we have seen people viewing her semi-abstracts and have heard them remark, "But she can't be the same Dorothy Lake Gregory . . ."

Well, she is! And we're here to tell you that she has a lot more fun doing some of these eubistic offerings than she does fulfilling a book illustration commission. That's an arduous task. There's usually a vast amount of detailed and time-consuming work in connection with it. But this sort of art work she finds enjoyable.

"It's a relaxing hobby," she says. "After I get through doing detailed commercial illustrations I like to paint just for the fun of it."

And she sells these paintings

too. We saw some of them on exhibition this past summer at the Provincetown Art Association Gallery, Nieta Cole's Gallery in Orleans and Florence Rich's Gallery in Wellfleet. We thought they were attractive and cleverly executed.

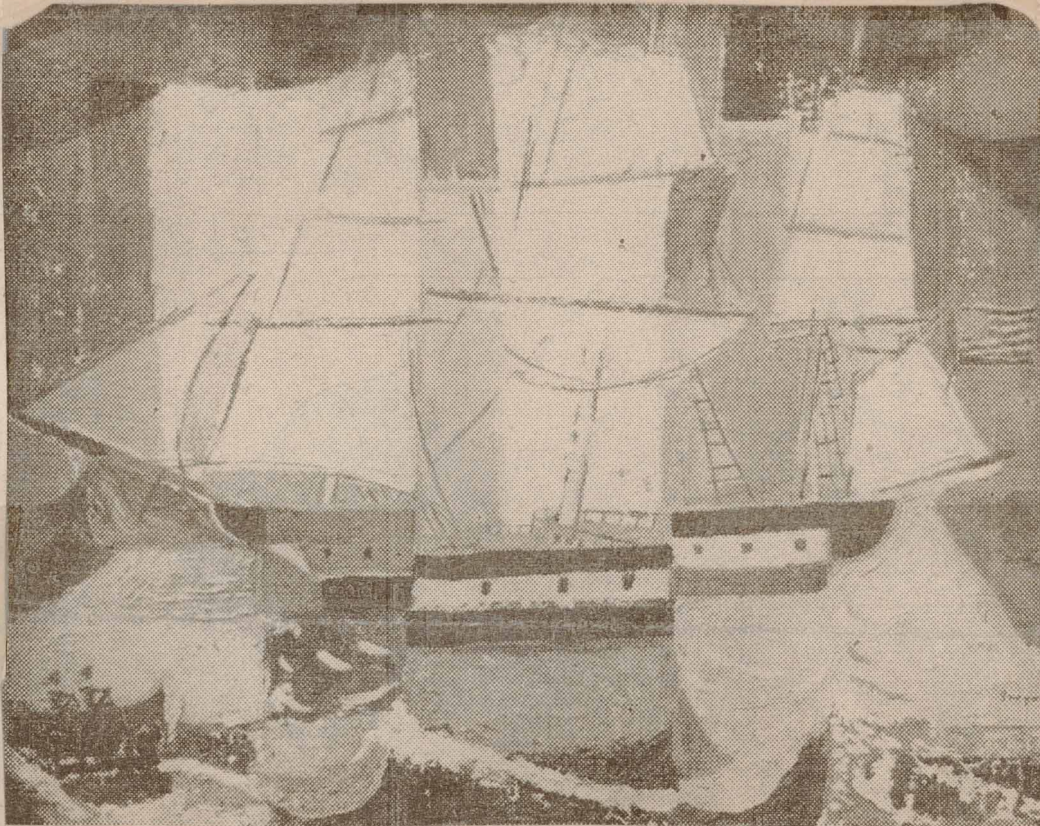
Miss Gregory, who lives at 296A Commercial street in Provincetown, does some art work every day.

"I certainly prefer it to cooking," she says with a smile.

**SHE DOES** oil and water color painting, pen and ink drawing and lithography. Over the years she has won several prizes and has exhibited in many museums, including the Metropolitan in New York City. The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston has seven of her prints in its permanent collection.

There is also one of her prints in the Congressional Library in Washington.

She has illustrated more than 20 books for Rand McNally, including two of Andrew Lang's, "The Violet Fairy Book" and "The Green Fairy



THIS SHIP is type of semi-abstract painting Miss Gregory most enjoys doing.

Book." Since 1953 she has also been designing cards for the Hallmark Co.

Miss Gregory, who is a sister of the well-known Provincetown photographer John W. Gregory, was born in Brooklyn, N. Y. Her father was the late Grant Gregory, a newspaperman. From 1900 to 1915 he was night city editor of the Herald-Tribune in New York City. He had previously worked for the New York Times and the Kansas City Star. He was a descendant of Elder William Brewster of Mayflower fame and at one time wrote a genealogy of that family.

Miss Gregory studied at the Art Students' League and at Pratt Institute in New York and with the late Charles W. Hawthorne summers in Provincetown.

It was while attending the latter classes that she met Ross Moffett, the artist. He was also studying under Hawthorne. They were married in 1920 and honeymooned in Europe for 11 months.

Mr. Moffett, one of the best known and most highly regarded of the Provincetown painters recently completed murals for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial at Abilene, Kan. He had been working on them for more than two years.

**MISS GREGORY** does her art work at home while her husband has a studio on Bradford street, a short walk from the house.

"That way we don't interfere with each other's work and we get along swimmingly," she says with a smile.

She says her favorite painters are Picasso, Matisse, Braque and Derain. Her husband most admires the Old Masters.

The Moffets have a son, Alan Moffett, who was graduated from the American International College at Springfield in 1953 and who is now working for his master's degree at the University of Miami, Fla., and a daughter, Mrs. Richard Johnson of Binghamton, N. Y.

"Neither of them is very much interested in art," their mother says rather sadly.