



Gallery

By Betty Harvey

SUZANNE BAKER devotes her work to depicting the romanticism associated with western life.

Her view of life in the West was shaped while she was growing up in the California backcountry. Her style intends to convey the feelings and moods of her subjects.

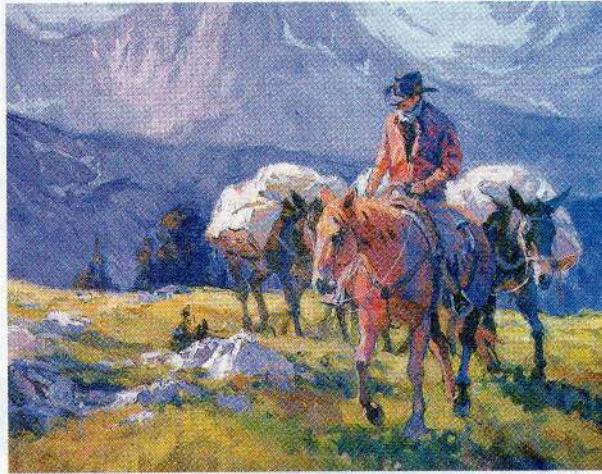
The ability did not come overnight. While

doing her part of the work on the 106-acre spread that she and husband Gordon own in Raymond, Calif., she managed to find little pieces of time to pursue her artistic talents. All the while, she was raising three children, but “when the third child was born, I got a great urge to be a painter.”

“We were living in a little farmhouse, and I



First Snow, 24 by 28-inch acrylic.



Evening Below Margery, 24 by 28-inch acrylic.

**SUZANNE
BAKER**



*Adjustments—
Taboose
Canyon*, 30 by
30-inch acrylic.

*Buckaroo
in Red*, 26
by 28-inch
acrylic.



would go out on the front porch and paint. I had nothing to sell and knew I had to improve first. I literally spent the next 20 years learning and practicing, even though I'd sell a piece now and then to get art supplies."

Suzanne and her husband have both worked as cowboys and have trained a number of young stock horses.

"When I was growing up, I was always on a horse. During college I worked in a pack station in the summer and trained horses in the winter. I even shod horses," she says.

Horses are not her only passion. For several weeks each year for the past 35 years, Suzanne has ridden in the backcountry of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. These trips lend authenticity to her portrayals of cowboy life in the High Sierra landscape. Suzanne is very proud that in 1989 three of her paintings were sent to Beijing to help create a western atmosphere for a Texas-style barbecue hosted by former President Bush.

The western lifestyle breeds a unique philosophy. Although Suzanne's paintings present the beauty of the West, she explains, "When you're out there, the job might be rough, but you're always conscious of the beauty. That's where all the cowboy art and songs come from."

Suzanne Baker's paintings are exhibited at the Legacy Gallery in Scottsdale, Ariz., and Jackson Hole, Wyo.; the Mountain Trails Gallery in Sedona; and Gallery Glassell in Orange, California.



Marshall Timmons, 7, Oklahoma. 