

JOYCE PETTER
With Judy Mauger
Joyce's area life, family, her galleries, art sense and more
September 15, 2011

From her beginnings as a collector of Native American art to her passion for being a conduit for North American artists of substance and for natural and architectural beauty, Joyce Petter has played a significant role in shaping the aesthetic consciousness of the Saugatuck-Douglas area. Her seemingly boundless energy and depth-seeking eye for significant artistic affect, has been the basis for her development of her various galleries and projects.

In the 1960s Joyce and her husband, Bill, bought property on the lake in Pier Cove. Bill's work required that they live in Grand Rapids while they were a growing family of seven. Joyce, with a collection of art pieces brought home from her world travels with Bill, felt that she needed to find an outlet for her interest. After exploring the West Michigan coast, she settled in Saugatuck where she acquired Sandra Randolph's small cottage and store on Hoffman Street across from Coral Gables to open her first gallery in the area. In 1993, after the acquisition and development of numerous properties, Joyce bought the Carl Hermann building on Blue Star.

The interview covers Joyce's MacDonald Restaurant resistance battle, Sue Lewis's community contribution, her love of doors, good and bad city management choices, Riches Pie factory purchase and the PALS Group, the sand mining fight, her interesting view of Ox Bow and much more.

Judy Mauger brings her extensive knowledge and fondness for the Saugatuck-Douglas area and her energetic curiosity to this spirited interview. The interesting and often little-known local historical information and opinions that emerge covers the 1960s to the present.

Movie #1 is 1 hour and 5 minutes. Several photos are included.

John Shack

