

Artist of the Month—Verna Walker



Verna became the artist she is despite her life experiences. The oldest child of a poor family, art had no part in her early life. The talent was discovered by her 7th grade teacher who dedicated months coaxing her vast gifts into life. As the years went by family and children filled the days, yet she hungered for any chance to use her hands to bring things to life.

Approaching middle-age living in California, Verna pushed her way into the art courses at a junior college. She painted in oil and on porcelain, fashioned pottery and ceramics. An “odd

job” was creation of a huge stained glass entrance with etchings for the entrance of the mansion of the Gallo wine family in Modesto.



In 1980 she was severely injured in an auto accident in Denver. For months she struggled to regain even the most rudimentary motor skills. Years passed as she labored to recover. Then came the day when a physical therapist with skills as an artist introduced Verna to the world of water colors. Year by year the skills began to reemerge. 35 years later Verna has once again resumed her place as an honored colleague of those whose life is art.

Verna is nearly fully self-taught, yet in The Villages today she is the teacher for those who wish to learn. Finally her life’s wish has come true—she has her own home studio and paints with joy and gratitude each day.

