

# Here they are! Art contest winners

A clay sculpture that was done in one day between school and dinner and a nativity scene done in a combination of pencil and watercolor paid off for two Troy children, who won bicycles in the Observer & Eccentric Holiday Art Contest.

Eric Douse, a fourth-grader at Harlan School, took first place in the competition for grades 4-6. His "Little Drummer Boy" arrived at the O & E Birmingham office in a tissue box. When the morning of the judging arrived, it was almost mistaken for a box of tissues.

But when the clay sculpture was found inside, it won by a landslide. Eric, 9, said that more improvisation than planning went into his work. "I just got a lump of clay and flattened it out until there were no air bubbles in it," he said. "Then I molded it."

The same approach was taken by the winner in the division for grades 1-3, Jessie Frcka.

ALTHOUGH JESSIE'S nativity scene showed a lot of detail, including the Three Wise Men, the Star of Bethlehem, angels singing over the manger and a cow, the eight-year-old third

grader at Schroeder School said with a shrug that she just "Pencilled it in." Jessie's father, Bill, said that it took her about half of a weekend to complete the piece.

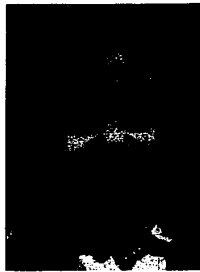
Second place in the 1-3 grade division went to Tracy Harwin, a second-grader at Leonhard School in Southfield. Tracy, 7, did a paper cut-out of Santa Claus and his reindeer flying over a house and a snowman. She made the "snow" out of cotton balls, giving the work a three-dimensional impact.

Tracy said that her winning entry was the first work of its type she has ever attempted.

"She did a little bit one day, and I thought it was so good that I said 'Why don't you do one for the contest?'" said her mother, Judy.

Tracy received a \$25 U. S. Savings Bond. So did the second place winner in the older division, Edward J. Haefner of Farmington Hills.

ED'S MAGIC MARKER drawing of Santa Claus in front of a fireplace with a bag full of toys was the most premeditated of the winning works. "Some of it I thought out, some of it I got off a card," said the 10-year-old



The happy winners: Eric Douse, Jessie Frcka, Ed Haefner and Tracy Harwin.

fourth grader at Middlebelt school.

The judges for the contest were Leslie Masters and Joyce Nagel of the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association and O & E Art Director Keith LaRoche. The judging was "really based on the originality of the thing,"

according to LaRoche.

In addition to the winners, 20 honorable mentions were selected.

In the younger division, they included Craig Wall, 8, of Bloomfield Hills, a second-grader at Holy Name; Elise Tremba, 7, of Farmington Hills,

second grade at Kenbrook; Jeff Fry, 7, of Birmingham, second grade at Pierce; and Alison Frontier, 7, of Farmington, second grade at Flanders. Others were Daryn Wagner, 9, of Farmington, third grade at Shawassee; Beth Snider, 8, of Birmingham, third grade at Roeper City & Country; Tara Susan Heichel, 8, of Southfield, third grade at Southfield No. 10 Elementary; and Akiyoshi Nigo, 8, of Southfield, second grade at McIntyre.

Honorable mentions from grades 4-6 were Andrew Aussie, 10, of Bloomfield Hills, fifth grade at Kensington Academy; Kim Haglund, 11, of Birmingham, sixth grade at Way School; Mike Throp, 11, of Bloomfield Hills, sixth grade at Hickory Grove; Nancy Heg-

larz, 10, of Bloomfield Hills, fifth grade at Sacred Heart Academy; and Jill Richardson, 9, of Southfield, fourth grade at Leonhard.

Others were Danny Johnson, 10, of Southfield, fifth grade at Southfield Christian; Cathy Haglund, 10, of Birmingham, fifth grade at Way School; Donny Gregory, 11, of Farmington Hills, fifth grade at Shawassee; Christopher Kagheb, 10, of Birmingham, fifth grade at Brookside; Joan Disalvo, 11, of Birmingham, sixth grade at St. Regis; Lillian Chow, 8, of West Bloomfield, fifth grade at Doherty; and Meril Frcka, the older sister of the winner in the younger division.

All Oakland County entries can be picked up at the Observer & Eccentric's Birmingham office, 1225 Bowers.



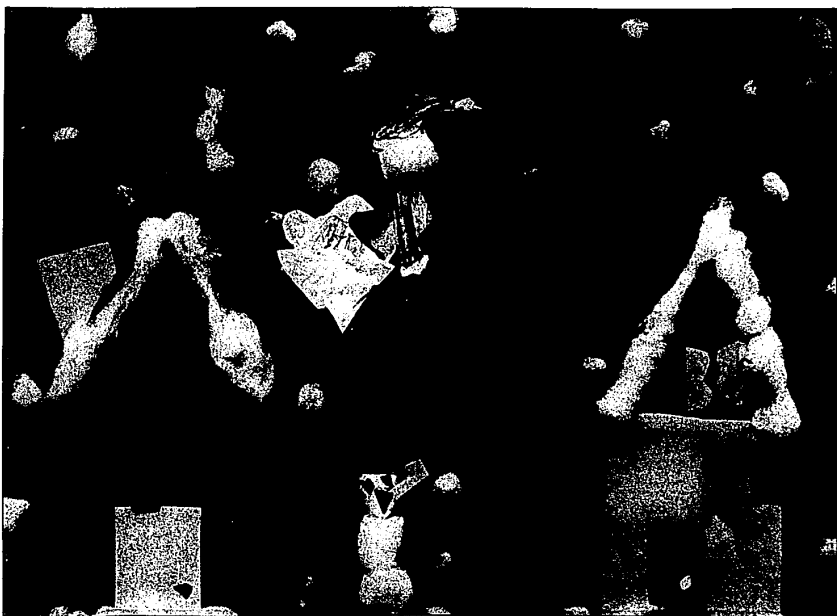
Jessie Frcka won a bicycle with this complex nativity scene.



Eric Douse's winning entry, "The Little Drummer Boy."



Ed Haefner's Santa Claus won him a \$25 U.S. Savings Bond.



Tracy Harwin's three-dimensional cut-out took second place in the division for grades one-three.