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Frank Lohan

Pen and ink sketcher publishes second book

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

Frank Lohan winds up his second year as president of Farmington Artists Club simultaneously as his second



Frank Lohan stimulates artists' creativity with personal accounts of how, when and why particular events, places or people inspired him to produce his sketches in his new book, "Pen and Ink Themes."

book rolls off the presses. Meanwhile, his first book, "Pen and Ink Techniques," goes into its third printing.

The artist and author jokes that as long as the first book was so successful it seemed obvious that he should write another.

"Pen and Ink Themes" (published by Contemporary Books, Inc. in Chicago) is available now in most area book stores.

"Pen and Ink Techniques" is an instructional book designed for those who have little or no prior sketching experience, or those who are proficient in other art media.

"Pen and Ink Themes" goes beyond the straight-forward "how-to" approach. In this book Lohan addresses the question he heard most frequently in his classes after his students completed the beginning and intermediate sessions: "What shall I sketch now?"

He provides the reader with ideas on where to look for subject matter.

LOHAN DESCRIBES "Pen and Ink Themes" as a very personal book.

"I tell how and why I sketched certain things, things that had in many cases a real-moving effect on me," he said.

One example he gives is an entirely unforeseen meeting he had with David Ward, the opera singer, in the Old Cheshire Cheese Pub in London year ago.

"The (resultant) sketch always brings back fond memories of sharing a pint of biters and some light conversation with this huge, gregarious man in the unimposing, historic men's pub," he said.

"I share this because it is meant to show how everyone can look about themselves in many ways to detect those themes of their own lives that

they can capture in a unique way through their own skills with the pen."

In each of the six sections of the book the reader's creativity is stimulated by Lohan's sketches and his accounts of how, when and why particular events, places or people inspired him to do the sketches.

Most of them are accompanied by separate, partially finished details, which show how particular effects and textures were achieved.

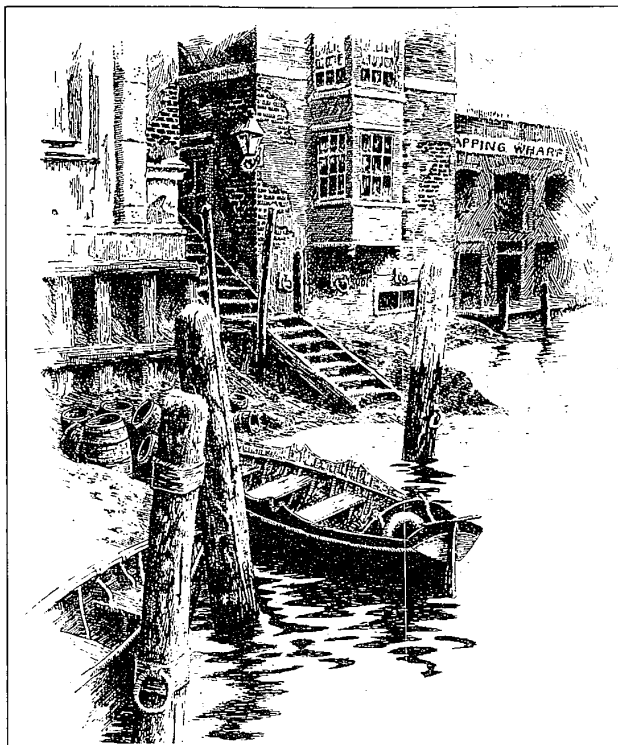
In all, more than 140 of the artist's drawings are included, covering inspirational sources such as nostalgia, old engravings, photographs, landscapes and life itself.

THE FARMINGTON Hills resident devotes one section of his book to sketches that were inspired from photographs of early Farmington. Lohan is an industrial electronics engineer who dropped out of the business world for five years to draw and paint in both acrylics and watercolor, teach art and write his book. He taught pen and ink sketching, his favorite media, for a long time in Farmington Community Center and to adult students in classes in Bloomfield Hills, Southfield and Cherry Hill.

He gave up those classes when he went back to work with Williams Research Corporation in Walled Lake because time demands on that job did not permit a regular commitment to classes each week.

"But that has changed now," he said. "I hope to be teaching pen and ink sketching again somewhere in the area this fall."

"Pen and ink is a natural to get started on," he said. "So much easier to be able to pull the cap off a pen rather than getting the easel set up."



The many textures in this scene, the stucco, brick, smooth stone, mud, water, rough wooden pilings, herring barrels and painted boats attracted the artist's eye to produce this sketch "London River-side." It is one of the many sketches reproduced in Frank Lohan's latest book, "Pen and Ink Themes."

Dr. Spock urges more help for working parents

By Kathy Friedrichs
special writer

The pediatrician of the postwar baby boom says this country is falling down in its programs for today's babies and young children.

Specifically, Dr. Benjamin Spock takes Ronald Reagan's administration to task for considering cuts in day-care programs and thinks there should be help for working parents like the support systems he has seen in Sweden and Hungary.

"It's time for us to get angry and put some fear of God into Reagan about the need for good child care," he told the fifth biennial conference of the Childbirth Without Pain Education Association, meeting in Detroit.

Describing administration budget cutters as being "like vandals who chuckle as they destroy things," Spock urged convention delegates to write to congressional representatives about projected day-care cuts.

The question of child rearing by

working parents is the largest one he has encountered in recent times, the author of "Baby and Child Care" told an audience of about 100 in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center at Wayne State University.

He said he supports parental care for the first three years, and noted that in Sweden and Hungary there are governmental subsidies for mothers who do not hold outside jobs during that time.

"I think our government should subsidize parents willing to stay home with their children," he added. "But after three years almost all children can benefit from good nursery or day care." Bias against group care, he said, is a holdover from the days of "baby farms" and is no longer valid.

THE LAST FEW decades have seen major changes in views about birthing and early nurturing, the pediatrician, now 78, told his audience of natural childbirth advocates.

He mentioned particularly the use of drugs for mothers in labor and forceps

in the birth process, the hospital stays of 12 days and the hospital policies discouraging breastfeeding.

"It is a good example of how medicine gets off on the wrong track for years and years before someone has the sense to question it," Spock said.

"Back then nurses did all the care of babies, and mothers could hold them only during the last couple of days in the hospital."

That situation, he said, led to the first edition of his famous book, because he and other pediatricians tended to receive an enormous number of calls from new mothers in their first weeks at home.

"Baby and Child Care" sold more than 750,000 copies in each of its first 20 years on the market, Spock said.

In his talk, the famed baby doctor reiterated a favorite theme, that parents should trust their own instincts.

"The commonest problem in American society today is the insistence that true knowledge rests with the professionals," he said.

HE CONDEMNED American society as "tense, aggressive and much too competitive." He cited examples of "ordinary, visible abuse of children that you don't see in the rest of the world."

"We must change the direction of society to one that relies on spiritual values such as love and family," he added. "Family life is the most important part of life."

Spock denied once again the label of "the grandfather of permissiveness" which he said has been hung on him.

"That accusation first made by the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale Jr. was a political one," he said, "because people

resented my stand against the Vietnam war."

He added that statements by Spiro Agnew had done the most damage to his reputation.

And he turned out to be a crook," Spock said. "No one can blame me for having brought up Spiro Agnew."

DOES HE find he has changed his ideas about discipline?

"No, not the basic philosophy," he told his audience. "But I am happy to admit I have changed in some ways."

He then said he had made a major revision of "Baby and Child Care" to

remove some sexist language and concepts.

"I took me three years to admit I was a sexist, but the other day Gloria Steinem said I had come along all right," he said.

And in concluding he noted he had seen major change in himself over the years.

"I didn't change too much until Vietnam," he said. "I used to be reserved, cautious. Now I'm a socialist, and I don't care what I say."

"It's too late for hemming and hawing. It's time to do something."



How the Other Half Loves

Dave McCabe and Romeyne Kachmarchyk have an awkward moment when they realize that they are the outsiders at an office party in a scene in Farmington Players production of "How the Other Half Loves." The Alan Ayckbourn comedy opens Friday and continues for four consecutive weeks

in Farmington Players Barn Theatre, 32332 12 Mile Road, Curtin is at 8:30 p.m. except Sundays when it's 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$3-4 and can be obtained by calling the theater box office, 477-1086. McCabe is a resident of Farmington Hills. Ms. Kachmarchyk is from Farmington.

New altar dedicated

A new pulpit and altar was dedicated late last month at Hope Lutheran Church. The pulpit and altar have special meaning for church members because they were designed and built by members of the congregation. Jeff Robins (at left), built and donated both the altar and the pulpit, which was designed by architect Carl Gaiser, also a member of the parish. The Rev. Victor Mesenbring is pastor of the church.

