

Brush off water coloring mistakes

By David Messing
special writer

"H. NO!" I exclaimed as I jumped out of bed. I had to teach my class at 9:30 a.m. and it was 9:10 a.m. Quickly I shaved, washed and ran out of the door.

Still wrestling with the alignment of my shirt buttons, I again exclaimed "oh, no!" But this time it was because of a flat tire. I have a Oldsmobile 98.

Because of it being an '83, it's the last of the dinosaurs. Quickly I opened the trunk and took the cover from off the spare. "Oh, no!" I exclaimed, again, "someone put a motorcycle tire in my trunk." No, not really. But that silly little spare looks so ridiculous on a big car.

Well, I finally got to the store and when I walked into class, with my shirt still out of alignment, guess what I heard from one of my watercolor students? "Oh, no!" she exclaimed. "I just sprinkled paint across my watercolor!" "Relax," I told her. "It's just one of those 'oh, no' days."

SOME OF THE tools for a watercolor repair may seem as silly as the spare tire on my car, but they do the job.

First of all, when you are watercolor painting, always have a tissue or paper towel on hand. Often a color will flow on too dark. While the color is still wet, it can be quickly removed by dabbing it with tissue or towel.

One way to avoid this problem is to always test your color on a piece of scrap watercolor paper.

Just about every other thing in your painting can be effectively removed with the right tool. A razor knife for cutting and scraping and sand paper for lightening large areas. You may also need household bleach, a small synthetic brush and some watercolor pencils for small touchups.

First, I must mention that all of these repair techniques should be performed when the paint and paper are dry. A razor knife is a great repair tool. Even though you may feel like running it over your wrist at the time, don't do it.

This is another in a series of lessons on art and drawing by special columnist David Messing. He has taught for 10 years and operates two art stores, Art Store and More, 16338 Middlebelt, Livonia, and 265 N. Main, Plymouth. Messing encourages questions and comments from readers. You may call him at 524-5311, write to him at his store or in care of the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 33203 Grand River, Farmington, Mich. 48024.



THE MOST POPULAR "oh no" in watercolor is a sprinkle, splash or spot of color on a precious white area. After the area is dry and you have collected your wits, try this technique: scrape off the spot with the point of a razor knife with a new blade.

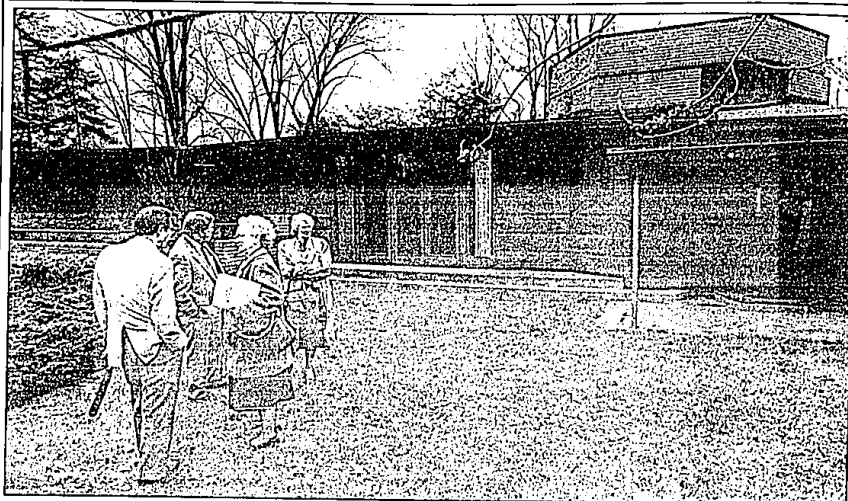
Scrape from the outside of the spot towards the inside. This way you affect only the area within the spot rather than all around its perimeter.

I like to use a dry bristle brush to dust away paint particles as they form. When all of the paint particles have been scraped and dusted off, the spot will still have a slight color to it.

This can most often be removed with a kneaded eraser. Have no fear about scraping again if the spot requires more work. Watercolor paper is the same color all the way through and 140 pound will hold up to all the repair work needed.

Now the spot is gone but the surface of the paper is roughed up. So simply burnish with a tool or your finger nail and hopefully the spot will disappear. If your paper has a definite texture, you can re-texture the area with a stylus or any sharp, pointed object. Hopefully all of your "oh no's" will turn into "oh wows!" You too will like many of my students, find yourself bragging about where the mistake used to be.

Now be sure and goof up some watercolors this week because I have some more repairs for you next week.



Visitors pause outside the Snowflake House. The exterior view shows the length of the house. At the left is the bedroom wing. The taller area is the kitchen and living room area.

Wright influence still dominant

Continued from Page 1

conference because "I wanted to learn more about Wright," and said he enjoyed talking with other Wright homeowners.

THE GREGOR Affleck residence is owned by the Lawrence Institute of Technology and its School of Architecture, a gift from the late Gregor S. and Elizabeth B. Affleck's daughter, Mary Ann Lutomski, and her older brother, the late Gregor P. Affleck.

It is being restored, a project targeted for completion in late 1986. Lutomski, who showed visitors through her old home, reminisced about growing up there, saying "I practiced my printing, like all children, on the walls."

"My friends loved it here," she said. However, Lutomski, like all children, wanted what her friends had

— "flower print bedspreads and white walls."

Nevertheless, she said she enjoyed best "the lightness, all the windows, the feeling that the outdoors comes right in, and that nature is all around you."

Rae Ruskin, an interior designer from Huntington Woods, attended the symposium and tour to gain new ideas for her practice.

"I think we all use things that we see," said Ruskin. "I'm here trying to absorb feelings and ideas that will probably play back in the future when it's appropriate."

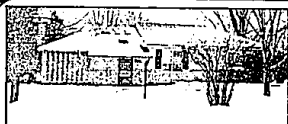
She said about some of his interior or woodwork, "Someone might come in and say, 'that's practically unfinished.' It's almost raw. Wright cared about the overall concept. He cared about detail, but not with that sense of elegance."

Ruskin said she sees the influence of Wright in many of the homes that she works with.



A view of the dining room of the Snowflake House.

© The pulse of your community © Twice a week is better © Twice a week is better © Twice a week is better © O&E Classifieds work! © O&E Classifieds work! © New



4 BEDROOM RANCH. Immaculate ranch with separate master suite for possible in-law use. Central air, 2 full baths, large lot and immediate occupancy. Seller may pay buyers closing costs. \$54,500. 477-1111.



FOUR UNIT APT. BUILDING. One 1-bedroom and three 2-bedroom apartments in downtown Milford, all rented. Excellent location, walking distance to stores and churches. Owners will look at all reasonable offers. \$85,000. 477-1111.



4 BEDROOM RANCH. Large 4 bedroom brick ranch with huge family room. Central air, basement, garage, 2 fireplaces, dock, newer roof and furnace. Quick occupancy. \$104,000. 477-1111.



VERY SPECIAL 3 BEDROOM - roof and furnace 3 years old, wiring updated, steel entry doors both front and back, extra insulation added, extended drive, newer carpet. \$39,000. 477-1111.



ALL THE WORK IS DONE! Immediate occupancy in this freshly remodeled 2-3 bedroom bungalow. Lovely hardwood floors, new carpeting updates, new bathroom fixtures. Excellent Farmington area. \$49,000. 477-1111.



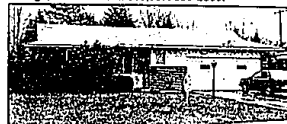
4 BEDROOM COLONIAL - Good family home. Master bedroom bath and walk-in closet. Hardwood floors. Family room with fireplace. \$65,900. 851-1900 (ROS)



FARMINGTON HILLS - Charm, character, neat and clean describes this 2 bedroom home. Country setting with beautiful private lot. Updated kitchen, Anderson windows and lots of extra storage. \$61,500. 851-1900. (ALY)



COUNTRY IN THE CITY. Country setting makes living in this home seem like vacation time. Close to Civic Center. 4 bedroom Colonial, family room, lots of storage, full basement. \$65,987. 559-2300.



LOVELY 4 BEDROOM RANCH. Very quiet street, super great living for a family. 2 car garage, 1 1/2 baths. Large patio that can be closed-in for a porch. Full finished basement, large eating space. Priced to sell. \$54,500. 559-2300.



CHARMING BRICK RANCH. Absolutely charming brick ranch in treed family neighborhood. Beautiful natural fireplace in living room. Formal dining room. Neutral interior, tile basement with bar. Shows well. \$57,500. 851-5700.



2 BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE in South Lyon close to shopping and schools. 1 1/2 baths, full basement, single garage with door opener and direct access to inside of home. \$49,500. 348-6430.



3 BEDROOM, 2 1/2 bath large Lexington Condo. 1st floor laundry with extra storage. Dining area presently used as TV room. Wood paneled family room in lower level with walkout to patio area. \$28,500. 348-6430.

22 Pages of Tips and Ideas on Selling Your Home!

Call your nearest Real Estate
One office to receive your
HOME MARKETING KIT...
absolutely free!

FREE*
TRAINING
Pre-senior
starting soon
no
initial
charge



Real Estate
One, INC.
REALTORS



SUPER CONTEMPORARY. New listing, custom built home, in neutral tones, large kitchen, fireplace in family room, 2 1/2 baths, formal dining area, excellent landscaping. \$154,000. 851-1900.



JUST LISTED! Lovely one owner home - on wooded commons. 4 bedroom, library, fireplace and wet bar in family room. Full finished walk-out basement/full bath - kitchen. \$174,500. 851-1900. (OLD)