

FAME in the MAIL

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ex-editor named Magee, and made Ed Eberman School Director. The rest of the staff consisted of an office boy named Marvin, now head of the Mail Department, and two clerk-stenographers.

In 1951, after two winters spent shivering around kerosene stoves in the mill and a nearby building called "The House of Correction," the staff grew to 100 and the School moved to its present home in a modern, fireproof building on the Saugatuck River overlooking a flock of seagulls and Westport's shopping district.

School Becomes Schools

Dorne was right. People did welcome a school of commercial art run by successful Famous Artists. In 1954, aiming at the millions of what he calls "Sunday artists" who paint for their own satisfaction, he added a fine arts course and the School became Schools. As a Guiding Faculty, he rounded up Ben Shahn, Doris Lee, Stuart Davis, Will Barnet, Arnold Blanchi, Fletcher Martin, Dong-Kingman, Ernest Fiene, Adolf Dehn and Syd Solomon.

Two years later, in 1956, he added a cartoon course, with an all-star cast made up of Rube Goldberg, Whitney Darrow, Dick Cavalli, Virgil Partch, Barney Tobey, Al Capp, Milt Caniff, Willard Mullin, Harry Haenigsen, Gurney Williams, Bud Sagendorf and Peter Wells. It is a pretty safe bet that you can't visit a modern art museum, read a national magazine from cover to cover, or flip through the funny papers without seeing the work of one or more of the Famous Artists, who serve on the Founding Faculty or the two Guiding Faculties.

Keeping the mushrooming Schools on the person-to-person level hasn't been easy. Probably no one but Dorne, who, among other occupations was once a knock-em-down, drag-em-out rough-house prizefighter, would have accepted the challenge. "There we were," he says with a frown. "In the first years we all lost money on the School and then the idea caught on and everybody wanted to take our lessons!" At last count, there were 6,000 to 7,000 lessons coming in per month from the 15,000 students. All had to be corrected and returned.

Two Truckloads Of Daily Mail

Dorne, Eberman and the Founding Faculty solved the problem by increasing the number of instructors. From Domonkos and Magee in 1948, the full time staff has increased to seventy, all successful (though not Famous) artists in their own right. Working only four days a week to allow them time to pursue their own careers as artists, they meet regularly with the Famous Artists, who conduct two-day seminars each week, closely follow their guidance, and pass it on to the students.

Two truckloads of mail a day pour into

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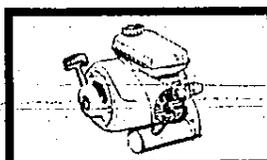
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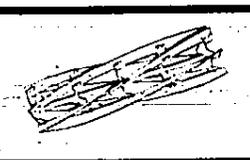
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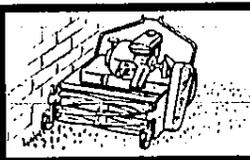
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