

# Pen and ink offers interesting sidelights

What makes a good pen and ink drawing? I'm sure there are as many answers as there are artists. But to me a good pen and ink drawing should have a full range of grays, black blacks and white whites. It should also have a variety of line lengths, line widths and line direction. Perhaps pointalism here and there, all adding variety and interest.

And interest of viewers is what most artists crave. There is no one out there who can tell me he resents an "oooh" or "aaah" when his works are being viewed. It is twice as nice when you create your piece to express yourself, not caring if anyone approves, and still find approval. What a blessing it is to be an artist.

You look and study everything around you, where others only see their surroundings. You as an artist can express a feeling, and that expression will outline yourself. Others will feel your feelings in conversation.



artifacts  
David  
Messing

tion which perhaps is soon forgotten. You as an artist have an ability, and though you have refined it and nurtured it, still it is a gift of God.

**YOU AS AN ARTIST** have the choice to use the gift, or not to use it. For example: you as an artist may choose to be an electrician, but an electrician cannot choose to be an artist. If you feel you have even the slightest amount of ability, it is your choice to pick it up or lay it aside. Even if you pick it up later in life, it's nice to know it's there.

We have a waiting list for most of my art classes but the classes which

rarely have openings are all the adult classes. Many of those students have said, "I haven't drawn for 20 years," and they are thrilled with what they can produce.

To begin with, it is best to draw from pen and ink drawings. It is especially difficult to do pen and ink from photos. Pick subjects with lines on them like wood barns and shacks, trees, furry animals and etc.

Action figures in comics and magazines have given many young artists a head start in pen and ink drawings, because interest develops ability at a more rapid rate than instruction. Aside from the problems

that the human figures pose, I notice in my classes the teenagers do very well in the media. A teenager with some good pen and ink drawings in his or her portfolio can land a good full or part time job.

**PEN AND INK** plays a major role in commercial art. Many young artists have an idealistic dream of doing art shows and selling paintings to make a living. I have never desired to be a "starving artist." There is certainly no need to.

Of course, I love to sell my paintings and drawings, but in between

those sales I make a regular income by designing symbols and logos for businesses, cartooning, signs, illustrating, camera-ready artwork etc. All are in some way related to pen and ink.

Materials are not important to begin with. Any smooth white paper will do, a fine felt-tip pen, a pencil and an eraser. As you improve you should try other materials. A quill pen tip is my favorite for cartooning; it tends to flood the paper anytime you momentarily stop. This causes tears of frustration to new artists, but if you stick with them you can

enjoy the varied line widths and fluid lines they produce.

Their drawback is that you constantly have to keep dipping the pen into an open bottle of ink. Also an open bottle of ink has a way of getting knocked off the table. I'm still apologetic to Mom about her white curtains and the carpet in the dining room.

Now about the ink. Pelican has been my favorite for years, but the Higgins Company has come out with Black Magic and it has my vote. Black Magic is very, very black. It is terrific in a brush and fantastic in a quill pen. Also very free flowing in a technical pen. The only problem you face with good pen, ink and paper is that you have no excuses. But then again maybe you don't need excuses.

David Messing has been an area art teacher for many years. He is also the owner of the Art Store & More in Livonia.

## Tips for making copies of old photographs



The original negative is long gone, but Monte Nagler was able to borrow a print from his sister, Barbara, (pictured here with Monte more than 45 years ago), so he could make his own copy of a treasured moment of sibling harmony.

Have you ever visited that special family relative, sat down with the photo album, looked at forgotten pictures of yourself as a toddler and wished you could have copies for your very own? But, alas, the negatives have long since vanished and you ask how you ever going to get copies?

Well, don't give up hope. It's easier than you think to obtain copies of those treasured family shots. And best of all, you can do it yourself.

For starters, you'll need a tripod or copy stand to keep your camera rock-steady. A copy stand is a simple device consisting of a flat baseboard, a vertical shaft, and an adjustable horizontal support on which to mount your camera. The camera always straight down on the baseboard where you place the photograph to be copied.

If using a tripod, carefully tape the picture you're going to copy to a wall and move in close with your camera.

You'll need close-up filters, a macro lens or any other means you have to move in close and fill the frame with the image you are copying. This is very important to maintain a quality reproduction.

I PREFER using inexpensive tungsten lights bounced into reflecting umbrellas for a soft, even light source. But it will have a noticeable effect with color film. If shooting by windowlight, use a daylight balanced film. If shooting in a tungsten-lit room, use an indoor balanced film.

And speaking about films, I recommend T-Max 100 for black and white and either Kodachrome 100 (for prints under daylight) or Kodachrome 64 (for slides under day-



photography  
Monte  
Nagler

light). For color copies with tungsten light, Ektachrome 50 can't be beat.

Pay particular attention to any glare reflected off the photo you are copying. Most often, a slight adjustment in the light or a repositioning of the picture to be copied will do the trick.

When using black and white or color negative film for copy work, one exposure is all you should need.

When using slide film, it is wise to bracket exposures. That is, take three shots in total; one at your camera's meter reading, a second at one stop over and a third at one stop under.

There you have it. You'll find it fun, easy, and satisfying to make copies of those memorable and valuable family photographs. It's a real snap.

## Festival winners announced

A "bubbling crowd" is the best reward, but cash awards for an outstanding display/craftsmanship isn't hard to take either.

That's what the various winners of the recent Arts and Crafts Festival sponsored by the Livonia Arts Commission at Greenwood in Livonia found out.

Winners were: pottery: first, Larry and Becky Rotter of Sodus; second, Beverly Pew of Drayton Plains; glass: first, Tom McEwen, Muskegon; second, Scott and Judy Cunningham, Plymouth; metal/jewelry: first, Nancy Dorfman, Farmington Hills; second, Brad Benson, Grant; fine arts: first, Theresa

Poltowicz, Northville; P. Hatala and R. Bolos, Farmington.

Wood: first, Jack Siles, Manchesters; second, Wayne Otto, Livonia; textiles: first, Janet Pray, West Bloomfield; second, Sandra Rooney, Mount Clemens; folk/country/floral: first, Jeanne Fitzgerald, Battle Creek; second, Keith Hile, Paw Paw.

First-place winners received a ribbon and \$300. Second-place winners received a ribbon and \$100.

Despite a chilly start Saturday, weather conditions for the annual festival were ideal and drew record crowds, an arts commission spokesman said.

## Short shots

Monte Nagler will conduct a weekend workshop July 15-16, at Cranbrook Educational Community of Bloomfield Hills.

The Saturday session will be a classroom setting while Sunday will be devoted to photographing the spacious grounds and beautiful gardens of Cranbrook. For registration information, call Cranbrook P.M., 645-

3833.

Allyn Lowy's annual Photography Month Picnic will be held Sunday, July 9, at Kelleys Park, off Greer Road on Cass Lake, West Bloomfield.

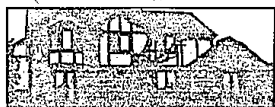
Subjects for photographers include models, antique cars, boats and outdoor scenes. For information, call 471-7299.

## Select Properties from Real Estate One.

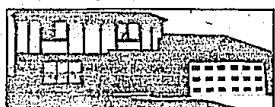
Michigan's Largest Real Estate Company



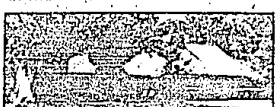
**ELEGANCE, QUALITY AND PRISTINE.** This home has it all. Many innovative features too numerous to mention. Custom decorating and window treatments. Top of the line appliances package, including Jennie-Air, whirlpool Bath, 3 car garage. \$229,000. 477-1111.



**FOUR BEDROOM WITH DEN ON PREMIUM LOT.** Gorgeous four bedroom with first floor den and gathering room, formal dining room, island kitchen. Loaded with extras. \$229,000. 477-1111.



**SUPER SHARP COLONIAL.** This 4 bedroom colonial is located on a large corner lot and features a formal dining room and family room with fireplace and wet bar. \$195,000. 477-1111.



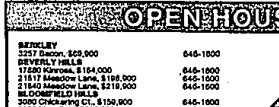
**CHARMING CAPE COD.** A touch of New England with country setting, 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, formal dining room, first floor laundry, fireplace, finished basement, updated kitchen. Over 2000 sq. ft. \$159,900. 477-1111.



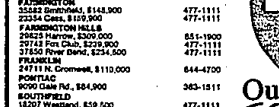
**THREE BEDROOM RANCH** has finished basement, country kitchen, 4 car garage, first floor den, master bedroom to large wood deck. Neutral decor. New Berber carpet in living room. Farmington school district. \$19,900. 477-1111.



**OPEN SUN. 2-5. 24711 NORTH CROWNVIEW, FARMINGTON HILLS.** RANCH updated. Private 1/2 acre. Front trees. Extra insulation, new roof adding gutters. Freshly painted. Oak floors. Very economical home. Move in condition. Owners Absolute Graciously Reduced. \$119,000. 644-4700.



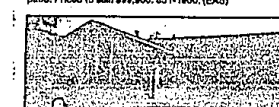
**OPEN HOUSES 2 TO 5 P.M.**



**SHARP QUALITY HOME** Lower three bedroom ranch in quiet neighborhood. Spacious family room with raised hardwood fireplace. Custom decor of neutral tones. Decked patio. Priced to sell \$99,900. 851-1900. (EAG)



**SHARPLE ASSUMPTION.** Save closing costs on high balance mortgage. 3 bedroom ranch in A-1 condition. Flexible occupancy. Move-in condition. Much updating. \$124,000. 851-1900. (PH)



**PERFECT GEM!** Trend setting. Mint condition and neutrally decorated home made this a winner. Center estate home. Family room with natural fireplace plus lovely den. \$159,900. 851-6000. (CQ)



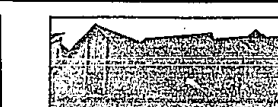
**TRANQUIL SETTING.** Compliments this quiet 1 bedroom condo. Living room overlooks park. Large private parking lot. All appliances included - newer carpet, decorated in neutral tones. Immaculate condition. Immediate occupancy. \$45,900. 851-1900. (VW)



**WEST BLOOMFIELD**  
4500 Five Oaks, \$225,000 644-4700  
3320 Cypress Way, \$209,000 890-900  
1000 Oakwood Woods, \$195,000 477-1111  
1500 Oakwood, \$79,900 326-2000



**CONDOMINIUMS**  
2425 Overlook Dr., \$299,000 646-1800  
811 Brookside, \$268,500 646-1800  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS  
902 Bradford Ln., \$145,000 646-1800  
900 Birchwood, \$139,900 646-1800



**CAUTION**  
1164 Kingsbridge, \$118,800 455-7000  
2009 Bantam, \$100,000 455-7000  
FARMINGTON HILLS  
2918 East Main Rd., \$145,000 455-7000  
1509 Elm, \$145,000 455-7000



**TRIO**  
1709 Birchwood, \$22,900 646-1800  
1916 Birchwood, \$24,000 646-1800  
LAKESIDE ESTATES  
1805 Lakeside, \$79,900 363-1811  
WEST BLOOMFIELD  
2770 Birch Harbor, \$245,900 644-4700



**FARMINGTON HILLS.** One bedroom first floor Condo. All kitchen appliances. Neutral carpet, newer 1st floor coin operated laundry. Lots of storage. Swimming pool. Simple Assumption. Will consider land contract. \$43,500. 559-2300.



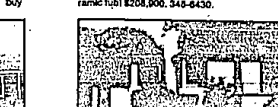
**COUNTRY LIVING** in the city! This beautifully updated 1917 farmhouse has an oak floored foyer, crown moldings, many custom window treatments, 3 porches, walk-in pantry and much, much more! \$124,900. 348-6430.



**LATHROP VILLAGE.** Spacious brick ranch, 3 bedrooms, family room, master bath, central air, 2 car attached garage. Call now. \$25,000. 559-2300.



**BEAUTIFUL** wooded lot in popular W. Bloomfield sch. Spacious kitchen with central island, large family room overlooks lovely private yard. Huge master bedroom with walk-in closet! \$208,900. 348-6430.



**ACCENT ON VALUE.** Well maintained ranch, master bedroom with space to spare and grace to match with lav. Formal dining room. Extra spacious yard. Try it safe, bring your deposit. \$54,900. 559-2300.