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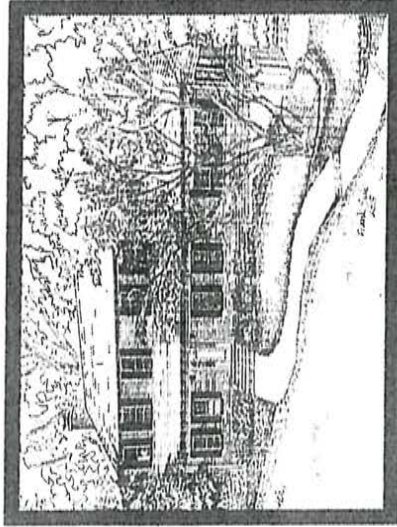
## EH artist has 'precision vision'

By Holly Reed

No one was happier or more surprised to have been presented with the prestigious "Mayor's Award" during this year's annual Spring Art Fest than the recipient, Mr. Frank Sisk.

Speaking with *The Gazette*, we discovered some interesting facts about this long-time East Hartford resident: Frank has enjoyed drawing since he was just a small boy; he enjoyed a long career as Supervisor with Hamilton Standard just like his father did before him; and looking back at his artwork over the years sparks a renewed interest in drawing, which provides focus for his future plans.

East Hartford resident and artist Frank Sisk was born in New York City. While still a small child, in 1943, Frank and his entire family moved to East Hartford as his father got a job working with Hamilton Standard. "We lived over by the Connecticut River, it was called the Pitkin Homes projects. It was a perfect place to live and we all have very happy memories in this town," says Frank. He attended the Meadow School, and after graduating East Hartford High School, attended Hilliard College -- now known as the University of Hartford.



Frank Sisk, an East Hartford artist, uses pen and ink to draw detailed likenesses from photographs.

"In grammar school I began to draw things for my friends, and they all liked my drawings," explains Frank. "Before long, I was being asked to contribute scenes for the drama department, draw likenesses for various events and happenings at school -- and I was really good at drawing the comic book figures we all enjoyed back in the day. Joe Palooka, Walt Disney characters,

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## Award-winning artist

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any of those comic book heroes, I drew them all," reminisces Frank. One year, when he was in seventh grade at the Meadow School, he remembers he drew the scenery for one scene that was re-used in several school plays. "I was asked to draw the complete story of 'The Night Before Christmas' from the beginning to the end," said Frank. "I loved doing it because it kept me out of class!" Like his father before him, Frank worked as a Supervisor with Hamilton Standard and enjoyed a long successful career. "I started with Hamilton Standard in 1961, worked my way up in time to Lead Man and then Supervisor," says Frank matter-of-factly. "I worked in the Electronics Building for my entire career. When people in my department found out I could draw, they always asked me to draw Disney characters for their kids -- I never asked for any payment, but after awhile everyone started giving me \$1 for each drawing."

When he retired in 1993, he had more time to devote to his real passion: drawing. Frank works from photographs to provide an original detailed pen and ink rendering of each photo. His illustra-

tions are done almost entirely in tiny ink dots, a technique called "stippling". Most recently, Frank has been commissioned to draw houses to be used as gifts for the homeowners. These pen and ink renderings make wonderful gifts, and are suitable for matting and framing. Talented as he is, Frank is still not used to free lancing his artistic abilities -- especially the colorful cartoons he loves to complete!

Frank is an active member of the East Hartford Art League, and is looking forward to their fall presentations. "I would like to see the Art League take a field trip to the seashore, perhaps to one of the art museums that are so plentiful in that area," said Frank when he was asked for his input into the future of the Art League in our town. "I would also like for more people to come out and join the Art League." Frank thinks it would be a good idea for the Art League to have one of their meetings feature all of the members and what they create. As for right now, he continues to produce small, medium and large masterpieces in pen and ink.

If you would like to order one of Frank's drawings of a favorite place or pet, you may call him at 860-568-3398