

# Art Adventure I Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski



CROWN POINT

# STAR

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## Phyllis McNeill, artist, grandmother, realtor

Last month, Lowell High School hosted an "Evening of the Arts," sponsored by the Tri-Kappa Sorority of Lowell. Tom Sufanna, the school's corporate art collector and art chairman invited me to attend.

The Tri-Kappa Sorority of Lowell is well known in the community for supporting culture,



Photos provided to the Star

**Phyllis McNeill, pictured at left, wears a variety of hats. Her art work includes a host of home renderings and sketches such as the Chicago skyline above, a golfer teeing off below and the two homes also pictured below left and right.**

Crown Point resident Phyllis McNeill was one of the several local artists exhibiting her works.

I asked Phyllis McNeill who specializes in renderings and drawings if she always wanted to be an artist. "Yes. This was and is a dream for me. Any natural ability I have has brought me a great deal of enjoyment and fulfillment over the years.

"After attending the Art Institute of Chicago during Saturday classes and summer sessions, I was becoming proficient in pen and ink and watercolors as art mediums. During my college years, I was involved with drawing for the school newspaper and the college yearbook. I also did many freelance jobs — everything from menus to logo design for businesses and specially designed drawings and commissions for individual clients. Even during my early family building years, I was continuously working in the fine arts.

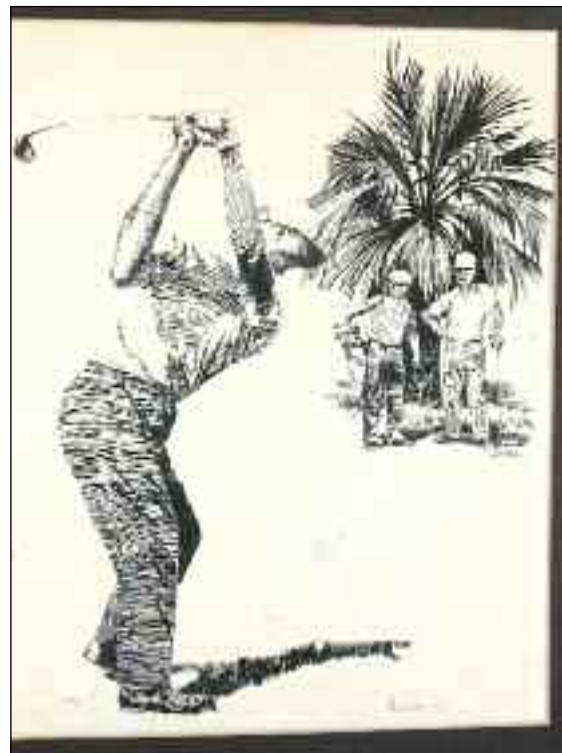
"My children came along with me to do the art fairs and to the art exhibits. My son in particular was a regular at the Chesterton Art Fair.

McNeill's background also included a small gallery ownership in Crown Point a number of years ago. "It was a turn of the century structure on Main Street located in a house and it flourished for about eight years. It was during this time I developed an intense interest in pen and ink drawings.

"I was particularly interested in architectural drawings. I started to do drawings of client's homes and friend's homes and businesses. Many of my drawings have ended up in states across the country including Arizona, California, Florida, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Illinois, and of course Indiana.

"I can create original drawings of residential homes, summer cottages, favorite vacation destinations, or places of business. It really is a unique gift to present to a friend or special member of the family. I am also a professional realtor and love to present drawings of the special homes to my clients. Many of them have been used to create note cards or Christmas cards. Several of my clients have even framed them for their homes. It really is a unique gift that can't express how much the meaning of having drawing of the home you own and love.

"On a personal note, my children are both married now and I am the grandmother of seven



education and the arts.

This is the second annual event sponsored by the sorority. Last year's event had more than 1,000 attendees. And this year's event was a wonderful experience for the whole family.

Art and music filled the halls. A solo violinist, several choral groups, and a small band were strategically placed throughout the school. In concert with the music, art works from the Tri-Creek elementary schools and high school was on display. Local artists and the school's art teachers demonstrated art techniques.

beautiful grandchildren. It is my hope to keep producing artwork for people who want individuality and unique drawings for their families with fond memories that will be cherished for many generations."

If you are interested in finding out more about a commissioned piece of art, call Phyllis McNeill at (219) 781-4818, (219) 781-4818, or e-mail at phylliss@phyllissmcneill.com.

My congratulations to Lowell High School and Tri-Kappa for an outstanding evening.

I look forward to next year's event.