

Art Adventure I Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski

Carolyn J. Piske — artist, illustrator from Lowell



The first time I came across Carolyn

Piske's work was at a 4th Friday Arts festival in the Fall of last year.

My tour guide for the 4th Friday arts was Crown Point artist, and long time resident, Sherron Pampalone. We decided after a delightful 4th Friday Arts tour of the square shops, we would wrap up the evening with a cocktail at Café Lucrezias. You could feel the buzz around the square. The pedestrians were scurrying about, the young dancers in leotards were leaving with their parents, the glow of lights within the square shops were glistening as the shop owners stayed open to accommodate the artists and art patrons. The fall leaves had begun to turn colors and fall to the sidewalks. Sherron and I walked briskly in the beautiful fall evening towards to porch of Café Lucrezias. As we made our steps to the porch I could see there was some activity near the entrance. A small crowd was gathered around a small table with what seemed like some objects on the table. As I got closer, I discovered that it was a an artist displaying her drawings and talking about it with the restaurant patrons.

Carolyn Piske, a very soft spoken unassuming artist, was gently discussing her works with the curious admirers. Immediately, I was very impressed with her craftsmanship and novelty of her subject matters that ranged from the Crown Point tower and the trolley that runs around the square to the tank and the old Ben Franklin store/antique shop, as well as the 1878 Am Kennedy and Son's bridge at the Lake County Fairgrounds.

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I remember how I thought that she would be a very successful artist because of her technical ability, personality, and novelty of her subject matter which brings me to discuss her current work currently on display at the Lowell Public Library, 1505 E. Commercial Ave. in Lowell.

Piske is lending many pieces of her framed original artwork in one of the meeting rooms of the Lowell Public Library." Piske is a



life-time resident of Lowell and wanted to give back to the Library.

"The librarians are always very accommodating in helping me with any resources I need. They give me help with anything from books, DVD's the internet, and more," she said. "If they don't know, they will steer me to someone else who may know."



Photo provided to the Star
Carolyn Piske is an artist and illustrator who hails from Lowell. She has completed several pencil sketches and drawings germane to the towns of Crown Point and Lowell. Piske has drawn a variety of works including Molley the Trolley, the Lake County Fairgrounds and the Army tank in Crown Point. Piske, a self-taught artist, displays her works at the Lowell Public Library.

Both Loretta Brewer, circulation supervisor, and Sandra Morgan, executive director of the branch are equally excited about the exhibition. Sandra Morgan had the following to say about Piske: "She is a super person in the community. She is constantly utilizing the library to do research, check out books, and she is a regular library patron who knows our staff pretty well.



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| Classified | Friday 12:00 p.m. |
| Legals | Friday 12:00 p.m. |

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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| One year | \$26.00 |
| School | \$20.00 |
| One year out of state | \$32.00 |
| One year (foreign) | \$54.00 |



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We were thrilled with the idea when she approached the library for the idea of an exhibition. We were happy to accommodate her.”

The exhibition will remain for a month, and the subject



matter is all related to the town of Lowell. Piske’s artwork will change monthly to display other subject matter including flowers, animals, angels, and portraits. Piske is a self-taught artist who loves learning new skills and considers herself a detail-oriented artist who favors simple subjects.

“You can learn a lot about yourself with artwork. I like things outlined and defined. Sometimes life does not lend itself to those boundaries so, they can be released through art.”

When comparing to art to real life she says, “When creating artwork, it is not always what you draw but sometimes what you leave out that defines a masterpiece. To live a fulfilling life, it is not always what you do or say, but

sometimes what you don’t that conveys the most.”

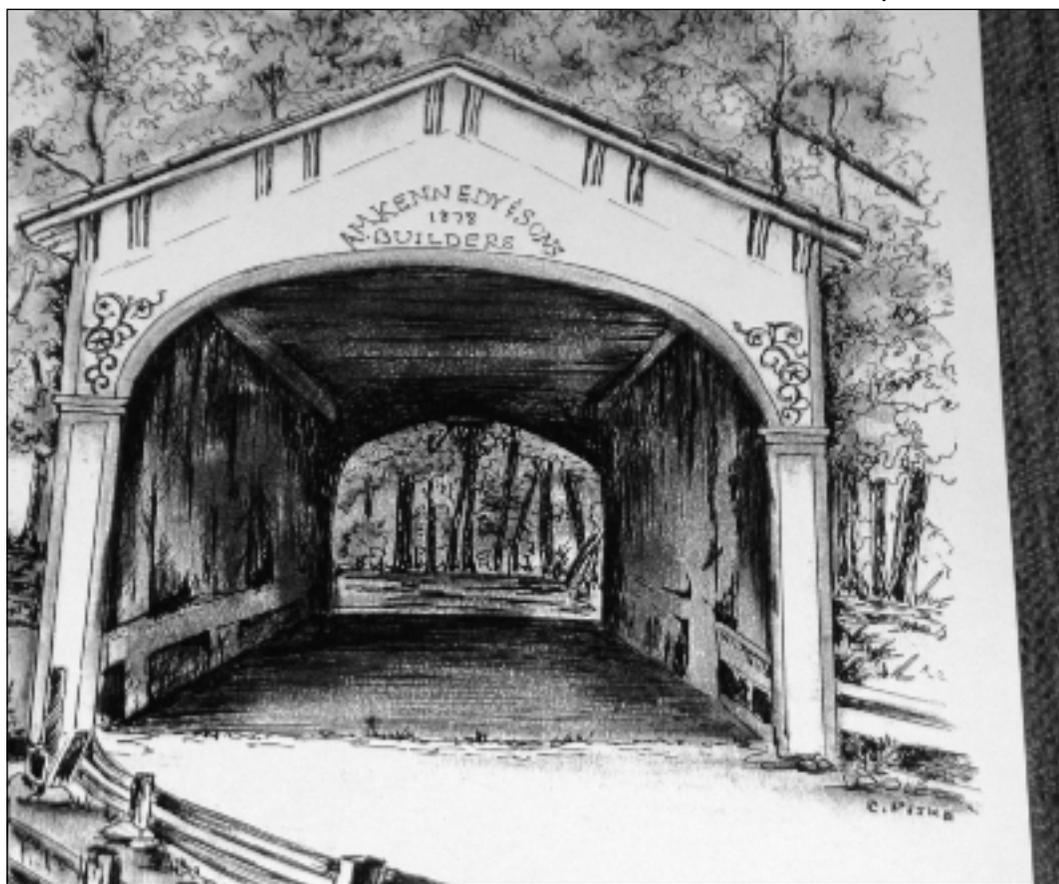
Other work by Piske may be viewed in the display case also in the Lowell Library, Sickenger’s Jewelry Store in downtown Historic Lowell, in the Art Collection compiled by art instructor, Tom Sufanna of Lowell High School, and in a recently released publication, “The 175th Anniversary of White County” by W.C. Madden and Janet Ollman Dold, illustrated by Carolyn J. Piske. Piske works by commission from photos, with subject matter ranging from homes, vehicles, animals, portraits, nature, and businesses and more. She can be reached at The Art Gallery in Lowell, or you may contact her directly at cpiskeartwork@yahoo.com

Director Sandra Morgan, would also like to invite the public to view Piske’s work at the library. You can reach the Lowell library at (219) 696-7704. In conjunction with creative events at the Lowell library, on June 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. the library is hosting its “Family Fun Day.”

“It is fun! It’s free. It’s Family Fun Day at the Lowell Public Library. Seniors, adults, children and young adults, are welcome to come out and have a hot dog, pop, and popcorn on the library grounds while viewing the performance of the Vogrin Family, as they entertain you with unicycling, juggling and chalk talk,” Piske said. Take a harmonica lesson. Every child will receive a free harmonica. Children will also meet ‘Scoopie’ from Culvers. Cruise around the library parking lot and take in the spectacular classic car show.

She said they expect a race car too, and advises participants to bring cameras. Or take a tour of the library’s Nature Trail. Deer and other wildlife visit the trail every day. Kids, take a swing at golf. Everyone, grab a Bingo card and

Play White Elephant Bingo. It’s a fund day for everyone. 11:00 a.m.- Juggling act, 12:30 p.m. Free Harmonica and lesson; 2:00 p.m. Magic Show; 4:00 p.m. Chalk Talk story Time.” Any questions please call (219) 696-7704.



Photos provided to the Star

Carolyn Piske — a self-taught artist and illustrator displays her pencil and pen drawings at the Lowell public Library. Pictured above are several local landmarks in Crown Point and Lowell such as the old Ben Franklin store upper left, and the covered bridge and the Lake County fairgrounds. Also shown is Molley the Trolley.