



Flying geese
Jean Minshew looks over her oil painting of Canadian geese on wing over sea coast.

Hoke artist getting results

Often when folks want to do something new, trying a craft, for instance, taking that first step is the hardest.

Jean Minshew admits this was very true when she began her oil painting classes about 10 years ago.

"I had always wanted to paint. When I was first married I painted lots of paint by number pictures, but I always wanted to know how to take that brush and put the paint where I wanted it to be."

When Sandhills offered oil painting lessons with Barbara Hiezer as instructor, Minshew still was hesitant. She felt that her lack of artistic training might hinder her ability at the easel.

Luckily, a friend convinced her to take the plunge, and they enrolled together.

After working closely with Mrs. Hiezer for about a year and a half, Minshew began to see results which really pleased both her and her instructor.

Although she has never taken instructions from any other artist, Minshew is content with techniques she learned from Hiezer.

"Each person has their own technique with painting and

Hoke Arts Scene

By Sonya Falls



everyone has a different goal in mind when they start out. I've always wanted to paint so that the result looks realistic, like a photograph, so that if you stood back from it, it looked the same as close up. Some people don't want this, but I do."

Evidence of Minshew's talent resides in her remodeled home on College Drive. A canvas that she considers one of her very best hangs in the great room, depicting a lighthouse, Canada geese and seashore.

The artist's strength at capturing shadows and creating realistic detail is obvious in this canvas.

Although landscapes are handled very well by Minshew, she occasionally tries her hand at something original, as in her group of bumbling, colorful circus clowns which she has created for a neighbor. This artfully decorated group represents a whimsical side

to Minshew's talents.

Since finishing her instructions, Minshew has continuously worked on one subject or another. She recalls that Hiezer strongly suggested this as a means of always preserving an interest in her art.

She is one of the lucky few who can manage her career (hairdressing) and her hobby at the same time. She has found the lighting in her shop on Harris Avenue to be more conducive for painting and she is able to squeeze in a few strokes between customers.

Minshew's hair partons are often her painting customers also, since they are usually present when a painting is on-going.

"It's hard to turn one loose when you've finished it. You've spent so much time on it," Minshew says of her commercial efforts. But, she adds, it is rewarding to paint something someone requests and to see their positive response to her efforts.

Hopefully in the future, Minshew will choose to exhibit her works to a wider public. Previous local art exhibits just have never been held on a suitable date for her, she explains.

Assuredly her canvases would be enjoyed by all.

Low interest loans available

First-time North Carolina home buyers may apply immediately for a limited number of 10.7% mortgage loans from participating lenders as a result of a \$5 million reallocation of bond funds by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, according to Executive Director Gary Paul Kane.

The 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage loans are available to low- and moderate-income families and individuals on a first-come, first-served basis through 62 lenders located in 57 cities and towns across the state.

To qualify, applicants need a sales contract on a new or existing single family house, condominium, townhome or manufactured house. Prospective buyers cannot have owned a home during the past three years.

In addition, copies of federal income tax forms for 1982, 1983, and 1984 are required.

For a family of two to four members, annual gross income in urban areas may not exceed \$32,000; in rural areas, \$29,100.

For individuals, income limits are set at \$24,000 in urban areas,

\$21,825 in rural regions.

The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency was created by the state legislature in 1973. Its purpose is to provide below-market interest rate loans so that low- and moderate-income North Carolinians can afford housing.

The self-supporting agency supplies money to make these mortgages through the sale of tax-exempt revenue bonds to investors.

The sale, authorized by the agency's board of directors, is approved by the Local Government Commission.

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