

Retired commercial artist prefers his work 'Ted Bilt'

By Aaron B. Pryor

The vanity plate on Ted DeBrocky's 1929 Mercedes convertible car built from a kit says much about the Morrisville artist and hobbyist.

It simply reads: "Ted Bilt." DeBrocky, a transplant from New York who's lived in Preston the last five years, is a man with many interests. He's built a car, modeled remote-controlled airplanes, and he is an accomplished wood sculptor.

On the day a reporter came calling, he was whittling away at a big wooden swan which will be a daughter's wedding present.

"I was self-taught, but now I'm taking lessons in wood sculpting," said DeBrocky, who works from a studio in his home at Preston Pines. "I just want to try to get some real down-to-earth information."

He's a little pressed to get the swan finished; his daughter is get-

ting married in December. But with a long career as a commercial artist behind him, DeBrocky is accustomed to meeting deadlines.

After a stint in the Navy Air Corps during World War II, DeBrocky attended college on the G.I. Bill. He went to work for a company, but soon found he preferred being an entrepreneur. He started a commercial art firm and ran it for 45 years until a heart attack forced him to give it up.

But he hasn't been idle since his retirement. His home is filled with hundreds of his creations, mostly ducks and fish fashioned from toupala and basswood. He works in more common woods, too, like pine, but prefers the softer one.

His detailed creations, like the fish and fowl portrayed in their natural habitats, are almost lifelike.

"I've always been interested in what people do, and I went from one hobby to another. Now that I'm



CREATING WILDLIFE—Local artist Ted DeBrocky shows one of his creations, a sculpture of a fish made from wood. DeBrocky also works with sculptures of ducks and wood burning.

retired, I have a lot more time on my hands. I'm just so curious about

things, that's why I get involved in this or that," he said.

Groovy language gone, but sexist referrals remain

By Roxanne Powers

There is something comforting in the knowledge that history repeats itself. Perhaps because it just makes life feel more predictable, or perhaps it helps those of us who were part of the "history" in question feel like we have an inside line.

For instance, if our teens are indulging in the hair and clothing styles from the sixties, we, their "know-nothing" parents, can, through pictures, offer irrefutable proof that we not only know something, but that we actually knew it before they did. At least that's one way to take back the parental power we so deserve.

Sometimes though, in our eagerness to revive history through fads, we get things backwards. For instance, one of the more recent affections to be revived in our area, began to revisit itself upon us a year or two ago, while the origin of its evolution...diners, has only recently returned.

The affection I'm referring to is the practice of lumping family, friends, acquaintances, and in some cases, the neighbor's dog, under the one generic heading of "Dear." Suffer it to say, Darling, that this condescending practice is about as attractive as a pierced tongue...and in fact, probably requires the use of one.

While I'm grateful that the word "groovy" has had the decency to stay buried in some psychedelic fad-tomb, right next to the one marked "bra burning womens-libbers," some recent occurrences have had me wanting to dig up the women's libbers cause, (it is a "cause" versus a fad when the bra-burning is done away with) dust it off, and re-name it.

For instance, this month my husband and I will celebrate our anniversary; yet recently, a club we bought membership in as a married couple, sent a "Happy Anniversary" card addressed to him. What am I? Some property he acquired? If so, I've almost reached the status of an antique, and should, therefore, at least in that guise, be too valuable to overlook.

Right on the tails of that bit of correspondence, I found a piece of mail in our box from my daughter's

high school addressed to my husband, her stepfather. I don't know if this is an indulgence of all Wake County schools or just Cary High School, but now that I think about it, for as long as I can remember, all correspondence from them has been addressed to him.

I guess it's because, of the two sexes, they must consider the men of the area to be the more actively involved parents. If that were the criteria for that decision, then the pediatric group we use must be deaf, dumb and blind as to the sex of the majority of the parents who bring in their little patients because they also automatically send all bills and correspondence to the "man of the house."

A friend had this to say: "Maybe in their little minds (the pediatric group) they think that they are

legally protected when it comes to collections...you know, because in two-parent families the majority of wage earners are still men." Another friend said, "Really? Just the man of the house who receives all his correspondence and is the assumed wage earner/bill payer *not* pay his bill...and see how long he tries to hide behind that little 'legal shield' then! Under those circumstances the woman of the house quickly becomes more visible." Hmm, good point there.

Another recent occurrence was when a friend's husband received a "Thank you for your business" card from an appliance store, when, as she says indignantly, "He never even stepped foot in that store. I made the decisions about what was bought there, and I, unfortunately, made the decision to shop there."

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