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THE BRUNSWICK BEACON THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1991

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ILLUSTRATOR LENDS A HAND

Arts Council Kicks Off New Season As Area Talent Grows

BY TERRY POPE

ernard Case has studied the human brain, not as a psychologist but as an artist. "I don't consider myself a real artist," said Case. "I consider myself an illustrator.

As a commercial artist, he has illustrated everything from human organs to invertebrates. Case often works hand in hand with surgeons or teachers who tell him how a diagram should look.

Those who know are often not talented enough to draw one themselves, so in steps Case.

It is his pen and ink drawing that's on the cover of the Brunswick County Arts Council's 1991 directory of local talent. Writers, artists, sculptors, photographers and dancers are listed, to name a few of the categories.

The publication was unveiled recently to kick off another campaign of the council's Artists in Our Midst program, which acquaints area residents with the talented people who live in Brunswick County.

Case, who moved to Caswell Beach in 1987, has made a living since 1952 illustrating biology and earth science textbooks, children's books and publications for publishing companies, such as that owned by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Brunswick Arts Council President Stephanna Tewey was glad he was able to lend a hand with this year's publication.

The directory, the council's sixth, is the largest yet. It lists about 250 local artists, a number that seems to grow with each edition.

"Because our county is so big," said Ms. Tewey, "the idea is to let people know who all of the artists are in our county."

Copies will be available this week in all county library branches, art galleries and public schools. Each person listed in the directory will also receive a copy.

The Arts Council operates as a non-profit agency that receives funding from a variety of sources, including grassroots grants from the N.C. Arts Council which must be matched locally. That means the Arts Council must also raise funds.

Each year, county groups or individuals can apply for those grant funds as long as they have a matching source, said Ms. Tewey. The deadline for applying this year is next Thursday, May 9. The council's board of directors will meet at Brunswick Community College from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to review the applications. Those applying must attend.

Persons can receive applications by contacting any member of the Arts Council board of directors. Last year, there were 12 applications, said Ms. Tewey.

State budget cuts this year are threatening the arts. As much as 25 percent of the state funding may be swept away by legislators for the 1991-92 budget, Ms. Tewey indicated.

"But based on what we project and what we raised," she said, "we encourage persons to put in applications for funds."

Last year, grants went to The Brunswick Players, Associated Artists of Southport, the Brunswick County Library's summer crafts and storytelling program, Brunswick Community College's Black Cultural Arts Festival, Brunswick County School's Carolina Opera Productions, children's and evening concerts of the N.C. Symphony, puppet shows for Long Beach Parks and Recreation, the Brunswick County Band's spring

concert, WHQR public radio's "Sounds Local" program, the Brunswick County Youth Art Program and the Visiting Artist program at Brunswick Community College.

The 1991 directory is dedicated to Albert A. Christman, the publisher of the Artist in our Midst directories from 1983 to 1989. A native of Joplin, Mo., Christman recently died. Under his guidance, the council published its first directory.

"He was so enthusiastic about this area and about young people's involvement in the arts," said Pat Pittenger, an Arts Council board member.

Christman often said that Brunswick County was the ideal place for all art lovers to live, the memoriam in the directory states. It is a thought that Case frequently repeats.

"We live in the last house before the ships come in," said Case of his own home at Caswell Beach. "Nothing can be more peaceful. It's also a historical area, and I'm interested in that history."

The beauty of the beach has challenged him to break away from his illustrations and to try his hand at painting. So he tried, creating a canvas portrait of the marsh ibis near his home.

"I looked at it when I was finished and I said, 'This is a textbook picture,' " said Case. "It's hard to loosen up, to make yourself do it. I can't break out of that textbook mold. I have a lot of respect for those who can."

On the cover of the 1991 directory, he has illustrated what he calls "a composite of all the arts" in Brunswick County.

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It is a growing field.

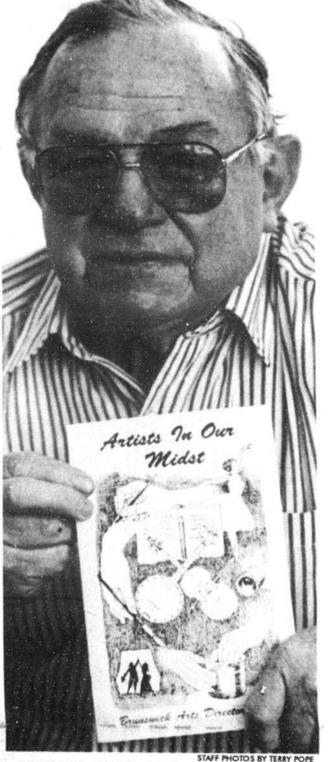


ARTS COUNCIL BOARD members share a moment with the artist during a roundtable unveiling of the publication. Pictured are (from left) Drusilla Smittle, Bernard Case, Judy Collins, Pat Pittenger and Stephanna Tewey.









BERNARD CASE's drawing is featured on the cover of the 1991 Brunswick County Arts Council directory.





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