

After doing almost everything

Vining aims for career with paint brush

Clarence (Pete) Vining is hoping to paint his future bright — with his own paintbrush.

After having done about everything in his 44 years, the Shabbona Road, Decker, resident is hoping to make a living with paintbrush, easel and signboard.

Vining was born in Decker and graduated from Marlette High School. He started his working career at Marlette Homes, went to its factory in Kansas, then moved to Texas, where he worked in a sheet metal shop, as an apprentice electrician and at a ranch.

He moved back to Michigan in 1965, was employed by General Motors, then went back to Marlette Homes. Next came a spell raising registered Charolais cattle breeding stock, before going to work at the Bendix recreation vehicle plant in

Marlette. That job lasted for six years, until November, when he was laid off. (The factory is being closed permanently.) A job at a General Motors plant in Pontiac lasted only 65 days before he was laid off.

Vining then found employment at a Rochester machine shop, but soon quit because of the driving distance involved and because he didn't like working the late afternoon shift.

Thus came the decision to pick up a paint brush and try to make a living at it.

An incentive was a visit to a Frankenmuth art gallery, where he decided he could do as well or better than the artists whose works were on display, and sell them cheaper.

PAINTING PICTURES isn't something new for Vining. He has been doing it since he was a kid. He sold

his first painting back in 1951 for \$20. It was a picture of the National 4-H Center in Maryland, done for a Sanilac county spring achievement program.

Other than a few pointers from a Marlette sign painter and some unsuccessful tries at correspondence courses, he is self-taught. Marlette High School didn't have art classes when he attended.

Since high school, he has sold a few paintings, but gave more of them away. He also did a few lettering jobs for trucks and signs.

Vining likes to hunt and fish and it shows in his work. Although he has painted portraits and scenery, he prefers painting wildlife. "I can paint those for 24 hours a day."

SINCE IT'S HARD TO get a bear or a deer to stand still, he paints from photographs or other artists' works.

He plans to buy a camera and telephoto lens so he can take his own photographs.

Before picking up a brush, he makes a sketch of what he plans to paint.

Once he sits down at the canvas, he works extremely fast. He can do an 18-by-24-inch painting in 10-12 hours, including breaks, and he'll do it all in one day. "I'll just sit and paint until my arms get tired." Then he takes a short break and goes back to work.

Vining's studio is usually the kitchen. Sign painting is done in the basement, where there is more room. In warmer months, he can paint large signs in his barn.

His wife, Violet (Vi) works at the Cass City High School cafeteria and does cake decorating. Two children from his first marriage, Linda and Donavon, are 9th and 10th graders respectively at the high school.

The family has lived on Shabbona Road, just east of Shabbona, about nine years.

SO FAR, VINING HAS sold three of his wildlife paintings to Wildwood Farms, where they will hang in the Bear's Den bar. He has painted a sign for the VFW Hall in Marlette and as of last week was working on a large sign for a service station-grocery at M-46 and M-53.

Vining has had a lot of jobs

in his life, but proudly points out he has never been fired, and has often worked up to the position with some responsibility, such as foreman. "I never could get

satisfied working in the shop for somebody else," he explained.

He technically is still on layoff from the General Motors plant in Pontiac, but

doubts he will return if called back.

"I might go broke," he said of his newly chosen career, "but I'm going to have fun doing it."



WILDLIFE ARTIST — Clarence (Pete) Vining of Shabbona and three of his paintings, destined to hang in the bar at Wildwood Farms. He is a self-taught artist.

Citizens of Tomorrow



Kathleen, 6, daughter of Chris Kirby, 6535 Bach Road, Gagetown.



Stephanie Spencer, 6, daughter of LuAnn Seurynck, 4299 Woodland Street, Cass City.



Tamara, 9, and Shane, 2, children of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Kady, 5183 Notter Road, Gagetown.



Tracy, 9, and Pamela, 1, children of Mr. and Mrs. Don Leitnerman, 6212 Cedar Drive, Cass City.



Ted, 13, and Tammy, 11, children of Ted Jantz, 6771 McAlpin Road, Owendale.



Lisa, 10, daughter of Linda Edwards, 4804 Center Street, Gagetown.

Probate court dispute

Continued from page one.

will have to ultimately resolve is who has control over the county purse strings in such situations.

If Kent is ultimately upheld, which would mean the county would have to shell out an additional \$17,000, Kennedy said, "It takes away the board of commissioners' right to legislate." He feels state law is unclear on the issue.

The judge believes the question has been resolved in previous court rulings involving similar disputes,

and the decision has always been in favor of the judge involved and against the county. "I think there is precedent for it," he commented, "but I'm not prepared to state that as certainty."

As for where Tuscola county is supposed to come up with the extra \$17,000 to pay probate court employees, he explained it has been past county practice in setting the upcoming year's budget to set aside money in the contingency fund to cover any pay increases negotiated with county employees.

If the court administrator feels the county has the funds available and that he had the power to do so, Kent said, "I'm satisfied the court administrator would authorize the money from contingency."

The county board will meet Wednesday, when it will consider the probate court contract, instead of its normal Tuesday meeting date, because Tuesday is a public holiday (Lincoln's birthday) and the courthouse will be closed.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. February 25, 1980 at the Municipal Building, 6737 Church St., Cass City, Michigan for the purpose of the Cass City Village Council to receive any oral or written comments or suggestions from the Citizens of Cass City concerning the proposed 1980 Budget and General Revenue Sharing.

Proposed Revenues and Expenditures for the Year 1980:

REVENUES:

General Fund	395,000
Major Street Fund	74,000
Local Street Fund	33,000
Revenue Sharing Fund	44,000
Parking System Fund	6,000
Sewer Fund	80,000
Water Fund	80,000
Appropriation from Fund Balances	60,000
772,000 TOTAL REVENUES	

EXPENDITURES:

General Fund	390,000
Major Street Fund	131,000
Local Street Fund	42,000
Revenue Sharing Fund	44,000
Parking System Fund	6,000
Sewer Fund	73,000
Water Fund	86,000
772,000 TOTAL EXPENDITURES	

General Revenue Sharing of \$44,000 is proposed to be expended for Public Safety.

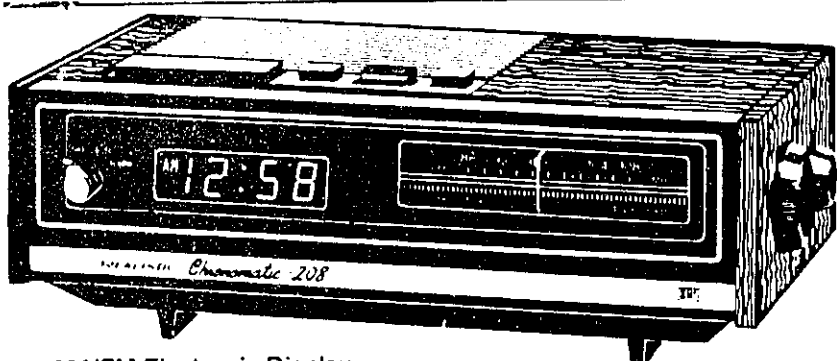
A copy of the Proposed Budget is available for inspection at the Municipal Building during regular office hours.

Joyce LaRoche
Village Clerk

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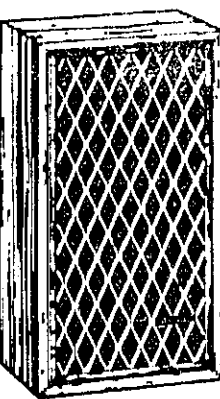
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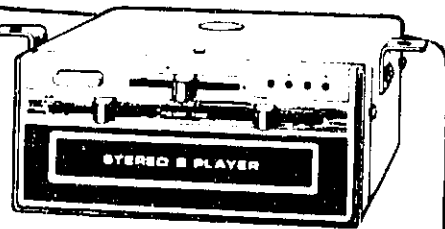
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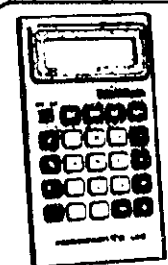


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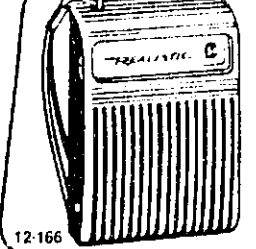
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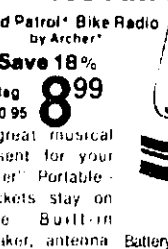


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