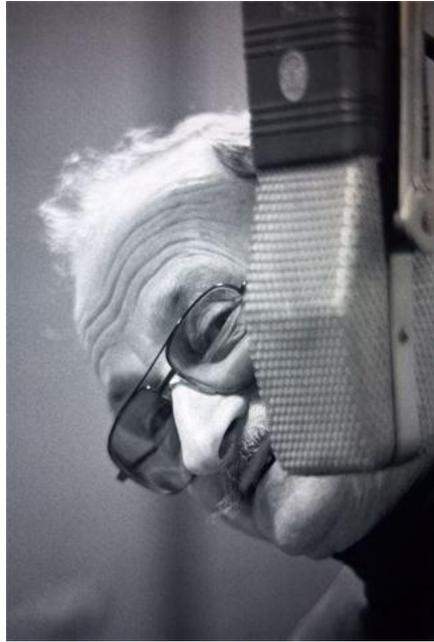


This Month of January
The Grey Dove Gallery

is
Pleased to Announce the Exhibit
of
Watercolor, Pen & Ink Drawings
by
Ben Paxton



Born August 3, 1927, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Through childhood, I was encouraged by my parents and grandparents to dabble with pastels and oils. I tried watercolors with no luck. My only art instruction was the last semester of my senior year in high school when I took a course in jewelry making for fun. I was involved in radio drama and announcing from 7 grade thru high school, and college. When I received an M.A., I applied to all the TV stations in the southern states, all 8 of them!



I secured a job with WMBG-AM, WCOD-FM, and WTVR in Richmond, Virginia as an announcer, later becoming a news director and TV newscaster. I received USNR radar technician training from 1945 to 1946.

I received a B.A. and an M.A. in Speech and Theatre from Maryville College and University of Tennessee from 1950 to 1951.



In 1953, as a graduate student at the University of Missouri, I signed KOMU-TV on the air. I taught radio- TV courses while doing further graduate studies for four more years.



As a Professor of Speech at Creighton University in Omaha, I taught speech and radio-TV courses. I also produced radio and television programs for the University.

I continued to “dabble” in oils, but also used what artistic skills I had in creating special effects for our television programs. This was before we had many of today’s computerized special effects.

In 1965 we moved to Normal, Illinois. “We” included my wife Anne, and our four daughters.

As Assistant Professor of Speech one of my first responsibilities was to supervise the student campus radio station. I also was responsible to put the new low-powered (10 watt) FM transmitter on the air.

With Dr. Ralph Smith we developed a full curriculum of radio-television courses for the department. Over the years, I worked to develop WGLT-FM into a qualified “Public Radio” station, with a license approved for a 25,000 watt transmitter by the time I retired in 1990.



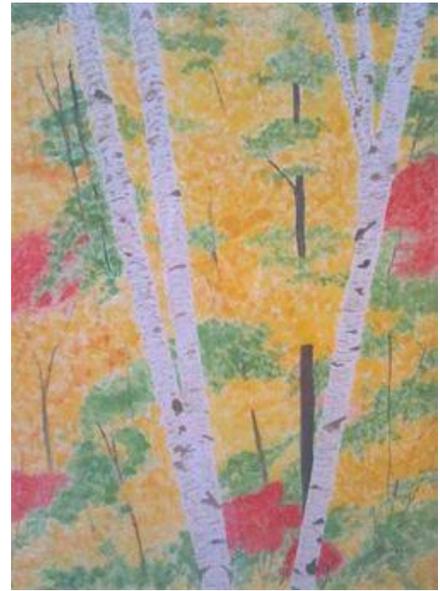
Oils and occasionally acrylics remained my primary media through the years of “dabbling” with painting.

With retirement came a new summer vacation adventure,,,,,, wind-jammer sailing off the coast of Maine. This has become an annual event for our family since August of 1991. On one of these summer adventures, we met a passenger named Bill Senior, a retired British barrister.

Bill had a marvelous repertoire of jokes, which he told with a wonderful Birmingham (England) accent. More pertinent to this story, Bill carried his watercolors rather than a camera on his world travels and sat on deck during the day painting, as well as keeping us laughing.

Anne and I enjoyed Bill so much that we kept in touch with him by e-mail during the winters, and made arrangements with him to book the same weeks of sailing on the American Eagle for several years in a row.

Watching Bill paint prompted me to come home and take some lessons, to see if I could learn to do something with watercolors.



First, I signed up for a brief series of lessons with Jean Griesemer, and all of a sudden, those watery paints and brushes began to work pretty well together, and the results weren't the muddy messes they had been when I was a kid.

Then I enrolled in lessons with Fred Mills at the Senior center followed by several sessions with Nia Pirnot. At Heartland College with Patricia Singleton, I took courses in "beginning" watercolors and watercolor landscapes, as well as basic drawing.

My subscription at WATERCOLOR ARTIST has also been a primary source for ideas of doing different things, such as pouring watercolor paint.

I signed my work as "Pax" for a very long time till my granddaughter Meghan Paxton Sellers, while a student at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, signed some of her things as "Pax". I now sign my work as "Ben Pax" with a thought in the back of my mind that when I turn 90 it might be "Pawpaw Pax"

?

You can contact Ben Paxton here:

1305D Kingsridge Court

Normal, Illinois 61761

Ph # 309.454.59797623

E-Mail: benpax27@gmail.com