

Wayne Hyde Sculpts Wildlife On Family Farm

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Co. Correspondent
MANN'S CHOICE (Bedford Co.) — The bronze sculptured wildlife created by Wayne Hyde brings to mind many adjectives ... magnificent, beautiful, awe inspiring, being only a few.

Growing up on a dairy farm, Wayne loved art from the time he could hold a pencil.

"I suspect I get my talent from my dad," says this 37-year-old with the easy going manner. "When I was little, I was trying to draw the birds on the windowsill and I can still remember him taking my hand and guiding the pencil around the paper."

By the fourth grade, Wayne was doing art projects, such as stencil drawings, for the Chestnut Ridge School District.

"And, I always knew I liked three dimensional art the best," he says now.

After high school he graduated from the Pittsburgh School of Art in advertising art. "I knew that wasn't what I wanted to do," he remembers. "But, I finished the course anyway."

It was his wife who first wanted to move to New Mexico. Exploring the exquisite shops in Santa Fe, and studying the sculptures there, Wayne knew he had found his art form.

Each try with the clay brought him better results. Wayne found a job firefighting with the Bureau of Land Protection in New Mexico and worked on his sculptures in the off-seasons. "Often I sculpture what I had seen in the wild," he says.

Other ideas came from nature photographs. When he landed a job with "Wildlife Habitat Improvement," ideas ran rampant.

A divorce brought Wayne back to Bedford County and the family farm where he now fills the old farm house with various stages of his work.

"I really missed the farm," Wayne says, admitting that he doesn't really miss the dairy cows which have been sold.

However he and his dad continue to farm 275 acres raising various crops as well as black Angus and Hereford beef cattle.

When the farm work is finished, Wayne is ready to sculpture and sometimes works into the wee hours of the morning. His work begins with a big hunk of clay. Using high school welding skills, he builds a steel armature which holds the clay together as he works. He watches wildlife videos, often freezing a frame to capture an animal's pose or expression.

Once the sculpture meets with his satisfaction (usually three or four months later), Wayne carefully packs his clay sculptures into boxes and straps them into the car with the seat belts. Then, it's off to the foundry in Dublin, Texas.

"I could never trust these to be shipped," Wayne explains. "I have even built a box which is hooked up the air conditioner in my car to keep the clay from melting."

"There are only a few foundries in the United States and this one is especially good," Wayne explains. Bronze which is 85% copper and 15% tin is heated to 2,300 degrees before being poured into the molds.

Once the mold is made, artisans at the foundry, as well as Wayne put the finishing touches on his



Wayne adds the finishing touches to one of his sculptures while at the foundry in Texas.

wildlife creations.

No more than 20 to 30 sculptures of any one mold is made before being destroyed. By doing this, he is able to offer limited editions with prices of his work ranging from \$750 to \$3,500.

Work is sold in specialty art shops in Santa Fe, Jackson's Hole, Wyoming, and in a few cities in Texas.

"Marketing is my main problem," Wayne admits. "I know my work is good but I would much rather create sculptures than market. However, one complements the

other and I'm working on my weaker points."

Wayne did a show at the Holiday Inn in Jackson's Hole last summer and will be a part of a wildlife show in the Poconos within the next few weeks.

And, when he has a few minutes, his favorite past time is gazing over the hills of Bedford County as the Hyde farm offers a magnificent view of the surrounding farmlands.

Hyde can be contacted at RD 1, Manns Choice, 15550 or by calling (814) 733-2894.



Each sculpture Wayne forms is a limited edition of his work.

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