

# For Young Artist, Determination Charts Way To Success

(Continued from Page B2)

doctors said he would never walk.

But David's bright and curious mind found alternate ways to accomplish things. When he was two years old, David picked up a crayon with his mouth and drew circles and blocks on the wood flooring.

His parents, Elvin and Lydia Nolt, didn't realize that conquest would lead to a subsequent artistic career. But they lauded his every achievement and did whatever they could to help him become independent.

"It was difficult sometimes to watch him persevere. Sometimes he wanted to do things that I thought were impossible for him to do," his mother recalled. "But I always tried to encourage him and not prevent him from trying."

They diligently performed physical therapy on his curled feet. His mother explained, "Our muscles and tendons contract similar to rubberbands, but David's are more like a string, and they do not stretch no matter how much therapy is performed."

After numerous surgeries and years of physical therapy, David achieved limited walking ability.

Brought up in the old-order Mennonite faith, David attended a one-room schoolhouse. His classmates and five older siblings walked to school. When David got older, he wanted to walk instead of riding in the family's

horse and buggy. He finally convinced his parents to let him try.

His mother said, "He needed to walk across the field, which is uneven ground. If he fell, he could not get up by himself because he didn't have enough

distance for about one week. Then David said, "You can quit following me."

David's persistent independence continued to amaze people.

But David sees nothing unusual about his determination. He

the possibility of painting for a living. At first he used pencil and watercolors. When he was 17 years old, David tried oils, which he prefers.

Several years ago, David submitted his work to Mouth and

work to the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists, David also sells from his home studio.

"I paint everything," David said of not limiting his work to one genre.

His work includes farm scenes, still life, scenery, people, and elaborate wedding certificates and family records.

He likes the freedom of working on subjects that interest him. At present, he is thrilled to be working on a series of seven canvases depicting the Lord's Prayer. No one asked him to do the series.

David said, "It was something I thought I'd like to work on. I won't sell the pictures separately. Only as a set."

He works a minimum of 8 hours a day on his artwork. He said, "I work 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. because if I didn't keep set hours, it would be too easy to keep postponing work."

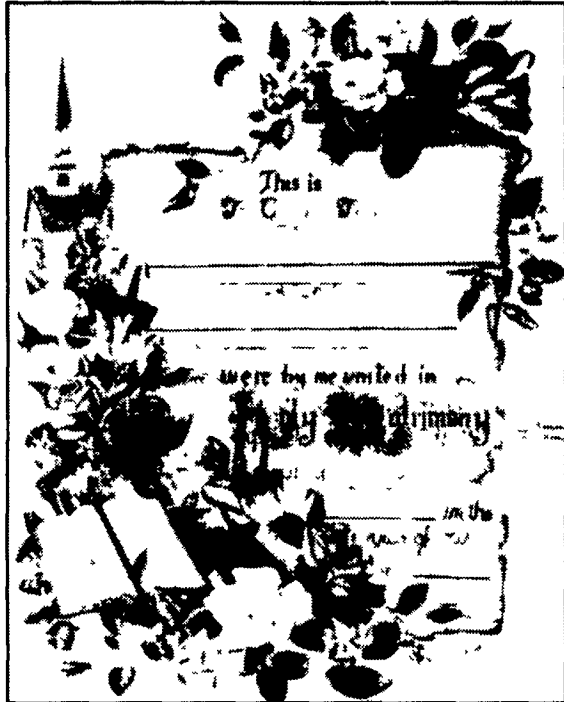
He considers the most difficult aspect of painting as balancing the composition. He mostly enjoys the painting process.

He also enjoys photography. He takes a photograph of his artwork at the end of each day to chronicle his work. He also does custom framing for other people.

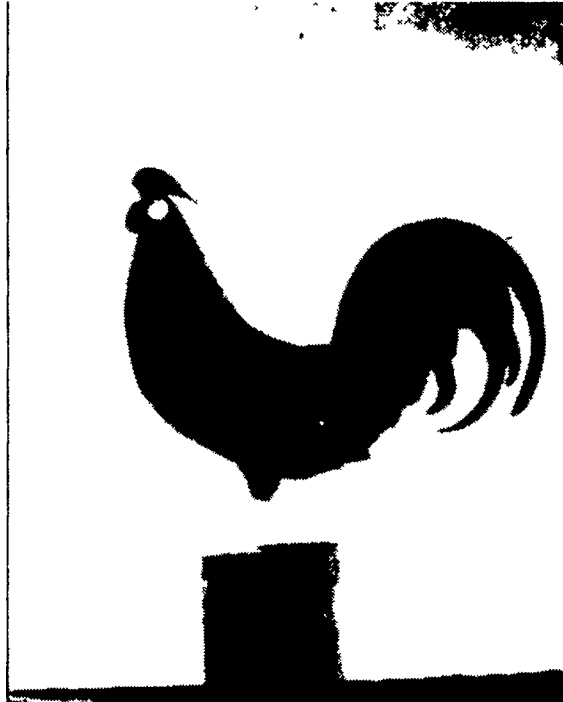
"I have any type of frame people need," he said of his collection.

Although David did not join his parents' old-order Mennonite church, he said that Christian faith is important to him. He is a member of Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church.

For a brochure of David's work or to contact him, call (717) 656-2530.



Nolt also designs framed wedding certificates. His work also includes still life, scenery, people, and family records.



David works a minimum of eight hours a day on his artwork. He takes a photograph of his work at the end of each day to chronicle the progress.

movement and strength in his arms and legs. I really didn't want him to try."

David's older sister was also concerned. So she followed at what she believed was a discreet

said, "I never knew anything else. I just did it (whatever needed to be done)."

David said that he was 15 years old before he considered

Foot Painting Artists Inc. (MFPA), an international organization founded by German artist Erich Stegmann in 1956.

In addition to contributing art-



David draws farm scenes reminiscent of his boyhood home.



David says that he was 15 years old before he considered the possibility of painting for a living.



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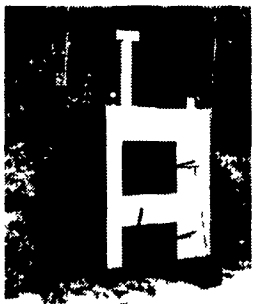
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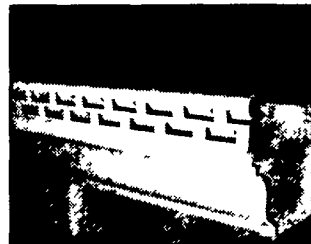
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