

This week's \$1.00 news prize goes to Greg Lindemuth, who hand-delivered the story on the Maytown Playground to the Times office. He apparently walked over a mile to do this!

RALPH M SNYDER
R.D. 2 BOX 3040
MOUNT JOY, PA. 17552

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FIFTEEN CENTS

4th of July



Marietta Jaycees set up the first daylight fireworks display at Memorial Park. MORE ON BACK PAGE.

Grace Steinmetz

A conversation with the versatile Mount Joy artist

Grace Steinmetz, the well-known Mount Joy area artist, has entered some of her work in the annual exhibition of the Echo Valley Art Group in the Community Gallery, 13 W. Grant Street, Lancaster, showing through July 30th.

We took advantage of the occasion to interview Grace at her studio, scenically located along the banks of Chiques Creek, just behind the Mount Joy Legion.

The walls of her studio are lined with her paintings, which are remarkable for the fact that no two of them appear to be done by the same artist. One will look like a Wyeth, another like a Seurat, and the next like a Van Gogh in style. When we commented on this, Grace explained that she "works through an idea in one painting, whereas most artists do several paintings in one style or theme. "It takes me a long time to do a painting," she says.

Grace has done hundreds of paintings over the years she has been an artist. We asked her where she got her ideas.

"They come, that's all," she replied. "Or they're there. Sometimes I've seen a thing 100 times, and then one day I see it. But other times I see it right away."

One picture of a tree, seemingly illuminated from within, is one of the works she "saw" immediately. The painting is based on a tree she and her husband Ron happened upon near Columbus, Ohio. Grace dug out a sketch she had made on the spot and showed it to us. "You see?" she asked, "Just the same!"

We, being without an artist's vision, didn't see much similarity; but the sketch looked good to us, too.

One large painting was inspired by a song Grace used to sing as a Girl Scout. The lyrics were "larkspur and lillies tall, poppies blood red, bloom



Grace with a painting

by a garden wall, blue sky overhead." Grace painted those things years later.

"Schmaltzy—but I finally got it out of my system," she says.

Grace's husband Ron made iced tea for us—the real thing, not a mix. He told us that Grace is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in London. "I never

expected to be married to a fellow," he noted.

Besides being an artist, Grace has been a teacher—she taught biology at Hempfield High for 23 years. She has a Master's in bio from Penn State. She has also been a Marine, during World War II. She was a public relations writer for the Corp.

Her husband Rollin, or Ron for short, was editor of the Lancaster Sunday News for 20 years. He owns a 1959 TR3 sports car. He is the author of a guide to local restaurants. He and Grace like to dine out.

Grace's paintings have been hung in many exhibitions both locally and in other places such as New York. She is a member of several art associations, and has been listed in the *Who's Who's* of American Women and American Artists.

The Current exhibition at the Community Gallery will be open to the public Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Other days (except Mondays) from 12:00 to 4:00. The Gallery is closed Mondays.

A reception will be held on July 9 from 7:30 to 9:00.

DID YOU HEAR?

H. Morrell Shields was written up by the Lancaster Sunday News (July 2 edition). He is doing well in the international correspondence chess tournament.

Mennonites clean up burned house



Volunteers of the Mennonite Disaster Service are shown at work in Marietta. The burned-down house they are working on is north of Gay Street on Walnut. The MDS has 2600 members in the U.S. and Canada. They don't charge for their services. The MDS volunteers plan to finish the job this Thursday evening.



Ron and Grace in the studio