



Riverton Artist Shows Work

"I paint what I like, and I've always liked cowboys, Indians and aircraft from World War I and WWII," said Fred Deaver, who has an exhibit of 12 paintings and four sculptures in the lobby of the Citizens National Bank, 200 S. Main St.

Deaver, a western and wildlife artist from Riverton, has been painting for 30 years but only the last three years professionally. He said the diversity in his work helps him appeal to a wider variety of people. "What will turn one person on," he said, "someone else won't give a second look."

In the Fort Scott exhibit Deaver is displaying several western and wildlife paintings. The exhibit also includes one aircraft painting. Deaver began sculpting only about a year ago. Four of his pieces are in the exhibit. Three of the larger pieces, The Buffalo Hunter, The Frontier Preacher, and The Mountain Man and Grizzly, are limited productions of 24. A fourth piece, depicting a cowboy branding a calf, will be used to cast more than 2,000 copies.

Your attitude about art changes, Deaver said when you change from doing it as a hobby to doing it for a living. "While doing it for a hobby," he said, "you don't have to be quite as precise. What people think of the work is not that important either, you can be careless if you want.

"But when you do it for a living, you have to paint something people will want to buy," he said. When he went

into professional painting he said he thought his volume would increase because he was doing it full time. However he said his volume did not increase but the quality of his work did.

He has sold paintings all over the world including Australia. His painting has led him to travel extensively. Much of the traveling is done on behalf of the Royal Rangers, a religiously-backed boys organization, similar to the Boy Scouts and based on the lore of the mountain man.

His paintings have appeared on the cover of "High Adventure," the Royal Ranger publication and on the cover of the Pentecostal Messenger, an international magazine. Deaver said his Christianity is part of his painting. "I don't know how anyone who studies the intricate works of God could help but see God in nature."

Deaver said his most famous painting probably is one commissioned by the Boy Scouts of America. The painting is a portrait of John Wayne and was presented to Wayne in September 1978.

He said the painting was done from three photographs. Wayne was ill when the portrait was commissioned and was not able to sit for the painting. Deaver said when he did have the opportunity to visit Wayne in the hospital, Wayne was not able to accept visitors.

Deaver's paintings are filled with

brilliant colors. He said, though he has had no formal training in art except in high school he has studied the old masters of the trade. He said he discovered the older well-known artists use brilliant colors in their works. When he added this dimension to his work, he said, people began to notice him as an artist.

"Everyone has their own style," he said, "No two artists paint alike. What some people like, others won't and I'm not going to change."

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