

Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

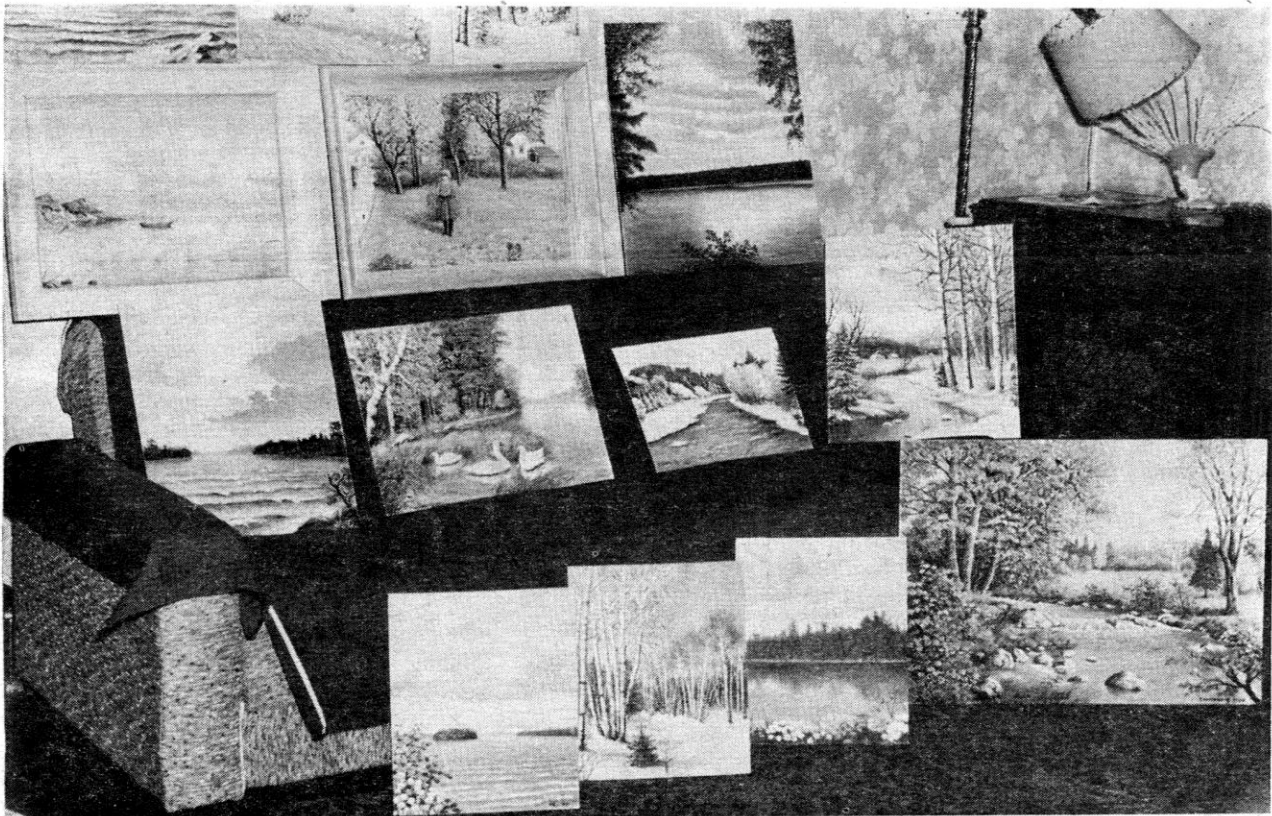
April 6, 1961

Frank Stromberg, who at 84 years of age has a memory that is as sharp as a blade which explains why he spends up to seven hours each day before his easel painting with brush in hand. Stromberg, who can turn out a completed canvass in less than one day, has been painting almost continuously since a lad in Finland where he first drew sketches under the watchful eyes of several widely known Finnish artists of the late 1880's. He states that one would have to count in the thousands to account for all the canvases he has completed since his first attempts as a young boy. In spite of his talent with the small camel's hair brushes it is a curious irony the unobtrusive gent is more widely known as a painter of houses. Stromberg's paintings in recent years have become popular gift items purchased from him at his home at 701 Harrison Avenue usually for under \$20 to locals and well over \$100 from "big city" exhibits. Many homes in the Crystal Falls area have walls decorated with one of the local artist's works.



FRANK STROMBERG, 84, has turned his bedroom at the family home at 701 Harrison avenue into a studio, where he busies himself from five to seven hours daily before his easel turning drab canvass into colorful portraits of the four seasons of the year. Stromberg, who has been painting since his youth

in Finland, is shown above in his artist's smock sitting before a large canvas depicting a rural road bordered by trees and hill-sides clothed in the colors of early fall. The painting, true to life in every detail, is just one of the hundred or so that he completes in a year's time. (Drill photo)



THIS INFORMAL DISPLAY of just a small portion of the paintings that Stromberg has completed and stored in his home studio was arranged for the Drill camera. Stromberg says that paintings that include white birches, either in summer or winter settings, have proved to be the most popular among those who have purchased his work for display in their homes. Several

samples are shown above. This black and white reproduction can hardly do justice to the paintings, which are a flood of artistically blended colors applied with photographic exactness. The Falls artist is at his best in landscapes, which flatter nature herself.

(Drill Photo)