RED WING REPUBLICAN EAGLE

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Relaxing at the festival

Arvid and Hazel Vennberg, 1530 Roosevelt Ave., Red Wing, sit in front of some of Arvid's paintings on display at the Red Wing Community Arts Festival Sunday. A total of 72 persons exhibited their wares at the festival.

Rain fails to dim Arts Festival success

Artist Becky Kruger of Wabasha decided to display her works at the Red Wing Community Arts Festival again this year after missing last year.

"I think it's a great fair they put on here," Ms. Kruger said. "It's one of my better shows, because the people have gotten to know me here."

Bryan Ross, a sculptor from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., came from there to show his works. The fact his wife's parents still live in Red Wing proved a factor in his decision, he said.

"My wife was born and raised here," Ross said, "so we're mixing a little business and pleasure." The parents of his wife, the former Candy Hoisington, are Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hoisington, 1844 West 5th St.

"There's plenty of interest," Ross said, "so I wouldn't discourage anyone from coming here. The art work is good. And there's a great interest in art here — more than I thought there'd be."

JULIE JAMISON, showing her Pennsylvania Dutch art work, said she had returned to Red Wing after spending about five years in the East. She has been selling her art on her own; this was the first time she had exhibited at the Arts Festival.

"They're having a good turnout," she said. "I was surprised. I thought being it wasn't at Levee Park, there wouldn't be very many people here."

The Arts Festival, which ended up at the Red Wing Area Vocational-Technical Institute, was moved from Levee Park 7 o'clock Sunday morning, said Marge Brooks, president of the Red Wing Arts Association and coordinator of the Art Festival.

She contacted Pat Enz, special services director at the vocational institute, and the building was opened in the morning for exhibitors and spectators.

MERLE EDBLOM, chairwoman of the Red Wing Art Workshop, explained: "We had this as an alternative so there really was no problem. You have to have this planned when you're planning something outdoors like this."

Persons heading the Arts Festival in May decided to use the vocational institute as an alternate site in case of inclement weather.

Mrs. Brooks said she was extremely happy about the turnout of exhibitors.

There were 72 Sunday, she said.

"We thought if we had 50, we'd be doing very good," she said." Last year there were fewer than 50 exhibitors.

Exhibitors pay $5 to show their works at the festival if they are members of the Arts Association. Non-members pay $2.50.

PRIMARY MOVERS of the event are members of the art board of the Arts Association. Chairmen of various committees this year were Ginny Peterson, publicity; MaReese Cragoe and Mary Flueger, food booths; Dave Schliep, facility; Betts Withers, performing arts.

Organizers said they were pleased with the large crowd Sunday.

The crowd was thick enough so persons attending the festival had to move slowly from exhibit to exhibit. Some people took advantage of chairs in the middle of the commons area to sit down and relax. Various groups entertained the spectators from time to time.

AMONG ARTISTS drawing plenty of interest was Jaya James Kern of Oronoco, Minn., who studied for about three years under Charles Biederman, noted Red Wing artist and sculptor.

"My friend John Wilson (also of Red Wing) told me about the Arts Festival," Kern said. "I was a student of Charles' and I thought the people of Red Wing would enjoy seeing what one of his students has done."

While Kern said he was happy with the

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The old man

Bryan Ross of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., brought this and other sculptures to the Art Festival. His wife, the former Candy Hoisington of Red Wing, accompanied him for a combined business-pleasure trip.