

~~Blacksburg News-Tribune~~
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Thomas H. Garver studies UMD mural in Keily
Studentcenter painted in auto locker with special techniques
by art majors Kay Dietl and Ron Johnson.

~~_____~~

Bent upon a career in art restoration and authentication, Thomas
SON OF MR. AND MRS. HARVEY GARVER, 3501 EAST THIRD STREET, the UMD
H. Garver, ~~_____~~, may seem out of place in ~~_____~~ chemistry
laboratory these days.

But it's as logical ~~_____~~ a combination ~~_____~~ as needle and thread,
Garver explains. "You have to know what solvents and other solutions do
to what pigments and vehicles the artist used."

He is attending the UMD ~~_____~~ SUMMER SESSION to prepare
for ~~_____~~ study ~~_____~~ at the Brooklyn Museum during the coming year.
After that he hopes to study in Belgium two years and then work for a year
or so restoring church frescoes in Istanbul.

Why Istanbul? "I understand from a friend who has done similar work there
that it is an ~~_____~~ exciting place and living ~~_____~~ conditions in themselves are
rather challenging. There is much restoration work and a scarcity of restorers."

He has worked briefly with Hiram Hoeltzer, a New York City expert, who
has had paintings by Gainsborough, Reynolds and Whistler in his shop, among
many other better and lesser known artists.

"People are beginning to get old American portraits out of their attics,
now that they are regaining popularity. The children have kicked ~~_____~~ holes in
them, or a corner has been ~~_____~~ bumped. They usually need much repair."

He was quickly disillusioned ~~_____~~ about the "golden glow" ~~_____~~ in
paintings by early masters about which critics and viewers have expressed such
admiration. "Nothing but yellowed varnish and dirt," he declares.

Sometimes old varnish dissolves readily, but sometimes delicate scrapers must be used to remove the protective coating without damaging the painting.

Authenticating paintings is a fascinating part of the work, Garver says. Using X-ray, chemical analysis and minute physical examination, the ~~restorer~~ expert can spot masters among run-of-the-mill collections ~~or~~ ~~they~~ expose fakes.

A graduate of the U^MD laboratory school, North Shore Country Day school at Winnetka, Ill., and Haverford, ~~Pa.~~, Pa., college, Garver turned to art restoration after finding several kinds of employment ~~after graduation~~ after graduation in 1956 not to his liking.

As he looks ahead in the ~~restoring~~ low-pay, high-satisfaction field for which he is now preparing, he sees ~~new~~ new challenges along with the old.

"How are you ~~going~~ going to restore some of these blot-and-blob contemporary paintings? Some ~~of these~~ **CONTEMPORARY** artists daub on paint a quarter-inch thick. Unless it's very good paint and expertly mixed, this work is going to ~~dry~~ dry ~~unevenly~~ unevenly and chip. I can see a lot of ~~requests~~ requests for this kind of restoration but not quite how it will be done."

Thomas H. Carver studies UMD mural in Kirby Student center painted in auto lacquer with special additives by art majors Kay Dietl and Ron Johnson.