

# Merrill Coffin Lectures County Artist Society

Merrill "Pete" Coffin gave a lecture demonstration on his painting style at a recent meeting of the Chautauqua County Society for Artists.

The society said his style is almost photo realistic. Coffin stressed that an artist must know his subject thoroughly before he attempts to portray it on canvass. The artist must research his subject with regard to composition, color, detail and perspective. He makes a 5-inch by 6-inch thumbnail sketch of his subject before transferring it to a 20-inch by 24-inch canvass.

The artist prepares his canvass with two coats of gesso, lightly sanding each coat after it has dried. He works with his acrylic paintings in the same fashion that he would an oil painting, using a retarding agent. His palette consists of gray, titanium white, burnt umber, yellow ochre, and thalo blue for his



**MERRILL  
COFFIN**

preliminary underpainting. He then transfers the pencil drawing to the canvass and starts to paint.

A member of the Chautauqua County Artists' Society, Coffin has been awarded "best of show" for two consecutive years. He has exhibited at the Mystic Seaport Art Show and the Arnot Art Museum in Elmira.

Future exhibits of Coffin's paintings will be at the Sailors Valentine Art Gallery, Nantucket, Mass. Coffin has an art studio and gallery at his residence, the Coffin House, Martin Road, Jamestown.

Plans were received by the board or directors of the society for the Bemus Point show, which will be July 16 and 17. Application forms have been mailed to 150 artist members. All paintings and crafts must be original. Last year, more than 70 artists exhibited in the Bemus Point show, one of the area's largest exhibitions. Application forms may be obtained from Carole Norberg, society president, 665-5483.

The society is a non-profit association that functions primarily as an exhibiting society. It provides an outlet for sales for member artists and craftsmen.