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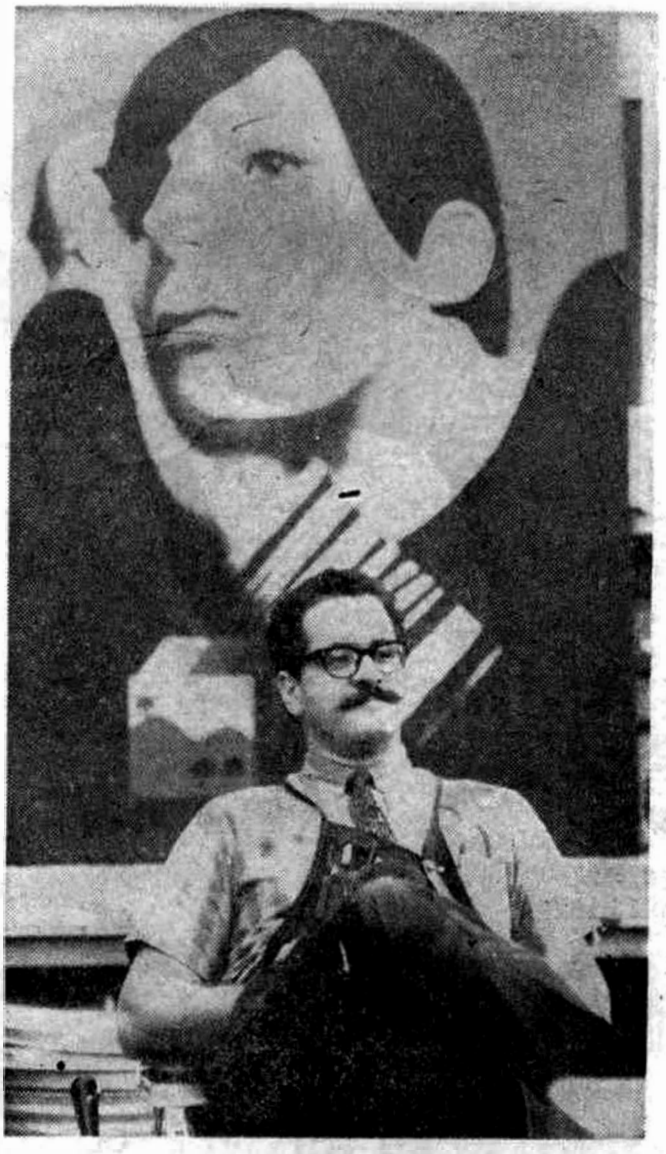

ARTIST SALVATORE PECORARO

Teacher's Works Winning Prizes

Salvatore Pecoraro, a teacher at De Anza High School since 1957, won second prize in painting at a Sacramento show last weekend. His entry was entitled "Pinole" No. 6. A newcomer to show competition, Pecararo has earned four prizes int wo recent area shows.

In addition to the Sacramento prize, he won first award in print-making at the Antioch exhibition last October. At that show, Pecararo placed second and third with his mixed media entries.

He is already looking to his next competition, the January show of the San Francisco Art Commission. Pecararo's entry for this show will be a painting entitled "Barbara Streisand Visits Pinole No. 7."

The veteran art teacher has developed his "Pinole" series into a creative project that has almost infinite possibilites.

Pecararo said, "When I first started the Pinole series, I dealt strictly with organic forms. Some of the symbolism in these early works suggested the hills around Pinole and that's how the series were named."

In later paintings, he added a "hard-edged painting-of-stripes "technique and still later added bright colors. Pecararo plans to continue his Pinole series through printmaking projects to start next month.

These projects will include his newest ideas for the series. He will use modern women as his subject matter and experiment with different spatial relationships and environments.

He said "I like to inject a humorous note into my works, even if its only in the title."

"It's hard to be very subtle about the humor at times though," he said. "These works have been quite large, usually in 4-feet by 5-feet dimensions."

"I have found that all people have some form of expression inside them. In art, students are lucky. They can express their talent. Some students simply possess this talent to a greater degree than others."

"Generally, the kids at De Anza have taken to the idea of self-expression. They are using art to educate themsleves. It's encouraging to see so much originality in a classroom."

De Anza High School is one of the few secondary schools in California to offer instruction in printmaking, etching, and lithography. These were major areas of study for Pecararo when he was completing course work for his master's degree at San Francisco State College.

He earned his bachelor's degree at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland.