

Transcription of Text in the two images below:

About the artist...

"The truest art comes from painting what you know, what's closest to your heart. That's why I chose as my subjects the simple scenes I discovered around the home I loved... the that came to be known as "Spicewood""

Hazel Haeger Castree

Born in her grandmother's home in the early part of the 20th Century, Hazel Haeger Castree has been a lifetime resident of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Castree has been interested in art for as long as she can remember, but she hesitates to admit just how far back those memories go. "Ask me how long I've been drawing, and you're asking me to reveal my age!" she says with a wink and a smile. Thought she never had an art lesson, Mrs Castree was much encouraged by her father and uncle. She learned to draw by doing... by literally trying to draw "everything in sight".

Mrs. Castree used various artistic media, working in pen and ink for many years before finding her true talent in pastels and oils. Creating detailed work in pastels is especially challenging, but a challenge Mrs. Castree welcomes. "Sometimes I became so lost in the process." she recalls, "that I would look at one of my pictures later and notice a detail or object in the painting that I had not remembered seeing in the landscape."

When she looks at her paintings now, Mrs. Castree re-experiences the thrill of expressing herself through her art. "I look at those pictures," she says, "and I can feel myself in them." Mrs. Castree continues to live at "Spicewood" with her three cats and Scottish terrier, Agatha.

Inspired by the beauty of rural Pennsylvania in the 1940s and 50s, Hazel Haeger Castree captured a time and a place that no longer exists, but that lives on in a series of nostalgic pastel paintings of "The Spicewood Collection"

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