

Pete Amos/Sentinel

Stanton Powers makes a quick sketch of Elderday resident Esther Levy

Crime & Criminals - 1980-1989

Artist, seniors help each other — but from different perspectives

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HELPING EACH OTHER is the name of the game between the folks who attend regular sessions at Elderday, a day-care center for the frail elderly, and a Santa Cruz artist whose name is Stanton Powers.

The Elderday participants know only that Powers spends three days a week with them, volunteering his time in sketching the oldsters, picking up and delivering noon meals prepared by the Live Oak kitchens of the Golden Age Nutrition Program and helping out all he can.

They don't know that they are helping him gain back some of his lost talent and self respect. Powers is at Elderday to serve part of the 750 hours of community service

he was sentenced to serve when he was convicted in a very unusual crime.

Powers' crime was in manipulating the automatic teller devices at County Bank of Santa Cruz.

He became the focus of much media publicity when he claimed to have meditated before the automatic teller machine for fame and fortune. Powers ultimately keyed in false deposits amounting to several million dollars, and ultimately withdrew \$2,000 that wasn't his.

At his sentencing, the judge set Powers' number of volunteer hours and placed him on probation. Because he had no criminal record, and was considered to be in delicate mental health due to alcohol and drugs, he was treated with considerable kindness.

In turn, Powers is treating the oldsters

at Elderday with more than considerable kindness.

"I dropped my drawing for a while," said Powers, who holds a master's degree in art and who has supported himself with his drawings and paintings. "But all this is bringing to back — it's making it all good again."

Some of Powers' early works hang in famous places, such as the homes of Jack Lemmon, Vincent Price and former President Gerald Ford.

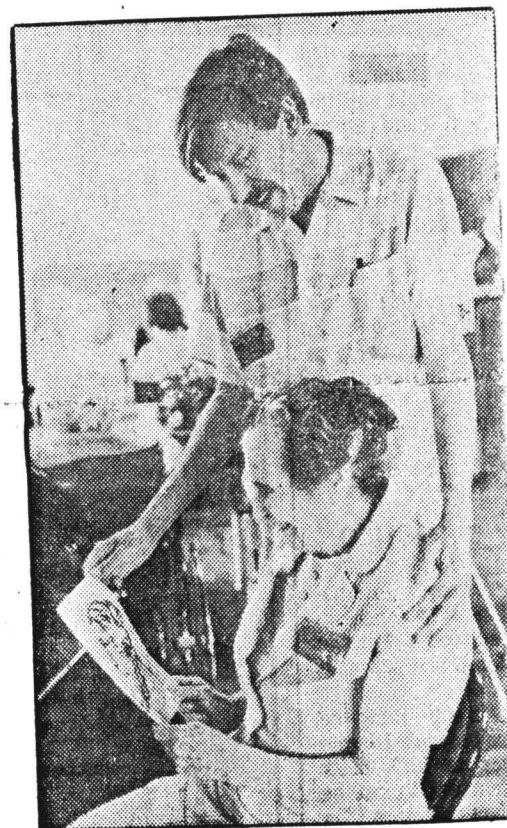
Now, he's further picking up the pieces by sketching patrons evenings at Django's restaurant.

Johnanna Lean, Elderday program manager, says, "Stanton is very conscientious and helpful — he's one of our better volunteers."

"He has a caring, concerned attitude."



Some of Powers' portraits



Levy likes what she sees