

THOMAS A. CROWELL

Thomas Crowell, in the estimation of those who know him, is probably the most talented artist who ever stepped on the campus of the South Dakota School for the Deaf.

He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Art Education in 1974 from the University of Colorado in Greeley. Being a “kids’ man” genuinely interested in working with deaf and hard of hearing young children, he decided to attend the California State University at Northridge in 1975 for a Master’s degree in Special Education. He taught for a period of years at the California School for the Deaf in Riverside before returning to his homestate of South Dakota which, much to the dismay of his South Dakota acquaintances, lasted only one year. To quote him: “I have been spoiled by years in the warm climate of the West, hence South Dakota was surprisingly and unfortunately too cold for me!”

Tom went back West, this time to Arizona and the school for the deaf and the blind in Tucson where he has been ever since. His responsibilities at the ASDB include the teaching of Art and Drama to the entire school enrollment – elementary, middle, and high school students. He is still pursuing his hobby of producing his own art work and has been asked to bring with him to the Y2K Celebration a collection of his special works to be displayed in a conspicuous area throughout the Celebration.

Tom was born on June 14, 1949 in Hot Springs, South Dakota and registered as a student at SDSD in 1955. He had the benefit of thirteen (13) years of outstanding education for which he was grateful and graduated in 1968. However, these thirteen years of cold weather experience were not sufficient to ward off the urge to return to his spoiled warm weather of the West. What a loss for the deaf and hard of hearing people of South Dakota!

