

Stateless Lamar Student's Water Color Takes Prize



NATIONAL ART CONTEST winner is this opaque water color, which netted Dimitry Vergun, 17-year-old Lamar High School student,

a scholarship to the Memphis Academy of Art and \$25 in cash. Dimitry, son of a Russian refugee, wants to be an industrial designer.

Perhaps the memory of New York harbor, as the good ship "Ernie Pyle" plowed toward the Statue of Liberty six years ago, inspired Dimitry Vergun, a strapping six-foot son of a Russian refugee.

At any rate, the Lamar High School senior's opaque water color of a tug struggling toward a transport has won him a scholarship and \$25 in cash.

Included in Exhibit

"An artist usually expresses his emotions in his work," he commented in a professional-like manner. "My work is a bit of creativeness and the memory of many other things."

Dimitry is one of a dozen local winners whose work is on display at the national high school art exhibition at Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh. The exhibit continues through May 29.

He was but 11 years old when he surveyed America from the rail of the transport.

Behind him lay sorrow and hardship. Before him lay the hope of a new land, of seeing his grandparents and four aunts, who had fled from Russia via Czechoslovakia in 1921. His parents were victims of the war, his father having died in a concentration camp and his mother having been the victim of hardships in a labor camp.

Impressed by Harbor

"The harbor impressed me and maybe my work is a picture of my emotions," he said. "I don't know. I paint because I like it."

Dimitry, who speaks English exceptionally well, rattles off Russian and German with equal ease.

He doesn't plan to paint for a living. He wants to be an engineer like his father, and will use his art ability in his proposed career as an industrial designer.

To Enroll at U. T.

He will pass up the scholarship to the Memphis Academy of Art, and enroll at the University of Texas in September.

His "kid" brother, Alex, is a 12-year-old student at Sidney Lanier Junior High School.

"We've had fun and know what freedom is," Dimitry said. "We came here alone but have found a host of friends and opportunity is everywhere."

His parents didn't leave Russia until 1936.

Born in Czechoslovakia, Dimitry was taken to a German labor camp when the Germans invaded in 1941.

Live With Aunt

"That's all in the past," he said simply. "But it makes me pretty determined to take advantage of the freedom allowed the individual in this country. I want to be the best engineer I can."

The two stateless brothers, who will become United States citizens in four years, live with their aunt, Miss Xenia Vergun, at 1754 Sul Ross.

The 12 Houston students' work was first shown at the Southwestern Texas Regional Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition, which was held here at Foley's.

Prizes for Three Others

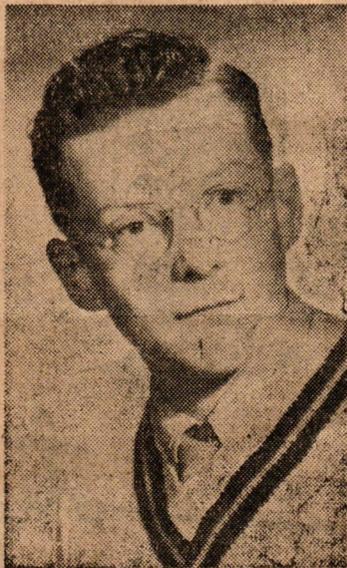
Three other local students won

\$25 cash prizes. They are Robert Harris, Jefferson Davis, crayon; Catherine Kirkland, Lamar, opaque water color; and Ken Collins, who was graduated from Reagan High School at midterm, crayon.

Others from Houston who placed in national competition with some 170,000 entries are Paula Cargill, Austin High School, oil; Robert Erwin, Davis, transparent water color; Sonia Rasmussen, Davis, ceramics; Marlene Risdell, Johnston Junior High School, transparent water color; Carole Grubb, Lanier Junior High School, transparent water color; Jack Terence, Lanier, crayon; Tom Berry, Pershing, transparent water color; Deane Wilcox, Pershing, transparent water color; and Bill Bradley, San Jacinto High School, cartoon.

There are 1559 entries on exhibit in the national show, and 374 outstanding pieces have received cash awards of \$25 each.

In addition, more than 100 seniors won tuition scholarships to leading art schools and colleges on the basis of their outstanding work.



DIMITRY VERGUN
Opportunity Abounds

Burbank Students Crash TV

BY BARBARA DURRENBERGER
Burbank Correspondent

Some 20 Burbank Junior High School students "crashed" television in a recent program and sang several numbers from the operetta, "Meet Arizona," which will be presented in the school auditorium tonight at 8 o'clock.

The orchestra played part of the operetta's overture and two numbers which the entire cast sings. The students are under the direction of Miss Goldye Hollander and Eugene Nelson, chorus teachers, and Miss Elinor Lueth, orchestra instructor.

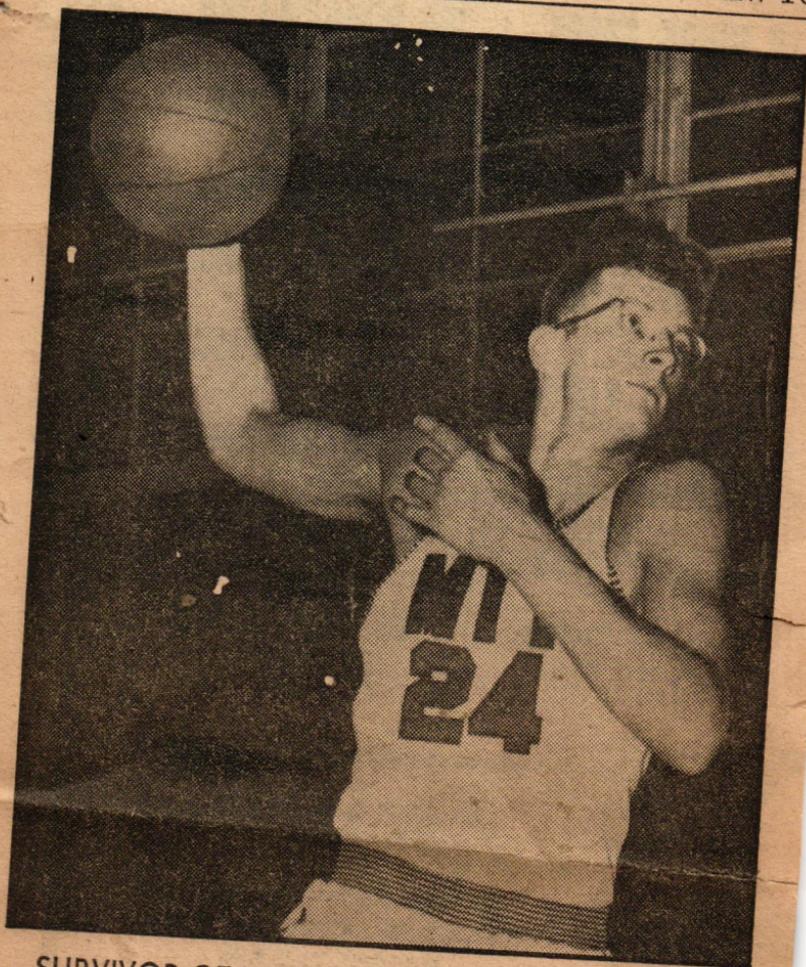
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SURVIVOR OF NAZI LABOR CAMPS, Dimitry (Dee) Vergun, 22, is now co-captain of the basketball team at Mass. Institute of Technology, averaging 30 points in each of four games. The 6 ft. 4 in. senior never heard of the game until he was 15. He is the Prague-born son of Russian parents, was taken to Belgrade.

(AP WIREphoto)