

Burnside, David

Elmhurst Artist Wins \$5,000 Medallion Prize

The \$5,000 top prize in a statewide competition to design an American Revolution Bicentennial medallion will be awarded to David Burnside, 40, of 371 N. Ridgeland, Elmhurst, at the Chicago Historical Society, Friday, July 14, at 3 p.m.

Burnside will receive the check from Andrew McNally III, chairman of the Illinois Bicentennial Commission. McNally is president of Rand-McNally publishing company in Skokie.

Also receiving checks from McNally at the ceremonies Friday will be the runners-up in the competition. They are: Trygve A. Rovelstad, 535 Ryerson, Elgin (\$2,500 second prize); Wayne F. Schlosser, 29 Granvue Dr., Belleville (\$1,500 third prize); and Daniel J. Kohnen, 1846 W. Touhy, Chicago (\$1,000 fourth prize).

Over 500 artists from across the state submitted designs for the medallions, which will commemorate the upcoming 200th anniversary of the United States and illustrate Illinois' contribution to America's national heritage. The competition was restricted to residents and former residents of Illinois.

Sponsored by The Franklin Mint of Franklin Center, Pa., the competition was judged by a five-man panel chosen by the Illinois Bicentennial Commission. In addition to McNally, other judges were William K. Alderfer, state historian; Dr. Paul M. Angle, past director of the Chicago Historical Society and noted Lincoln scholar; Paul J. Randolph, Ill. State Representative (12th-Chicago); and Gardner H.

Stern, Sr., chairman of Hillman's, Inc.

The world's largest private mint, Franklin conducted similar competitions with similar awards in each of the fifty states. They provided the \$10,000 prize money in Illinois and in the other forty-nine states for a total of \$500,000 nationally.

Burnside's winning design—showing a young, tousled-haired Abe Lincoln—will be produced by Franklin in sterling silver and included in a set of bicentennial commemorative medals featuring the first prize designs from each of the fifty states. The Illinois Bicentennial Commission will receive a 5 per cent share from all sales of the privately-produced set in the state. The collection will go into production late this year, according to The Franklin Mint.

The competition was Burnside's first attempt at medallion work, although he previously won several prizes for his watercolors in exhibitions in the Chicago and Philadelphia areas. He is a commercial mural artist.

A native of Philadelphia, "The Cradle of Liberty," Burnside now resides in Elmhurst with his wife, Shirley, and his three children: Sarah, 7; Lee, 5; and Peter, 7 months.

Burnside adopted his winning design from a rare 1857 portrait of Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln, Burnside said, is Illinois' all-time outstanding

citizen. The portrait, originally intended to decorate a campaign poster, was never used. Burnside discovered a reproduction while researching Lincoln in the Elmhurst Public Library.

"I felt this tousled-haired portrait was most appropriate, especially with the emphasis on youth at this time," Burnside said. The beardless design is especially appropriate, also, because Lincoln never wore a beard while living in Illinois, and in fact grew it after being elected president in 1860.

The award-winning design will be on display during Friday's ceremonies, which will be held on the first floor of the Historical Society near an exhibit of Revolutionary War-era artifacts.

At the present time, the Illinois Bicentennial Commission has not decided on an official policy towards commemorative medallions and has not endorsed any privately-produced sets, according to Dr. Samuel A. Lilly, executive director of the Illinois Bicentennial Commission.

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A YOUNG, BEARDLESS Lincoln is portrayed in a prize-winning medallion created by Elmhurst artist David Burnside. A \$5,000 award from the Franklin Mint was to be presented Today, Friday, at the Historical Society in Chicago.

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David Burnside has painted murals and coordinated interior decoration for these Tallman Savings & Loan Institutions:

Chicago - 1 N. Wacker

DuPage - Rt. 53 & Butterfield

Oak Lawn - 111th & Crawford

Skokie - NE corner across from Old Orchard Shopping Center

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