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Cement Man Is Nocturnal Copper Etcher

MOSCOW — Lloyd Tharp, a cement worker during the day for a Moscow contractor, is creating some memorable copper etchings at night, "just for relaxation."

Tharp has produced some 40 or 50 etchings, done from sketches he makes of pictures in magazines, models of animals he sent for from New York and from other drawings.

His art deals mostly with the early west, including Indians, wild life, and picturesque replicas he "just picked up here and there" such as the message written by Charles M. Russell in 1908 on a scrap of paper he found photographed in a magazine: "you sleeping relic of the past. If I but had my way I'd cloth your frame with meat on hide an wake you up today."

Copied Lettering

Tharp copied the lettering, just as it was written, traced it on 36 gauge copper, his sole medium, added small details for a background, and mounted the finished work on black velvet, his favorite background.

He began his hobby while he was in a veterans hospital in 1947 after World War II, when a Japanese commercial artist made a picture on copper of a cougar. "He got me interested and I began working with it, but dropped it for several years, and then began again six years ago," Tharp said.

"I get the outline, look at the



NIGHTTIME CREATION — Lloyd Tharp of Moscow, recreated this replica of a moose, sculptured to scale from a model which he bought from a New York sculptor. Tharp, a cement worker by day for a Moscow contractor, spends his nights making copper etchings from pictures, models and drawings.

picture, get the muscles, (a similar process to leather tooling) and start filling out the form from both sides, then I use a satin spray for a finish.

"After I get through with them, I get attached to them and hate to sell them," he noted, and he is not anxious to part with them. "I do what I like, and I would hate to have to start doing more than one of each."

To date, he said, he has sold about 20 pictures.

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