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Royal Canadian Legion Branch 80, with a \$1,000 cheque for the Army's Christmas Cheer fund. The Legion is one left, on behalf of Branch 80, presented of the Army's regular supporters. Salvation Army Lieutenant Norm Garcia



Critic's Corner

by John Stoddart

Flowers in the Attic

"Flowers in the Attic," now playing at the Pen II theatre is a morbid thriller. A middle-aged woman and her four children have their world turned upside down with the unexpected death of her husband. In order to keep her family together and make ends meet she decides to move them back to her estranged parents' New England mansion.

Seventeen years has passed since she left to marry against her father's wishes and now she hopes to be written back into his will. They get more than they bargained for on their return to this evil house.

Screenwriter (director) Jeff Bloom seems to have been loyal to the first of

V.C. Andrews' novels to be filmed. Louise Fletcher, that much-hated nurse from "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" returns as a much-hated grandmother. Marshall Colt (from the now defunct Lottery TV series) makes his film debut as the husband/father of the family but is killed off before anyone in the audience can remove their coats.

The producers, apparently fearing that a Restricted rating might be attached to the film, just hint at an incestuous relationship between the oldest of the two children, but this doesn't diminish the story.

Bloom draws the audience into the picture

making them choose sides. This clearly defined good guy/bad guy style of filmmaking is very effective and at the showing which I attended you could feel the tension in the air.

It is not an escapist, forget your troubles, kind of movie but one that will make you feel like you've been through an emotional wringer. Great filmmaking. Rating: ***½

New gallery to open soon

Watson denies rumor, has better things on his mind

Budd Watson wants everyone to know the rumor about him isn't true. He's not leaving town.

The world-renowned Midland photographer says he has been the subject of such a rumor since word leaked that he was opening a gallery in near-Collingwood.

"I'm glad you came when you did," Watson said last Wednesday as he worked frantically on some prints due to be delivered later in the day.

"You can help me kill that rumor going around that I'm leaving Midland. I'm not."

But yes, he said, the part about him opening a new shop in Collingwood is definitely true. It will be tucked away in a new, upscale specialty-store plaza on the town's main street where Budd hopes to tap in on the booming year-round tourist trade.

"Collingwood must be one of the busiest small towns in Ontario," he said in his basement workshop in his 520 Hugel Avenue gallery.

"The main street there is still alive and well." Unfortunately, said Watson, the main street of Midland isn't exactly bustling during the winter.

Watson said he is hoping to channel some of the "yuppie money" readily available because of the

rich city skiers in Collingwood into his store. "That age bracket appeals to me - and that income bracket appeals to me."

The shop should be open soon. "The store is ready; the photos are hanging, we're almost ready. I'm going to give Collingwood a royal try," he said. He'll employ one full-time and maybe one part-time employee, says Budd. But he'll still spend the majority of his time in Midland.

However, said Watson when interviewed that busy day, he may soon be selling his landmark Hugel Avenue gallery and moving into a renovated house/studio owned by his late father.

The gallery, reputed to be the largest privately-owned photographic gallery in North America, is too large and too expensive to keep up, he said. It's especially hard to heat in the cold months. But one thing that may keep him in his Midland gallery for now is a huge project under consideration by Kodak Canada.

Watson, always full of surprises, says if he gets the go-ahead from the giant photographic company, he will need his studio for two years to prepare "the largest show by an individual photographer." "I'm breaking very heavy ice," he said. "Kodak has



Budd Watson

never sponsored an individual photographer before. I've found a big crack in the ice and I'm pushing it at full power."


He said he'll know some time this week whether the show will proceed as planned. He's not keen on releasing any more details, but says a green light on the deal will prevent him from taking any more new orders on prints for two years.

"It's something so big they really have been thinking about it for two years."

He says he's already had two offers to buy the

gallery, which used to house the Midland YMCA and is now the largest business in the downtown core. "If I don't get the Kodak project, I will seriously consider selling," he said. "I can't afford the overhead. It's just killing me."

And sometimes he gets so caught up in his studio work, said Watson, he even has to sleep overnight there. "This is totally absurd and I'm going to quit. I'm supposed to be a photographer and I don't want to be a gallery operator."



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Y.A. Gagne, A.M.C.T.
Clerk-Administrator