

Charles E. (*Charlie*) Knight

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Famous Artists Schools

(see the 24 lesson titles, in the ext below, to give an idea of skills learned).

Between the fall of 1962 and through 1965 Mr. Knight participated in the Correspondence Course of study in Commercial Art operated by [Famous Artists Schools](#) of Westport CT; while he used his skills learned in High School to help type things for his mother and attempt to be a companion and “go for” for her while his father was working. His mother's MS was going down hill fast after his graduation where she had attended the ceremony with all the noise and bands and such in here wheel chair. Now she is back from the hospital and pretty much bedridden and will be that way for the next 5 years until his Father felt he had no choice but to have here go into a nursing home.

Amazon recently was selling a three ring binger set (3 binders, red, yellow and dark blue) for over \$425, which is probably much more than my father paid when he signed up Charlie at his mother's bidding. She liked art and drew some but her eyes were not good (myopia) and she had seen him draw since he was younger than 5 years old. This set of instructional binders listed by Amazon had the following list of subjects and it seems to be what Mr. Knight remembers. “Lessons are in: Materials and their use; form; human form; simple anatomy and figure drawing; the head and hands; the human figure in motion; animal anatomy; perspective; composition and pictorial design; figure composition - light and dark; studio procedures, fashion illustration; layout, lettering, posters; pretty girls - today's men and women; variety in forms - textures and surfaces; draperies and costumes; landscape painting, interiors, furniture, stil life; observation, photographs, research file, mechanical aids; making the picture; drawing in line; painting in tone; color theories; color painting; advertising illustration; and editorial illustration.”

There were 24 lessons in all and in some instances the subjects listed above are two or more subjects in one lesson, and in other times the AND that are actually more than one lesson, one for the “this” part and one for the “that” part. You read the lesson (Mr. Knight says he should have read them over at least twice or three times, but he wanted to get through the classes quickly. His father had read about how a person had completed the course of study in a year or so and he saw no reason Charlie could not do the same. Once you read the lessons you did the home work and then sent in the projects. Upon arrival the work was critiqued and an overlay of a tracing paper type of substance was put over your work and suggestions for improvement sent back to you with the next lesson. (I think it was the next lesson and since we ordered materials, at least I did, sometimes I think the lessons with comments, the next lessons, and ordered materials came back all at once. [This link shows a sample of what a lesson looked like.](#)

[Norman Rockwell](#) saw Charlie's work and wanted to get him a job drawing in New York City. But his contacts would have none of it as they did not recognize the Famous Artists School as being as valuable as the Art Schools in the city, etc. For this reason Norman Rockwell said he had taken steps to have his name removed from the list of people in the School's advertisements. Much archived Famous Artist School (FAS) work is now at the [Norman Rockwell Museum](#) in Stockbridge MA.

EVERY COURSE OF STUDY ALONG THE LINES OF THE 24 LESSONS COVERED IN THIS SCHOOL THAT MR. KNIGHT HAS TAKEN SINCE 1965 HAVE BUILT UPON THESE CORE PRINCIPLES WITH ALMOST NO NEW MATERIAL PRESENTED. Yes, there have been new ways of doing things, and new ways of approaching the same subject, BUT every course of study in art and drafting and such only BUILT UPON and did not introduce anything drastically different or better than what was taught by Famous Artists Schools by this correspondence course of study. Famous Artists Schools was like the **vocational education** of it's day for **commercial artists**. Outside of the time Mr. Knight spent as a pastor, doing these classes and doing art work was the only time he really felt “alive” and had worth. . He hopes to find his old lesson books from storage & do the work again.

The School taught “**See, Observe, Remember**” & that became a guiding principle of Mr. Knight onward.