



## ST SAY TO WII

you have ever heard of the Nintendo Wii, my guess is that you have children of a certain age. I have been hearing the Wii — over and over — ever since it came November.

ase you're wondering is, it's a video game a, the latest and greatest the Nintendo company. it's been near impossible

have to understand, that scheme of Christmas l, this is nothing new. year, there's something impossible to get that your ng desperately want. companies with the ble toy always claim that ere taken by surprise, aren't anticipating the d, they hadn't produced

skeptical about such I think they deliberately artificial scarcity in order o up a buying frenzy. survived all the ible-to-get toys without an eyelash. Tickle Me Transformers. Power s. Over the years, I've ell my boys repeatedly: orry, you're not getting

he Wii was a little bit nt. of all, it did seem better e average video game It's designed so that, to e tennis game, you wave troller like a tennis For golf, you swing it like lub, and so forth. a-sensitive" is the term. ner words, it actually the kids get up and do ing with their bodies, han just sit there g buttons.

was agreeable to the idea. so, I told them: Don't r hopes up. see, when you decide going to get your ns an impossible-to-get comes your full-time ion.

le a half-hearted attempt y to find a Wii. I was d out of the stores where ed.

e video game store, the r told me to come back There was sure to be a for them, he said, so urly.

many are you getting?" , he said. ded I didn't want to e crowds for something obably wasn't going to

rd stories about parents med from store to store, the elusive Wii. They d employees, seeking rmation. They would est Buy, Toys R Us and City, lying in wait for the S delivery, which might Wii aboard. They were costing delivery drivers. couldn't see doing that Even for a Wii.

# Monterey County Life & Times

www.montereyherald.com

## At the movies

**"Children of Men"**  
Clive Owen stars in this visually stunning, futuristic drama that opens today in local theaters.

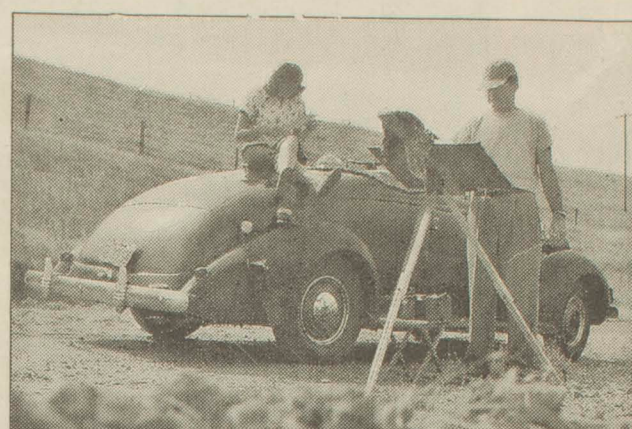


**Pacific Grove Art Center** presents the work of Rollin Pickford, 94, who spent decades painting the San Joaquin Valley before moving to the Peninsula — his spiritual home

In this photo taken in the 1970s, Rollin Pickford crouches to finish a painting he called "Lucy's Bouquet."



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Rollin Pickford paints in the foothills outside Fresno in 1949 while his soon-to-be wife Glenna reads atop a 1939 Nash.

## The Pickford landscape

By LISA CRAWFORD  
WATSON

Herald Correspondent

Perhaps he knew there would come a day when he could no longer see. If he should live so long. So maybe he realized he would have to focus his life on a pursuit that would require him to look so carefully, he would reach a point where he no longer needed his eyes to see.

Artist Rollin Pickford, 94, is now blind. But he can see every vista ever cherished and every painting ever made of it just by returning to the way he felt about it. It is how he painted, why he painted and the way he remembers all of it.

Born and raised in Fresno, his San Joaquin Valley provided a rich subject, its fleeting natural landscape a treasure whose beauty he endeavored to record before it slid under the pavement. Yet, come summer, he moved his easel to the Monterey Peninsula, a place he still calls his spiritual home.

"When he painted the coast," his son Loren has said, "he painted the sand and surf and jagged shore. But when he painted the San Joaquin Valley, he painted the air."

This weekend, the Pacific Grove Art Center will open an exhibit featuring some 50 paintings, mostly his signature watercolors, created by Pickford and curated by his daughter, Melissa Pickford.

"My father painted the California landscape for seven decades," said Melissa Pickford, director of the Monterey Peninsula College Art Gallery. "Nearly every day of the year, outdoors, in all kinds of weather, he worked



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This Rollin Pickford watercolor "Yellow Trees" is part of the exhibit at the P.G. Art Center.



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### If you go

- **What:** "The Way of Water" exhibition by Rollin Pickford
- **Where:** Pacific Grove Art Center, 568 Lighthouse Ave., Pacific Grove
- **When:** Opening reception today from 7-9 p.m.; film presentation Sunday, Jan. 21 at 2 p.m.; exhibit continues through Feb. 15
- **Cost:** Free and open to the public
- **Contact:** 375-2208

### Rollin Pickford at work.

assiduously to capture the light and atmosphere of a place. As he painted, sitting among dune grasses or crouched behind sea-sprayed rocks, he experimented tirelessly with watercolor. His paintings were never entirely

literal, nor were they purely non-objective. In each, the watery feel of his medium is present."

Pickford likely chose watercolor because he is the type to appreciate a challenge. Besides, there was that clear

glass bowl with poppies floating in it, presented by his high school art teacher. Seduced by the color and movement of the blossoms, Pickford reached for the watercolors and began to paint the light.

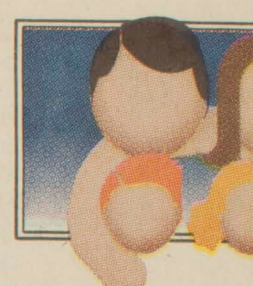
"My father was an experimental painter," said Melissa Pickford. "He knew he could do more with watercolor, could take bigger risks with it. It was the most exploratory medium he found. He developed tremendous technical control, but he also left a lot of it up to chance. He loved to say, 'Let the water do it.' Watercolor is also portable. My dad liked to walk and to be outside."

A graduate of Stanford

Please see **Pickford** page D4

## Good to

Family & health



### Health

#### Foods that fight cavities

Most people know that sweets promote tooth decay, but they may not be aware that certain foods actually prevent decay. These foods contain acids in the mouth that strengthen tooth enamel. Tooth-friendly foods include: Cheese, peanuts and seeds, meat, eggs, olives and dairy products.

### By the numbers

#### Aging boomers

- 46 — Percentage of U.S. communities that have programs to address the needs of the baby boomer population
  - 56 — Percentage having a similar transportation program
  - 30 — Percentage having a prevention program for elder abuse and neglect
- Source: "The Aging of America — Getting the Most from the Baby Boomer Generation," a September report by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, funded by the National Foundation, is available at [www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org).

### Helpful hints

#### Skin care

That lavender-scented lotion you love? Put it away. Your skin is feeling the effects of dry winter weather, and lotions are the last thing you need. Two biggest causes of dry skin are cold, dry air and the heaters in our homes and workplaces. No. 3 on the list? Not taking care of our skin. Steps to getting through the dry-skin season:

- 1. Don't take a shower every day if you don't have to.
- 2. Don't use hot showers. Use warm water.
- 3. Use a kind cleanser. Fragrances can irritate. Look for a gentle liquid or bar.
- 4. Pat dry. No rubbing.
- 5. Cream up. A few brands to try: Cetaphil Moisturizing Cream, CeraVe Moisturizing Cream and Eucerin Original Moisturizing Cream.

### Family

#### Web warning

Here's another reason to limit your kids' use of the Internet. According to a new Stanford University study published in Pediatrics, many adolescents diagnosed with eating disorders are visiting Web sites that promote anorexia and bulimia. A majority of parents are unaware of their Web journeys, so provide "thinspiration" and extremely thin women to reinforce disordered eating.

**P.G. resident Romy Taormina** part of a team to bring chic Psi Band accupressure device to market

# Pickford

From page D1

University, Pickford created a successful career in graphic arts. For 40 years, he designed print media, but he pulled out his watercolors every chance he got and, as often as possible, he painted outside.

"I'm addicted to outdoor painting," Pickford has said. "It's an obsession, a compulsion. I respond very much to nature where fortuitous circumstances come together, just asking to be painted."

"I think if I were cast on a desert island with only one medium, watercolor is, as my son Loren has said, the only through road. It's an unforgiving medium, but the challenge to overcome all obstacles is great. Being an aqueous medium, it goes where it will, like an unbridled horse. The only way to rein it in is to paint thousands of them."

With some 13,000 watercolors to his credit, Pickford has it under control.

"I'm not sure everyone would understand what my brother meant when he said, 'Watercolor is the only through road,' but I do," said Melissa. "I get it. It's how to see your way through life. It's



**This Rollin Pickford watercolor "Nocturne in Spring" is part of the exhibit at the P.G. Art Center.**

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the clear path. My brother is very philosophical, as is my father."

Represented in more than 3,000 public and private collections, Pickford has won hundreds of regional, national and international awards and has exhibited on four continents. In 1985, one of his award-winning paintings was selected for a United Nations UNICEF greeting card. Yet

Pickford would be the first to credit Glenna Pickford, his wife of 58 years, for his successful career.

"Glenna makes it all possible," he has said. "She runs interference for me, takes care of what a friend calls the tyranny of trifles. She also took on the documenting, sorting and selling of my work. Glenna gives me a lot of emotional support; if you're a

painter, that's what it's all about."

Her mother, says Melissa, has always created the peace and quiet essential to the life of a painter. For years, her creative context was the environment; now, it is the medium.

"My mother takes care of a 94-year-old blind painter, which is said with no tone of complaint. She does it

cheerfully. She has always had a true partnership and joyful life with my dad. Every day, she reads to him for hours, and she writes down his daily thoughts about what he's painting, mentally. He paints a whole painting in his mind, and she records it in words."

Nearly 10 years ago, son Joel Pickford, a photographer and filmmaker, published "California Light: The Watercolors of Rollin Pickford," a retrospective book of his father's life and work. He also produced, "Master of Light: The Life and Watercolors of Rollin Pickford," a film, presented on PBS, which will run during the exhibit and in its entirety on Sunday afternoon.

"My brother," said Melissa, "the wise Loren, once said, 'Dad, I don't think you're going to die; I think you're just going to walk off into the landscape and blend in, disappear.' In the last frame of the film, my brother Joel makes our dad simply fade into the landscape."

The Pickford children, helmed by eldest brother Jeff, a photographer, are as thrilled as their parents to celebrate their father through an exhibit that will showcase his work and make it available to public and private collectors.

"Dad is our family treasure," Melissa said. "Life with him is really precious now."