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Artist gives lift to elevator preservation

BY ANNETTE KINGSBURY
STAFF WRITER

The latest work by Rochester artist Gerry Post recalls a time when the grain elevator on East University was the hub of activity.

"When I think of Rochester, I think of the elevator being the most visible landmark," Post said. "That was the center of town when farmers came in with their grain. It's an important building."

Post has previously painted and drawn the elevator over the years. This time, he chose to depict the 1950s, complete with cars of the era and a historically accurate diesel locomotive standing nearby.

"I think most people would remember (the elevator) as being red with the Purina sign on the end," he said. So that's the way he painted it.

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society is selling limited-edition signed and numbered prints of Post's work to raise funds for its campaign to move the elevator out of the way of coming development.

The elevator will be moved to a vacant spot east of the South Hill bridge, on land owned by the city of Rochester. The move is awaiting the closing of the elevator's current business. A senior-citizen condominium project is slated to be built on its present site. For information on the move, visit <http://holdelevator.ne1.net> on the Internet.

Post's print measures 10 by 20 inches and is available for \$25, \$40 matted and \$75 framed and matted to 16 by 26 inches. Add \$5 for mail orders.

The work is currently available by mail and will be available at upcoming historical society events. For mail orders, send checks payable to the RAHS-Hold the Elevator! Fund to P.O. Box 80783, Rochester, MI 48308-0783.

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Prints depicting the landmark grain elevator in Rochester, as rendered by local artist Gerry Post, are available from the Rochester-Avon Historical Society.

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