

But it was the little quirks that seemed to draw the attention of many visitors. And none was quirkier than Dr. Mike.

sion Master Motion Theater, which could provide about a dozen people at a time with the thrill of riding a "rollercoaster."

frozen throat and a strong sense of accomplishment.

"My mom dared me," he said.

The driver, Virginia Avenue resident Kenneth Brooks, swerved

Please see **Attacks, B3**

PROFILE

GAIL LEVIN

Art historian illuminates hidden corners of Hopper's life for art admirers

By Emily McDonald
The Chattanooga Times

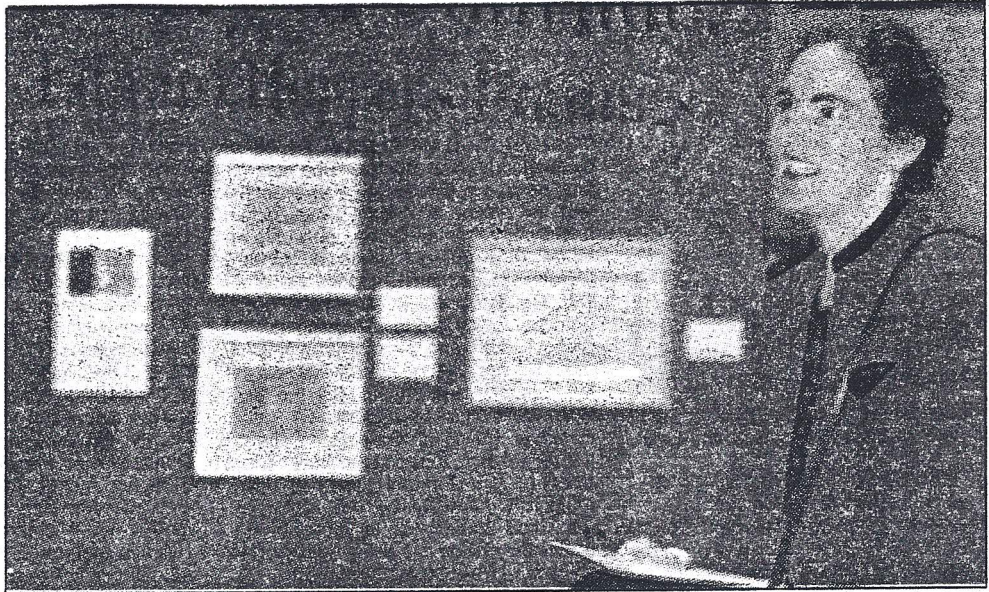
When Dr. Gail Levin casually snapped a picture of the New England setting for Edward Hopper's *Lighthouse at Two Lights* in the late 1960s, she had no idea she would become the leading authority on the American artist.

Dr. Levin, the new holder of the American National Bank Chair of Excellence in the Humanities at UTC, was a young college student at the time and was focusing on a potential site to paint rather than the artist's niche in history. She was already fascinated, however, by the places that artists painted, and her interest was reinforced by spending her junior year in France.

"I was surprised at how the landscape looked like Van Gogh painted," Dr. Levin said. She had expected it to look quite different from the Van Gogh canvases.

Dr. Levin, a native of Atlanta, eventually

Please see **Levin, B3**



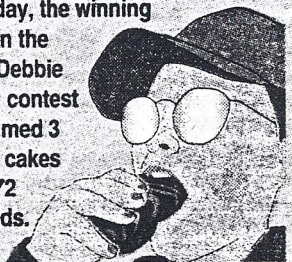
— John W. Coniglio/The Chattanooga Times

Gail Levin's year at UTC corresponds with wide acclaim for her role as the art world's leading authority on American artist Edward Hopper.

DATELINES News from around the community

THAT'S A FACT

At the Hamilton County fair on Saturday, the winning child in the Little Debbie eating contest consumed 3 snack cakes in 45.72 seconds.



— Chris Hardesty/The Chattanooga Times

Chattanooga

AIDS home plan wins some funding

The Home Place is one step closer to establishing a group home for AIDS patients.

The organization recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Sisters of Charity, said Sister Adamarie Kost, Home Place founder. The Home Place is also waiting to hear about other grant applications placed to the Sisters of Mercy and the Community Foundation.

The Home Place had signed an option to buy a home on Shallowford Road when a grant application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development fell through. Since then the

AIDS group home with a house for seven and eventually to expand into scattered sites around the city.

Rhea County

Watts Bar training regains accreditation

SPRING CITY, Tenn. — The National Academy for Nuclear Training has renewed accreditation for six major training programs at TVA's Watts Bar Nuclear Plant.

TVA nuclear employees receive up to 240 hours of accredited training a year, said TVA Nuclear President Oliver Kingsley.

Renewal of Watts Bar's training accreditation, Kingsley said, means "employees are prepared

control technician, instrumentation and control technician, mechanical maintenance, electrical maintenance and engineering support.

Chattanooga

Grant to aid McKee infrastructure

A \$146,025 grant will assist in infrastructure improvements for McKee Foods Inc. in Chattanooga.

The money was awarded under the Tennessee Industrial Infrastructure Program, which issues grants for infrastructure improvements or job-specific training of workers for Tennessee industry.

The grant will provide fiber

county.

Funding for the \$3.7 million project will include \$3.5 million in company funds.

Bradley County

Mayor given spot on statewide panel

CLEVELAND, Tenn. — Mayor Tom Rowland has been appointed to the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations by Gov. Don Sundquist.

Rowland has been appointed as a municipal representative. His term expires in June 1998.

Mayor Rowland is one of three Tennessee mayors appointed, joining Knoxville Mayor Victor Ashe and Germantown Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy.

INSIDE

Reform train on time

The potential for delays at the federal level appears unlikely to derail Tennessee's push to insti-

Levin

Continued from B 1

abandoned the idea of a career as a painter. "Even one of my professors told me painting was dead," the tall, elegant woman said with a smile. And her parents weren't too keen on the role of starving artist for their daughter. So she turned to art history and specialization in American art.

Dr. Levin's biography of Hopper, *Edward Hopper: An Intimate Biography* (Alfred A. Knopf), was published around the time of her arrival on the UTC campus. It is the first biography of the artist and is based on heretofore unpublished material, including the diaries kept by Hopper's wife, the artist Josephine Nivison.

The biography has received favorable attention from national publications like Newsweek, the Wall Street Journal and Time. Malcolm Jones Jr., writing in Newsweek, described it as "a book crammed with telling revelations about its subject." And in the Journal, Deborah Solomon termed it a definitive study and "sure to be indispensable to students of the artist's work."

On the face of it, Hopper's life

would appear to be boring, and that's one reason no biography was written prior to hers, Dr. Levin said. Another reason was that during Hopper's lifetime Mrs. Hopper kept any potential biographers at bay.

Hopper's life was far from dull, however, and Dr. Levin over and over brings that to light in her biography. The Hoppers had a love-hate relationship that led to the kind of art that made Hopper's reputation but took its emotional toll on the artist. Mrs. Hopper pushed her husband to paint when he was depressed and devoid of inspiration, and the two were in keen competition with each other. Yet, Hopper didn't like the idea of his wife working as an artist. "It stinks," he said.

"Hopper would have had a much more tranquil life without Jo, and he would have made a lot less art," Dr. Levin said. Someone once said, "She stung him to life."

Hopper is currently the subject of a major exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, and two other books on Hopper are being published by Dr. Levin this fall, *Edward Hopper: A Catalogue Raisonne* (W.W. Norton & Co.) and *The Poetry of Solitude: A Tribute to Edward Hopper* (Universe Books). Dr. Levin was cura-

Dr. Gail Levin

Position: Art historian and authority on American artist Edward Hopper; holder of the American National Bank Chair of Excellence in the Humanities at UTC for the 1995-96 academic year; professor of art history at Baruch College and the Graduate School of the City University of New York
Education: Degrees from Simmons College, Tufts University and Rutgers University; study at the Atlanta College of Art and at the Sorbonne, University of Paris

Published works: Fourteen books, including *Edward Hopper: An Intimate Biography*, *Edward Hopper: A Catalogue Raisonne*, *The Poetry of Solitude: A Tribute to Edward Hopper*, *Hopper's Places*, and *Marsden Hartley in Bavaria*; numerous articles
Family: Dr. Levin is married to Dr. John Van Sickle, professor of literature at the City University of New York.
Other interests: Photography, humanities, gardening

tor of the Whitney's Hopper collection for eight years and began her research for the catalog in 1976 while at the museum.

"Taken together, the show, the biography and the compendious catalog constitute our most complete look yet at a man who was never easy to know," Jones wrote in Newsweek.

Yet the appeal of Hopper is broader than the current flurry of interest sparked by the exhibition and books, Dr. Levin said.

"It is art people can look at and immediately respond to," she said. "The alienation he felt from modern life makes him quintessentially modern."

Hopper bemoaned the decline of the railroad and small towns,

and he hated skyscrapers and airplanes. Yet he didn't shun all modern conveniences, she said. He loved his automobile.

During her year at UTC, Dr. Levin will conduct a series of lectures on Hopper, teach two interdisciplinary courses beginning in January and conduct a symposium in the spring. She also wants to arrange with the UTC Department of Theater and Speech a stage reading of the screenplay based on Hopper's life that she co-authored with her husband, Dr. John Van Sickle.

"I think we would learn a lot from hearing it read," Dr. Levin said with a smile. "Unlike the Hoppers, we have a collaborative marriage."

Lecture series to sketch portrait of Hopper

The Chattanooga Times

Dr. Gail Levin, art historian and holder of the American National Bank Chair of Excellence in the Humanities at UTC, will deliver a series of lectures on American artist Edward Hopper.

Dr. Levin has also organized two Hopper exhibits in Chattanooga.

Dr. Levin will speak on "Edward

Hopper's Formative Years" at 6 p.m. on Tuesday at the Hunter Museum of American Art. She will discuss "Edward Hopper and the American Literary Tradition" at 1 p.m. on Wednesday in the University Center at UTC.

"Edward Hopper and His Silenced Collaborator" will be Dr. Levin's topic at 6 p.m. on Oct. 10 at

the Hunter. And at 1 p.m. on Oct. 11 in the University Center, Dr. Levin will talk about "Edward Hopper's Creative Process and Working Method"

The lectures are free and open to the public.

The Poetry of Solitude: Edward Hopper's Drawings features more than 50 works and is on view at the

Hunter through Oct. 15.

"The Peculiarity of Place," an exhibit of photographs by Dr. Levin from her book *Hopper's Places*, will be shown in the George Ayers Cress Gallery at UTC from Oct. 2-27. An opening reception will take place from 4-6 p.m. on Oct. 11.

For more information, call 755-5206 or 755-4635.