**Make room for Helga**

**Andrew Wyeth exhibit opens at Museum of Art**

By LISA ROSSENSKY

CANTON — Football was not the only attraction drawing people to Canton Sunday.

Wednesday-night local and Terry Nee of Hiram, who drove south to see the most prestigious exhibit open to the public Sunday. The traveling exhibit features 70 of Wyeth's 360 works showing his artistic process and artistic spirit.

Known mostly for his pastoral scenes of rural Pennsylvania and the realism of the Helga paintings, his work is widely popular and enjoyed by people of all ages.

North Canton Middle School art teacher Laura Denton, who was with her husband Don, appreciated the many paintings and oil sketches.

"I really enjoyed the work of the artist," she said. "Don and I have attended several shows over the years and enjoy the art of the Helga paintings." The show opened to the public Sunday and runs through Sept. 19.

"This is my first time seeing any of his works, let alone the Helga series, so it's pretty exciting. I'm familiar with the work, but seeing it in person is awesome." — blonde Payne, an artist and art student at the Museum of Art in Design, said the trip from Columbus for the show was worth it.

"I've always been impressed by the Helga paintings, and I was even more impressed by the artist's process," she said. "I'm really enjoying the way he's using the medium to create such amazing pieces." The show is on display through Sept. 19.

**Appreciating Helga**, Beth Lichtenberg of Canton visits one of the Helga paintings on display as part of "Andrew Wyeth: The Helga Paintings," which opened to the public Sunday at the Canton Museum of Art. The exhibit runs through Sept. 19.

"I thought I'd be standing in a crowd, but it was quiet and peaceful," she said, adding that the paintings were beautiful and moving. "The museum was very calm and peaceful, and I enjoyed the experience very much." The show is on display through Sept. 19.

"Andrew Wyeth: The Helga Paintings" is on display through Sept. 19 at the Canton Museum of Art, 1101 Market Ave. N. The show is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is $8 for adults, $5 for seniors (65 and over) and children ages 5 to 12, and free for children ages 4 and younger. The museum is closed on Monday. For more information, call (513) 831-2000 or visit www.wilsonart.org.

Repository photos by Ray Stewart