



## Legion on parade

American Legion's 10th District holds annual convention and parade in Alliance.

Local/A6

## Nation: Last days

Chrysler dealers scramble to sell cars before closing.

Page/B4

## Sports: Tribe gets win

The Indians only seven games out of first with win over Sox.

Page/B2

Find 24 ads of automobiles for sale in today's classifieds.

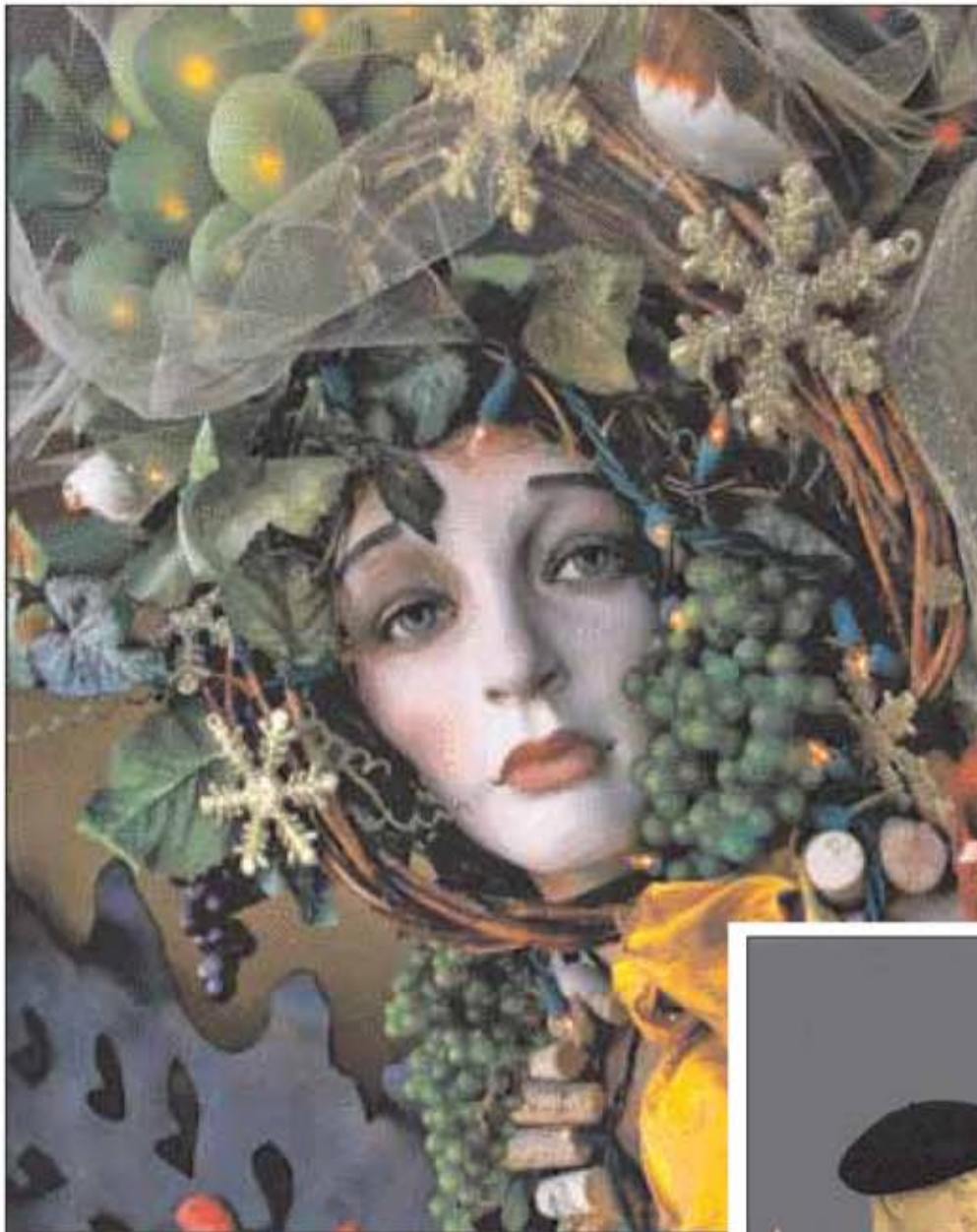
# THE *alliance* REVIEW

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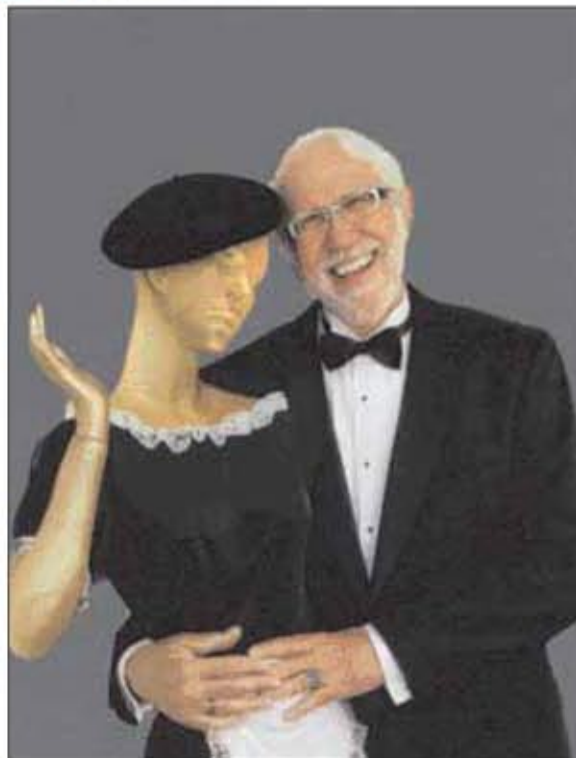
Online  [www.the-review.com](http://www.the-review.com)

Monday, June 8, 2009

## MANNEQUIN MANIA



**LEFT:** The cover of "Mannequin," a book of photography by Alliance native Jim Rauth, pictured below, features photographs of 225 mannequins taken from all over the world. The book, self-published through Wanoka Press in Cincinnati, contains 239 full-color pages. The project began in 2003 while Rauth was on a trip in Paris and soon grew into a passion for the retired purchasing agent. More photos and story appear on Page B8.



Photos Courtesy of Jim Rauth

### Alliance native publishes book of photography

Jim Rauth, who was born and raised in Alliance, is making a huge splash in the media of late with his book of photography titled "Mannequin."

Rauth was featured talking about the book for close to two minutes on an evening segment of the Fox Cincinnati News channel last month, and an article about it recently appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer that was picked up by the Associated Press and USA Today Online.

"Mannequin" would make a perfect cocktail table read. A few images from the book are shown here. See Accent Page B8 for more photos and an in-depth story.

## Former Marine thinks health problems stem from water at LeJeune

By **NANCY WHITAKER**  
*The Review*

David Pennell, 46, of Alliance, loved serving with the United States Marine Corps, and still loves the Marine Corps, but says he feels betrayed.

Attaining the rank of sergeant, Pennell served with the Marines for nine years. Some of the years in the 1980s were spent at Camp LeJeune in Jacksonville, N.C., where it has been learned that between 1958 and 1987 the drinking water was contaminated with several different chemicals.

According to Pennell, who was notified of the problem last year by the U.S. Navy Department, which is funding two studies, including one from the Center for Disease Control's Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to determine if there is an association between exposure to the water and adverse health effects, both in adults and babies in the womb.

In the early 1990s, after he left the Marines, Pennell began working as a truck

See **Marine** Page A3



Review photo/Kevin Grall

Former U.S. Marine David Pennell, 46, of Alliance, suffers from serious health problems he believes stem from contaminated drinking water at Camp LeJeune during the 1980s when he was based there. The Marine Corps cap beside his was given to Pennell by his 10-year-old son, Chris.

# As Seen Through The Glass

Alliance native Jim Rauth publishes book of his photographs of mannequins

By LAURIE HUFFMAN  
The Review

The book "Mannequin," created by Alliance native Jim Rauth, is filled with high-quality photographs of his subjects — which, of course, all happen to be mannequins. While not living, these subjects provided Rauth with vividly colorful and surprisingly soulful pictures that are absolutely filled with life. The life transferred into them from those who created the window dressings in which they are found. From those who designed their exquisite faces and physiques, and those who styled their clothes and hair. And, from the life in the eyes through which we are seeing them — Rauth's.

The photographs Rauth has collected for the book have been snapped in locations across the U.S. and overseas, and they are unique to the point they will stay with the viewer forever. They are both intriguing and artistic as well as upbeat and fun to look at. A few are equally shocking, and at times, some are even disturbing.

Rauth started the book in 2003 during a two-week trip to Paris with his late wife, Ruth. Before it was completed, it had taken him to Germany, Switzerland and Italy and to 14 states in America, including Ohio, Minnesota, Missouri, Tennessee, Florida, California and Arizona. New

York City will be next, he said when interviewed about the book on Friday.

"I would go out late at night in Paris and take pictures. Some of the high-end stores, like Giorgio Armani and Chanel, had really interesting mannequin displays. I had never seen anything like that before," Rauth said.

Rauth took pictures of two of the mannequins in Paris, which are now in his book, and said when he returned home to the U.S., those photos sold really well. He took a few more that he would show to friends at cocktail parties, and he said people found them interesting and would always ask him if he had any more of them. He eventually decided to start a larger project on the subject.



**“ We see mannequins routinely, but they have become like wallpaper. You see the dress or the shirt on them, but you don't actually see the mannequin. ”**

— Jim Rauth

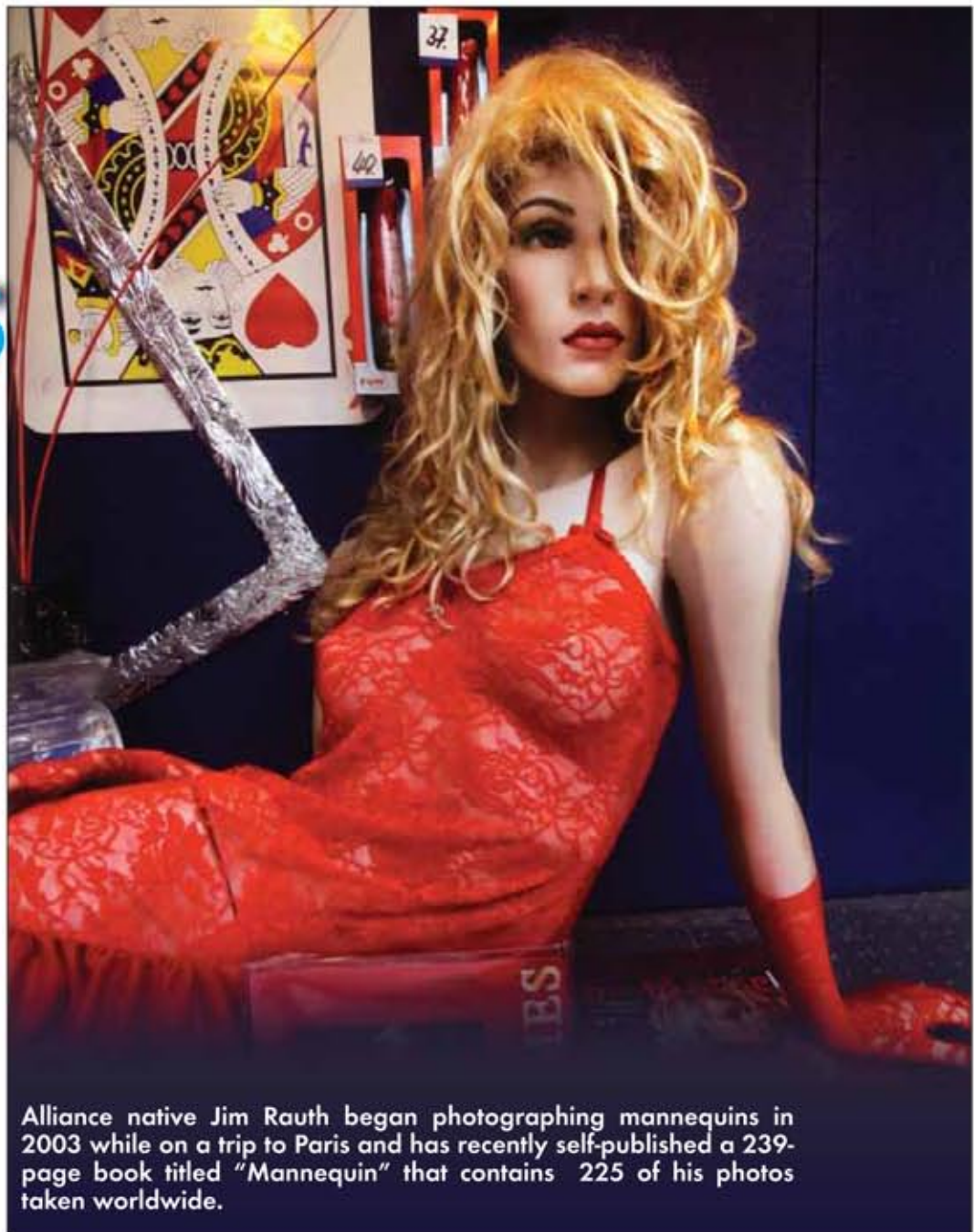
"I did some research and found out there was only one other photography book on mannequins," Rauth said. "It was not something that was done much, and I thought it might just be something that would be interesting to people other than myself and my friends."

"The project ultimately took me to 14 states and four countries. I would go out and look for mannequins across the country and in Europe. I would haunt military surplus stores, antique malls, and resale and clothing and sex shops. I was looking for diversity in how the mannequins were used and I would go anywhere I thought they would be used in an interesting manner."

Rauth's partner on the project, and in life, Diane Syme, did the research for the book. He has also dedicated the book to a business associate who has become a close friend, Oscar River, who prints Rauth's photographs. His friend's studio, River Gallery, in Rising Sun, Ind., is the only location where Rauth's photographs can currently be purchased.

Rauth said he always had an interest in photography, but until he retired from Procter and Gamble, where he worked as a purchasing manager, he did nothing more than the normal travel and family pictures. When he retired, he took two photography workshops in Santa Fe, N.M., and continued to let his passion for the art lead him where it would.

The 225 mannequins featured in his self-published book include female replicas as well as males and also children. The photos are basically untouched. Reflections in the store-front windows are often included and the only retouch-



Alliance native Jim Rauth began photographing mannequins in 2003 while on a trip to Paris and has recently self-published a 239-page book titled "Mannequin" that contains 225 of his photos taken worldwide.

Photos Courtesy of Jim Rauth

ing has been the blurring of certain small details in the background. Approximately 80 percent of the pictures were taken through plate glass store windows.

"We see mannequins routinely, but they have become like wallpaper," Rauth said. "You see the dress or the shirt on them, but you don't actually see the mannequin. The two that I spotted in Paris really caught my eye. I noticed the mannequins more than the clothes."

Rauth believes mannequins stand at a crossroads between art and commerce because of the artistic design of the mannequins themselves and the artistry of the people who use them in a commercial setting. "This book comes with a money-back guarantee," Rauth said near the end of the interview with a chuckle. "If you buy the book, I guarantee you will never look at mannequins they way you did before."

Rauth graduated from Alliance High School in 1957 and is a 1961 graduate of Miami University. At one time he was a carrier for The Alliance Review, where he said he had a large route in the 1950s that he really enjoyed. The person he claims as his best male friend, Bob Shaffer, is general manager of The Alliance Review, and the two get together as often as possible.

Rauth has designed jewelry and also loves architectural design. He and Syme split their time between Florida, Ohio and Minnesota. He is now promoting his new book, but has professed that whether it is a commercial success or not does not matter because he has enjoyed creating it and has met many interesting people along the way. He also loved being able to give a copy to his three children.

He received a letter from the head of the design library at the University of Cincinnati about "Mannequin" that stated, in part, "The photography is excellent. The book is relevant for study of photography, fine arts and fashion. It is a valuable addition to the library's collection."

Rauth said the letter was enough to convince him of the worthiness of his project. The rest is up to the viewer.

