

CRAYONS and COLORED PENCILS

As you may have noticed with the July B&O caboose cartoon, the style of the September cartoon is a little different. There is a reason for that. I thought it might be fun to do a cartoon in a coloring book kind of style. If someone printed a paper copy of the cartoon, they could then participate in the time-lost tradition of stress-free self-expression with a handful of good old Crayola crayons ... well after you have stuck your nose in the box to ignite the memories linked to the scent. (I will still pick up a box for that purpose when in a department store.) But when I finished the July cartoon, I realized that a person would need an entire box of nothing but red crayons to color just the caboose and then most likely would have lost interest by the time the cupola was done! (Why isn't "Cupola Red" a crayon color?)

The idea was inspired by the fact that there are adults renewing an interest in color pencils and crayons for doodling and coloring. Maybe it's not just for kids anymore. There have been small news items attesting to this phenomenon. Perhaps one reason is that it provides an inexpensive escape that is easy to stash back in the desk drawer when the boss walks in.

I tried again this month. The stage is much more varied and would better lend itself to inviting a viewer to enter the infamous *Columbus Railroads School of Cartoon Colorization: Class 101*. Perhaps future cartoons with a stronger railroad theme will come, if you like them.

So, try it! If you feel the need to hide this venture back to adolescence, then no one need know. But then again, you may find when you are finished, you march into the kitchen yank the magnet from the grocery list and mount your masterpiece to the frig, where all great works of art belong! ...I wonder, did Michaelangelo's parents have a refrigerator?

WBW

