

Is it a photo or a painting?

It was originally a photo, and it was later painted in oils.

What's the name of the painting?

“Grace.”

Who is the man in the photo?

Charles Wilden, a peddler who sold foot-scrappers.

What year was it taken?

1918.

Who took the photo?

Eric Enstrom.

Where was it taken?

In Enstrom's photography studio in [Bovey, Minnesota](#).

What happened?

Wilden, selling foot-scrappers, called upon Enstrom. Enstrom was in the midst of preparing a portfolio of photos for the upcoming Minnesota Photographer's Association convention. Wilden agreed to be photographed, and Enstrom arranged a table with a bread, a knife, a bowl of gruel, spectacles, and a Bible, asking Wilden to bow in prayer. Enstrom later said, “I wanted to take a picture that would show people that even though they had to do without many things because of the war they still had much to be thankful for.”

Who did the oil painting?

Enstrom's daughter, Mrs. Rhoda Nyberg of Coleraine, Minnesota. She painted numerous paintings of the original photo.

What about the similar picture of the old woman bowed in prayer?

It, too, is a photo, called “Gratitude,” taken in the 1960s by Jack Garren, who owned a Christian bookstore in Centralia, Illinois. The subject is Mrs. Myrtle Copple (d. 1975), and the photo was designed to complement “Grace.” The two are often packaged together: “Grace and Gratitude.”