



**“Ol’Roff” – Roff M. Graves**  
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**R**off was born on June 8, 1936, in Shamrock, Texas. Presently he resides in Stockton, CA, with his wife, Arlene.

Roff is an Air Force veteran who served in Korea. He had a successful career in law enforcement and as a state investigator. He retired in 1992, to devote himself full-time to the Graves Country Gallery, in Lodi, CA. He sold early American antiques, and folk/outsider art. The gallery opened in the mid 1980’s, and was successful until its forced closure in 2012. The closure was due to a massive pituitary tumor, resulting in a not 100% successful surgery. Roff was left with an inoperable portion of the tumor in his brain that affects his vision, his balance, and short-term memory.

In the mid 1970’s Roff bought his first folk art painting from a folk artist just becoming known, the beloved Clementine Hunter. The hook was set. Roff started chasing folk art and southern pottery. He traveled extensively in the south making friends with such great artists as the Reverend Howard Finster, Bernice Sims, Jimmy Lee Sud-duth, and many others. He also became acquainted with great southern potters such as Bobby Ferguson, Roger Hicks, the blind potter, and Chester Hewell. During those years he was known as “Country”.

In addition to his gallery in Lodi Roff also sold at the California Country Show, and at Folk Fest in Atlanta, GA.

Sometime in the mid 1990’s potter Josh Boock dubbed Roff as “Ol’Roff”. That name stuck, and to this day he is known as “Ol’Roff”.

“Ol’Roff” always wanted to paint. He envied the talent of the artists, but try as he might he had absolutely no talent for painting. It was early in 2014, at the age of 77 turning 78 he decided to once again try his hand at painting. The only thing different about this attempt was the tumor in his brain. This time painting was almost automatic. Colors flowed and a painting was created. He has not stopped painting since. So far he has produced almost 100 paintings. Most of his work has been given to close friends and family, as well as disabled children, or

families in need. He has not been willing to sell even one painting, although he has been asked to sell his art many times. He has paintings throughout the United States, England, and Croatia. His dream has been realized.



*Ellie Tamming — By Ol’Roff*



*Around and Around — By Ol’Roff*