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February 2010 Newsletter Update

Sunday morning across America from Graves Gallery California! What a great place to be!

The gallery has taken off sales wise like a wild fire! We are so thankful as it seems like we had quite a long inactive time. Ninety percent of our sales are through the website.

I speak with Bernice Sims often. She and I have been close for about 15 years now. She is presently working on a painting that I hope to buy. I anticipate her work to continue to increase in value. She is now 83 years old.



I can't leave the work of Steven Chandler alone. He seems to know when I have a dollar in my pocket as he comes up with a painting that I can't resist. This time it is one of his rare portraits "Malcolm". I am paying him \$450. for the painting so for you folks who think that galleries buy for almost nothing, please revise your thinking.

This guy is one of my favorite artists!

And while we are discussing buying anything over the Internet, please be advised that I, personally, am involved with buying a \$1,000. piece of art that is not correct and you would be crazy to buy it from me. As the dispute is going on right now I will not disclose the facts---note I am the ignorant buyer who bought the painting. And please note that I have 35 years plus experience buying and I can still be had! (I am mad at me). Paypal is handling the dispute. I will say more in my next newsletter! Be sure when you are spending your hard earned money to spend it with someone you can trust!



And speaking of that, another bad deal that I was taken on, and you may be next! Here is a photo of a 3-gallon jug that I won at an Eastern Auction. The crock is great but take a look at the box the jug was shipped to me in by a UPS Packing Store. The box is 29" x 29" x 29"—big enough for a small refrig! I caution you—know your shipper! I took this shipper on and he decided to refund approx ½ of my shipping fees. His check back to me was \$68. How sad! This hurts us all! It was at least twice the size box it should have been



The good news is that not all UPS packing stores are out for our last dollar. There are great UPS packing storeowners who you can truly trust. I want you to meet Don Parker, holding a 1790s jug that I shipped. This guy is 100% trustworthy! KNOW YOUR SHIPPER—ALWAYS GET A QUOTE BEFORE YOU BUY IF THE ITEM IS TO BE SHIPPED! Please note: Don is located in Lodi and Spanos Center.



Now tell me! Across America, can you believe there is a beautiful young woman who has lived her entire life in San Francisco and has never driven a car! Now that is exciting. She is even an artist and a business entrepreneur. And her name is Posey Tibbon— <http://greenstyled.com>

She is such fun to talk with. I added her as a link to my website!



I have been asked to share some of my travels with you. I wish you would let me know what folk artist you would like to hear about. One of my favorite people was Reverend W. C. Rice. I loved this man and his wife Marzel. I have stayed in their home and ate Southern Fried Chicken with them! What a great cook Marzel is!

I have been asked, “Was he really a preacher?” I say to you, he was one hella preacher! Here he is about 10 years ago with two of my granddaughters, Kimmy and Angela



I write often about this great guy that I sometimes try to mimic and I just get booed. I just can't pull anything off like he can. He is our friend Joe Adams of America oh Yes! I am going to get you this time, Joe! One thing he loved to do was to compare tongues. Yes, compare tongues! Here he is at Kentuck in around 1997 with Arleney and Sharon Johnson (the great disappearing great folk artist) comparing tongues! (Hey Joe! How photos manage to pop up years later!)



And now to say good- bye with good news--- Myles Cobbin from the battlefield of Afghanistan is the proud new father of baby Addy, born to her mother, the beautiful Holly Corbin of Albuquerque. God! How much we love them! Won't daddy have a prize waiting for his return in April!

Thank you so much Myles. America is great because of young men like you! And thank you to Holly, the young wife awaiting his return!

And in closing I have to throw out this comment to someone I finally broke down and sold one of my favorite paintings to. He lives in New York and is a well-known author, Richard Kalich. He is probably reading this smiling---don't forget what you told me Dick. I quote you, "It is a nice homey letter." So please keep reading, Dick!

Good-bye until March

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