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July 19, 2010

July 2010 Update on a hot Lodi Summer Day

This day commenced early this morning when I attempted to write this update letter something went wrong. I am still trying and it is about 10 hours later.

This is a very trying time for the gallery. An IRS audit has placed a damper on our spirits. I am as honest as can be but an equally bad records keeper. We have Laura Strombom of All About Numbers representing us. She is very qualified and we are so happy to have her!

Recently I decided to close the gallery and asked for God's help in guiding me. I went ahead and requested help from three people last Monday morning. Here is what happened: Pedro was too ill because of a spider bite, Ynette had to move upstairs in her apartment because of a water pipe breaking, and Jeffery phoned to tell me that he perhaps injured his back while water boarding the prior day. I had no help! Now tell me, was God trying to tell me something!

July 15<sup>th</sup> was the first meeting with IRS. One big question—We have never made money in the gallery so aren't we really just a hobby? I took several photos of the outside and inside of our gallery building—over 2,000 square feet of display. I showed that our website gallery represents 47 artists, 53 categories, and has 351 pieces of art for sale. Laura told us that IRS is going to consider us a business. This is major! We will not know what lies ahead until about Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. We know that we are in good hands with Laura and we know that our God watches over us!



So we carry on. I spoke with the beloved Bernice Sims. She has arthritis but is still painting. She is planning on being at Kentuck in October. She sends her love. She is now 84 years old.



I have always been interested in the paintings of Levent Isik. I came across him on Facebook and contacted him. He is now represented by Graves Country Gallery. This is the first painting I bought from him. It sold immediately. It is called "The Red Train" and found a home in Falmouth, Ma.



There is a doctor down in Florida who is so interested in folk art! I don't see how he has time to practice medicine. He is fun. His letters are fun! You may want to get on his list by emailing him at [cheesedb@aol.com](mailto:cheesedb@aol.com) . Here is just one paragraph. WHY DO I HAVE TO SUFFER FOR MY ART?!!!!

Usually it's just the odd cut or abrasion a combination of too sharp blades and too thin skin. (I kinda dig the blood on my benches. It's my fantasy that

one day when my art is world famous my pieces can be authenticated by the DNA of my bloody paw prints. As Billy sang sometime a fantasy is all you need.) But today it was a broken toe."

His website is <http://www.marks-ark.com>

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 In Albuquerque, New Mexico there is a young woman, age 16, who loves art. Her name is Brienna Griffin. She is often on Facebook and I am told that she is an excellent artist SO here is an invitation for her to introduce herself to the art world. I will publish a painting by her and a photo of her. Won't it be fun! Keep painting Brienna!

Now for a funny happening! Now I am a little bit obese and I have long gray hair. A few evenings ago I was out to dinner with Albert and Angela when this nice lady came up to me. "Sir, My little girl thinks that you are Santa Claus." I went to the table where she was and gently said a hello and "Merry Christmas". I returned to our table, took out a \$1.00 bill and went back to the little girl. I handed her the \$1.00 bill and wished her a Merry Christmas. In a sweet little voice she replied. "Thank you Santa". It made my evening and I am sure she will remember it forever. -Beautiful Memories!

Back to art! Bruce Azevedo had spent much of his life in prison. When he is not in prison he would be exploring the beaches of the San Joaquin Delta and would be scrounging antiques from the farmers of the Delta where he grew up. He is now trying to go straight and has taken up carving. He uses driftwood and other items found on the Delta. Here you see his Sabre Tooth Tiger Shark. It was carved from driftwood and the teeth are from the carcass of a Sea Lion. Bruce is giving away a small turtle that he carved. In [www.gravescountry.com](http://www.gravescountry.com) gallery there is one item with Bruce's last name misspelled. The first person who emails me how his name is misspelled will receive the turtle. ALSO I will give 20% off of all of Bruce's carvings from now through the month of August! I will also split the shipping 50/50.



Paul and Diane Maupin lives in North eastern Oregon. They are old friends and customers of Ours. Diane should have been a professional writer. Here is a excerpt from the last letter:

July 10, 2010

Swimming With Snakes!



Well, one snake anyway! I saw it right away. Who could not recognize that famous oval head and beady eyes? It was a Rubber Boa, not well known. It wriggled it's way through the water from one side of the river to the other, effortlessly pushing it's long body through a rather strong current. It looked to be about 2 feet in length, gray with a yellowish underside. It swam elegantly, undaunted in it's urgent quest to make it to the other side. I just happened to be swimming up stream, mid center when we spied each other. The Boa probably thought I was like nothing it had ever seen before, a monster of grotesque proportions I'm sure! He definitely noticed me too!

I caught up with the Boa but kept a small distance as I inspected this great swimmer, the ease and art of born swimmer! It's body mimicked the shape and lapping of gray waves created by the wind, winding and pushing it's gray body left and right but always forward with great speed. The few minutes it took for him to make it to the other side seemed only a few seconds as I got a brief taste of "Wild America" on location. It was awesome!

I have no idea why the lay out of this letter is so jumbled but I have spent at least 12 hours preparing it. In total frustration I am giving up but not before I reward someone for being patient enough to read it. I will give a book "God's Lunatics" by one of my favorite authors to the first person emailing back to me, naming the book.

May God bless and keep you safe

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