

**Graves Country**  
15 North Cherokee lane  
Lodi, California 95240  
Ph# 209 473 7089 (home)  
Ph# 209 368 5740 (gallery)  
[graves@gravescountry.com](mailto:graves@gravescountry.com)  
[www.gravescountry.com](http://www.gravescountry.com)



October 20, 2010

October 2010 Newsletter

Lets start with a free gift to some one—then at the end of the letter there will be another one.

If you will go to [www.gravescountry.com](http://www.gravescountry.com) and then go to the gallery section or the artist section and click on **Fred Griffing and /or Homeless Artist**, choose either painting.

**Then guess a number between one and**



**500 and email me. The closest number received by Saturday, Oct 22, at noon, California time, will win. No more than two entries per person please. My email is [graves@gravescountry.com](mailto:graves@gravescountry.com) (note: everyone is eligible to win)**

**Fred Griffing** died last Wednesday, October 12, 2010. Fred was a great artist. I hope that he is finally warm in the winter and cool in the summer. It is my prayer for him that he is in a kinder, more peaceful place!



**Kentuck** down in Tuscaloosa, Alabama just finished. Arlene and I used to look forward to going. Health issues have prevented us for several years. I understand that it was beautiful weather. Saturday was crowded and sales were fine. Sunday was less people and fewer sales. **Bernice Sims** actually went home with a few paintings. **Sam McMillan** and **Shane Campbell** were not there.

**Sam McMillan** was telling me that he is having feet problems and his driver was not able to take him. He told me that it was his first time to miss in 19 years.

Very Important! **Slotin Folk Art** auction catalog is out. It is great! For a wonderful **FREE** Copy email [auction@slotinfofolkart.com](mailto:auction@slotinfofolkart.com) or phone 770 532-1115 or 404 403-4244.



Do you remember that neat young black woman I introduced to the world of Folk Art back many years ago? I am been asked by so many of you, “Where is **Sharon Johnson**?”

Well, **Sharon Johnson Williams** is alive and well. She lives with her husband in a small town near Nashville, Tenn. He manages a Wal-Mart near there. She will soon be sending images of the work she is presently doing.



Being as it is Halloween, I thought I would let you know that our **Little Ghost Boy**” is “alive” and well, and at peace, in our home. He rests on our kitchen wall where his picture enjoys the companionship of our African Gray Parrot, Sweetie. We have shared many good times and his picture will be passed down in our family, never to be sold!

Here is a small picture I took a few years ago: I was going to take a recent one but just didn’t want to bother him.

I don’t believe I ever shared this letter but I am going to try to copy and paste it so here goes! It is a letter from the woman whom I purchased the picture from.

### **LITTLE GHOST BOY**

SO FREAKY!

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**I NEVER BELIEVED IN THIS STUFF BEFORE BUT I SURE DO NOW. THIS IS WHAT I KNOW ABOUT THIS PICTURE. THIS IS A PICTURE OF A LITTLE BOY FROM SOUTH LOUISIANA WHO HAD HEMOPHILIA. IT WAS MADE JUST WEEKS BEFORE HIS DEATH. THE WOMAN I BOUGHT IT FROM GOT IT FROM THE DAUGHTER OF A VERY ELDERLY WOMAN WHO HAD PASSED AWAY. SHE WAS 99 WHEN SHE PASSED AWAY LAST DECEMBER. HER DAUGHTER SAID**

**SHE'D LOVED TO TALK ABOUT HER LIFE GROWING UP IN THE FRENCH QUARTER. THE BOY WAS HER MOTHER'S OLDEST BROTHER LOUIS WHO HAD DIED OF HEMOPHILIA. HER MOM HAD TOLD HER THAT THE FAMILY HAD BEEN ON A PICNIC WHEN THE LITTLE BOY CUT HIS FOOT. HE SIMPLY BLED TO DEATH BEFORE ANYONE COULD GET HIM TO THE DOCTOR OR STOP THE BLEEDING.**

**WHEN I CAME ACROSS THIS PICTURE AT THIS WOMANS ESTATE SALE THIS WAS THE HISTORY GIVEN TO ME. SHE SAID SHE HAD TO WARN ME THOUGH AND SAID THAT SHORTLY AFTER RECEIVING IT FROM THE DAUGHTER OF THIS ELDERLY WOMAN, STRANGE THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN. SHE SAID SHE'D HEARD A CHILD LAUGHING SEVERAL TIMES AT NIGHT AND SHE HAD NO CHILDREN IN HER HOME. SHE ALSO KEEPS TOYS IN A CUPBOARD FOR HER GRANDCHILDREN WHEN THEY COME TO VISIT. ONE OF WHICH IS A HAPPY APPLE CHIME TOY AND ONE NIGHT SHE HEARD THE CHIME TOY DINGING AND ROLLING AROUND ON THE FLOOR AND GOT UP TO SEE. SHE FOUND THE CUPBOARD DOOR OPEN AND ALL OF THE TOYS ON THE FLOOR AS IF THEY HAD JUST BEEN PLAYED WITH. SHE WAS ALONE IN THE HOUSE. I THOUGHT SHE WAS FULL OF IT AND BOUGHT IT ANYWAY BECAUSE IT IS REALLY A VERY CHARMING PRIMITIVE THAT IS OBVIOUSLY AN ANTIQUE AND THE PRICE WAS RIGHT.**

**WELL I NEVER BELIEVED IN GHOSTS OR SPIRITS WHEN I BOUGHT THIS FROM HER AND SIMILAR THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING NOW IN MY HOME. ONE DAY WHEN I ASKED MY 3 YEAR OLD WHO MADE SUCH A MESS IN HER ROOM I EXPECTED HER TO SAY IT WAS HERSELF OR HER FRIEND AMY. SHE SAID "IT WAS THAT LITTLE BOY!". I ASKED HER WHAT LITTLE BOY AND SHE SAID, "THAT BOY THAT'S ALL IN HIS DRESS UP'S WITH THE BIG BLACK BOOTS"! MY SKIN CRAWLED AS I REMEMBERED WHAT THE WOMAN HAD TOLD ME SO I ASKED MY OTHER KIDS WHAT THEY KNEW ABOUT IT AND MY SON TRAVIS SAID HE DIDN'T LIKE THE LITTLE BOY BECAUSE HE SCARED HIM. WHEN I ASKED IF IT WAS THE PICTURE OF THE BOY HE WAS SCARED OF HE SAID 'MAKE HIM LEAVE MY TOYS ALONE. I DON'T LIKE HIM IN MY ROOM. HE SMILES SCARY". MY 2 OTHER OLDER DAUGHTERS THEN TOLD ME THEY'D SEEN HIM IN THEIR ROOMS TOO AT NIGHT. SUFFICE IT TO SAY I BELIEVE NOW AND IT'S TOO WEIRD FOR ME!**

**I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT I TOO HAVE HEARD THINGS THOUGH I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM. I JUST HAVE TO GET RID OF THIS PICTURE AS CHARMING AND VALUABLE AS IT IS SO PLEASE TAKE IT OFF MY HANDS! I CAN ONLY HOPE HE WILL GO WHEREVER HIS PICTURE DOES.**

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You will have to believe what you want. We enjoy “**The Little Ghost Boy**” thoroughly and that is all that I can tell you. Oh yes, we have had a few fun experiences with him And that will be another story!



It was a couple of days ago that I spoke with an old friend, **Marzell Rice**. She was the wife of **Reverend W. C. Rice**, creator of the **Miracle Cross Gardens** in Prattsville, Alabama. He passed away in 2007, I believe. They are special friends whom I stayed with a couple of times when I was down there. She makes the best biscuits and fried chicken in the world! She and their family members are still maintaining the Cross Gardens. It is a wonderful place to visit. And I can attest, he was one heck of a preacher and a good friend!



In Finale, for the final prize, I have decided to give a carving by **Bruce Azevedo**. This is a very cute bird. To win this small carving just come in second place with the number you submitted for the painting. Bruce is an excellent carver. You will love this bird!---

Winners will be notified immediately.

So, I will say thank you for being patient with this letter and the format. I will probably never do it correctly!

oIRoff

