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February 2011 Newsletter
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For the first time in many years, I failed to send out a newsletter for the month for the month of January—So Happy New Year! Nothing happened—just got lazy.

This morning I am dealing with a gallery (closed) in the East. I purchased two paintings from them on January 22nd and January 25th. My latest email from them was today. They are looking for a box large enough to ship the paintings in and asked me to be patient. Folks, you will NEVER have that to contend with when you are dealing with me. I promise!

Right now we are getting ready to start hanging the paintings on the wall again and rebuild the gallery. I hope to actually reopen the gallery for business in a few weeks. Right now it is “catch me if you can”.

I have two new Sudduths and two Finsters coming in. One of the Finsters is a 1988 Angel cut-out, very nice.



And of course we have paintings by the wonderful Sharon Johnson coming in continually. Her paintings are loved by all.

I am framing them in some very special frames. Here is one that will go to a lucky reader of this newsletter.

I recently spoke with Bernice Sims by phone. She turned 84 years old last Christmas Day. She did not sound well. She asked that I relay her love to all of her friends. She is seldom painting now.

A few years ago I was ordained a “preacher” by a church in Fresno, California. I did it for fun as I have no religious affiliation, although I truly believe in God. Well, last Saturday I conducted a wedding ceremony and joined Bruce Azevedo and his lovely bride, Dena in marriage. It was another first for me. I found it to be quite spiritual. I was hoping to have photos but never received them.



There is a homeless man named Tennessee. I recently gave him money for a guitar. I have known him for a few years and have find him interesting. He sang a song for me. I have no idea if it was good or not but I enjoyed it. If the gallery is

ever reopened I will ask him to sing once in a while.



And I tell you folks, I question my ability as an “expert” as I too can be had once in a while. A couple of months ago I bought this great Finster bib. I made a pretty good buy and I was going to phone a collector friend of mine. Well a couple of days ago I saw its identical twin on ebay. The wording number, everything was identical! I was had! The person selling the bib a few days ago on ebay talked about them being made and sold at Paradise Gardens as souvenirs. At least I got a “good souvenir”.

Recently this email was sent to me by Paulette Mannings. I will share it—wish I could attend!

Well, I know that is really a long shot, but I just viewed your work on FB and thought that I would invite you to join us for Art At The Barn, Saturday, May 7 here on Sweet Seasons Farm- located At Valley Head, Al. We are about 40mins.

south of Chattanooga. This is our third annual show, and this years is really going to be big. We are one of the oldest and largest sheep farms in Alabama. And that alone seems to bring the crowds from the cities. As I said, I know it is a long shot to get you here, but just maybe if you are coming this way or maybe you have family that you would like to visit??? Oh well, If possibly you might be interested just let me know. Thanks, Paulette Manning Oh yeah, I really like your work!!

I want to remind you that I am always looking for paintings by Reverend Finster, Jimmy Sudduth, Bernice Sims, and early Sharon Johnson (signed Sharon Johnson). I pay well and always try to have some in the gallery.

I almost forgot, for you antique lovers, I am again buying great primitives for the gallery. I have some new items that are just beyond expectations!

I guess it is time to close. The Sharon Johnson painting shown herein will go to the first person who emails me with the name of Sharon's son. You can find it on the website www.gravescountry.com--look under artists.



Take care—And may God be with you and protect you!

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