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May 7,2011

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Newsletter Update for May 2011

I got so busy trying to pay bills and keep everything going that April slipped by without a newsletter being sent out.



This month's gifts will be pretty good. There will be two. The first will be the Elephant Tote bag by Sharon Johnson. One like it is shown here being modeled by Our great-granddaughter, Anais in Spain. It retails for \$165. (Have you seen the movie, "Water for Elephants?" It is a really good movie)

Isn't Anais cute?



The second gift is one that you will all enjoy. It is a painting (retail value \$150.) by one of the best folk artists in the country, Steven Chandler. Steven is one of my most favorite artists! He lives in Georgia with his lovely wife LeEllen and equally lovely daughter, Sienna. He is known as "The Georgia Red mud Artist."

If you haven't already noticed, www.gravescountry.com has a red banner on the front page of the website. If you really want one of the two prizes please go to the website, look at the banner and email me back at graves@gravescountry.com. with the date of the drawing that will be held for the two prizes. That will automatically enter you. All are encouraged to enter—no exclusions.

And on with the newsletter.

About the furthest thing from my mind was to represent another artist but playing around with the computer as my wife will tell you I do 10 hours a day, I came across these two Creole sisters in Louisiana. The two are Karen Foret Franks and Connie Foret Summers. You can find their paintings on our website.

The one I want to Karen. She paints She refers to one as and the second as first took me Hook, fisherman would impressed and will do next. She is paintings 100% her loneliness you in. You want to comfort. She brings you to her world by a young family abandoned and the mother walking down the road with her two children toward a better life "Gateway To Hope". Arlene grabbed this one and said it's going to Salt Lake City before I could sell it to a paying customer!



tell you about today is two types of paintings. "Primitive Impressionist" "Black Folks Art". The Line, and Sinker—as a say. I am totally anxious to see what she a lonely woman and her reflect it. You can sense immediately and it pulls hold her and bring her



One that recently sold to Doctor Ken and Jill Miller is “Heartbroken”. This one tells the story of a young woman standing lonely under a cypress Tree. In the background is an empty house (dark windows). She is now alone. You can sense and feel her loneliness. I only wish you could see the painting as I can’t bring the actual beauty of the painting to you. My photography is just not good enough. In the painting the young woman is more distinctive.

In the most recent painting the young woman is shown as a ghost or spirit traveling thru the swamps, waiting, hoping, and searching for her lover who went into the swamp years ago. He never returned to her.---wonderful painting—full of feeling! Wow, I hope the two connect! This painting is not yet for sale on the website.



Now we come to that great new Yankee Potter, Jason Mahlke. He has cost me money! The 5 or 6 jugs I purchased from him were placed in a showcase with Michel Bayne’s and Peter Lenzo’s. They immediately became fiends and asked me not to breakup that friendship. So they are now in my private collection—not for sale. I am sure you have heard the term, “The Devil Made Me Do It”---well the devil did!

There exists a Tramp Art frame that cost me \$260. The wonderful, warm Folk Artist, Sharon Johnson, is now painting a painting to go into that frame. I can hardly wait to see it.

Again the word wonderful! And he is Peter Lenso. He is still alive and holding his own. Peter, we love you! I was lucky enough to purchase another one of his jugs—directly from him! Peter, You have contributed so much!

Do you remember my fourteen year old granddaughter, Angela, who gave birth to a baby. Well the baby is seven years old. A great event is going to happen next month—her college graduation, her wedding to the baby's father, and lots of good things. I will report on it next month.

I am hoping to reopen on a regular basis in June. It will be every Friday and Saturday from 10:30am to 4:30pm.

In closing I must mention two great places to visit in or near the Lodi area.

First is the Old Bean Barn in Linden—open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday—great primitive antiques

And

Second is the Robin Knowlton Gallery in Lodi—the best fine art gallery anywhere—well worth the visit—see Robin's website--

www.knowltongallery.com

See you next month! Don't forget to check the red banner on the front page of the website!

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