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This is our Newsletter for May/June 2012



Lets talk about the fun stuff first. I have added a business facebook page. It is under Graves Country Gallery. I would appreciate it if you could check it out and “Like” it. The next prize will be given in conjunction with facebook. It is a really great Rattlesnake bank by the master Potter Michel Bayne. Its value is \$100. I will tell you how to win it later in this newsletter.

I apologize for not writing a newsletter sooner but my daughter, Missy- age 45 has been fighting lung cancer. Those of you who have been afflicted or had family members afflicted by cancer know how hard it is. It takes a whole family and friends to fight the battle. She is a non-smoker—a vegetarian—SDA. It came as a total shock to us all. Right now she is fighting scar tissue growth following the cancer removal. We need your thoughts and prayers.

About antiques, we have a gallery full of both American Primitive Antiques and Folk Art. For once it is presentable and ready for your visit (thanks to Albert Alvarez). We are going to start giving antiques as monthly prizes, rotating with folk art. You ask how we can continue to do this—simple, we own the gallery and it is our form of advertising .



Within the last hour I spoke with our Beloved Bernice Sims. She is a dear friend and a wonderful folk artist—the only folk artist I know who has been honored with a US Postal Stamp. She is 86 years old and still painting now and then. She will be at Kentuck in Tuscaloosa, Alabama this October.

Alert –alert—just received word that Gregory Warmack (Mr Imagination) died—Another great artist has left our presence! Rest In Peace Mr Imagination. So very sorry!



I always say I am not going to take the work of any more folk artists in our gallery then along comes someone who I enjoy as a person and as an artist. Such as man is Texas Fiddler Howard Rains. Look at this large acrylic titled “The Meeting”. This painting hooked me! Welcome to our gallery, Howard!

We have people who are dear to us but we kind of know they will always be there so we don't say hello as much as we should. Such as friend was my dear friend Vivian Gatzert. She was an antique collector/dealer and an artist. I took her work to Folk Fest in either 1997 or 1998. She was almost exactly 20 years my senior and much smarter than me. I did not know she had passed away until I learned it from an auctioneer who was conducting her estate sale. (Shame on me!). This morning I wept when I read her granddaughter's, Bene Gatzert's blog so I will add this tidbit:

Vivian counseled me in my first marriage and divorce

Vivian chastised me in my second marriage

Vivian praised me in my third marriage

I loved Vivian!

So now her comes the fun part! This is going to take a little bit of guessing and reading. You can find the info on our website under “Links” check out Lizzie Borden. Ever since my childhood I have heard the following tune:

**Lizzie Borden took an axe  
And gave her mother forty whacks.  
When she saw what she had done  
She gave her father forty-one**

**So tell me:**

- (1) Did Lizzie then die by firing squad**
- (2) Did Lizzie die by hanging**
- (3) Did Lizzie die from natural causes**
- (4) Was this just a legend**

**If you email [graves@gravescountry.com](mailto:graves@gravescountry.com) the right answer your name will be placed in a drawing for the bank. On June 8<sup>th</sup> the prize will be awarded.**

**Meanwhile—Until next time, may God Bless and Keep You!**

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