

Lowell Davis Collectors Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 1

October – December 2010

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Greetings from Lowell



Greetings, my friends!

It seems like the fall just flew by this year and it's my favorite time to again bring you another issue of my Collectors

Newsletter. This is issue marks the 5th year of my new Collectors Newsletter.

I am so happy to say that I am painting again. I had been worried about what I was going to do to keep myself occupied through the winter as I cannot do the outdoor work that I enjoy doing in the other seasons. But I have found a way to support my arm and wrist that gives me the control that I need to get the fine detail in my paintings. This newsletter includes a number of my recent paintings so you will see what I have been able to create this fall.

In this issue you will find the latest updates on Red Oak II renovations, my story of Otis' Cabin, a preview of a new building we are hoping to relocate to Red Oak II and several articles on one of my favorite subjects, crows. Also there are articles on my recent and past paintings, Dalton Gang book, 2011 art calendar and several of my figurines.

Brian Tearne is the winner of my 2010 Q4 Collectors Quiz. Brian is our first winner from Canada! His prize is a Lowell Davis "Pigeon" egg holder distributed by Schmid. Be sure to try your hand at the 2011 Q1 quiz.

If you or someone else that you know is not on the list to receive my newsletter and, please send us an email: lowelldaviscollectors@att.net. You can view and download all issues of my newsletter at: www.redoakiimissouri.com.

I hope you will visit Red Oak II sometime in 2011.

Your friend,

Lowell Davis

Red Oak II Updates



After a very busy summer of renovation work at Red Oak II, things slowed down in the fall as the weather was less favorable for outdoor work:

New Roof on the Mule Barn

The mule barn at Red Oak II has a brand spanking new wooden shingle roof on it.



New wood shingle roof on Mule Barn

Lowell provided the following story behind the Red Oak II mule barn.

“The mule barn was donated to Red Oak II by the Sarcoxie Flower Nursery. The Sarcoxie Flower Nursery produces hundreds of acres of peonies, gladiolas and irises and ships them all over the United States. The nursery had used mules instead of horses to cultivate between the rows of flowers because mules are very sure footed and stay in the aisles between the rows of plants, not trampling the flowers. Horses, on the other hand, would not follow the aisles and end up trampling the flowers. When the nursery switched from mules to tractors, they no longer needed the mule barn and donated it to Red Oak II.”

Lowell says thanks to Lois and Larry Frickenschmidt for putting a new roof on the Red Oak II mule barn which should save it for another 30 years.

Frank Stafford's Radiator Repair Shop

Before the weather turned cold, we did get the slab poured for the Radiator Repair Shop which will be on the service road behind the Red Oak II General Store.



Frame for Slab for Radiator Repair Shop



Pouring Slab for Radiator Repair Shop



Finished Slab for Radiator Repair Shop

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We will move the building in in the spring when the weather improves.

We continue to explore the history of this building by talking to locals and researching records. We had confirmation from Jim French who at one time was the owner of tire store at the corner of South Fulton and East Central (MO 96) in Carthage. He recalls this being a radiator repair shop on South Fulton and that it had a forge. At that time there was a one pump service station on the corner.

Otis' Cabin

(formerly the Mother-In-Law's House)

Almost all of the buildings at Red Oak II were moved in from other locations and restored on site except for the Mother-In-Law's House and Marshall Hookers Office which were newly designed and created by Lowell Davis. Lowell related the following story about the Mother-In-Law's House.

Back in the 1980's when the houses at Red Oak II were being used as Bed and Breakfasts, the furniture and decorations in the houses were all in their original period. When guests would come to spend a weekend in one of the Bed and Breakfasts and bring their mother-in-law with them, being as the Mother-In-Law's House had a drawbridge to get to it, they could put her in the Mother-In-Law's House, run the drawbridge up and enjoy their weekend.

In more recent times, the Mother-In-Law's House has been repainted to be a rustic cabin and Lowell has renamed it as Otis' Cabin after Otis the bull frog

that lives in the pond which surrounds the cabin.



Otis' Cabin

This is a very popular and one of the most photographed buildings at Red Oak II. Be sure to check it out when you visit Red Oak II next time and say "Hi" to Otis.

New Building for Red Oak II

One of Lowell's favorite breakfast spots is Judy's in Jasper MO. On the way to Judy's, Lowell likes to take the county roads and often passes a charming, abandoned farm house on Baseline Road to the North of Red Oak II.



Abandoned Farm House on Baseline Road

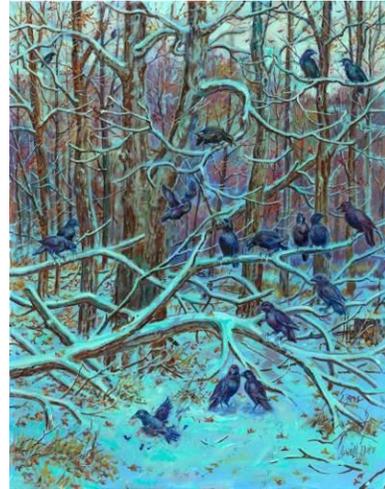
Lowell has often thought that this farm house would make a nice addition to Red Oak II and we have begun exploring the possibility. As you can see from the photo, the exterior is weathered

but the building appears to be quite sound structurally. What Lowell is thinking about doing is preparing a foundation for the building, moving the building to Red Oak II and making it available for someone to restore for their own use. Interested?

The Crow's Funeral

A good majority of Lowell's paintings are based on his life experiences, things in his growing up years or about happenings out of his back door. He feels when an artist paints his/her life, the paintings have soul. To demonstrate this, he related the following story behind his painting, The Crow's Funeral.

"One winter day my dad and I were walking through the woods. The fresh snow on the ground made had turned the woods into a winter wonderland. As we were walking, my dad stuck his hand in his coat pocket and pulled out an old black rag saying "Son, do you know what a crow's funeral is?" My reply was "No, I don't." With that he put the black rag under a big sycamore tree and then we hid and watched. With the use of his hands, my dad called like a crow which attracted a single crow to the big sycamore tree. The crow thought the black rag was a dead crow and started cawing and carrying on which attracted every crow in a ten mile radius. They flew in from every direction filling the big sycamore tree.



The Crow's Funeral by Lowell Davis

You never heard such goings on and commotion as they were stirring up. This seemed to go on for ten to fifteen minutes, then they all quit and flew off in different directions. When the air became silent again, my dad and I came out of hiding and dad walked over to the big sycamore tree and picked up his black rag, replacing it in his coat pocket. He turned to me and said "Now son, that was a crow's funeral".

More Crows by Lowell Davis

After getting his 1997 crow painting, "Grandma's Slow but then She's Old" back (see the article in the previous issue of this newsletter), Lowell's creative genius started flowing around the subject of crows and he was inspired to produce a series of four paintings featuring crows.

The first one he did is "The Thief" which features a crow holding a watch chain in its beak with a stash of other stolen treasures in a tree trunk:

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The Thief by Lowell Davis (2010)

His next one is a self-portrait with a crow sitting on his shoulder whispering to him entitled “The Secret”:



The Secret by Lowell Davis (2010)

We asked Lowell what secret the crow had shared with him but he said he could not say as “It was a secret!”

The third painting is a panorama with Lowell in Emery coming down the road one winter day and encountering a flock of crows that were on the road cleaning up a “Road Kill”:



Road Kill by Lowell Davis (2010)

The fourth painting, the one that Lowell feels is the best of the four, is “Wrong Neighborhood”, in which an owl is being chased out of the neighborhood by a flock of crows:



Wrong Neighborhood by Lowell Davis (2010)

Lowell has found a way to support his arm and wrist that allows him to achieve the detail in his recent paintings.



Lowell adding detail to “Wrong Neighborhood”

We have scanned in and will be making Giclée prints available of The Thief, The Secret and Wrong Neighborhood.

Lowell's New Paintings

Lowell's "Grandma's Slow but then She's Old" which featured the four crow's playing Rook also inspired him to do two additional paintings with birds playing card games.

The first of these paintings features four seabirds playing Go Fish. Lowell entitled this painting "The One That Got Away" as the seabirds are telling fish stories to one another as they play cards. Just look at the incredible amount of detail that Lowell put into this painting. It was interesting to watch as Lowell moved across the painting adding the detail.



The One That Got Away by Lowell Davis (2010)

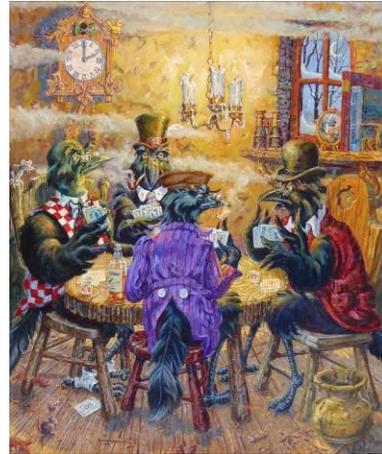
For his second painting, Lowell was inspired by a sketch that he had done of four chickens playing Old Maid. This painting also includes an incredible amount of detail.



Playing Old Maid by Lowell Davis (2011)

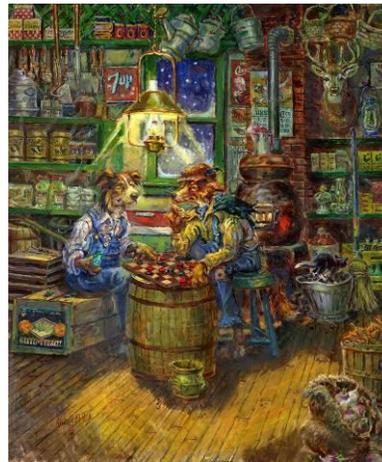
16" X 20" Giclée prints on canvas of both of these paintings will be available for purchase.

Lowell feels that Giclée prints of these two paintings would look great on a wall along with Giclée prints of his prior paintings:



Grandma's Slow but then She's Old
by Lowell Davis (1997)

and



King Me by Lowell Davis (2006)

Early Lowell Davis Paintings

We came across some of Lowell's paintings from the past that we wanted to share with his collectors and friends.

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The first of these was a painting that Lowell did when he was in the seventh grade.



Lowell Davis painting from 7th grade

As you can see Lowell had great talent back in his teenage years.

The second painting hangs in Lowell's studio. When he was in Texas, he did a number of paintings under the name Marchant. This one is an excellent rendition of Sherlock Holmes.



Sherlock Holmes by Marchant (Lowell Davis)

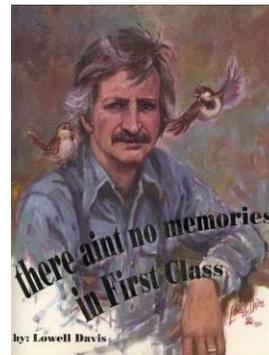
The third painting we discovered hanging at Lowell's cabin. Lowell says he painted this one on his honeymoon with Charlotte in April 1974 at Newburn Oregon.



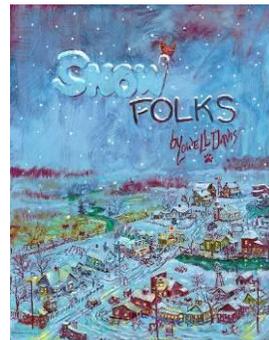
Lowell's painting on his Honeymoon with Charlotte at Newburn OR (April 1974)

Lowell Davis Books

Lowell's autobiography and art story books are a must have for Lowell Davis collectors.

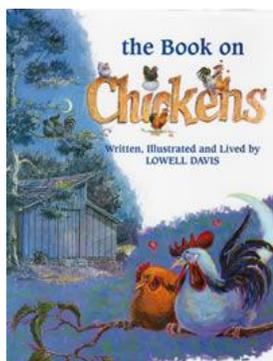


Lowell's Autobiography



Snow Folks

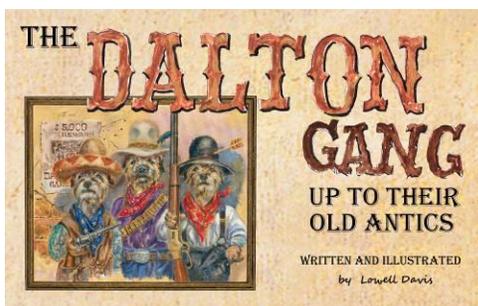
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The Book on Chickens

An order form for these books can be found on the Red Oak II website at: <http://www.redoakiigeneralstore.com/lowell-davis-books/index.html> or you can send an email to Rose at: redoakrose@redoakii.com.

The Dalton Gang, Up to Their Old Antics



Lowell wrote the Forward for his new book “The Dalton Gang, Up to Their Old Antics”, in December and we have incorporated it into the book. We have produced a proof CD-ROM which Lowell is reviewing. We are still wrestling with whether or not we should do a paper version of the book as well as the eBook as there are some people that prefer that medium. Due to the large number of pages and color images a paper book would be quite expensive. We plan to do a poll to see what the preferred format is for the new book.

2011 Lowell Davis Art Calendar

As an introduction to Lowell’s upcoming new book “The Dalton Gang, Up to Their Old Antics”, we selected 13 of the awesome paintings that Lowell did for his book to create the 2011 Lowell Davis Art Calendar.



We worked to keep a reasonable cost for the calendars while still maintaining the high quality that we have had in previous calendars. You can order your copy from our online store: <http://www.redoakiigeneralstore.com/calendars/index.html>

Featured Lowell Davis Figurines

Lowell suggested we feature a couple of figurines in each issue of the newsletter. This month we feature a couple of the Country Christmas figurines produced by Border Fine Arts. We are including Lowell’s story behind each of the figurines from the story cards that came with the figurines. It is these story cards that accompanied the figurines that helped make them so popular with collectors.

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Blossom's Gift – 1987 Country Christmas



It was a cold, snowy Christmas Eve when our dog, Hooker, broke the silence with a dozzie of a barking spell. I went out to the barn to see what all the ruckus was about. All the animals gathered 'round to see too. Low and behold, Blossom, the cow, has just given birth to a little girl calf. Well, now there was a new family member to name! "I know!" said Pearl, the sheep, to all the other animals. "My ancestors were at a manger just like this one, a long, long time ago. The Christ Child was born this very night, under a bright star that shone in the heaven. And since the baby calf has a star on her forehead, maybe we should name her STAR." They all agreed that it was the perfect name for the little calf...born on Christmas Eve.

Cutting the Family Christmas Tree – 1988 Country Christmas



Every year, the choppin' of the Christmas tree is a big event. I always pick an especially clear, cold night. Then I sort of surprise the kids and say, "Hey, I figure it's about time to go find our tree!" They get all excited and bundle up in a hurry. We rig up Old Garfield the goat to a sled and set out to the woods out back of Fox Fire Farm. And while I'm out with Jeb, Wren, and Hooker our dog, Miss Charlotte's back at the Farm fixin' up some hot cider and layin' out the decorations. Then, on the way back to the farm we talk about how this will be the finest Christmas ever.

Tell Us about Your Favorite Lowell Davis Art Work

We would love to hear about your favorite Lowell Davis art, what your first Lowell Davis art piece was and how it got you started collecting his art. Please send via email to: lowelldaviscollectors@att.net. Attach photos too. We will put your story in a future edition of the newsletter.

Restoration of Lowell Davis Cold Cast Porcelain Figurines

Do you have a damaged Lowell Davis figurine that you would like to have restored? Lowell's daughter April Davis, an outstanding artist in her own right, can do an excellent restoration of your figurine. If you want to contact April about repair/restoration work, send an email to lowelldaviscollectors@att.net.

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Lowell Davis Collectors Quiz

**Winner of Lowell Davis Collectors
Quiz 2010 Q4**

We had two correct entries in the Lowell Davis Collectors Quiz 2010 Q4 so Lowell randomly selected between the two correct entries. The winner is Brian Tearne of Ontario, our first winner from Canada. Brian's prize is a Lowell Davis Pigeon Egg Holder by Schmid:



Congratulations Brian!!

Lowell Davis Collectors Quiz 2011 Q1

For the Lowell Davis Collectors Quiz 2011 Q1, the winner will receive a 2011 Lowell Davis Art Calendar featuring art from Lowell's upcoming book:



In case of a tie, there will be a random drawing from among all correct entries to select the winner.

To enter, send your answers to the following questions by email to lowelldaviscollectors@att.net.

Entries must be received by 12:00 midnight US ET on March 31, 2011. The winner will be announced in the next issue of this newsletter.

Here are the questions for the 2011 Q1 Lowell Davis Collectors Quiz:

- 1) Why did Lowell call the town that he created near Carthage Missouri "Red Oak II"?
- 2) In what order were the following buildings moved to Red Oak II and restored?
General Store
Salem Country Church
Feed and Seed Store
Elmira School House
Blacksmith Shop
Schoolmarm's House
- 3) Why does Lowell include a paw print below his signature on his paintings?
- 4) What documents did Lowell light on fire when he tried to burn his studio down?
- 5) Lowell Davis has often been referred to as the _____ of Rural Art?

We hope everyone will enter. Good luck and have fun!

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Collectors Exchange

Here's a link to the new Lowell Davis Collectors Exchange:
<http://www.redoakiimissouri.com/index/collectors-resources/lowell-davis-collectors-exchange.html>

We have had a good response to the Collectors Exchange so far. A number of individuals have listed pieces that they want to sell including one listing of a complete collection. There is also a list of pieces wanted. We have received quite a few responses to the listings and have connected the interested purchasers with the sellers.

If you have any Lowell Davis art or collectibles that you would like to sell, buy or swap in our Collectors Exchange, just email: lowelldaviscollectors@att.net.

Contact Us

Lowell and Rose Davis, Red Oak II:

Please note that Lowell and Rose have new email addresses:
lowelldavis@redoakii.com
redoakrose@redoakii.com

Lowell Davis Collectors:

lowelldaviscollectors@att.net

Red Oak II General Store:

redoakiigeneralstore@att.net

Larry Sernyk, Collectors Newsletter:

lowelldaviscollectors@att.net

Web Links

Red Oak II Missouri:

www.redoakiimissouri.com

Lowell Davis Collectors:

www.lowelldaviscollectors.com

Red Oak II General Store:

www.redoakiigeneralstore.com

Credits

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