



LONDON VISUAL ARTS GUILD

London Art Center

Vol. 4

MAY 2020

No. 4



COSTA RICA??

Latitude 9° 54' 16.81" N Longitude 83° 41' 0.61" W

"A little over a year ago my wife Melissa and I met 10 of our longtime whitewater friends in Costa Rica for an adventure. This is where the story begins."

That is a quote by the person who left for Turrialba, Costa Rica February 18, 2020. He landed in San Jose and spent the night at the Hotel Don Carlos. The next day was pick up day but not until 4 pm. He had time to tour San Carlos and get lost. He did manage to find the hotel by pick up time and was met by his host, Pablo, who accompanied him to a store where he could buy his paints after concocting the color mixtures on his own.

He was then transported to a farm near Turrialba which is only 10 miles from the Turrialba Volcano and at an altitude of 2,093 ft. The farm is an Eco farm like many others in Costa Rica.

Upon arrival John, better known as John Victor the painter and harmonica player from the group Strung up Bluegrass Band, born in Kansas City, Missouri who spent most of his life in Ross County, Ohio, was escorted to his domicile.

His new quarters consisted of a tent which held two single beds. One bed was used for his backpack and paraphernalia. The other was for sleeping.

He then discovered his restroom and shower were open air and about 75 feet up the hill from the tent. One morning he spent his entire shower being eyed by a Brahma bull.

At least his tent was on a platform, and the actual facility was not in direct view of the animals which included the Brahma cattle, chickens and any of the obvious array of animals that existed in the immediate vicinity, including two fascinating squirrels.

John's primary problem was the attitude of the insects that cohabited with humans. It seems you had to be on guard constantly to keep from being devoured by hundreds of millions of the tiny critters. 24 hours on

guard was the only way to combat the little monsters, especially the ants.

The items included in the mural were a collaboration between John and Pablo though Pablo did leave most of the decisions to John. Pablo had seen some of John's art creations the year before.

While talking with John Victor I was greatly impressed with the appreciation he had for the country and people of Costa Rica.

Costa Rica contains 600 species of birds and mammals, some of the most colorful in the world. 200 species of trees. 10,000 species of plants and 2 of the cutest squirrels he has ever seen.

And, in addition to the previous list were "tons of hummingbirds" darting hither and thither all day long.

One thing he misses is the food and the best coffee in the world. He was furnished 3 meals a day and all the coffee he wanted. And he kind of misses the little page who came to get him. Each meal, Pablo's youngest daughter would run up the hill, stand in front of the tent and scream "Jooohhhnnnn Bictor".

And, I cannot leave out the most important thing he mentioned. The closeness of family was first and foremost in each and every relative he met, and he was introduced to all of them.

The following are a few of the photos of the artwork John left for Pablo the day he returned home.

Open air hall with full kitchen

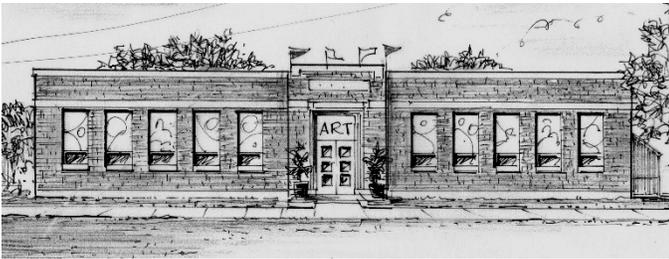


1 of 2 5'x7' mural outlines





The murals Jooohhhnnnn Bictor painted for Pablo



LONDON ART CENTER 'PROGRESS REPORT'

We now leave John Victor and return to London, Ohio for our progress report on the new London Art Center. Though the progress is slow at times we are gaining ground as the viral infections begin to level off.

According to scuttlebutt from Sandy, the gas line has been installed. Two furnaces have been delivered to the building and one has been attached to the line. Some ductwork has been installed and the second furnace is in place. It has been decided that a third furnace is needed, and it will be added sometime during the summer months.

Most of the painting has been completed and the majority of the additional walls have been constructed and ready to move into place. And, the bathroom facilities are under construction at this time.

The physical moving of items like furniture, chairs, tables, etc. from our old site has begun and is progressing at a slow pace, but smooth enough to be accomplished by the final lease date in May. Progress is coming along with the help we have at the present, but more help is needed, and any help is greatly appreciated.

If you can donate any time to the efforts of remodeling our new home and getting it spruced up for the London Art Center summer opening, make that call to:

Sandy Fox at: 937-207-7400. If there is no answer leave a message and Sandy will return your call.

REMINDER

This is a reminder that when the London Visual Arts Guild reopens in August, we will still be the same organization, but we intend to have more to offer our community.

We will open with a list of classes and instructor's adept at teaching oils, acrylics, watercolor and a myriad of painting techniques. We will have instruction in drawing with pencil, pen and ink, charcoal, color pencil and other mediums. There will also be instruction in photography, both digital and 35mm film. Any other suggestions?

Our hours will remain the same, but if there are any change the changes will be posted. And don't forget, our open studio will remain a Tuesday night attraction which is open from 4pm to 8pm and will have a member artist available to offer help with any art related question you may have.

One of the interesting benefits that was added to the LVAG a few years ago is the Writers Group. It was initiated by Lori Powell and has been a regular monthly event since its creation.

The group meets one Friday each month. The meetings will continue once the schedule has been set. If you need more information on the Writers Group contact Sandy. If she does not have the most current information, she can furnish you with contact information for Lori Powell.

CONTRIBUTE

Though we now have contributions in the form of grants from different organizations and entities, we still need the activity and co-operation of our local members to continue to sustain and build LVAG. You are all important to us.

Join our classes. Attend our writers' group, it's free. Volunteer to be one of our docents. Help with the fourth of July parade (if we are able to have one). Spread the word about LVAG. Also, donations are still accepted.

And, send me a poem or paragraph I may be able to use, a suggestion, photos, or anything on art that would be usable in the newsletter. Contact me: Jim Donohoe at ohkrill4@yahoo.com. Help me include members suggestions and work in our newsletter.

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