

THE ART OF FAITH™

by *Max Greiner Jr.*



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ART NEWSLETTER #3

Volume II
November 25, 2009



The 77'7", 70 ton Cor-tin Steel sculpture called, "*The Empty Cross*" arrived at "*The Coming King Sculpture Prayer Garden*" in Kerrville, TX on October 30, 2009.



Studio Notes

by
Max Greiner, Jr.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF THE CROSS!

God made me an artist in 1951, but He "called" me to be an evangelist in 1989! It has been an interesting life! Sherry and I have learned over the years that when God asks you to do something resistance will come!

There is a true story of a man named Nehemiah in the Bible (444 BC), who I relate to right now. God "called" him to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. However, as soon as Nehemiah tried to obey God, he was attacked, from inside and outside the city. The scripture says that God's "wall builders" had to keep their swords near their construction tools, so they could fight, as they obeyed God. So it is with us!



We are still in a battle here in Kerrville to build **The Coming King Sculpture Prayer Garden**, based on a “vision” that was birthed in me by prophetic words given by Dr. Mahesh Chavda, in December of 2001, and Marlon Quibodeaux in August of 2002. The battle intensified when the Christian project was announced in the local newspaper. That was when atheists and a few others began their opposition.

Even though the spiritual Garden is on 23 acres of beautiful PRIVATE land overlooking **Interstate 10**, and despite the fact that our non-profit Christian arts ministry has done nothing wrong legally, ethically, morally or scripturally, some people still object to the cross.

The last year has been difficult due to a lawsuit that was filed to stop the 77’7”, 70 ton cross sculpture from ever being erected on its \$100,000 concrete foundation. This legal action was filed by a few neighbors living north of the Garden, along **Mesa Vista Ln.**, a rural, one road, “unofficial” subdivision outside the City Limits of Kerrville. A few neighbors are trying to impose invalid Restrictions on our 1.9 acre lot, at the top of the hill.

In reality, the subdivision never came into existence since it was never approved by the County. In addition, the original developer actually sold our lot, with four other lots, before he improperly filed the flawed subdivision documents. Therefore, violates our civil and private property rights. After two failed attempts at **Mediation**, the **Trial** is expected in February of 2010.

On October 30, 2009, a major milestone was passed when “**The Empty Cross**” sculpture was finally delivered to the top of “**Prayer Mountain.**” The massive contemporary sculpture is currently lying on the ground, just 42’ from its concrete foundation. It will lie there until God raises it up. In the meantime, we will continue to build the rest of the 23 acre Christ-honoring Garden. About two million dollars have already been spent on the Garden project.

“**The Empty Cross**” is a 7 story, “walk-thru” sculpture. The spiritually symbolic cross is the largest sculpture ever created by **Eagle Bronze**, a Christian owned foundry. Sherry and I have donated all of our profits related to this cross, while Monte and Beverly Paddleford, owners of the art foundry, created the massive sculpture at their actual cost. The Cor-tin steel sculpture, valued at two million dollars, will be the centerpiece of the entire Garden. Over a dozen additional monumental Christian bronze sculptures have already been donated by my family and the Paddlefords, for the glory of God.

Everyone is welcome at the cross! Even though the Garden will not be “officially” opened until God raises the funds to build the roads and parking lots, visitors can now see the massive cross, day or night. Please use the back entrance of the Garden, at the end of **Mesa Vista Ln.** since the main front entrance is not built yet.

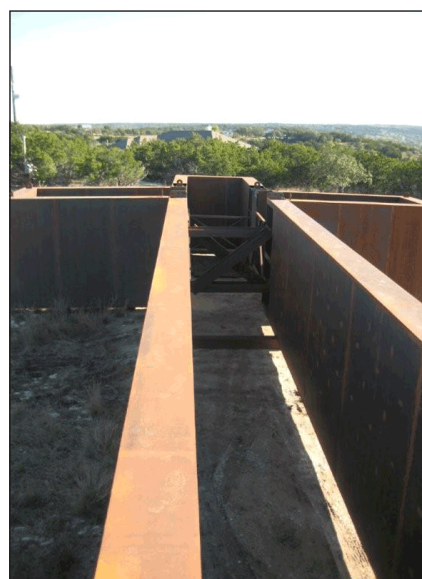
The Holy Spirit will use the cross, up or down! Like Nehemiah, the **Trustees of The Coming King Foundation** will not stop building, no matter how long it takes! We know that if this Garden is of man, nothing will come of it. But, if it is of God, no man can stop it! (Acts 5:35).



The Coming King Foundation Trustees, Sherry Greiner and Rev. Fern Lancaster announced the arrival of the giant cross by blowing the shofar and raising a small cedar cross, at the Garden’s back entrance, at the end of **Mesa Vista Ln.**



Sherry Greiner was thrilled by the arrival of the massive cross, a unique sculpture composition that was birthed by the Holy Spirit in 2002.



The seven story cross, valued at \$2,000,000 will lie on the ground until a lawsuit filed by neighbors to stop its erection has been resolved.

GALLERY



“ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE / LONE BULL”
Bronze Sculpture
 Signed & Numbered
 Limited Edition of 50.
 21” x 18” x 10” (32 lbs)
 #00544 \$3,000



“LION OF JUDAH” Bronze Sculpture
 1/6 Life-Size Bronze, Marble & Walnut
“Ten Commandments” Base
 10.5” x 21” x 23.5” (60 lbs)
 #06313 \$4,000



“ISHI”
Bronze Sculpture
 This art depicts the last wild Indian of North America, who is the “Patron Saint” of Bowhunting. Purchase includes a **Charcoal Drawing Print**, an **Oil Painting Print**, Krober’s book, **“Ishi in two worlds”**, and a Sterling Silver casting of an **Arrowhead** actually chipped by Ishi, from the Doug Walker collection. Signed & Numbered Limited Edition of 100
 18” x 13” x 19” (33 lbs.)
 #00676 \$4,000

“POPE & YOUNG” Bronze Sculpture
 This art depicts the famous 1920 grizzly bear hunt of Dr. Saxton Pope and Art Young, the “Fathers of Modern Bowhunting.” Purchase includes a **Pen & Ink Drawing Print**, an **Oil Painting Print**, the **Pope & Young Record Book**, and actual castings of the arrowhead blanks made by the archers. Signed & Numbered Limited Edition of 100
 24” x 11” x 15” (45 lbs)
 #00633 \$4,000



“BARREN-GROUND CARIBOU”
Bronze Sculpture
 Signed & Numbered
 Limited Edition of 50.
 26” x 9” x 22” (35 lbs.)
 #00625 \$3,000

Greiner Wildlife & Archery Art
 In the spring of 1978, Max and Sherry started their fine art business. At the time, nature, wildlife and archery were the focus of Max’s artwork. His first eight wildlife bronze editions sold out and have resold for two and three times their “issue” price. Max’s art has raised thousands of dollars for wildlife conservation and hunter education. These bronzes are available for immediate delivery.



The Greiner's "Prayer Patio" overlooks a portion of the beautiful Greiner Ranch.

Back At The Ranch

by Ryan & Nicole Huff

A New Team At The Helm!

June 17, 2009, marked my first day as an employee of **Max Greiner Jr. Designs**, as the new Office Manager. This was a result of God's direction and perfect timing when Justin and Diana Shay Evans landed jobs in Frisco, TX. Justin currently works for **Cooper Aerobics Center at Craig Ranch**, and Diana Shay is a **Home Economics** teacher for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders at **Scoggins Middle School**.

It amazes me how quickly time flies. Here we are five months later with many lessons learned, and endless lessons yet to be taught. It is a tremendous blessing and pleasure to work with Max, Sherry, Jose Mendoza, and last but certainly not least, my lovely wife, Nicole. I can't forget "Macy", the office dog. She keeps us all on our feet. Jose has remained a constant for Max and Sherry, and the Greiner business for over 20 years. We are all thankful for his devotion and experience. The transition for Nicole and I has been a pleasant one.



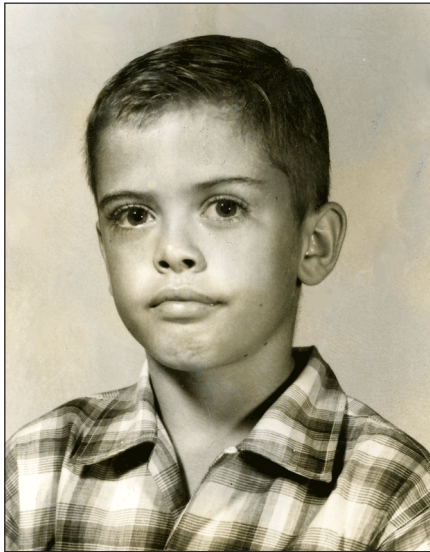
The Huff family stands at the foot of "The Empty Cross" : (left to right) Les Huff, Linda Huff, Ryan Huff, Harmony Huff, Joel Huff, Nicole Huff

The position here at **Max Greiner Jr. Designs** fulfills two deep passions close to my heart. The first passion is the ability to serve God in His Kingdom by providing clients with Holy Spirit inspired artwork that reminds them of my Savior. Whether the art is used as gifts of gratitude, or awards of recognition, Max's compositions are blessing the hearts and souls of people around the world. The second passion fulfilled by working at the office is the opportunity I have to serve alongside of my beautiful wife. God has enabled us to value each other's strengths and weaknesses. We have learned the lesson through the years of accepting each others' thoughts and ideas as confirmations, instead of giving pride an opportunity to rear its ugly head to claim credit for achievement. Teamwork always works best with unity!

Nicole primarily works on the Greiner's websites, both maintaining the existing one and building a new one, while also juggling technical projects Max throws her way. I work with clients to insure a constant flow of income for the business in addition to knowing the details related to the operating systems **Max Greiner Jr. Designs** has in place. All the while, we get to look out of our large office windows to see God's creation at its finest! We experience all sorts of animal life, from "Penny" the homing pigeon that had an instinctive dislike for "Macy" the "Office Dog", to on one rare occasion, three Aoudad rams. Whitetail deer, turkeys, doves, porcupines, and raccoons are also plentiful on the ranch.

In addition to working here at the ranch, Nicole and I have witnessed the ups and downs of the legal battle transpiring against **The Coming King Foundation**. Max and Sherry's efforts, along with **TCKF**, for a Christ like resolution have been commendable and impressive to say the least. Such a resolution would enable **The Coming King Foundation** to progress forward with the "Primary Mission." This mission consists of bringing souls into the King's Kingdom through the **Sculpture Prayer Garden**. Please continue to support and pray for Max, Sherry and the **Board of Trustees** of **The Coming King Foundation** throughout this holiday season. We are thanking God for His provision and faithfulness. When we are weak, He is strong!

Also, please consider blessing your loved ones this Christmas with a piece of Max's art that brings glory to God. A particular piece close to our heart during this season is "The Empty Cross" composition. Nicole wears "The Empty Cross" **Sterling Silver Charm** almost daily. It is priced at \$40. Max's prices start at \$5. Hundreds of products are available for immediate delivery. Finally, please pray for the Greiners and **TCKF** as they endeavor to lift up the name of Jesus Christ to the world!



Back Tracking

by *Max GREINER JR.*

This column provides a historical look back at the life of an American artist.

Years: 1961-1967
(Age 10 to 16)



My years between age 10 and 16 (5th grade to 11th grade) were wonderful! This was the season of my life when I recognized my own abilities and my passions. This was the time when I became fully aware of my God-given talents and the beautiful, natural world God had created around me. This was my era of creativity, exploration, hobbies and adventure!

By the grace of God, I was blessed with good parents who encouraged each of their four children (of which I was the oldest) to do their very best, use their gifts and follow their hearts. I heard my parents, Max G. Greiner and Bobbie Sue Greiner; say many times that I was never board alone! In the sixties, years before computers and video games, I never needed anyone else to have fun. I was always able to entertain and educate myself by exploring and reading. At this “pre-teen/teenage” stage in my life I had two great loves: the great out-of-doors and making things. Both passions would consume all of my free time and would eventually prepare me for my destiny.

As far as I can remember, I have LOVED nature. My appreciation, fascination and respect for God’s creation happened about the time Jesus came into my life, at age 7. Being alone in the woods of east Texas, or in the alligator marshes near our home in Port Arthur, was always a great adventure for me. I felt like Daniel Boone or Davy Crockett, armed first with a sling shot, bow, BB gun, and later with shot gun and 22 rifle. However, archery would eventually be my sport of choice.

When I was young, I loved to catch turtles, birds, small wild animals and non-poisonous snakes (I knew the difference). Being alone in the “wild” was a spiritual experience that God and I shared together. I distinctly remember God saving me numerous times from the bites of Water Moccasins, Copperheads, Rattlesnakes and Coral snakes, in addition to a few other situations that should have killed me!

My grandparents and my father taught me to hunt, fish and trap. Our family owned a small, one room cedar cabin, with no glass windows, running water or a working toilet! The little cabin sat on 7 acres of land, right in the bend of “**Big Cow Creek**”, near Kirbyville, TX. This primitive camp was in the “**Big Thicket**”, about an hour from our home. I knew every inch of that “wonderland”. I built my first tree house there.



At age 14 Max learned taxidermy from a correspondence course. He would later turn this hobby into a business and eventually teach a class in high school on the subject to students and teachers. “**The Rabbit Fisherman**” was Max’s first creative taxidermy project, which he gave to his Grandfather, E.O. Greiner. This rabbit was also Max’s first bowhunting “trophy”!



Then around 1966, my folks sold the little cabin and “upgraded” to 116 acres on “**Turkey Creek**”, near the small town of Woodville. This property was an oasis, with an emerald, spring-fed pond, lined with majestic pine, oak and magnolia trees, graced with delicate flowering dogwood trees. This beautiful property had an old farm house on it, which had glass on the windows and a working toilet! I would be married at this special place in 1975. It would later be the inspiration for many impressionistic oil paintings.

When I wasn’t hunting in the woods or fishing in the small pond, I was building an elaborate tree house, three stories up in the top of a giant oak tree . At night, if I wasn’t running a trot line or predator calling, I was working on my **Lionel Train** layout which filled my bedroom on three sheets of plywood. I built elaborate scenes “from scratch”, that included trees, grass, mountains, rivers and buildings.

During this period of my life, I became an accomplished hunter and taxidermist. I learned the art of hunting from reading every outdoor magazine I could find. I learned taxidermy from a mail order correspondence course that was advertised in the hunting magazines of that day. I was 13 when I mounted my first specimen at the “**Cow Creek**” camp. Only my Grandma Greiner had the patience and willingness to help me skin and mount my first specimen, which was a Barred Owl. Many other specimens would follow, as I turned my hobby into a small business. When I reached high school, the Biology teacher asked me to teach a class in taxidermy for students and teachers after school, which I did in 1968.



On June 28, 1966, at the age of 14, Max was awarded the highest rank of the Boy Scouts, the coveted “**Eagle**”. Max earned the rank with his bestfriend Michael Scott McWilliams. C.J. McElroy (center) was the Scout Master of **Troop 84** in Port Arthur, TX.



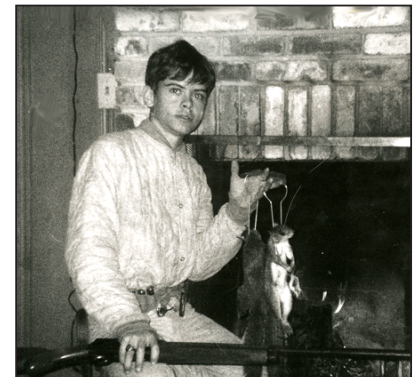
Max went on a 21 day scouting adventure to the **XII Boy Scout World Jamboree** in the summer of 1967, at age 15. Pictured left to right front row: Max Greiner Jr., George Sanders, Frank Skeeler. Top row: John Richard, Michael Scott McWilliams, George Collin & Advisor, E.W. Watson.



Max created his first mural for the **XII World Jamboree** depicting three regions of Texas. The 6’ x 8’ canvas was painted by Max in oil at age 15.

Encouraged by my dad who was an “**Eagle Scout**”, I became a Boy Scout. Our Port Arthur, TX church, **Proctor Street Baptist** sponsored **Troop 84**. Every Thursday night we learned about life, honor and being a man. We were taught how to do things in the great outdoors, and then we went out and did them! I loved it! I learned first-aid, how to swim, tie knots, canoe, shoot bows, backpack, canoe, and navigate by the stars and with a compass. Eventually, I worked my way up through the ranks, and at age 14 was awarded the coveted “**Eagle**” on June 28, 1966. Only 2% of scouts ever receive the highest rank. I earned two **Palms** after my **Eagle**, and was inducted into the honorary **Order of the Arrow** scouting program.

Beginning scouting as an 11 year old “**Tenderfoot**”, I went to **Camp Bill Stark** every summer for a week each year, until 1966 when I was old enough to go on a 10 day adventure to the **Philmont National Scout Ranch** in New Mexico. The following year, I was selected to join five other scouts to attend the **XII World Jamboree**, in Farragut State Park, Idaho. I represented the **Sabine Area Council**, which was comprised of Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange, TX. This was the first international jamboree ever held in the USA. The scouting program had a major positive impact on my life, as it taught me things about team work, character, values, responsibility and leadership.



Hunting squirrels in the forests of southeast Texas taught Max the skills of stalking and “woodmanship” that would serve him well later in life as he hunted big game with a bow & arrow.

My love for creativity and art also flourished during this period of my life. I was always designing, making or building something. Thankfully, my parents and grandparents kept me supplied with art materials, tools and books. During this time, I learned to master the basic fundamentals of drawing, painting, sculpting and drafting. (I didn't know until I got to college that it was rare for someone to master all these art disciplines.)

However, my imagination was not limited to the "traditional" art forms. One Halloween, at the age of 10, I decided to dress up as the "Wolfman". So, I cut all the hair off our chocolate brown poodle and glued the curly dog hair to my face and hands! I made a wig from a plastic bag and glued the hair to it. I carved wolf fangs out of wood, painted them white and put them in my mouth! I was a sight to behold; I only wish I had a photograph! I even won the "Best Costume Award" at the neighborhood Halloween party that year. Everything was going fine until I tried "Dunking for Apples"! That was when all the dog hair fell off in the water!



Max took his first art classes at **Thomas Edison Junior High School** in Port Arthur, TX. He learned new media including "Ink Scratchboard". This drawing, or etching, was created by scratching an ink covered surface with a pin tool.

Thanks to God, my parents and grandparents, I had a wonderful adolescence. I had a great relationship with my father, who was a wise and kind man. With my mom, he laid the foundation of my life by first teaching me about Jesus. As a result, I missed the "pitfalls" that captured many of my generation. I had absolutely no interest in alcohol or drugs. "Recreational drugs" were just coming on the scene in the sixties. Like the singer, John Denver, I was getting my "high" on a mountain, and from my imagination. However, my "Excellent Adventure" was about to get better. Following my 16th year, I met a girl named Sherry who would someday be my beautiful wife and bow hunting partner!



At **Thomas Jefferson High School** in Port Arthur, TX., Max took formal art and drafting classes earning a "Letter" in Art. One watercolor created at age 16 depicted the Greiner farm house at the Woodville, TX. camp.



Max learned to play the guitar during his teenage years. He formed a band called the "Rodents", inspired by the "Beatles" that had just come on the scene in the USA.



Thank you for sharing this Art Newsletter with others!
Sherry & Max Greiner, Jr.

FINAL NOTE: If you would like to know God personally or experience His miracles like the Greiners, please request the brochure, "Where Will You Be In 1000 Years?" You can also find it on the Greiner website under: "God Stuff."