

## My World of Selfies

Lowell Davis  
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# My World of Selfies

By Lowell Davis

He who dies with the most selfies wins!

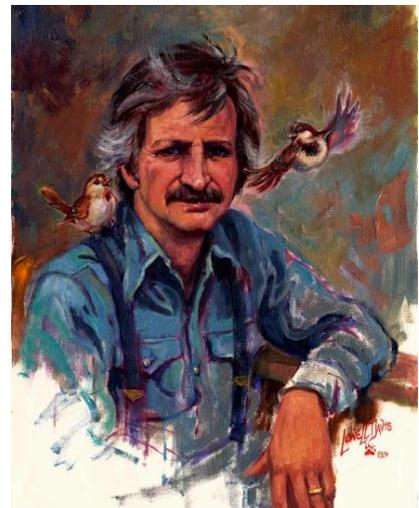
And the winner will be? ... Lowell Davis, Farm Artist from Missouri for his LIFETIME OF SELFIES, none with a camera, only as Art!

Throughout my lifetime career as an artist, I worked with several companies to produce over a hundred thousand of my self-portraits or “selfies” in an assortment of media including porcelain, pewter and die-cast figurines, porcelain plates, lithographic and Giclée prints, printed media including books and magazine covers, large “junk” sculptures, none as photographs. My self-portraits have been sold in gift shops, department stores and farm stores across the USA, Europe and Canada.

I am not quite sure why my self-portraits sold but they did and so the companies kept on making them. I am launching my new blog with a series of articles about the different selfies that I produced over my career.

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The other night my wife Rose was on Facebook and as I looked over her shoulder, I noticed all those selfies that the kids were posting. I said to her “Wow! We are raising a generation of vain kids taking all these photos of themselves.” She turned around and said, “Mr. Lowell, what are you talking about!! You’ve got more selfies than anyone that I’ve ever heard of. Maybe none with a camera but your selfies are in your paintings, sculptures, junk art and every other medium known to man.” After I reflected on what she said...I started thinking about all the art that I have created in my lifetime and



**“Self Portrait”**

Original oil painting / Giclée prints  
This was back when I was dark  
headed and handsome

thinkin' about how much of that art was selfies. You know it wasn't until a very few years ago that the word selfies was coined and before that these self-portrayals were called self-portraits.



**"Chicken Thief"**

Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 950)

This selfie is of me the time I got a direct hit from a skunk and my wife made me take a bath in an ole No. 2 washtub. One of my roosters came by, started pecking at my pocket watch, picked it up and carried it off—thus the name "Chicken Thief".

My animals seemed to never leave my side and I seemed never to be able to have any private time. This next selfie is a winter scene of me going to the outhouse and really demonstrates that I had "No Private Time".



**"No Private Time"**

Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 1,250)

Border Fine Arts of Scotland produced hundreds of thousands figurines mostly of the animals on my farm from sculptures that I created. Each motif was produced in cold cast porcelain, hand painted and then shipped to the US for distribution by Schmid of Boston for sale in around 2,000 gift shops and department stores in the US and Canada. Along with using my animals as my models, I often incorporated my self-portrait into my sculptures.



**"The Critics"**

Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 1,200)

My first selfie in porcelain with Border Fine Arts was in "The Critics". This went over very well with my collectors so I just kept on making selfies with my farm animals for Border Fine Arts to cast in porcelain. I think one of the reasons I did so many selfies is so that I didn't need to pay modeling fees!! I also did "The Critics" as a limited edition porcelain plate and color sketch.



**"The Critics"**

Collectors Plate (Ltd Ed of 12,500)



**"The Critics"**

Color Sketch (Ltd Ed of 150)

## My Cats

I sculpted over 400 different figurines over the past 30 years using all my different animals here on the farm at Red Oak II as subjects –my dogs, my chickens, my sheep, my pigs, my cows, my goats, my horses, my mules and so on but my most popular motif was my cats. This must be because there are so many cat lovers out there. My cats always accompanied me at milking time, hoping to get a drink of warm milk, inspiring the pewter selfie "Milking Time"!



**"Milking Time"**

Pewter Sculpture (Ltd Ed of 500)

## My Dogs

I have always had dogs in my life and used them in much of my art. My most famous was Hooker. The art that I created using her as a model paid for much of the costs of creating Red Oak II. I did this selfie in porcelain of my wife Charlotte's dog Gus, taking a whiz on my leg!!



**"My Wife's Dog"**

Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 444)

## My Sheep

I never understood why lambs always seemed to be born on the coldest night of the year. Sometimes I would need to carry the newborns into our farm house and dry them off and then let them warm up in the kitchen by the stove. The below Christmas figurine and plate show me bringing in some newly born lambs.



**"Born on a Starry Night"**

Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 2,500) and Collectors Plate (Ltd Ed of 7,500)

Here on our farm we still liked doing things the old fashioned way. This selfie depicts my son Jeb and me to shear our sheep with an old hand cranked shearer.



**"Sheep Shearin' Time"**  
Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 1,200)

## My Pigs

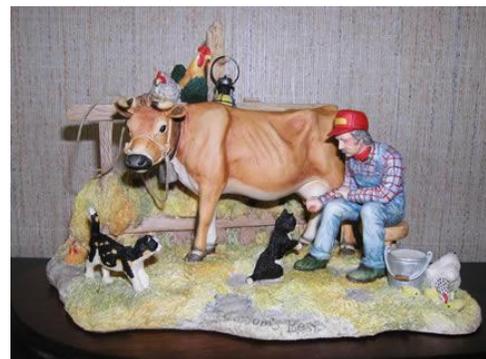


**"Sooie"**  
Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 1,500)

When I was young most of the local farms in this area had pigs. Some of the first animals that I got when I first bought Foxfire Farm were a couple of pigs. I called one Wilbur and the other Sally. I used my pigs in many of my paintings and figurines including "Sooie" which has me slopping my hogs. I never butchered them for food, I only used them as my models. How could I tell my kids "now eat ur Wilbur 'n eggs for breakfast?"

## My Cows

We always tried to keep 4 or 5 cows on our farm. My favorite cow of all time was Blossom, my Jersey cow. I used her a number of times in my art, several which were also selfies with me in them too. My favorite is "Blossom's Best" which shows me milking Blossom and squirting milk in the cat's mouth.



**"Blossoms Best"**  
Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 750)

Not only do sheep seem to give birth on the coldest nights. Even Blossom gave birth to her baby Star on a cold winter night as shown in my “Blossom’s Gift” Christmas figurine and plate which shows me with Blossom and baby Star.



**“Blossom’s Gift”**

Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 2,500) and Collectors Plate (Ltd Ed of 7,500)

## My Goats

Well my farm wouldn't be complete without a few goats. I liked my cows and goats to have horns. Horns make for more interesting subject matter in my paintings and sculptures. I did selfie of me and my daughter Wren and my son Jeb down in our pasture cutting down a cedar tree for our family Christmas as a Christmas figurine and plate.



**“Cutting the Family Christmas Tree”**

Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 2,500) and Collectors Plate (Ltd Ed of 7,500)

## My Mules

I have painted several paintings using mules. I liked to go to farm auctions and at one auction I purchased a mule named Molly. Back at the farm Molly fit in perfectly in every way once you finally caught her. In this selfie, I used the oldest trick in the book, I hid the bridle behind my back offering Molly a sugar cube in the other hand.



**"Tricks of the Trade"**  
Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 1,250)

## My Horse Beaut

All the time that I lived in Texas my dream was to have a farm back in Missouri and then to get all the animals that was ever on a farm. A couple of years after I got that farm, I had secured most of those animals – chickens, sheep, cows, goats and pigs but I had yet to get any horses. One day at an auction I bought an ole black mare buggy horse and brought her back to the farm. Her names was Beaut. Now my daughter April always had had a horse and would ride every chance she had but I had only rode a horse a couple of times. It wasn't until I hitched my sleigh to ole Beaut and was going down a country road with bells jingling and snowflakes hitting my face that it dawned on me that "I envied no man". This is what God made horses for and not to be riding on their backs! The following two selfies depict just one of those days.



**"What Rat Race"**  
Original Oil Painting and Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 1,200)

Not only did I enjoy hitching old Beaut to a sleigh but I got the same high going down a dirt country road in my buggy with Beaut pulling and my dog Hooker at my side as shown in my selfie “From a Friend to a Friend”.



**“From a Friend to a Friend”**  
Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 1,200)

### My Work Horses

As soon as I got my farm, I started going to farm auctions, buying up old horse drawn equipment. Well after a while I had acquired several pieces of equipment but guess what, I didn’t have any work horses to pull them with. Then at an Amish horse auction, I bought a beautiful team of Belgians named Barney and Mike. It was then that I started play farming with them.



**"Spring Plowing"**  
Original Oil Painting / Giclée Prints

And now with my beautiful team, I was able to put this equipment to good use as shown in these selfies!!

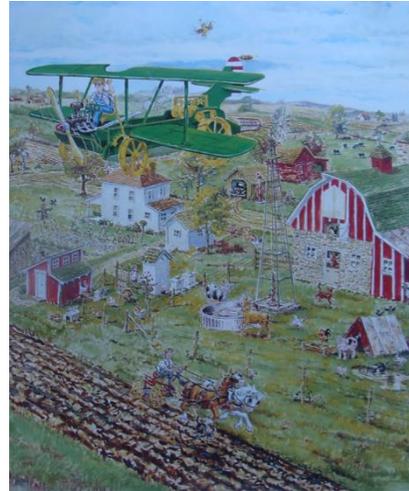


**"Last Laff"**  
Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 1,200)



**“Winter Chores”**  
Collectors Plate (Ltd Ed)

This is me play farming with my team of workhorses while my test pilot was circling our farm in the Crap Duster. I named our farm Fox Fire Farm.



**Lowell Davis' Fox Fire Farm**  
Original Oil Painting

### **My Junk Sculptures**

Another form of art that I love to work in is what I call “junk” sculptures. These are life size often based on a vehicle or piece of farm equipment to which I add a person and/or animal sculpted from steel. For my “Crap Duster” sculpture, I used an ole horse drawn manure spreader, took the tongue off and made it into a bi-plane with myself



**“Crap Duster”**  
Junk Sculpture



**“A Poor Man has Poor Ways”**  
Junk Sculpture

as the pilot. This sculpture is located on ole Route 66 on the East edge of Carthage Missouri.

“A Poor Man has Poor Ways” has me smoking my pipe and driving my truck with some chickens on the back. This selfie sets on ole Route 66 at the turnoff on County Road 130 to my town of Red Oak II.



**"It Ain't No Wonder His Wives Left Him"**  
Junk Sculpture

The town of Jasper Missouri commissioned me to do a life size welcome sign for their city. For their welcome sign, I created a junk sculpture with me driving an ole tractor pulling plow with one of my dogs running in front. You can see this selfie at the entrance to Jasper Missouri off Hwy 71.

I might have pushed the envelope too far when I started sculpting life size selfies! "It Ain't No Wonder His X-Wives Left Him" is a sculpture of me in my truck with my wife changing the flat tire. It is mounted in front of a tire store in Carthage Missouri on ole Route 66.



**"Welcome to Jasper Missouri"**  
Junk Sculpture



**"The Grim Reaper"**  
Junk Sculpture

There is also one of my junk sculpture selfies at Red Oak II along the West side of County Loop 122 which is the main road that loops through Red Oak II. The "Grim Reaper" features me driving a tractor pulling a vintage combine.

## My Wall Hangers



**"Lowell Davis Self Portrait"**  
Porcelain Plaque

There were also several wall hangers made with my self-portrait, one was a porcelain plaque and the other a limited edition porcelain bust.



**"Lowell Davis Self Portrait"**  
Porcelain Bust (Ltd Ed of 250)

## Modes of Transportation

After a couple of years, gift shop and department stores across the US and Canada that sold my figurines built up a following of collectors of my work and they would invite me to come to their shops or stores to meet their collectors and autograph their figurines. At first I started flying all around the country to their shops but after about two years of that, I just couldn't take being on planes, in airports, taxis and sterile hotel rooms. Not even first class appealed to me any longer.

So I purchased and restored an old medicine man's motor home, put it on a new chassis with a big Ford engine. The "Leapin' Lizard" as I called it, had a shingle roof and when I was driving it down the road at 65-70 M.P.H., some shingles would occasionally fly off when passing a convoy of trucks.



**"Leapin' Lizard"**  
Original Oil Painting / Post Card

I did a number of selfies, “Home from Market”, with me in Emery, my ole 1950 Ford pickup, that I have been driving for the last 40 years.



**“Home from Market”**

Original Oil Painting / Giclée Prints, Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 1,200) and Collectors Plate (Ltd Ed of 7,500)

I love old cars. Rust is my favorite color. “Backseat Memories” shows me reminiscing about the fond memories that I had in the backseat of that 51 Merc.



**"Backseat Memories"**

Original Oil Painting / Giclée Prints

I have a cabin on an Ozark Mountain stream in SW Missouri. There was nothing that I liked better on a Saturday Morning than to load up ole Emery, my pickup, with my canoe and my dog Hooker and head for a weekend floating the beautiful Elk River.



**“Self Portrait”**

Original Oil Painting / Giclée Prints



**“Saturday Morning”**

ERTL Toys die cast truck with cold cast porcelain figurines and hand-made canoe

## Missoura Kid

Maybe it's because I spent 20 years of my life doing cartoons that it rubbed off on me. If I saw myself as a cartoon character, it would be a fox known as the Missoura Kid. The painting on the right shows the look on my face when I first heard that my daughter Heather was pregnant with my granddaughter Reagan.



**"The Missoura Kid as Young Man"**  
Original Oil Painting / Giclée Prints



**"A Crow Told Me - Early"**  
Original Oil Painting



**"A Crow Told Me - Recent"**  
Original oil painting / Giclée Prints



**"Friendly Fire"**  
Original Oil Painting / Giclée Prints

The Missoura Kid's airplane is still on display at Red Oak II, the town that I built on my farm near Carthage Missouri. This was the Missoura Kid's homemade airplane that he flew in the service. People ask me "Did it ever fly?" I say sure. Paintings don't lie. The selfie at left, "Friendly Fire", shows me as the Missoura Kid shooting one of his fellow pilots on a mission.



**"Missoura Kid's Plane at Red Oak II"**  
Junk Sculpture



**"The Hustlers"**  
Original Oil Painting / Giclée Prints

This last selfie of me as the Missouri Kid is entitled "The Hustlers". It is 10 minutes to 5 PM and waiting for workmen to get off work!!

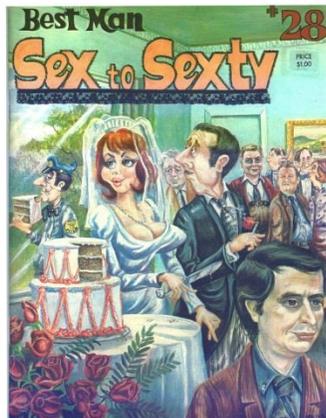
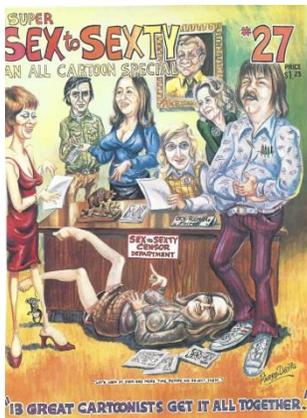
## Toby Jug

I was truly honored to have Royal Dalton of England to do a Toby Jug of me! They do Toby Mugs of famous people so it was a great honor for me to be recognized as one of those important people.



**"Lowell Davis Toby Jug"**  
Royal Doulton

## Print Media

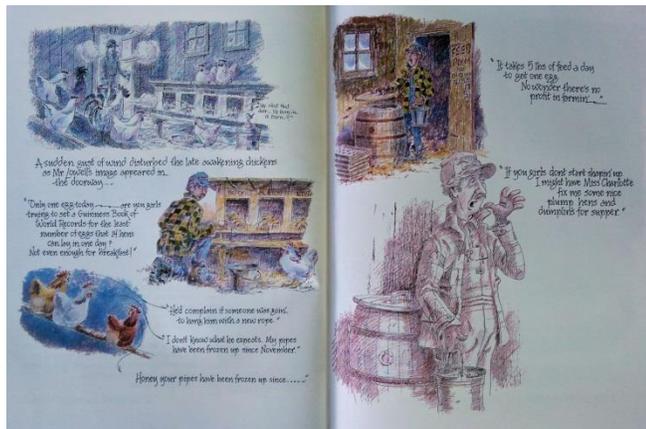


**"Sex to Sixty Magazine Covers"**

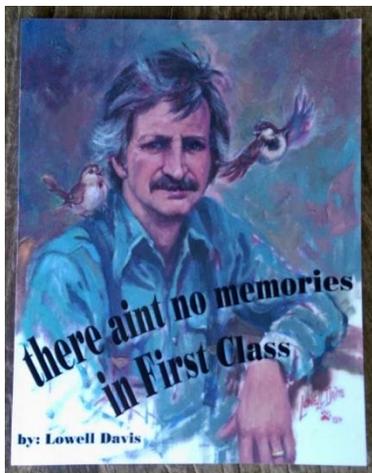
When I was a commercial artist in Dallas / Fort Worth, I painted over 200 covers for the black and white cartoon publication Sex to Sixty under the alias of Pierre Davis. Every once in a

while I would slip a selfie somewhere into the covers. Can you find me in these? I like to say that I did these risqué covers before I became religious.

When I was back in Missouri on my farm, I did a Children's book entitled "Book on Chickens" about the chickens on my farm. There were numerous selfies of myself throughout this book.

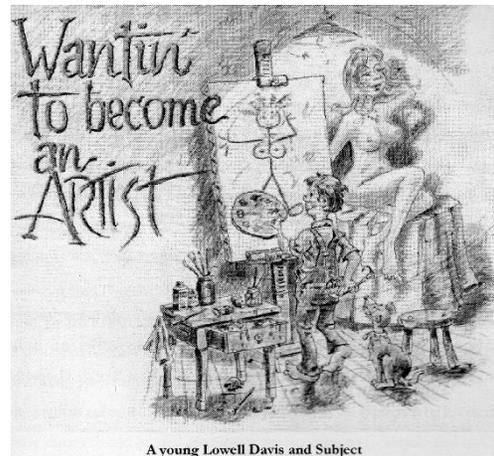


Excerpt from "Book on Chickens"  
Book by Lowell Davis



Cover of "there ain't no Memories in First Class"  
Autobiography by Lowell Davis

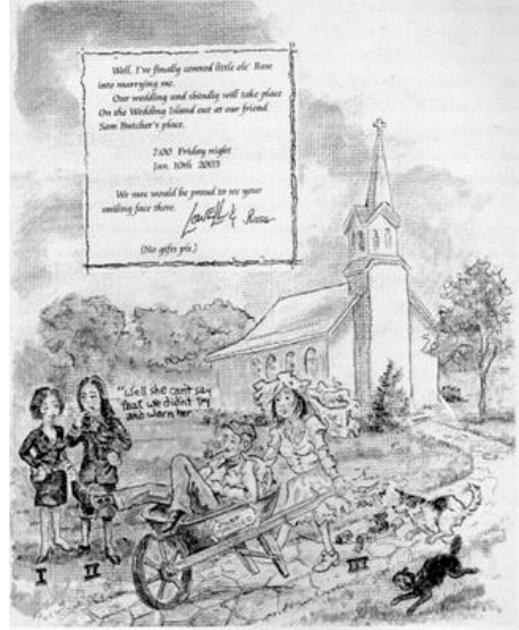
My autobiography, "There Ain't No Memories in First Class", features a number of my selfies.



Sketch from "There Ain't No Memories in First Class"  
Autobiography by Lowell Davis

This was the wedding invitation that my current wife Rose and I sent out. We were married out at our dear friend Sam Butcher's Precious Moments Chapel. This is probably the only wedding invitation that was ever sent with past wives on it:

- I Nancy
- II Charlotte, and
- III Rose!



Sketch from "There Ain't No Memories in First Class"  
Autobiography by Lowell Davis

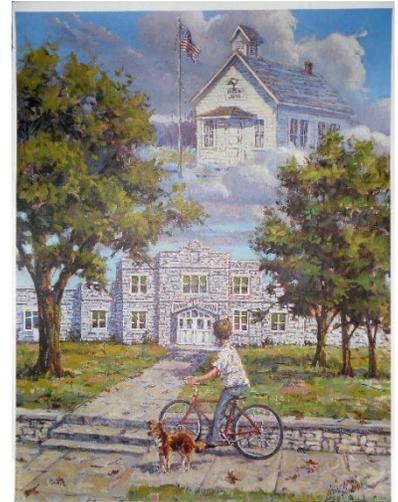
### My Early Selfies



Lowell with John Maxwell  
raccoon hunting  
Original Oil Painting

As a kid, my neighbor John Maxwell was a raccoon hunter and on occasion he would let me tag along which is captured in the selfie on the left.

I had been going to a one room country school house until I started the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, when my parents moved into Carthage Missouri. I'll never forget the first time I rode my bike over to my new school, Mark Twain Elementary. The selfie on the right is of me on my \$8 bike in my home made clothes and my dog Rusty staring at my new school and adventure. I never knew that I was poor until they told me I was!



"Spark of Talent"  
Original Oil Painting

After my parents moved to Carthage, the farm was still my love! Luckily I had lots of aunts and uncles who lived on surrounding farms so I tried to spend my summer vacations on their farms. I would spend 3 or 4 days at one aunt's and uncle's farm until they got sick of me and then I would just thank them and go to another aunt's and uncle's farm. "Long, Hot Summer" is a selfie of me using the animals' drinking water tank at one of my relative's farm to cool off.



**"Long, Hot Summer"**  
Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 1,950)



**"Pollywogs"**  
Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 750)

When I was a kid, our Sunday afternoon family thing was to wash our family car at a ford on White Oak Creek. "Pollywogs" is a selfie with me, my sister Evelyn and our parents on such a Sunday morning outing. While our parents washed the car, Evelyn and I would try to catch pollywogs (tadpoles) and minnows in the creek using nets and put them in fruit jars to take home.

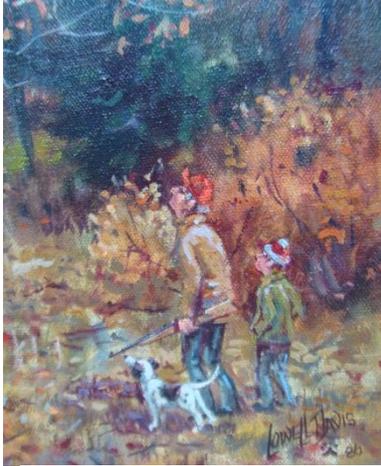
## My Childhood Memories

There are two types of artists – the purists who rely strictly on paint application and then there are the story telling artists. I definitely fall under the story telling artist category. My art is my life, either in my growing up years or now out my back door.

When we were children, my sister Evelyn and I used to help around the farm. One of my favorite chores was to look after the cows. "My Favorite Chores" is a selfie with me, Evelyn and our family dog rounding up our cows.



**"My Favorite Chores"**  
Porcelain Figurine (Ltd Ed of 1,500)



**"Crow Days"**  
Original Oil Painting

My favorite memories growing up would have to be either in the woods or on a river bank. My painting "Crow Days" shows my dad and me with our dog walking through the woods on a grey autumn day. Dad said to me "Son, these grey days are called crow days!"

I tried to capture a couple of vignettes of my youth while living in the original town of Red Oak Missouri using several different media.

I did a limited edition plate series of my memories in the original town of Red Oak. "Country Wedding" depicts my cousin Stanley and me the time we didn't get invited to a wedding which we were glad of. This way we had a chance to tie tin cans on the bride and groom's car bumper and used white shoe polish to write all kinds of cool sayings on their car.



**"Country Wedding"**  
Collectors Plate  
(Ltd Ed of 7,500)

During the Second World War, we lived in the rear of the ole General Store in Red Oak. One hot summer afternoon, dog days of summer is what we called such days, me and a couple of ole timers were sitting on the front porch talking about the war and watching the world pass by. A city slicker pulled up in his shiny red convertible and an ole coon hound crawled out from under the porch, strolled over and took a whiz on his new white wall tires. It didn't take much to entertain us back in those days.



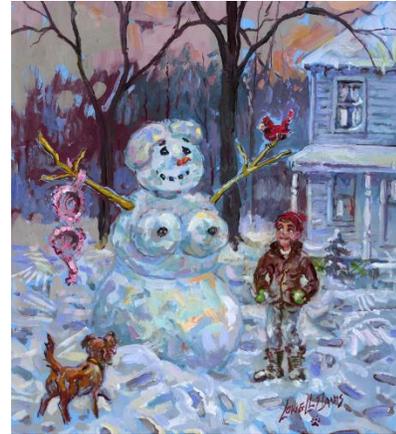
**"Red Oak General Store"**  
Collectors Plate  
(Ltd Ed of 7,500)



**"My Favorite Christmas Present"**  
Pewter Sculpture (Ltd Ed of 750)

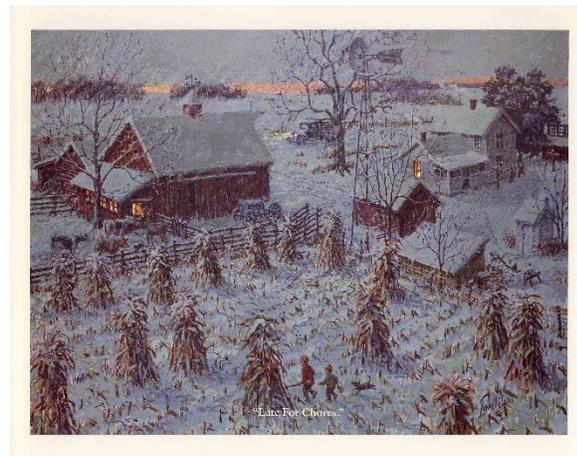
I have very fond memories of my first Red Rider Daisy BB Rifle that I received one Christmas. "My Favorite Christmas Present" is a pewter sculpture on me with that rifle. You can see how happy I was to have received this gift.

One winter we had a big snowfall. The snow was the perfect kind for making snowballs and building a snowman. It was the perfect medium for a buddin' young artist like me to sculpt a masterpiece out of. Then when my mother came out of the house and saw it, she made me change it back to a snowman, maybe because it was in our front yard!



**"The Young Lowell"**

Original Oil Painting / Giclée Prints



**"Late for Chores"**  
Original Oil Painting

"Late for Chores" is selfie is of me with my cousin Stanley. We had been running his rabbit box traps and got side tracked so by the time we got back to his parent's farm, we noticed the lights were on in the barn which meant Uncle Eddie had already started milkin' and that we were going to be in a heck of trouble as we were late for chores.

## My years in the Air Force and as a Commercial Artist



**Lowell's C-119 aircraft taking off outa Rhein-Main Airforce Base in Germany**  
Original Oil Painting

After I got out of high school in Carthage, I joined the air force and was stationed in France where I was one of a four-man crew on a C-119 cargo plane. Here is an oil painting of my aircraft taking off from Rhein-Main airbase in Germany. I was fortunate enough to visit a lot of countries in Europe and Africa during my tour over there. After my air force

days, I moved to Dallas / Fort Worth Texas where I was an art director for a big advertising agency – for thirteen years. All those thirteen years, all that I could think about was to escape this big city metropolitan life style and get me a farm back in good ole Missoura.



**Original Oil Painting**

A very early selfie that I painted when living in Dallas – Fort Worth, dreaming that I was back in good ole Missoura

While I was still in the Dallas / Fort Worth metroplex, one day as I was in my studio working on a painting of my cousin Stanley and me walking in the woods at night when we came across a possum up in a tree. My daughter Heather who was about 12 at that time looked at my painting and asked me “Daddy, what does that painting mean?” I was always telling her stories about growing up in Red Oak. After I told her the story behind the painting, she said “You have so many wonderful stories to tell!” I looked at her and asked “What do you mean? Don’t you have any childhood memories like mine?” She said “Daddy, I was raised with a swing set and television set.” It was

then and there that I decided that it was finally time to get out of this city life and move back to ole Missoura.

**My Farm and Red Oak II**

The day finally came and we moved back to Missoura. I bought this old, deserted, fallen down farm and I threw our television set in the pond. I swore that from then on my kids and my grandkids were going to have lots of memories. Thinking back on those years in Dallas / Fort Worth, I can’t remember any subject matter in city life that would have made good selfies. We started fixing the farm up and over the years we moved in more outbuildings that I salvaged from neighboring abandoned farms. I then started gathering all the animals that there was ever on a farm and started using them as models for my paintings and sculptures. There was no other artist at that time using any type of farm life in their art. My paintings and figurines took off and I started making more money than I knew what to do with, kind of a 40-year overnight success story. I wasn’t into Mercedes, swimming pools or villas in France.



"The Secret"  
Original Oil Painting

Being that we didn't get a newspaper or have a TV set or even a radio on the farm, I had to depend on other sources to find out what was going on in the world!

So here was all this money coming in and 23 miles away my little home town of Red Oak had started

turning into a deserted ghost town.

Both sides of my family pioneered this little village and it had a lot of meaning to me so I started picking up some of the ole deserted houses and businesses in Red Oak and moving to my cornfield on the east side of my farm and started fixing them up to their original grandeur. The first building I moved was the General Store which my family lived in the back of during the second World War. Then I moved in my grandfather's Blacksmith Shop. The third building that I moved in was my great grandmother's house. I created a road along which I placed the buildings that I was moving in and my cornfield was starting to look like a town. I named my new town Red Oak II in honor of the ole Red Oak.



My family lived in back of this one, the Red Oak General Store, during the second WW



The next building that I moved in from Red Oak was my great grandfather's Blacksmith Shop



The third building that I moved in was my great grandmother's house

After I got a couple more houses and buildings out of ole Red Oak, I started bringing in buildings off ole Route 66. When they built I-44 that paralleled ole Route 66, it took most of the traffic off the old route and many of the businesses along the old route had been abandoned as the owners could not make a living off them any longer. Then I acquired a house that the Dalton Gang lived in when they were growing up out in Vinita Oklahoma off Route 66 and a house that was one of the few wooden



Dalton Gang House from Vinita OK

structures that survived the Civil War and moved them to Red Oak II.



Civil War House, one of the few wooden structures that survived the Civil War

The remaining buildings were brought to Red Oak II for their architectural and historical value.



Elmira School House



Salem Country Church



Phillips 66 Gas Station from Route 66



Belle Starr House which is where I currently live with my wife Rose



Frank Yant House



Frank Stafford's Radiator Shop

As much as I've enjoyed painting and sculpting in my life, my favorite art material is recycled junk, so to speak. For the past 50 years, I have collected things that someone else has thrown away including old boards, stones, tin and other construction materials. I collected fallen down and deserted homes and an abandoned gas station, general store, town hall, country school and church and moved them to Red Oak II and fixed them up. Even today I am always on the lookout for buildings that I might be able to acquire and move to Red Oak II to fill in the open lots. I had always wanted to have a train station at Red Oak II but the ole train stations are always snapped up by railroad clubs so I finally decided to construct one at Red Oak II.



Red Oak II Train Station

If you are ever in our neck-o-d-woods, check us out!



If you have problems finding us, call 417-237-0808.

[Directions via Google Maps](#)

Your friend!

*Lowell Davis*  
🐾

PS: You are very welcome to share my World of Selfies with all your friends!!