



Inside Hyde Park

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A Drive to Create

by Paul Wentz, Editor *Inside Hyde Park* and HP Homeowner

An article in last month's *Inside Hyde Park* observed that the assignments appealing to Pat Regan the most during his hospital administration career involved design and construction. After spending time with Pat and his art, it was apparent that this was an expression of an innate drive to create.

This drive was instilled in Pat by life-long influences such as his mom who played the piano, his dad who whittled wood, and his older sister who was an art teacher. Art and culture were as much a part of his upbringing as sports. Though sculpting and painting would wait until his retirement, Pat was encouraged by his parents to spend eight of his formative years learning to play the piano, which is today a prominent feature of his home "conservatory."

Work and family took up Pat's time during his career years; however, the need to create art was just below the surface. In Saudi Arabia, for example, lived a particular Bedouin, a laborer with a fascinating face that begged artistic expression. Pat asked the man if he would allow him to take his photo. However, the Arab declined.

Pat was motivated to capture his vision of the man's character. When a subsequent opportunity presented itself, he made another request. Pat clarified that his goal was to draw the man's features and that he needed a photo to do so. This time he agreed. Pat created, I believe, a clear and sharp image of a strong, proud person.

When Pat retired in 2012, he had time to design and construct in other formats. Designing and constructing would translate to painting and sculpting. In search of art instruction, Pat visited galleries in Tulsa to research opportunities to learn sculpting. A gallery suggested that he visit with a group of sculptors which met once a month. Since this was a gathering of sculptors from the Oklahoma Sculpture Society, it appeared that this art form was destined to be a part of Pat's life. They did not give

classes, but still they took Pat under their wing and taught him how to sculpt.

He continues to advance his skills by his participation in art workshops. Pat's commitment to art expression includes a home workshop of his own, added during construction of his house here at Hyde Park. It provides a warm and inviting space for him and his wife Sandy to work on their individual projects. The result of Pat's artistic expression is an outpouring of art evident throughout his house. **HP**



Owl in clay
(2022)

Sample of Pat's Art

Piano keys in water color.
(2020)



Bedouin in pencil.
(1978)



Sandy & grandkids
in chalk. (2001)



Auto Adventures

by **Paul Wentz**, Editor *Inside Hyde Park*
and HP Homeowner

So, what does one do? Raised on a farm. No vacations growing up. Little travel while married. Now on her own. The answer for Hyde Park homeowner Pearl Garrison is “travel while I can.” Until 2020, Pearl had traveled little. Since then her car’s odometer has been steadily climbing.

It started in 2020 with her daughter-in-law, a resident of Michigan, who was scheduled to travel to Virginia for job training. Pearl’s response when told of her daughter-in-law’s plans was, “Why don’t I meet you there?” It was a spontaneous suggestion based on a need to, as Pearl put it, “...see what’s out there.” It would be her first of several successful auto adventures.

Planning comes first. Do I have GPS for mapping trip? Check. Has the car been serviced? Check. Do I have my AAA card? Check. Do I have my phone and its charger? Check. Do I have my credit card? Check. Pearl calls these her five essentials. Google research is also required. What are the top ten attractions of the states traversed? What are the top ten attractions of the cities visited?

Though having a list of attractions is helpful, surprises and unplanned discoveries can be exciting as well. The potential for fun finds along the way increases if you get off the interstate as Pearl does. The side roads lead to a mix of past and present, the old and the new. As Pearl states it, “You get a clearer picture of America when you get off the interstate.” The roads to Virginia, for example, led to a Kentucky horse farm, an Appalachian arts and crafts sales barn, the Norfolk Botanical Garden, an ocean view, and much more.

It is also about the people met along the way. As Pearl notes, “people are basically nice.” She often initiates conversations with strangers, like the Amish couple walking along the side of the road. When Pearl asked if they would like a lift, they thanked her but declined, noting that their place



was just up ahead. One of many brief encounters, Pearl finds frequent and friendly experiences like this during her auto adventures.

Though there is a planned end point to her road trips, the entire excursion is the destination. Each person she meets, each place she visits is part of the travel experience. Her planned travels for 2022 include a trip to Albuquerque to witness the international balloon festival, a trip to Kenya and Tanzania to experience a safari, and a trip to Cuba. This year also includes an auto adventure to Michigan to visit her daughter-in-law. As Pearl explains, “I don’t know how many more years I’ll be mentally and physically able to do this. So I want to do it now.” **HP**

Table Talk from the HOA Chair

by **Les Gleaves**, President, HP Homeowners Association

We had great homeowner attendance at the January 17 Board meeting. The great comments and questions along with the full house were terrific. Over the next two months the Board will continue to focus on the CC&Rs update, clubhouse use, the budget reserve study, and security system strengthening. As a part of the process, the Board has asked Property Manager Gail Ogle to evaluate security upgrade options that include the gates and the clubhouse as well as better lighting in the parking lot. Our next Board meeting will be February 21 at 1:00. **HP**