

WAG NEWSLETTER



From The Editor,

September 15, 2020

For as long as I can remember, traffic-clogging school buses have been a pet peeve of mine when it came to sharing the road with them. Now days it seems that the buses stop at every driveway, and should you get caught behind a bus, you're doomed. So, when driving to work, I would time my departure based upon avoiding the school buses more so than getting to work on time.

For nearly 20 years I've live on a short dead-end street, and Monday through Friday the school bus would make it's way towards the end of the street where the neighborhood children would gather. After the children were all on board, the bus turned around and retreated back up the street. This process was repeated when school was out. Twice daily when the children gathered for the bus in the morning and departed the bus in the afternoon, my quiet street was disrupted. To me those buses and kids were a nuisance.

Recently though, I've had a change of heart.

The other day as I left my house to drive to the store, I encountered a school bus on my street, and instead of becoming tense and agitated, I smiled and even waved at the bus!

I had realized that I hadn't seen, or heard, a school bus and children gathered nearby in over six months. Seeing a bus that day gave me some reassurance that life as I knew it prior to COVID-19 was slowly beginning to show signs of normalcy.

After that incident, I have been inspired to return to doing things I enjoy. Things I had put aside as I had become complacent. Things that are important to me such as my art. And already I've notice a change in my attitude and outlook.

The moral to this story is, to look around and take notice of the small changes that may be taking place which may inspire you to do things you've put aside. You'll feel better if you do!



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Barn



Quilts

... and Barn Quilt Trails

The History of Barn Quilts

Our ancestors gave us the art of painting different messages and shapes on buildings, homes, barns, and other structures, and the art of painting barn quilts is an expansion of that ancient form of expression.

The *Barn Quilt* movement was the brainchild of Ohio quilter Donna Sue Groves who got the idea for barn quilts as she watched her grandmother quilt during family visits in Roanoke, Virginia.



Barn Quilt Trails

A Barn Quilt Trail is a series of painted wood, metal hung, or freestanding quilt squares installed along a route emphasizing significant architecture and/or aesthetic landscapes.



While working with the Ohio Arts Council, Donna Sue saw how murals painted on buildings gave the locals a sense of pride, while giving the tourists something to talk about. The murals gave her the idea to paint quilt squares on a bunch of local barns.

The Arts Council saw the economic value of attracting tourists who would enjoy the concept. So, in 2001 the Arts Council gave the go-ahead to paint the first quilt square on a local barn which became the showpiece for what is now the Barn Quilt Trail. The Trail currently comprises 48 states, and over 7,000 quilts.

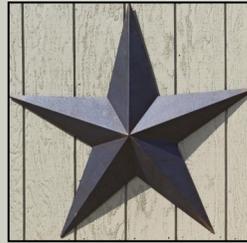
For information about Barn Quilt Trails in Washington, click on the below link:

<https://centralwashingtonoutdoor.com/barn-quilts/>

Hex Signs



and



Barn Stars



HEX SIGNS

Over 300 years ago, groups of religious refugees from Germany migrated to Southeastern Pennsylvania for religious freedom. Many of these refugees were Amish and Mennonites, “people of plain dress”, along with Lutherans and other Reformed groups of more worldly dress that were called “people of fancy dress”.

These fancy people became known as Pennsylvania Dutch who painted colorful geometric patterns on their barns. Many were floral designs depicting flowers, birds and stars, and often resembled a quilt patch. Each symbol held a special meaning.

The symbols became known as “hex” signs which came from the German word “sechs” meaning six, referring to the six-pointed star which is now best known as an Amish Barn Star, and were believed to bring the families good luck.



BARN STARS were meant to represent the mark of the builder, but became more frequently used for aesthetic purposes being added to the building after construction.

The stars were prominent in the United States during the 18th century, and as late as 1870 in Pennsylvania, where their popularity increased greatly following the Civil War.

The first Amish barn star was a three-pointed star, and they have changed through the years. The colors that the star was painted had certain meanings:



Violet:	Things that are sacred.
Black:	Protection.
Blue:	Protection, peace, calmness, & spirituality.
Brown:	Mother Earth, friendship & strength.
Green:	Growth fertility, success in things & ideas that grow.
Orange:	Abundance in career, projects & matters needing a push.
Red:	Emotions, passion, charisma, lust & creativity.
White:	Purity, power of the moon, energy flowing freely.
Yellow:	Health in body & mind, love of man & the sun, connection to God.

AUSTRALIA'S

SILO



ART

The Australian **Silo Art Trail** is a collection of painted silos and water towers across Australia. It connects rural communities through art and tourism, and gives people from all walks of life the opportunity to experience Australia's number one road trip.

Most of the murals are the work of Australian artist **Guido van Helten** who has made a name for himself making large-scale public artworks in cities across the U.S. and Europe, as well as Australia.



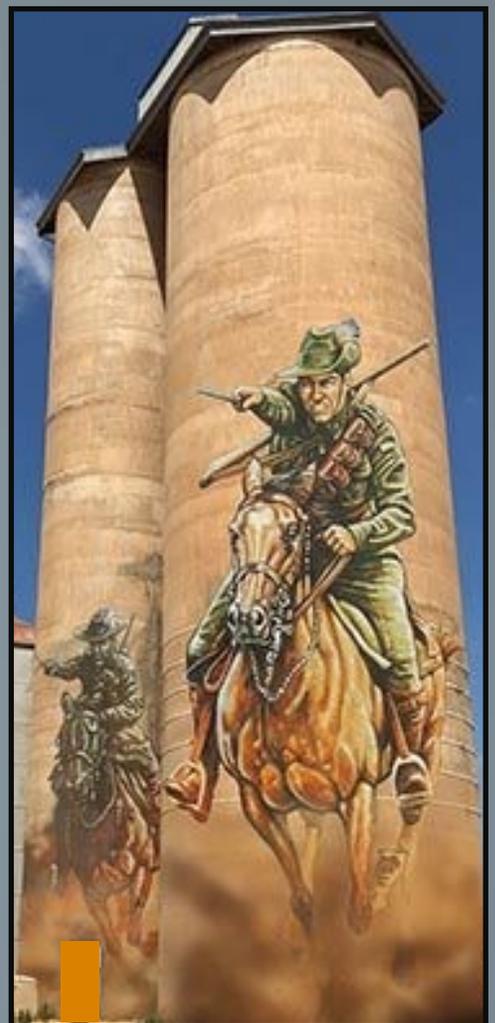
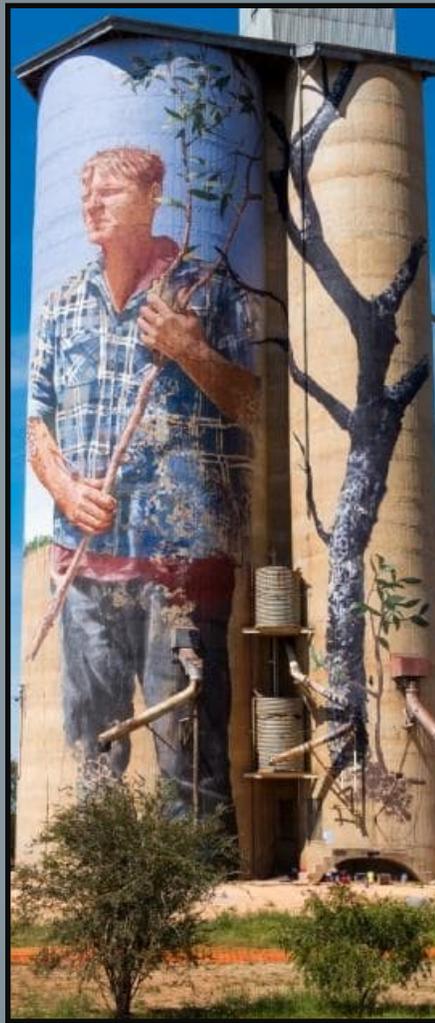
AUSTRALIA'S

SILO



ART

Van Helten often receives offers from the forgotten about places, or the places that want to try new things or use their infrastructure in a creative way. The resident's truthfully believe that his work will single-handedly turn their community's fortunes around, and provide a growing sense of optimism about the future.



AUSTRALIA'S

SILO

ART



The paint is barely dry on the portrait of the schoolgirl gazing down from the top of the 100ft structure-right, and already it is the talk of the town. Likened to giant black and white photos, Van Helten's works can take from 10 days to a month to complete.



QUIZ

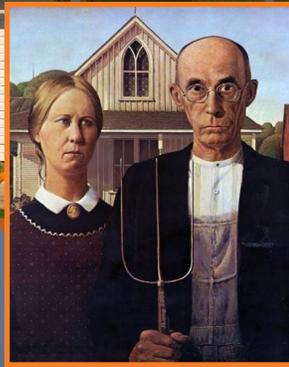
winner!
winner!
WINNER!

TIME

The September 1st newsletter quiz was, "What is the significance of the house below?"



Grant Woods

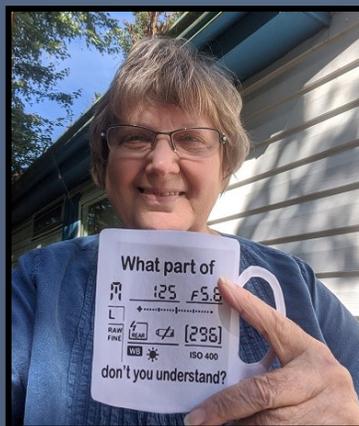


Answer: it is the backdrop in Grant Woods' painting "American Gothic".

Prizes were awarded to the 2nd and 7th members who submitted the correct answer.



Skip Patten-2nd to answer



*Lorraine Day-7th to answer
Tied*



*Teri Torchia-7th to answer
Tied*

Artist Challenge



"The Chicken Challenge"

ENTRIES

So far we've only received
1 entry!

There's still time to
create your
masterpiece for the
CHICKEN CHALLENGE!



Chickens come in all sizes,
colors and shapes so you
can get as creative,
crazy and colorful as
you want!

Let's Do It !!



Pam Pontious



"Gallus Punk"

Retired ace barn-stormer —
currently an airship pilot.

If you're are having fun seeing the art of
fellow members and voting for your
favorites, then why not **participate** by
emailing your work to **Joyce Norfolk** at
studiogals@aol.com. If you play along,
you will have a chance to win a cash prize
and have your feathered creation put up
for sale in one of WAQs venues at Banner
Bank, Colophon Cafe or the Art Market.

The Challenge is open now and the

Entry deadline is OCTOBER 14th!



We hope
you will jump in for
a bit of fun in
whatever medium
you want to try.



Whether it will be
a collage with
feathers, a basket
with an egg woven
in, a photo, painting
or weaving, we're
looking forward to
seeing what our
creative artist

Your Art Challenge Team



Winner

Past WAG President Pat Fisher found the Hide 'n Seek *Smiley Face* on page 9 of the September Newsletter.



Thanks for playing along Pat!



Pat with her prize.

Sketchy Thought



Bestow a Bouquet!

Flowers are always healthy & never political.
Daisies aren't divisive & Violets spread no virus.
Tulips, Lilies & Roses never lie.
Be kind, be blossom-full today,
Give yourself a bouquet!