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Dream Come True

At Home With Will and Lili Turnbow

*Peach Festival Guide
-and-
Dining Deals
Inside!*

Variety of Form
Revamping the Kid's Room

Fill It With Hope

In the Kitchen
With Sadie deMoville

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ON THE COVER



Preserving the Monarch butterfly has become a goal of the Parker County Master Gardeners.

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Editor's Note

Hello there, *WeatherfordNOW* Readers!

I want to begin by saying "thank you" to those who emailed or called with article suggestions for *WeatherfordNOW*. We have a myriad of remarkable residents whose stories I would love to share, and with community members like you, our readers are learning more about their neighbors. If you know someone who

may want to share a few recipes, open their homes for a sneak peek inside or humbly express their contributions to the community, feel free to drop me a line.

Speaking of line, why not cast your fishing rod at Lake Weatherford? According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the nearly 1,200-acre lake is home to a variety of fish, including: largemouth bass, sunfish, crappie and channel catfish. While there, be sure to stop by the Lake Weatherford Marina for some fare on the patio.

Have fun!

Amber

Amber D. Browne
WeatherfordNOW Editor
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Variety of *Form*

— By Amber D. Browne

Artistry comes in many forms. Musicians create masterpieces of harmonies, while engineers erect buildings to stand for centuries. The definition of the word artist encompasses many professions, all of which create or master a skill. An artist of several forms, John Stout is known for hundreds, if not thousands, of creations. The 72-year-old's varied masterpieces include: carved wooden toys for his children, pin-striped motorcycles and classic cars, advertisements and signs for local businesses and painted family portraits.

While driving through downtown Weatherford, you may have noticed the Parker County Peach Festival mural displayed on the Downtown Café. It is one of John's creations. The 20-by-25-foot mural has covered the building's brick since 2002 and was updated with the date each year, until recently. The colorful invitation now displays the event date as the second Saturday of July on a blue ribbon, which also includes the title of the fun-filled afternoon. The Parker County Courthouse stands brightly in the center surrounded by peaches, of course.

John first noticed his artistic abilities at an early age when he drew a German airplane in the back of the family Bible. His late father, Paul Stout, was in advertising, so creativity ran in the family. When John and each of his three brothers turned 14, they were to report to their father's sign shop. "He was





going to teach us all that trade, and then we could do whatever we wanted to after that,” John explained.

Raised in a lower-income family, John didn’t have the luxury of time. “We had to get paid for every minute,” he shared. So, John would sell his ideas and make them a beautiful reality on the first try. “Being raised in that atmosphere, it almost gave you a poverty spirit. To come out of that, you spend the rest of your life to make more. I would always try to do that with my labor rather than my investments. It didn’t make a difference what came along.”

John took the experience he learned from his father and briefly attended art school. “I knew more than my teachers,” he laughed. Although he doesn’t have much professional training, John’s studies haven’t slowed. “If a job comes up,” he said, “I head to the library.” Research is crucial to any project John accepts. “I’m constantly looking for stuff that I can study and teach myself.” He often takes

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photographs of clouds or flowers to study the colors. He studies color theory to learn how to mix paints to create the perfect shade. “The knowledge of art started with color combinations.”

John’s father taught him creativity and the art of sales. “You must first know people. People mean soul, and soul means spirit, mind and emotion,” John shared. “You have to do a lot of listening, ask a lot of questions, don’t show off, pick their brain and then go home and try it.”

Over the last six decades, John has used his knowledge and know-how of reading people to share his ideas with the world. After high school, he enlisted in the Army and was stationed in Germany with a recon outfit in the 3rd Calvary Regiment. John was unassigned, so he took his father’s advice and carried around a paint brush. He soon found himself painting buildings for the Seventh Army. “We got second most decorated company in Europe in 1963.” John’s brother, Stewart Stout, who was stationed in Munich at the time, earned first place the same year. “We kept it in the family,” John laughed.

While stationed in Europe, John and two of his buddies traveled the countryside taking note of the architecture and artwork. He was always aware of what was around him. He also spent some time studying art in Israel. Later in life, he was called on to paint scriptures in calligraphy, which once hung in the Assembly Hall in Jerusalem. “I said, ‘Awe, I must be internationally known,’” he smiled. John finds joy in painting and sculpting anything that glorifies the Lord. He has carved several crosses and paints cherubs and angels in

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many of his murals. In his down time, John studies the Bible and attends two churches — Grace Community Church in Weatherford and Convergence Church in Fort Worth.

Over the years, John has had his hand in a variety of projects. “In time, you become known as the guy who can do anything,” he said. John’s home is filled with his paintings and architectural models. His work can be found on and inside buildings in the local area and across the globe. He was responsible for refinishing about two-and-a-half miles of 3/8-inch thick mortar during the restoration of the Parker County Courthouse. Over three weeks’ time, he stenciled the design and filled it in by hand. He has also painted nose art on airplanes for the Confederate Air Force and hand-carved and painted five horse carousels, which are displayed in several states. For 20 years, John painted arena



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logos for the National Cutting Horse Association and other organizations in the industry.

At one time, John built and painted 42 stage coaches with J.W. Brown. His stage coaches have not only been displayed in buildings and advertising but also featured in movies. United Artists requested a 30-year-old stage coach for a movie set 100 years ago. To the disbelief of J.W. Brown, John threw a gallon of brown paint on the \$60,000 stage coach and began spreading it over its exterior. "I got a dry rag and started wiping it all off, except for the corners," he stated. Next, he used a process to paint a grain-like appearance on the coach, striped it and then scuffed the striping to give it an aged look. Upon delivery, a United Artists representative threw a shovel of dirt on the coach and approved it for filming. "The studio didn't have to do anything to that coach to make it ready for filming. Especially coming from where I come from, that's good," John laughed.

John has taken about a year off from painting professionally and his volunteer work with the Weatherford Art Association to care for his best friend, Ron Smith, who suffers from Muscular Dystrophy. John and his wife, Judi, consider Ron a brother. John is delving into his art a little more these days and is currently working on a piece for his daughter.

"If you understand art, I don't care what you want to do, you have something to add. It's the root, the soul and spirit to be creative," he confessed. John considers himself a servant. Although those who witness his artwork may not know who created it, they can gain peace or joy from it. "It just gives them a moment. That's what we're here for." **NOW**



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