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SPECIAL FEATURE

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LIVING LEGEND



Five Card Stud
Oil on canvas, 24" x 36"

Padre painted this award winning painting from a candid photo he snapped with the small Instamatic camera he often carried in his saddle bag. After an active Fall season day of working cattle on the Trail Creek Ranch with the familiar Heart Mountain landmark in the distant background north of Cody, Monte suggested a few games of five card stud as a brief change of pace form of mid-afternoon relaxation.

See the feature story of Padre's legendary life journeys on the following pages.

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Padre riding in chase with his favorite quarter horse, Midnight.



Recent November 2017 smart phone photo taken by his son, Rick.

*R. Padre "Doc" Johnson
a Legend
in his own time*

International author, art critic and United Nations global historian,
Dr. Noel Brown, writes that
"Padre has truly lived the adventure of the Renaissance man in our time."

Padre was recently twice interviewed by Taffany Deppert for the expressed purpose of recording on tape his fascinating range of careers. Among the many, a few of these include being recognized as an internationally celebrated artist, writer, world journeyman, authentic ranch cowboy and one of the most highly decorated Chaplains and field medical officers in the history of the United States Military.



Highlights from Padre's Vietnam Service

In view of his extensive medical background and also his very successful community and campus ministry as an ordained Lutheran Church in America pastor, when he entered the Navy Marine Chaplain Corps during the Vietnam War, he was officially assigned for the first time in American Military history to serve an independent duty position as both the chaplain and also in the field medical officer position with a black beret "River Raider" Assault Force One Special Forces Unit in Vietnam's Mekong Delta region. It was also the first time that a combined Navy, Army, Vietnamese Marine Special Forces experiment was assembled for a single overall three year mission together in the war.

For Padre's many successful lifesaving medical rescue efforts under some of the most mission impossible combat conditions, during which he was wounded in two separate battles, he was very highly decorated with two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit with Valor, the Bronze Star, the Vietnamese Cross and two Purple Hearts.

) During Padre's 1967-68 tour of duty, he survived one of the most casualty-riddled battles in the shortest amount of time in the war. Most of the 58 dead and 163 American wounded casualties occurred in the first two hours of that June 19, 1967 blood-soaked battle, and one Padre referred to in his book by Fleming Revell Pub as "his longest day."

Padre had direct eye-to-eye combat experience in seven other major battles with hard-core Vietcong units. But, he said, "nothing resembled the surreal carnage of the 19th of June along the narrow Rach Gai River tributary. Without the slightest evidence of the Vietcong's body presence, suddenly as our young men were crossing the open rice paddies in their movement toward the mangroves, we were caught in a surprise triangular (three sided) trap by the most accurate fire power blitz from their mangrove foliage camouflaged bunkers and other locations of ground fire."

From his ramp down on the waterway bank medical boat position, Padre watched in disbelief as one friend and then another were being cut down like cycled weeds. Padre said, "If it could have just been a movie; but sadly it was for real."

Then out of the mayhem of that casualty littered-field, a wounded radioman made a valiant 75 plus yards away attempt to reach their ramp down medical capacity and was hit again about 50 yards out. Padre said, he will never forget the "Help me" expression in the eyes and face of the radioman as he looked at Padre crouched on the medical boat ramp. Under that type of critical situation, you have only one instinctive choice and that is to leave the boat ramp and carry this seriously wounded family member back to our medical boat.

While Padre and one of his corpsmen were working together to control the radioman's bleeding, he informed Padre and his Navy Corpsman that most of the Army medics,

Taffany Deppert and Padre Johnson worked together with other participants and resources to provide this story of Padre's many lives global adventure.

officers and enlisted leadership had been killed, wounded, or disabled at various levels, and that in some way they had to bring medical aid to the wounded. And because Padre "Doc" could observe where many of the wounded were still moving, he told his two corpsmen and the army medic on the medical boat that time to bring medical aid to the field wounded was critical and directed them to maintain the medical boat facility to care for the many Navy boat crew wounded who were taking intensive fire from the VC shore batteries and also for the Army wounded who were able to reach their on the shore medical capacity.

In a feature article interview that the Padre Doc was asked to give to the "Military" magazine, entitled "The Rach Gai River and the Padre Doc," the magazine feature briefly entered, among others, the following critical moment detailing one of Padre's successful medical rescue efforts as he moved from the medical boat and back into the field of scattered casualties four times on that most unforgettable "longest day of his life."

During his second re-entry into that field of pure survival conditions, while Padre was working on two wounded friends, they were both hit again. Then Padre was hit just after he had completed giving the required medical help to both a second time. Somehow, with the instructions he gave to the lesser wounded Sergeant in helping to assist the Padre with his wounded condition, Padre managed to control his bleeding and miraculously and thankfully remained able throughout the length and breadth of that conflict to stay directly connected as the field medical leader to so many of the wounded. The men not only reached out for medical assistance but also for the emotional, spiritual and encouragement help that the Padre tried his best, with God's intervention, to give during their struggle to survive and live. Especially vital was the encouragement he gave each one to believe that they would be rescued after all the medivac helicopter rescue was withdrawn due to

the loss of almost every helicopter while they were making their rescue approach.

Padre wrote in his descriptive journal entries of that longest day battle, "to the best of my ability and with the help of our Creator and in my gradually diminishing physical strength condition, I was nevertheless just so very thankful that I could be at that right place and time to provide the helpful medical intervention and spiritual encouragement for so many of my heroic wounded friends. Then also, on that same picture frame of the Face of War, I am eternally thankful that I could be there for the other courageous men of honor that I was regretfully unsuccessful in my effort to save as they slipped away from the hands of my best lifesaving medical skills on that unforgettable dark and cloudy day to breathe their last word, breath and same face of final peace that I have observed on every person who has passed in my presence." Padre mentioned that on June 19th and in all of the other major combat experiences, as their Padre and Doc, more often than not, he was the last person to speak a caring and hopefully a helpful word with them on this side of the bridge of life.

He concluded his thoughts in my interview with him by declaring that "in the raw reality of combat, many of us survived because we helped and strengthened one another. Under the ominous clouds of those survival conditions, there are no officers or enlisted, drafted or volunteers. On that landscape we are all marked as men and women to be there for each other on the same deck of survival."

In that same interview that Padre gave to the military magazine concerning some of the details during his "longest day" story, Ray Riessco, the commander of River Div III on June 19th, 20th, and who was also taking continuous fire to his own boat, was then briefly interviewed by the magazine because of his uniquely positioned eye witnessed observations of Padre's on-field medical intervention efforts during that longest day.

Riesco said each time he watched the Doc move back into that field of death, he just knew that he couldn't possibly return. But each time he returned to resupply his medical bag and stay to assist in the medical boat before returning to that field. Riessco continued by saying that all he could do was pray for our medical and spiritual leader. He continued, "the Padre must have had three angels protecting him during the completion of his mission impossible task!"

Padre notes that of the eight major battles he survived during his Vietnam duty, the June 19th. 67 battlefield carnage experience (reported in both "Time" and "Newsweek" cover feature stories) was clearly the most terrifying of them all. Years later, Thomas Cutler, USN Ret. wrote an eight-page account of Padre's medical lifesaving efforts story in his award-winning book, "The Brown Water Black Beret." Padre's story has also been featured in many other books, magazines, three official histories of the Vietnam War, and in many radio, TV and newspaper interviews all across many of our nation's and international cities and also in his own book, Postmark Mekong Delta, by Fleming Revell Pub.

Padre's historic "The Face of War" sketch

Fifteen years after the fierce June 19th battle along the Rach Gai, Padre sketched this historic moment of survival from a photo that was given to him by the AP photographer who happened to be riding with the medical boat during that same three-sided ambush assault with Padre and the men of River Raider Force One.

A short time after Doc Johnson had finished giving what was a living successful medical aid result to the seriously wounded casualty that was being rushed by stretcher to the medical helo, the photographer told Padre that he had captured Padre's helmet, nose, mouth and chin image in a photo that he took just after he had returned to give Medical aid to another casualty in the foreground (with the IV bottle in view) and just before leaving the medical boat to return to the field. Then he told Padre that if they survived that terror, he wanted him to have the photo.

Shortly after the AP photographer snapped this photo that years later Padre converted into this historic award-winning charcoal pencil sketch,



all medivac attempts were temporarily discontinued due to the loss of most of the medivac helo's while making their rescue approach efforts. Only later in the early evening was medivac rescue restored. That's when the backup fresh special forces company connected with their counterpart Vietnamese Marine special forces assault unit and broke through to create a corridor for the return of medivac rescue and also a miracle perimeter protection that prevented the Vietcong from leaving their mangrove protection to wipe out the rest of the wounded throughout that long night. The next day, that hardcore VC force was finally defeated with heavy losses.

In 1990, this historic sketch was given the title "The Face of War" by the former retired Commander and Chief of the US Navy, Admiral Zumwalt. He was a guest in attendance at a special gathering of Army Navy and Marine Vietnam war participants and leaders where Padre was the keynote speaker. In Adm. Zumwalt's written comments to Padre following his keynote address, he wrote, "your Face of War original sketch presents the most powerful rendition of the saving of life in the face of any wars struggle to survive,"—etc. Then the Admiral followed by asking Padre to write his own brief observation of that "longest day" for a special media release and also to be used as a framed attachment to his original sketch for special showings at the Pentagon, West Point, the Naval Academy and other locations.

The following is a shortened version of the Padre's media release that Adm. Zumwalt requested for the original "Face of War" showings. Padre writes, "in every form of honest evaluation, there is no adequate translation to the eye-to-eye fierce bloody encounters that I and my courageous friends experienced on June 19th 1967 and in so many other battle conditions along the waterways, rice paddies and mangroves of the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam. Perhaps the most effective interpretation for me is reflected in the reality blend

of courage and also the helpless fatigued 'What's happening – what's it all about' facial expression of the young man with a non-visible, lower leg wound that is standing on the left side of the Face of War sketch. Both realities say it all many times over for me."

Padre Returns From Vietnam to a Fascinating Diversity of Opportunities, Job Descriptions and Awards

A year after Padre returned from Vietnam, he was honored as One of the Ten Outstanding Young Americans. It was only the second time in the award's history from its beginning in 1938 that this prestigious honor was given to someone representing the military. The award was given to Padre for his many lifesaving medical accomplishments under the most impossible combat conditions. This award is given to ten very successful age 40 and under young Americans representing the vast range of job descriptions across our nation. In previous years this honor was given to such notables as John F. Kennedy, Henry Kissinger and many others for their national and global leadership accomplishments. An example in the area of classical music is that of the famous Leonard Bernstein. He was selected for his celebrated musical skills in writing and also directing the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. Former Vice President Dick Cheney and Padre are the two Wyomingites to receive this honor.

Former political speech writer and patron of the arts, Dr. H. R. Meier, followed, researched and wrote about Padre's many life journeys until his passing in 2009. He wrote, "it's the refreshingly unique combination of Padre's natural and thankful goodness sharing side blended with his enjoyable fun loving happy rascal and unbridled lust for life freedom spirit person side that fuels his ro-

mance with life adventure and his insight into the meaning and purpose of our human existence.”

Then he further wrote that, “to understand the natural spirit of freedom and breathing quality in Padre’s unique forms of artistic creativity and in his written and spoken insights, you have to also appreciate the influence of his interesting range of life events and job descriptions in shaping the quality of his artistic and written accomplishments. Some of these include drawing portraits and a range of other subjects with an amazing likeness at the ages of nine and ten (kept on file by his mother) – then living the life of an authentic working cowboy with an interesting variety of major Wyoming and Montana ranching outfits including the famous 450 thousand acre Padlock Ranch out of Dayton, Wyoming on the edge of the Big Horn Mountains. It was the last ranch to employ the horse drawn chuck and supply wagon working outfits during the spring branding and fall roundup seasons.

Padre was also a blue-collar worker in heavy construction and transportation, a very successful college athlete in the sports of football and baseball during which he was offered a bonus contract with the Dodgers. He was an emergency room and operating room medical technician during the period of his medical studies. He then entered Lutheran Theological Seminary at the University of Chicago and was ordained a Lutheran Church in America Pastor. He then served a brief ministry as a college and community pastor. Following his four years in the active military and in Vietnam, he was offered a series of state and national leadership positions in government and human services in the state of Minnesota. There he created and implemented some very successful community-based crime and drug abuse prevention programs as the Director of Development for the Governor’s Crime Commission and later as director of Community Development for the National Technical Services Foundation.

Following a change of administration in the state, he was offered a very high-level endorsement to run for Congress. Aware of the reality that he was being enticed to sell the soul and freedom spirit of his personal integrity, in the spirit of friendship he informed the committee to look for another candidate. Within weeks, the National Church Leadership asked Padre, in view of his ecumenical experience in his previous ministries if he would seriously consider re-entering the active church ministry and accept the responsibility as the resident minister/pastor to a new town master planned community church experiment. This involved people representing many and also no denominational connections in one house.

The purpose was to see if those in attendance and the membership could appreciate the many similarities and also the interesting differences in their community assembly. The book of worship and song that Padre and others created expressed a resemblance to the form of worship and song that Padre provided the participants in his Vietnam special forces unit command. During that period of ministry in the new town of Jonathan, MN (12 miles outside of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota), the attendance extended beyond all previous expectations at the community convention center.

During both his fulfilling chapters in government and his re-entry into the ministry in Jonathan, he completed the work for his doctorate in the combined disciplines of theology and cultural anthropology. In conjunction with his very productive five-year ministry in Jonathan, the church gave him six weeks every year to live with different cultures and religions to complete the research for his doctorate.

Padre Returns to Wyoming and the Continuation of A Very Successful and Productive Romance with Life Adventure

In the late 70s, Padre once again departed the active ministry of the church following a major but friendly disagreement with certain leadership authorities of his own denomination over his “first floor of reality world view philosophy.” Shortly after a respectful exchange of ideas and thought with his denomination’s leadership, he returned to Wyoming and his previous years in the saddle and hired on over a period of four years to a series of previously mentioned major ranching outfits. Following his return to Wyoming, Padre decided to remain silent about almost all of his previous life adventures and job descriptions among the people and friends, of this his home territory, until asked to provide the information for this feature story of his life. He is presently completing his memoirs in the form of a novel that is threaded with a landscape of his fascinating life stories and his refreshing expressions of humor and gift of self-humor.

Back to Padre’s ranching years: One day Padre sketched his cowboss, in the saddle, looking toward the horizon with a curiously pensive look in his eyes and strong facial expression. This sketch was later discovered by the management of a prestigious gallery. Needless to say, the gallery leadership was captivated by the creative, life

breathing quality of his cowboss sketch. Almost immediately they responded by providing Padre with a well-publicized high-ranking endorsement to his very highly successful first showing depicting his real-life ranching moments. Of the 13 originals that he created in the back room of the bunk house after work, all 13 originals sold on the first day of his individual one man showing. And then, like following magic, his unplanned profession-



Old Leather Denim and Dreams painting

al art career was launched with an exciting and increasing success across the country and beyond any wish that exceeded even the most impossible dream.

Voyageur Art, one of America’s leading distributors of fine art before they merged with Greenwich (America’s leading distributor) helped to launch Padre’s professional art career by publicizing many of Padre’s early western and wildlife award-winning limited-edition prints under the featured headliner on the following page.

R. Padre Johnson.

“One of American’s most talented, creative and exciting artists in the field of western, wildlife and portrait art.”

- Voyageur Art

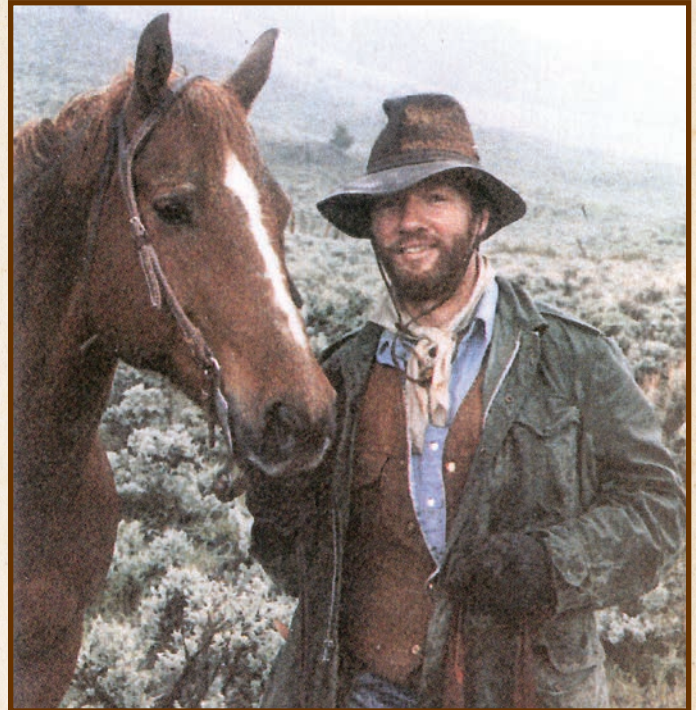
Along with Padre’s famous globally distributed and national western artist award winning “Ghost Riders in the Sky” painting, his “Old Leather Denim and Dreams” painting, on the previous page, is another example of Padre’s Artist of the Year original paintings and limited-edition print presentations. The “Old Leather Denim and Dreams” oil painting captures an actual moment of break during the fall roundup on the Trail Creek Ranch near Cody, Wyoming with his legendary saddle partner and close friend forever, Charlie Blackstone.

During a period of extended waiting for the other hands to arrive with their gathered cattle from the Southeast, Padre observed Charlie and his Blue Roan quarter horse drifting like two same spirit twins into a dreaming mood of contemplation across the free spirit atmosphere of mountain wonder. Before Charlie was aware, Padre reached into his saddle bag for his little Instamatic camera and snapped two exceptional shots for his photo album. Many months later he created this unique classic national and international award-winning rendition reflecting the mystical unity of nature, man and horse. There are only a few artist proofs left in this long ago sold out limited edition.

Padre’s Insight into his Professional Western Art Career

In the subject matter of my Western art experience, I attempted to capture a uniquely diverse Western Americana view into the ranching life I lived in Wyoming and Montana. With reference to the American horse and saddle cowboy culture, I feel that I have been able to

project an effective transfer of mood and lifestyle to canvas because I have tasted, smelled, listened and observed very carefully as a free spirit soul and actual working member of the few remnants which still in some form link my early days in the



This photo provides a pause during a very misty wet day with one of Padre’s string of four horses during the Spring roundup and branding season on the famous Padlock Ranch where Floyd Workman and Charlie Seqrst were his cowboss’ with the Connley wagon outfit.

saddle, as well as the contemporary 1970s and 80s with the historic high country and range cowboys of the last century.

Certainly not in all, but in many respects the horse and saddle cow puncher I worked with is similar to his rugged predecessor at the turn of the century. As one participant in the vast array of talent which attempts to capture its past and continuing essence and create a valid statement concerning our contemporary western heritage, I feel privileged to have been able to live and work with some of its most authentic remnants.”

A Major Shift in Padre's Art Subject Matter

At the pinnacle of his nationally recognized and celebrated western and wild life art career, he completely changed his focus to accept a fascinating challenge that was offered in Oslo, Norway where the Nobel Prize is presented. There he received a leading international Gold Medal Award for "the quality of excellence as a sketch and oil painter artist". At that celebration, he was strongly encouraged to travel the planet under foundation sponsorship to capture the best in the human drama through the breathing quality expressed in his gifted portrait art talent and in the writing, with photo reproductions, of his book involving his worldview insights.

In the 1990's Padre completed his celebrated 13-year Faces of the Global Human Family project by actually living with the people as they lived in 149 nations. In order to reach our planet's vast and interestingly different mixed (but also very similar) racial, ethnic, cultural and religious diversity across our amazing global landscape,

Padre traveled by almost every means of available transportation including a few thousand miles of walking.

Among the various means of communicating in the most effective and meaningful form through interpreters when needed and through his own helpful attempts at connecting with each human fingerprint in the language of their people, culture and nation, Padre always first listened with the open spirit of enjoyment to his host and hostess and the thousands of unique individuals he met and enjoyed. He also connected with the people by giving each person the very best possible same respect that he gives himself through the open acceptance, appreciation, thankfulness and enjoyment in his facial features, body language, his eyes and the sound of his voice.

Padre's refreshing, open and accepting attitude was complemented by his adventurous ability to happily enjoy the food of every family and cultural gathering meal he was offered. He said that there were a few times when, admittedly, he had to reshape the image of their gift of food with the skill of his artistic imagination in order to make it a bit



Photo of Padre and his Bushman Medicine Man friend, Bet Knui.

more digestible. Then he chuckled, in our taped interview, by offering that one's enjoyment of their menu of foods was another very important way of entering the soul and fabric of a family and cultural environment.

Lastly, Padre indicated that his participation in almost every happy cultural dance expression was the frosting on the cake form of acceptance into each family and community gathering. With his contagious laughing chuckle, he said that he's convinced that he must have passed through the birth canal with the unbridled enjoyable rhythm of the wonderful unwritten language of the dance breathing through every cell tissue in his body and soul.

Padre's sleeping accommodations during his 13 year journey with city, small town, nomadic, and other forms of tribal folk included almost every imaginable accommodation, like sleeping outside with the shepherds and their flocks in the hills surrounding Bethlehem near the birth place of Jesus, and then with the Bushmen people of the now famous "gods must be crazy movie" who live in southern Africa's harsh Kalahari bush region. Though they lived like their ancestors hundreds of years earlier in what some would say resembled a primitive existence, from Padre's world view observation and participation in their everyday lifestyle, they were some of the most open, naturally happy, healthy, *self-humor born*, fascinating storytellers, uncluttered, free of spirit and accepting civil people to enter the pathway of his lifetime of eventful memories. (See Padre with Bushman on previous page.)

In the Sun Bushmen Culture there are no chiefs or tribes. They only function through the leadership of the family where both men and women enjoy an equal form of decision-making responsibility on behalf of the family. In the non-written language of the Bushman culture, the word for The Creator means the source of the good in every living creature. It was with this profound

respect for the name of the Supreme Creator of the good that he also danced with them every night their happy dances of thankfulness in honor of the Good God of all Creation.

Padre also said that he measures the markings of the word civilized by how well we respect our own personhood and then by how sincerely we share (pass on) that same healing self-respect and goodness from within ourselves to other members of our human family. This may also include the neighbor that resides as close as a family member that we may have left behind.

Padre's Faces of the Global Human Family Centerpiece Painting

During and following his 13 year global adventure, Padre painted and sketched over 500 portraits of the world. He writes that this included the 25 friends surrounding our incredible earth from outer space that he selected for this centerpiece painting to represent the seven billion people that occupy a living space on our amazing planet.

Padre writes that this centerpiece painting reflects the best in the human drama by capturing the open, trusting and accepting expression of the smiling child that he appreciated and enjoyed in every facial image of all ages. He also enjoyed recreating from the photos taken during his world journey the facial images that he selected for this centerpiece painting and for the 24 additional canvases representing the 24 geological regions of our world.

Padre writes that each portrait also celebrates an important visual statement concerning the uniquely interesting facial similarities and differences in each individual fingerprint/person of worth who he met and enjoyed around the meals and many other forms of connection. Each portrait represents all the limitless threads of our common humanity that all citizens of our planet share and



Faces of the World Centerpiece Painting

express. For example, each time a parent and grandparent shows love for their child or child for their parents, or each time a person meets a friend, or feels pain or disappointment, or the warmth of freedom and happiness breathing through their spirit or in a myriad of other reactions, it's almost the very same response that is reflected through each facial and body expression across the entire landscape of the interestingly different racial, ethnic, social, educational, religious/nonreligious and other forms of identity in our global human drama. As an artist, Padre also writes that he celebrates all the many similarities and interesting different colors, shapes, thought forms and expressions in his artistic mosaic and in the helpful life tested insights that the meaning and purpose of our human existence reveals.

Padre recorded the last chapter in his world journey in Bhutan.

It was also the last of the 24 geographical regions of the world canvases that he painted for his global exhibition series and his book. Surrounded by the dramatic Himalayan mountains of Southern Tibet and China to the North and India and Nepal to the South, this hideaway nation, known as "the land of the peaceful happy dragon," has always produced a strongly independent self-sufficient people.

In the centuries-old monarchy where the King wears the same, equal with all men traditional Kho robe, most all Bhutanese still live in many of the traditional ways of their ancestors. Bhutan is a land where the magic of sound, color and



The people of Bhutan and Padre's *Shangria La* painting.

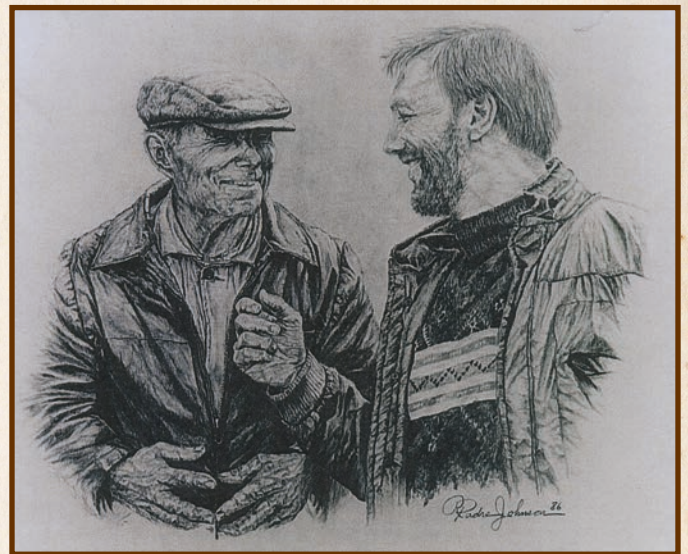
free as the wind spirit is expressed through their uncluttered balanced lives and happy open faces. In this closely connected family-oriented society where social and also educational opportunities are available to everyone regardless of rank or birth, Padre played, enjoyed the friendliest conversations and happily walked with the people of all ages in the fields and along the peaceful streets where residents sing while they work and where mothers carry their contented babies everywhere on their backs. (see painting on previous page)

This one of a kind ever project and following portrait exhibition in the history of the world and his international national award winning book *Journeys with the Global Human Family*, represents Padre's unique world view insights into our human family, a map that marks the location of each of the 24 geographical regions of the world paintings and also excellent photo reproductions of his award winning western, wildlife and other sketched and painted works, was featured at a very successful United Nations New York premier opening with people attending from many nations across our planet. This was followed by a second very successful and well received overseas premiere at Beijing China's Forbidden City Royal Palace site under the sponsorship of their Ministry of Culture. It was the first time that an American was invited to exhibit and speak at that prestigious site in China.

Three Additional Examples Among the Hundreds of Highpoint Moments That Padre Experienced and Enjoyed During his 13-Year Journey With the People Occupants of our Earth.

A traveling companion with Padre took a long-distance telephoto shot while crossing Russia's eleven time zones during his third re-entry into the former Soviet Union. Later

Padre created this unique charcoal sketch from that photo which shows Padre enjoying a moment of happy friendship with Ivan, his Russian farmer friend, in the Novosibirsk Region of Central Russia. This open-handed sketch clearly portrays an open, comfortable exchange of thought and humor in their expressions of human acceptance and deep appreciation between these two men from two entirely different cultures. It reminds Padre of his similar connection with the refreshing spirit



The sketch of Padre and his Russian farmer friend, Ivan.

of his Bushmen friends. Then Padre paused in a moment of reflection, and said, "or perhaps similar to the connection I enjoyed with my entire world of fresh air friendships." Among other languages, Padre also enjoyed the luxury of speaking a poor but passable Russian.

Considered an excellent horseman, whenever Padre lived with horsemen cultures during his 13-year journey, he challenged their champion to a race in the presence of his people or at a festival gathering when possible. This photograph on the next page was taken just after his historic race with the Mongol champion, Ching Juo Getu. Padre's Mongolian oversized Shetland mustang (13 hands high) is behind him in the photo following the race.



Photo of Padre and Mongol Champion following their race.

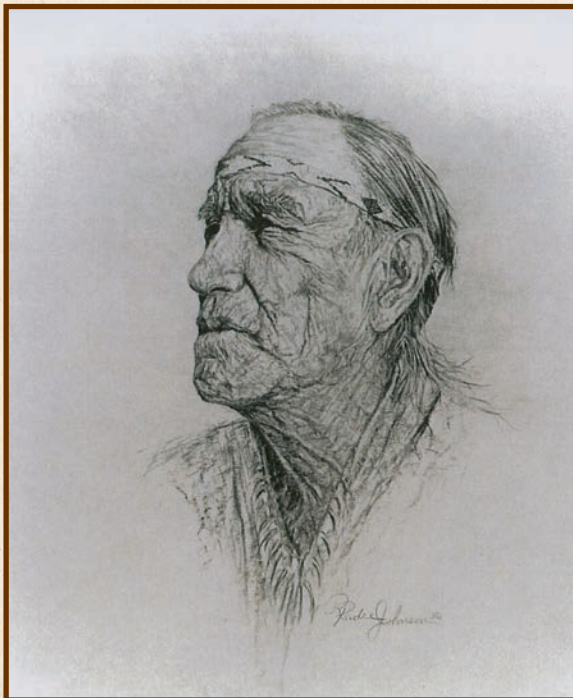
Padre only lost by a very respectable photographed horse length that was later carried with a story on the AP wire. It was the first time that an American (they called Padre the crazy American cowboy) ever challenged and raced a Mongol champion in front of his people.

Padre also challenged the Gaucho leader in Argentina, The Cossack champion, the Arab and also the Hawaiian Paniolo cowboy champion when he worked on the famed Ula Puakea Ranch on Maui and also the famous Parker Ranch on the big Island of Hawaii. Following that race on the Parker, his friend and legendary Paniolo, Kea Kea Lani, presented Padre with his horse's neck rope that still proudly hangs in Padre's Northfork home.

Padre shot the candid photo of his Dakota Sioux Native American Indian friend, Dakota Jack, following a moment of looking through and beyond contemplation during one of their interesting thought-provoking conversations. The entrance to the soul through the eyes and facial expression of Dakota Jack speaks a thousand words and interpretations in the photo that Padre converted into this exceptional historic sketch.

Padre's Connection With Famous World Personalities

Padre has met with many of our nation's leaders in the past. This includes six Presidents and five Vice Presidents. He once provided a special invitation private showing of a range of his selected award-winning art originals for the King and Queen of Sweden and dignitaries and later for the King of Norway. Both were amazingly successful! Padre was also commissioned to sketch or paint President Reagan. It was featured, and TV recorded at its very memorable special feature showing at Reagan's 1984 Inaugural celebration. There Vice President, George H. Bush said that "Padre captured the entire breathing essence of Reagan's person in his one face image



Padre's sketch of his good friend Dakota Jack

creation.” An excellent photo was taken of Padre explaining the Reagan original to Bush.

Currently Padre continues to receive many invitations to present his worldview insights with visual aids and a question and answer response time when appropriate at international conferences, colleges and universities, middle and high schools, churches and a range of other gatherings of all sizes throughout our nation and beyond our borders.

Among many highlights of Padre’s fulfilling speaking engagements over the years was one when he was a feature keynote speaker at a global conference that assembled leaders from across our planet to discuss a range of important concerns and possible solutions for the 21st century. Another featured speaker at the conference was the director of Noetic Sciences and famous astronaut who was the last man to walk on the moon during the Apollo 14 mission, Dr. Edgar Mitchell. He was followed by the famous Russian Cosmonaut, Georgi Grechko. He developed a very special continuing friendship with Padre.

A news release from the event reported “that Padre’s uniquely delivered politically independent critical thinking worldview insights into the meaning of life was one of the most captivating, thought-provoking and laced with humor standing ovation presentations that the many we talked with can remember.” Padre’s Portraits of the World exhibit and book signing period provided two additional features at the conference.

World historian, Dr. Noel Brown, concludes his biographical description of Padre’s many-lives adventure with the following insight.

He writes “as we move through the approaching years of rapid global change, I believe that Padre’s exceptional ability to translate his insights into the human family and the meaning and purpose of our human existence through the creativity of his visual art, writings, refreshing humor and spoken word will not only provide a very important visual contribution toward an increased understanding among the people of our world, but will maintain a unique historical significance as he leaves his enduring worldview mark on the consciousness of each reader, viewer and listener.”

You can personally reach Padre with questions concerning his books and few remaining artist proof prints that are recorded in his book “Journeys with the Global Family, on his website at www.padrejohnson.com or by sending your inquiry to his PO Box 146, Cody, WY 82414, E-mail at Padre@padrejohnson.com or preferably by telephone to either his land line 307-587-4000 or cell: 307-272-9681.

Resources

- Two important taped interviews with Padre by Taffany Deppert.
- Award winning book, “Brown Water Black Berets” by Thomas Cutler, USN. Padre’s Story, pages 211-235
- The “Military” magazine, feature story, “The Rach Gia River-and the Chaplain Doc,” by Al Moore, USN. pages 18-21
- The fascinating many lives biographical story of R. Padre Johnson by Dr. H.R. Meier
- “The biographical high-points in R. Padre Johnson’s many “Renaissance Man” Journeys & world view insights” by the former international author, historian and art critic at the United Nations, Dr. Noel Brown. Dr Brown also wrote the exceptional Forward to Padre’s award winning book, Journeys with Global Human Family.
- A feature article, “The Face of War,” by R. Padre Johnson
- The book, “Postmark Mekong Delta,” by R. Padre Johnson. Published by Fleming Revell.
- Five additional books, three official history’s and various magazine feature articles have devoted two to eight pages related to Padre’s many life saving rescue missions in combat.
- Padre’s journal entries. He kept a journal record of events, influences and insights, his thought provoking worldview insights with interpretive thoughts, over the past 50 years.



“Concluding Samples of Some of Padre’s Expressions of Appreciation and his Thought Provoking Worldview Insights Into the Meaning and Purpose of our Human Existence.”

The following introductory quote is dedicated to the treasured memory and the continuing life breathing happiness spirit presence of Padre’s parents, Ray and Lorena.

“I will always be eternally grateful for the happy , encouraging and respectful seeds that my exceptional parents planted, watered and helpfully cultivated in the process of nurturing my childhood and youth with their unusual positive forward looking gift of unconditional love.

They were always there to encourage and affirm my growth as a special human being. As far back as I can remember they encouraged me to exercise my drawing talent and to stretch my curious mind. They allowed me to risk, to make mistakes and to explore the higher ridges of human experience. For cultivating this sense of freedom to be my own person I remain your very thankful son again and for always!”



A Continuing Range of Padre’s Worldview quotes

“My life and global journey has certainly not been a lonely one. On the contrary, it was marked with unlimited adventure and opportunities to give, receive, explore the soul of each culture and character of every person with whom I played, laughed, danced, enjoyed their food and happily shared my freedom spirit lust for life person.”

“The deeper I journeyed into our world’s human forest, the more convinced I became that to effectively interpret the human family and make my work live and breath, I had to personally experience the people, their ways of being human, and their sense of community and family living. This was one authentic way that I could successfully translate the pulse of their culture and the many emotions that each person soul expressed.”

“When humor, especially the luxury of self humor (laughing at one’s self) flavors the human drama, something happens that literally frees one’s spirit to discover the goodness in others. It’s the oil that also opens the mind and allows us to accept and appreciate someone who even wears an entirely different racial, cultural, social, religious and family style mantle.”

“When our facial expressions and eyes naturally reflect the spirit of our open acceptance and a sense of awareness trust, which exists to various degrees in almost every person I’ve met, a very meaningful and exciting happening occurs in the arena of human diplomacy. The open child in each communicant is almost always released and prejudices in various degrees are dismantled.”

“The risk of openness provides the key for dismantling the restrictions that so often prevent the people and nations of our miniature life – breathing planet from realizing effective and workable solutions to our common problems.”

“I often think in the silence of my private space, if more people could only assemble a few more reflective moments in the space of their journey to stop and appreciate the similarities and interesting differences in our busy world, perhaps a fresh new seed of understanding would begin to germinate. This could have the potential of shaping a whole new process of evaluating and understanding the intrinsic value of more of the human occupants of our planet, including one’s nearest neighbor of the same color and cultural heritage. Where there is an openness to listen and learn there is no need to enforce one’s views or control the response of another person.”

“From the position of my global perspective lens, no one person or group of people has even closely achieved a pure understanding of the centerpiece of universal truth. Therefore, it seems both logical, right and humane from my happily traveled world view form of understanding that no individual or group think gathering has the legitimate right to impose a religious or cultural way of believing and living on people of differing beliefs.”

“From the position of my life situation tested world view landscape, eating together more often than not provides time and the best forms of meaningful conversation. When you are invited to share a meal with people anywhere on the planet, you are also invited to often participate in the openness of their person/soul. In other words, when you eat together with friends or with the stranger from another territory or nation you almost always share open healthy laughter, situation humor and the enjoyment of storytelling. In all societies, both simple and complex, eating is a primary activity for initiating and maintaining human relationships. In addition, it also almost always provides an appreciation of a person from a similar or interestingly different race, culture religion or social structure.”

“The value of each similar and also interestingly different human being fingerprint deserves my best possible respect through the look in my eyes, the tone of my voice and the touch of my hand.”

“As the open - minded student of life continues to listen with and learn from the people and societies he/she is closely observing and enjoying, an appreciation and respect will hopefully develop for the intrinsic values and interesting differences in other cultures as well as a richer appreciation for his/her own cultural roots.”

“Since we are all citizens of this microdot universe, earth, and depend upon one another and the air, water and soil systems of our unique planet for our common well being and continued development, let us live in a way that preserves a reverence for life and provides an unconditional spirit of freedom, liberty, respect and goodwill toward all that we meet on our home ground and beyond.

Your very thankful friend,

Rudre



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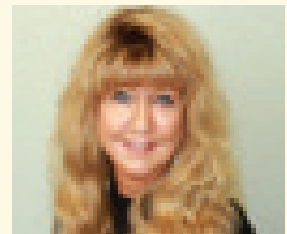
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