

THE TROPICS EXOTIC BIRD REFUGE

SPRING 2004

P.O. Box 686, Kannapolis, NC 28082-0686

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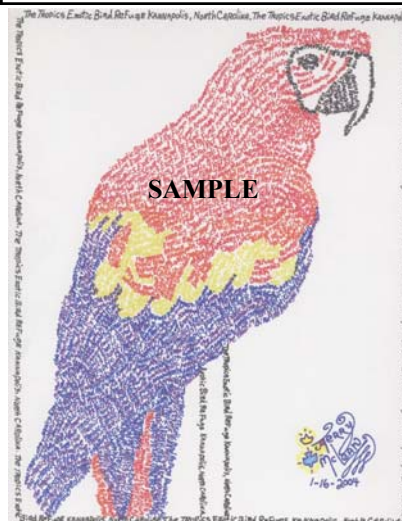
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CARTOON FEATURE The one and only, ORKO!

See Page -2- for Article

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“DOUBLE FEATURE”

By: Mary Bradford

Oftentimes we feel that we have life so bad. I am DEFINITELY one of those. It is so hard to take life one day at a time until we realize that's all we have...any of us. Usually we don't think an accident, a terminal illness or other serious situation may occur. Both of the people who we want to concentrate on really do have much to be thankful for, but for how long?

I met Terry at First Assembly Living Center when we filmed and visited there while filming for “Jack Hanna’s Animal Adventures” a couple of years ago. After some time, we received an envelope in the mail containing \$2.00 and a colorful note, with an invitation to accept a piece of original artwork done by Terry, for “the little ones.” We graciously accepted, but had no idea of Terry’s abilities in the field of art. Boy, were we shocked and more than pleasantly surprised to receive the picture of the Scarlet Macaw above. This was accomplished by using permanent markers, NO guidelines, and all done in printing stating “The Tropics Exotic Bird Refuge, Kannapolis, NC. How do you thank someone for such God given talent, and unselfish giving? Since then, we have received several more donations. More about this print will appear on page 2-.

Elizabeth. What a beautiful name and person to go with it, as seen in photo above with our baby Hyacinth Macaw Angel. We were contacted by Elizabeth a very short time ago. She'd been searching the internet for a sanctuary for her beloved Nico a wild caught Blue & Gold Macaw. Nico had been with her for 15 years, but other than that we have no idea how old she is. Elizabeth was frantically looking for a permanent place for Nico because she has a very strange and almost unknown form of cancer and no way of knowing how long she will live. Desperate to fulfill her responsibility to Nico, she decided to find her new home, rather than leaving her behind for someone else to do the task.

After corresponding with Elizabeth for a couple of weeks, we finally met when she and her husband, Gary, brought Nico “home.” We put her in a huge cage and her favorite toys and food were given out. What many don't realize about this work is the heartache you face both for owner and bird. None of us know when we will die, but sometimes it's better not to know. Elizabeth did a very brave thing by giving up Nico before time was up. With prayer and the grace of God, hopefully she will still live a long, and as well as possible life.

RECOVERY

Just a brief update on my medical condition. My 6 week check up went well but I was at only 60% recovered. I find myself still sleeping a lot during the day and through the night. Sometimes, I feel good and then do too much which causes pain and I have to lay down and sleep. Usually my "naps" last 2-3 hours a couple of times a day. Surprisingly, I still sleep all night awakening around 7am.

There are 4 people I need to publicly thank that I may have overlooked last time. First is my husband, John. In spite of his arthritis and Fibromyalgia, he took over my part of the work with help from our 2 sons. John also continues to maintain the dome.

Next there is "Grandma." She is John's Mom and is 91-1/2 years old and has cooked our dinner meals 7 days a week since the day I went in for surgery. Now that I am up and around more, I chip in with at least one piece of the daily meal.

As I've mentioned over and over again, there is Jane, our most loyal and longest running (4+ years) volunteer. She keeps the cages and floors in the house and aviary clean on a regular basis. Jane has sacrificed both time and money to volunteer for us and travels 2-1/2 hrs. round trip to get to us.

Finally, there is Mary B., the Psychiatric nurse that works at 2 different hospitals in two different cities close by. She says her time at the refuge is her "therapy" from her job. She also financially sponsors our two canaries and one finch. Both she and Jane have also adopted multiple amounts of birds from us, too.

Last, but not least are those of you who have so generously continued to support us financially. Many of you have increased your donations, and we've gained some new supporters. It has been great being able to pay every bill that comes into The Tropics, as they arrive instead of having to wait until the last minute for money to come in to pay bills.

So, thank you IMMENSELY for the great job you are doing for us by your thoughts, prayers and donations.

NEWS ARTWORKfrom page -1-

As mentioned on page one, the artwork that was donated for fundraising is available to the public: 8" X 10" full color, glossy prints are priced at \$10.00 + \$1.00 postage. A sample of the print will be on the website, and also below this message. Remember, this is an original piece of artwork donated by Terry M. for the sole purpose of assisting in our fundraising efforts. Orders will be shipped within 4 weeks or sooner. You may mail in your check for \$11.00 to P.O. Box 686, Kannapolis, NC 28082, or go to our "Gift Shop" and purchase with your debit or credit cards. Please don't let Terry's heartfelt work go to waste. Order ASAP!

In other news; we are extremely successful in finding homes those birds which we feel would do better in a home environment, rather than a permanent bird flock. Normally, we will not take in anymore birds unless we already have someone waiting to adopt.

ORKO!from page -1-

Many of you are familiar with Orko from past writings and TV appearances. He is a Moluccan Cockatoo approximately 10 years old, and appeared on "America's Funniest Home Videos" 7 years ago, winning \$10,000. Orko is famous for his ability to judge people's needs and act accordingly. If he senses that someone needs to laugh, he jumps (literally) into action even doing table dances!!! If he senses that someone needs love, he snuggles deep against their chest and just stays there for as long as needed. Once, a 100 year old lady sat in her rocking chair and held Orko for over 30 minutes. He is truly one of a kind and has a heart bigger than the earth, itself.

A brief comment regarding Orko referred to as a "cartoon"; it is not meant in disrespect of him, but in admiration for his true comic abilities. Anyone who has seen and/or met him would agree.

IN OTHER NEWS... 2005 PARROTS AT PLAY CALENDARS

We are now accepting orders for the 2005 calendars that will be available later in the year. The success of the first one was so great, that there was no debate on the part of the producers to do another.

There has been a slight price increase (last year being experimental) to \$16.50/each. You may send your orders/checks directly to The Tropics, P.O. Box 686, Kannapolis, NC 28082-0686, or go directly on line and order via our Gift Shop using debit/credit cards.

In January of this year we received over \$160 in sales of the 2004 calendar in which we were able to market for only 2 months. We are looking forward to an over the top year this time, as you have the whole year to order and then impatiently wait!!!

ELIZABETH...from page -1-

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ON A FINAL NOTE:

You know I can't let an opportunity to by and not remind you to please continue to send in your donations. They are SO appreciated. Thanks.