

3 November 2004

Dear Ben and Kay,

After thoroughly reviewing my earlier proposal for your Christmas gift project - and also after discussing it with Scott and Ralph - I would like you to consider a slightly different approach.

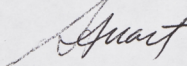
Originally, I suggested doing some watercolor studies of your ranch. By their very nature such studies are intentionally meant to be incomplete works. That is part of their charm. As I reviewed my photographs of the ranch it became apparent that trying to do fragmentary depictions of the place would not give you or a viewer a very good sense of the ranch's specific sites or its character. And, of course, that is what you want to be able to give your children at Christmas. Painting fragmentary glimpses simply would not do justice to what is so special to the Carter Ranch.

What I would like to do instead of four 18" X 24" studies would be four smaller 12" X 16" complete paintings. These views, as listed below, would, I think, do a much better job at conveying the poetry and variety that can be found at the Carter Ranch. To give you some idea of what I have in mind I have made several pencil studies of a variety of subjects, namely the lake, an open pasture with a grand vista, one or two views of the ranch house, the old "Club House," and even the Captain's tombstone.

Although the paintings will be smaller, they will require more work than studies, but Scott says he will help me, if I need it, in order to complete the paintings for timely framing and delivery before Christmas. The price for the paintings (unframed) will be \$3,250 each. I have included six pencil drawings of ranch scenes which interest Scott and me. And I like the idea of putting birds in all of the views if possible, species that I saw when I was there last June.

I have numbered the pencil drawings. If you decide to do the project, simply let me know the views you prefer by designating the number. Since time is of the essence, it would be helpful to let me ^{know} what you want to do at your earliest convenience. I'm still trying to catch up after my seventeen day trip to France!

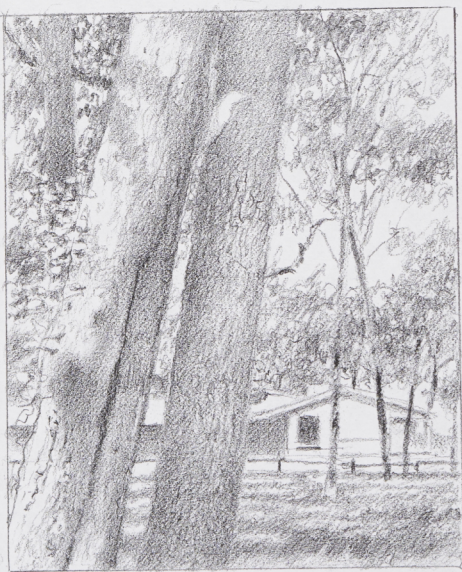
Best wishes as always,





Barn Swallows

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Lesson - Lake & Bay at Lake

③



See

White Egret

④



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