Brian Hubble: A Young Artist Making an Impact

by Richard Hubble

“Brian Hubble’s art blurs the line between reality and imagination. Through allegorical approach, the artist perplexes, amuses, and provokes. The viewer must decide when truth is negotiated, and what underlying message is ultimately voiced.”

The above quote is an excerpt from an interview with Brian from the website www.myartspace by Brian Sherwin. This is only one of a number of recent interviews introducing Brian as one of America’s upcoming young artists.

Named in 2005 as one of 20 top international artists under the age of 30, Brian’s mixed media work includes painting, photo-transferring onto canvas and glass painting to mention just three. The nominations are sponsored by Print Magazine, a design magazine at Print.Com. To be considered for the honor, the artist must be nominated by a past winner of the competition.

In 2006, Brian was an ADDY® award winner. With over 60,000 entries annually, the ADDY® Awards are the world’s largest and arguably toughest advertising competition. The ADDY® Awards represent the true spirit of creative excellence by recognizing all forms of advertising from media of all types, creations in all sizes and entrants of all levels from anywhere in the world. The American Advertising Federation, a not-for-profit industry association conducts the ADDY® Awards

Brian’s work has been exhibited in galleries from Seattle to New York and featured in numerous publications including The New York Times, Johns Hopkins Magazine, Yale Alumni Magazine, Harper’s, The Atlantic Monthly and Science Magazine to name just a few.

Commenting on his work, Brian states that it’s important to have something to say with the work. He tends to be more interested in art that deals with an issue and less interested in art that is produced for “art’s sake.” He thinks an artist should tackle whatever issues they feel need to be addressed. It doesn’t necessarily need to be about contemporary living or social/political reform. On the other hand some of his work seems whimsical and lacking in social commentary. Brian believes that in the creative process, “sometimes that is all that is needed. I try to never underestimate the validity of pointlessness.”

In addition to his interest in traditional mediums, Brian also embraces more non-traditional means of expression. Currently, he is exploring something he calls “relational esthetics”. In essence, this is creating art with “materials at hand”. One example that

continued on page 6...
THE HUBBELL FAMILY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The mission of The Hubbell Family Historical Society is to research the genealogy, preserve the history, recognize the achievements, and promote fellowship for the descendants of Richard Hubball, the immigrant.

A volunteer, not-for-profit organization founded in 1981, incorporated in 1982. The Society invites membership from descendants of Richard Hubball of England and New Haven Colony, Connecticut, from persons interested in genealogy and history, and from organizations supporting such activities.

President: Hilbert R. Hubble
Vice President: Marjorie M.H.K. Hlava
Recording Secretary: Dorcas L. Auenger
Corresponding Secretary: Betty Jo Chapman
Treasurer: Jan Hubble

Annual Dues:
(Payable in U.S. or Canadian dollars)
Individual/Family (w/minor children) ...... $15
Contributing Member ..................... 50
Participating Member ..................... 100
Proud to be a Hubbell/Hubble .......... 200
Societies and Libraries .................. 10

Reunions:
Membership-reunion meetings are held every two years. The next Biennial will be held at Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2011.

For information, write the Society:

Hilbert R. Hubble, President
2900 N. Leisure World Blvd. #411
Silver Spring, MD 20906-7307
E-mail: hhubble@comcast.net

Visit our web site:
http://www.hubbell.org

HUBBELL CENTER
Library ~ Museum ~ Archive

President, Acting Sec'y & Treasurer:
James W. Hubbell, Jr.
Vice President:
Harvey Hubbell, IV
Assistant Treasurer:
David Bridgewater
Librarian/Curator:
Patricia Dawson
Historian:
Harold B. Hubbell, Jr.
500 SW 7th Street, Suite 307
Des Moines, IA 50309
515/243-3586
E-mail: Hubcentr@aol.com

Gifts are tax deductible.
Members are invited to send contributions directly to Hubbell Center.

HUBBELL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Committee Chair:
Donald C. Hubbell
5102 Kenmore Avenue
Parma, OH 44134

Phone: 440/886-4148
E-mail: donald@dchubbell.com

Gifts are tax deductible.
Members are invited to send contributions directly to THFHS Scholarship Fund.

IN THIS ISSUE:
Brian Hubble-Artist in the Making.........Page 1
Letter From the President..................Page 3
Robert J. Hubbell obit........................Page 3
Barbara Kruse-Always a Marine..............Page 4
The Hubbell Center Digitization Project....Page 5
Annual Hubble Family Reunion..............Page 6
A Special Thank You........................Page 6
Hall of Fame Guidelines....................Page 7
Happy 20th Birthday-Hubble...............Page 7
Caribbean Circumnavigation (part 2)........Page 8

THE HUBBELL FAMILY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The mission of The Hubbell Family Historical Society is to research the genealogy, preserve the history, recognize the achievements, and promote fellowship for the descendants of Richard Hubball, the immigrant.

A volunteer, not-for-profit organization founded in 1981, incorporated in 1982. The Society invites membership from descendants of Richard Hubball of England and New Haven Colony, Connecticut, from persons interested in genealogy and history, and from organizations supporting such activities.

President: Hilbert R. Hubble
Vice President: Marjorie M.H.K. Hlava
Recording Secretary: Dorcas L. Auenger
Corresponding Secretary: Betty Jo Chapman
Treasurer: Jan Hubble

Annual Dues:
(Payable in U.S. or Canadian dollars)
Individual/Family (w/minor children) ...... $15
Contributing Member ..................... 50
Participating Member ..................... 100
Proud to be a Hubbell/Hubble .......... 200
Societies and Libraries .................. 10

Reunions:
Membership-reunion meetings are held every two years. The next Biennial will be held at Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2011.

For information, write the Society:

Hilbert R. Hubble, President
2900 N. Leisure World Blvd. #411
Silver Spring, MD 20906-7307
E-mail: hhubble@comcast.net

Visit our web site:
http://www.hubbell.org

HUBBELL CENTER
Library ~ Museum ~ Archive

President, Acting Sec'y & Treasurer:
James W. Hubbell, Jr.
Vice President:
Harvey Hubbell, IV
Assistant Treasurer:
David Bridgewater
Librarian/Curator:
Patricia Dawson
Historian:
Harold B. Hubbell, Jr.
500 SW 7th Street, Suite 307
Des Moines, IA 50309
515/243-3586
E-mail: Hubcentr@aol.com

Gifts are tax deductible.
Members are invited to send contributions directly to Hubbell Center.

HUBBELL FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Committee Chair:
Donald C. Hubbell
5102 Kenmore Avenue
Parma, OH 44134

Phone: 440/886-4148
E-mail: donald@dchubbell.com

Gifts are tax deductible.
Members are invited to send contributions directly to THFHS Scholarship Fund.

IN THIS ISSUE:
Brian Hubble-Artist in the Making.........Page 1
Letter From the President..................Page 3
Robert J. Hubbell obit........................Page 3
Barbara Kruse-Always a Marine..............Page 4
The Hubbell Center Digitization Project....Page 5
Annual Hubble Family Reunion..............Page 6
A Special Thank You........................Page 6
Hall of Fame Guidelines....................Page 7
Happy 20th Birthday-Hubble...............Page 7
Caribbean Circumnavigation (part 2)........Page 8

THE HUBBELL FAMILY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The mission of The Hubbell Family Historical Society is to research the genealogy, preserve the history, recognize the achievements, and promote fellowship for the descendants of Richard Hubball, the immigrant.

A volunteer, not-for-profit organization founded in 1981, incorporated in 1982. The Society invites membership from descendants of Richard Hubball of England and New Haven Colony, Connecticut, from persons interested in genealogy and history, and from organizations supporting such activities.

President: Hilbert R. Hubble
Vice President: Marjorie M.H.K. Hlava
Recording Secretary: Dorcas L. Auenger
Corresponding Secretary: Betty Jo Chapman
Treasurer: Jan Hubble

Annual Dues:
(Payable in U.S. or Canadian dollars)
Individual/Family (w/minor children) ...... $15
Contributing Member ..................... 50
Participating Member ..................... 100
Proud to be a Hubbell/Hubble .......... 200
Societies and Libraries .................. 10

Reunions:
Membership-reunion meetings are held every two years. The next Biennial will be held at Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2011.

For information, write the Society:

Hilbert R. Hubble, President
2900 N. Leisure World Blvd. #411
Silver Spring, MD 20906-7307
E-mail: hhubble@comcast.net

Visit our web site:
http://www.hubbell.org
Dear Cousin,

Thank you for renewing your membership in The Hubbell Family Historical Society. It promises to be an exciting year. We have not had to raise our dues owing to the generosity of our membership and I thank all who added to their basic membership for the Scholarship Fund, Hubbell Center, and Hubbell Foundation and for operations.

To judge the success of our Scholarship Fund one only has to see the winner’s smiling faces on the front page of our Family Notes. I was pleased that one past winner, Gabrielle Scheff attended the banquet at our Mystic reunion. Many thanks to Donald Hubbell for shepherding this activity.

The Mystic, Connecticut reunion from 31 May to 3 June was a great success; we had a wonderful four days of accomplishments and fellowship. Elliott Fair did an outstanding job as chairman of the reunion committee.

Jim Hubbell Jr, President of Hubbell Center passed away last fall, he was the prime mover in the establishment and success of Hubbell Center. As a result of his passing, Harvey Hubbell IV, Vice-President; Pete Hansen, Treasurer; and Hilbert Hubble, President of THFHS, traveled to Des Moines to ensure Hubbell Center’s future. Under the leadership of Harvey, we organized a new board, recruited new officers and reviewed the contract for the digitization of genealogical records. The new officers were Harvey Hubbell IV, President; Jim Hubbell III, Vice-President and Pete Hansen, treasurer. We visited the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines fund managers and are satisfied that the Hubbell Family Foundation fund is in good hands.

The 2011 reunion site has been selected. The reunion will be in Salt Lake City and the board of directors will meet there the 18 and 19th of May, 2010 to determine the dates and venue.

We have a new treasurer. Effective 1 January 2010, Jan Fulton took over from Pete Hansen. For many years, Pete has done outstanding work for the society, improving our methodology and promoting the Hubbell Foundation as well as doing double duty as treasurer for Hubbell Center. Additionally, a new editor, Richard Hubble will be coming on line. Rick will replace John Hubbell whose work for the society is unsurpassed.

Please join me in welcoming our new board members, Class of 1015. They are Barbara Krause, Peter Hansen, Betty Jo Chapman, Myrna Kepford, Karen Hubbell and Robert McOrmond.

An effort is underway to digitize the unique records at Hubbell Center in Des Moines, Iowa. A separate article in this issue of Family Notes tells about the digitization, merging with the finding aids and plans to get these records on the web for sharing broadly with the membership.

I note with sadness the passing of Harvey Hubbell IV. Harvey was a member of The Hubbell Family Historical Society since inception in 1982. He maintained a deep and abiding interest in the health of the society and could be counted on for assistance and guidance. He will be greatly missed by all.

Another passing which will affect the society deeply is Camino Bob Hubbell. Bob served on the board and for many years chaired the nominations committee getting new members involved quickly in the society. He chaired the California Reunion and led the effort to find all 37 Hubbell trading posts in the west. See Robert’s Obit in this issue of Family Notes.

Our society continues to be a vibrant, dynamic and relevant activity. Please join me in Salt Lake City in 2011 and thanks again for your support.

Hilbert Hubble, President

continued on page 5...
At the very onset of WWII the War Ministries of both Germany and Japan underestimated two crucial factors that would ultimately lead to their complete and unconditional defeat. First, they underestimated the resolve and tenacity of the American people to pull themselves together in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor and become the single most productive nation the world had ever seen. Second, and most significantly, they underestimated the ability and willingness of American women to be part of a force that would ultimately deliver the death-blow to our enemies throughout the globe. Some served in national defense plants as welders, machinists or riveters on an aircraft assembly line. Some flew those aircraft off the assembly line and delivered them to air bases throughout the country. Others wanted a more direct involvement and volunteered for military service. One such woman was Barbara Kruse. But Barbara didn’t want to be a WAAC or a WAVE, she wanted to be a Marine! The billboard in front of the Manchester, New Hampshire Post Office said “Join the Marine Corps and see the world”. So on February 20, 1943, her 20th birthday, she lost no time getting to the Recruitment Station to enlist. Her parents were less than enthusiastic about Barbara joining the military but, reluctantly, gave their consent because they knew they could not change her mind. Barbara headed for Boston and on April 19th was inducted into the United States Marine Corps. With Camp Lejeune not yet ready to receive women enlistees for training, boot camp was conducted at Hunter College in New York City. This was no institution for higher education for the recruits. It was boot training! The women were not allowed to use the elevators so every day, as many times as the NCO’s (DI’s) demanded, they climbed and descended the six flights of stairs. Hell, this was boot camp and they were expected to successfully deal with the physical aspects of it. They were becoming Marines! Once boot camp was completed, Barbara headed off to her new duty station in New Orleans for Enlistment and Recruiting Duty. The day after she arrived in her new billet, six male Marines were released for deployment to the South Pacific. Sadly, she never heard from any of them again and always wondered if they made it home. The function in New Orleans was to process incoming recruits for Recruit Training in San Diego as well as the recruitment of potential male and female Marines. The work was hard and the days long but there was camaraderie amongst the women who were proud to be called Marines and to be serving their country. On 10 November 1943, the first statue of “Mollie Marine” was erected and Barbara was proud to have attended. After nine-months in New Orleans she was promoted to Staff Sergeant and received orders to report to Oklahoma City, an assignment that would last for the next two years. This was urban living at it finest for a Marine as she lived within the community on a per-diem basis and was able to enjoy many of the local events and amenities. As always, the work was hard but there was a high level of Esprit de Corps and no complaint. With her tour of duty completed and WWII at an end, Barbara reported to Henderson Hall in Washington, DC in September of 1945 to be discharged. Now a civilian, Barbara returned to New Hampshire and, with the benefit of the GI Bill, attended the University of New Hampshire where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Therapy. With college behind her, Barbara traveled to Long Island to begin her new position as a therapist at the Northport Veterans’ Hospital which is where she eventually met and married her husband Charles, an Army Air Corps Veteran. Barbara continues to council veterans and spends much of her time at the Northport VAMC. But one of her passions these days is basket weaving, a skill which has brought her acclaim in such venues as the Northport Historical Society Museum where her baskets were featured in a craft exhibition. Barbara remembers the war years

continued on page 6...
The Hubbell Center Digitization Project

by: Pat Dawson, Bob Dawes and Marjie Hlava

The future security of the Hubbell Center has been a major concern for the society since its establishment in 1994. It was a welcome feature of THFHS as a place to send artifacts, records, research notes and other memorabilia as many of our members aged and wanted to know that their Hubbell history would be preserved for future generations.

Archives worldwide are under pressure from governments to cut their budgets and therefore, restrict what they can accept, reduce services and how they store materials. THFHS is no different and has to consider the future security of Hubbell Center in Des Moines. The other side of this dilemma is accessibility and how to provide reasonable access to society members and researchers.

All over the world, archives and libraries are using digitization to preserve their records and to make them accessible. One of the best examples I can think of is the British vital statistics held by the General Register Office in London. These were a group of huge volumes which had to be physically searched by hand. There were microfiche copies available in local record offices, public libraries or LDS family history centers but these were usually a regional subset of the data and was almost as hard to navigate as the paper copies. After digitization and indexing these records covering 168 years are now available to anyone with an internet connection.

At the 2007 Michigan reunion, an ad hoc committee started talking about what to do with Hubbell Center. By the 2009 Connecticut reunion, this had evolved into a group comprising Hilbert Hubble, Margaret Hlava, Joy Faveretti, Nancy Moses and Bob Dawes who held a couple of meetings during the reunion to develop a strategy and then continued the discussion with our curator, Pat Dawson, by email over the intervening years. After the Hubbell Center board meeting of November, 2009, in Des Moines, IA, the decision was made to go forward with the project and Harvey Hubbell IV signed the agreement with HOV Services to scan and digitize our records. Other officers and directors involved in that decision-making meeting were Peter Hansen, Hilbert Hubble and James W. Hubbell III.

Over the years since 1995, Pat Dawson has been involved in indexing the source material. HOV Services digitized our records, primarily the original source materials for the History and Genalogy and Additions and Revisions volumes and subsequent additions to those materials. Special thanks to Harold B. Hubbell for organizing the 75+ notebooks and 10 file boxes of records to assist in their digitization. The digitization process has resulted in one DVD, delivered April 2010, which contains a searchable PDF file of each set of documents being created. The next stage will be to link Pat Dawson's index to the appropriate records so they can be retrieved electronically. This will satisfy the first part of our objective which is to preserve the documents digitally. In the future, we anticipate that family members will be able to contribute either the digital files or paper files or both to Hubbell Center for inclusion into collection. If you want more information on how to contribute your collection to the Center please contact Bob Dawes, rgdawes@bell.net or Margie Hlava, mhlava@accessinn.com.

The next step is to make the data accessible to everyone over the internet. This phase of the project will require more discussion before we proceed. Obviously, the best option is to provide the documents freely over the internet on our website, however, the cost of doing this ourselves needs to be considered. We can provide them to other organizations to host but we lose control over our property in the process. Members Only and Pay-per-View access are also options but these require up front investment and the payback for a small database would not be compensatory. Stay tuned for more information on accessing the data as the Digitization Committee moves the project towards completion.

Robert Hubbell (from page 3)

As a member of the THFHS he served as a board member and as chair of the nominations committee for many years gently twisting the arms of members to populate the Board. He embarked on a project with staff at the Hubbell trading post to find and photograph the locations of all 37 trading posts. They accomplished this task and lead a field trip during the 2004 reunion to show a selection of those sites to family members.
he cited was creating an artistic but functional door to a shed using existing materials found in and around the shed.

Besides creating art, Brian also enjoys the challenge of building relationships with other artists while promoting their art. He has been the curator of a number of shows. His shows, called "Midnite Snacks", were held in Richmond, Virginia and Brooklyn, NY in 2009 and included about 40 local artists. In March of 2010, Brian organized a sequel in Chicago that featured about 150 artists including a significant number of the original 40 from the Richmond and Brooklyn shows.

Brian Hubble was born in Newport News, Va. The son of Clarence Henry Hubble, Jr. (grandfather was Clarence Henry Hubble Sr.), the family was originally from the western part of Virginia; near roanoke/dublin/pulaski. He now calls Brooklyn, NY his home. Although he is the only artist in his family, he says that his inspiration comes from his mother’s artistic talents and his grandmother’s encouragement to draw when he was a youngster.

In 1999, Brian studied painting at Edge Hill University in Ormskirk, England. He then attended college at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia studying in Latin and Biology. He later received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2001 and attended the Illustration Academy in Sarasota, Florida during the summer of 2002 where he is currently an annual visiting lecturer.

Presently Brian is in graduate school and will complete his MFA at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2011.

To truly appreciate Brian’s work, visit his website at: http://www.brianhubble.com/

---

**Bucyrus, Ohio, Annual Hubble Family Reunion**

Descendants of Gilbert Percival and Cora Lee Crabtree Hubble gathered for their annual family reunion on Sunday, August 2, 2009. Gib and Cora Lee’s five children: Gilbert Willis Hubble, Jean Hubble Black, Mary Hubble Kiess, Ralph Wayne Hubble and Robert Dexter Hubble (THFHS Hall of Fame Chairman) began having an annual family reunion when their children were small. Today, Robert Dexter’s son-in-law and daughter, Al and Jan Hubble Fulton (THFHS Treasurer and Merchandise Chairperson) continue to host the family reunion at their rural home in Bucyrus, Ohio, on the first Sunday of every August.

---

**Barbara Kruse (from page 4)**

with great pride and reverence, not only for the opportunity to become a United States Marine, but also for the adventure and camaraderie it provided. Try to imagine what America would have looked like in 1945 were it not for the profound patriotism and fortitude of the American Women who rose to the challenge. This is a generation of American’s who’s courage and dedication the world may never again see.

Editors note: Barbara Kruse (A&R#5327) is a Board Member of THFHS
Hall of Fame Guidelines for Nomination

1. Any member of good standing may make one nomination using the official “Hall of Fame” nomination form during the biennial period before the next REUNION.

2. Information must be presented as clearly as possible (typewriter, word processor, precise hand printing) for example.

3. A nominee must be a member of THFHS or a prior member if deceased. Include the number of the nominee in “Additions & Revisions to the History & Genealogy of the Hubbell Family” or “Annual” if known.

4. A nominee will be considered primarily for service and accomplishments to THFHS. Other outstanding service and accomplishments may be considered if of benefit to THFHS.

5. Please give special thought to the statement – WHY – the person should be inducted into The Hubbell Hall of Fame.

6. Be specific, concise and accurate in your report.

7. Limit your comments. Use the back of the nomination form and one additional sheet for your comments if necessary.

8. If possible, include a photograph of the nominee. Do not contact the nominee for details or a photograph, this will be done by the Hall of Fame Committee if needed.

9. The Hall of Fame Committee, appointed by the president, will read the nominations. Their recommendations will be given to THFHS Executive Committee who will make the final decision. The number of winners may vary from year to year.

10. The nomination form and guidelines will be available in Family Notes or through THFHS.

11. All nominations must be in by November 9th, 2010 (for class of 2011).

Caribbean Cruise (from page 8)

family and friends, and to reprovision. While there we went through the Panama Canal as line handlers on a friend’s boat. It was quite a thrill entering the locks with large ocean going ships, and in traveling through the Canal itself.

From Colon we sailed north to San Andres and Providencia, two islands off the coast of Honduras, which belong to Colombia. As Honduras has laid claim to these, Colombia maintains a small military presence there plus on the smaller islets in the vicinity. We stopped at one and found a garrison of 12 soldiers who had run out of food. Their relief was two days overdue, and asked if we had any surplus food that we could spare. We gave them enough for the next few days and wished we had more as they reminded me of young American servicemen and were personable and friendly.

From Providencia we sailed north to the small islands off the northeast corner of Honduras and spent a couple of weeks visiting these isolated and mostly uninhabited archipelagos. From there we sailed west along the Honduras mainland with its spectacular coastal mountain range to the large resort islands of Guanaja, Roatan, and Utila. These were at one time part of British Honduras and as a result we found many people who spoke English. It was nice to be able to converse without the strain of struggling with our rudimentary Spanish.

We stopped in mainland Honduras for a month to do some inland traveling, then day sailed along the coast to Belize where we remained for 5 weeks visiting the offshore reefs and islets and traveling inland to Mayan ruins, national parks, and the capital. At that point Sara discovered a large tumor above her kidney, and she immediately departed for the States to get it removed. I sailed the boat to a secure marina on the Rio Dulce in Guatemala, and flew back two weeks later to help her through that ordeal. Fortunately the cyst was found to be benign, and she is recovering well.

Plans are to return to the boat in November, spend the winter along the coast of Honduras, Belize, and Mexico, and then return to Florida in May to complete our 5 year slow circumnavigation of the Caribbean.

Happy 20th Birthday Hubble

Change your view of our universe. Experience the gripping story—full of hope, crushing disappointment, dazzling ingenuity, bravery, and triumph—in “Hubble”. Narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, this giant-screen film will take you on a journey through distant galaxies to explore the grandeur and mysteries of our celestial surroundings. You’ll accompany space-walking astronauts as they attempt some of the most difficult and important tasks in NASA’s history. The film offers an inspiring and unique look into the Hubble Space Telescope’s legacy and highlights its profound impact on the way we view the universe and ourselves. “Hubble” is an IMAX and Warner Bros. Pictures production, in cooperation with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) currently playing in theaters throughout the country.
Trinidad is unique in the island chain in that its population is roughly 40% African, 40% Indian, 19% of mixed African/Indian ancestry, and 1% Caucasian. The union of the two majority races has created to my eye very attractive offspring - handsome men, and stunningly attractive women. We noticed this in our subsequent travels through Venezuela and Columbia that whenever people of mixed ancestry intermarried, their children seemed to benefit both physically and intellectually from the resulting combination of the disparate gene pools. As a recent example, in the last (2008) Miss Universe Contest, Miss Venezuela was the winner and Miss Colombia was the runner up! We remained in Trinidad for 5 months touring the island, enjoying the company of fellow cruisers, and performing some boat maintenance.

At the end of the hurricane season we departed for Venezuela with stops in Tobago, Grenada, the offshore Venezuelian islands, then to Puerto La Cruz where we remained for 9 months. We found Venezuela to be a beautiful country, full of natural resources, but whose citizens have been exploited by both right wing and left wing governments, and as a result poverty and unemployment are rampant. 85% of the land is owned by 5% of the population, a hangover from the Spanish land grants. Chavez, the current left leaning president has done some good by increasing educational opportunities, breaking up some of the large land trusts, and offering universal low cost health care by employing Cuban doctors, but at the same time is dismantling the capitalist infrastructure and nationalizing industries, and this may result in long term deterioration of Venezuela’s productivity.

After departing Venezuela, we stopped at the Dutch ABC Islands (Aruba, Bonaire, & Curacao) for 3 months. These islands are very European in culture, enjoy a high standard of living, and were welcome places to be in after our long stay in third world countries. Bonaire had the best diving we have found in the Caribbean - crystal clear water, abundant marine life, vibrant, healthy coral systems, and readily accessible dive sites all over the island. Curacao was the most prosperous, and Aruba the most visitor oriented with casinos and an abundance of beach resorts. We did some diving, hiking, bike riding, movie going, and generally enjoyed being back in “civilization”.

The trip from the ABC’s to Cartagena, Colombia took two weeks with stops in small offshore islands and isolated bays along the north shore of South America. Despite the bad press that Colombia has received, we found it to be a safe and secure country to live and travel in. The current President, Uribe, has taken a strong stand against the FARC rebels and the drug cartels, and has been successful in suppressing, but not totally eliminating their activities. We traveled through-out the country on public transportation visiting the capitol, beach resorts, the mountains, the major cities, the Amazon, and isolated archeological sites and experienced only helpful, friendly people who were very forgiving of our malo Espanol and anxious to practice their English on us. We stayed in Cartagena for a year, as we wanted to perform some major upgrades to the boat, and Colombia was a great place to have these performed with a skilled, motivated workforce, low prices, well run boatyards, and availability of marine supplies. We rented an apartment in Cartagena during that time, and thoroughly enjoyed living there. Working alongside the workmen in the boatyard did wonders for my Spanish.

From Cartagena we sailed down the west coast of Colombia, then across to Panama. The region south of the Panama Canal to the Colombian border is known as Kuna Yala and is an autonomous region governed by the Kuna Indians of Panama. It consists of villages both on the mainland and near shore islands in the San Blas Archipelago. The villages in the south have little or no exposure to western civilization, and as we traveled north more and more contact was seen, with a cruise ship stop at one of the northernmost island group. We found the southern villages to be cleaner and more orderly, and the people happier, better clothed, and better fed than those in the north.

We island hopped up the Panamanian coast to Colon, which we used as a base for 5 months to do some inland travel, to travel back to the States for routine doctor visits and to visit

continued on Page 7...