

Signs of the Times



Times Remembered
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About a hundred years ago, before the days of television and the Internet, advertising products were considerably different. It was a simpler era, and signs and barns on roadways were used for advertising.

Whenever we got to take a driving trip to visit relatives or go shopping in another town, I always read all the signs along the way. I remember seeing this sign on many roadside barns: "Chew Mail Pouch Tobacco: Treat Yourself to the Best."

I watched for each sign eagerly, along with "Burma Shave" signs that dotted the landscape. Most of those were black with yellow lettering, although a few were red with yellow lettering. During drives these barns were familiar signs, almost like old friends.

Being a curious child who was interested in painting and art, (the barns were art in my mind). I often wondered who had painted them. I also wondered, was this

tobacco chewed rather than smoked?

It turned out that people did chew tobacco during most of the last century.

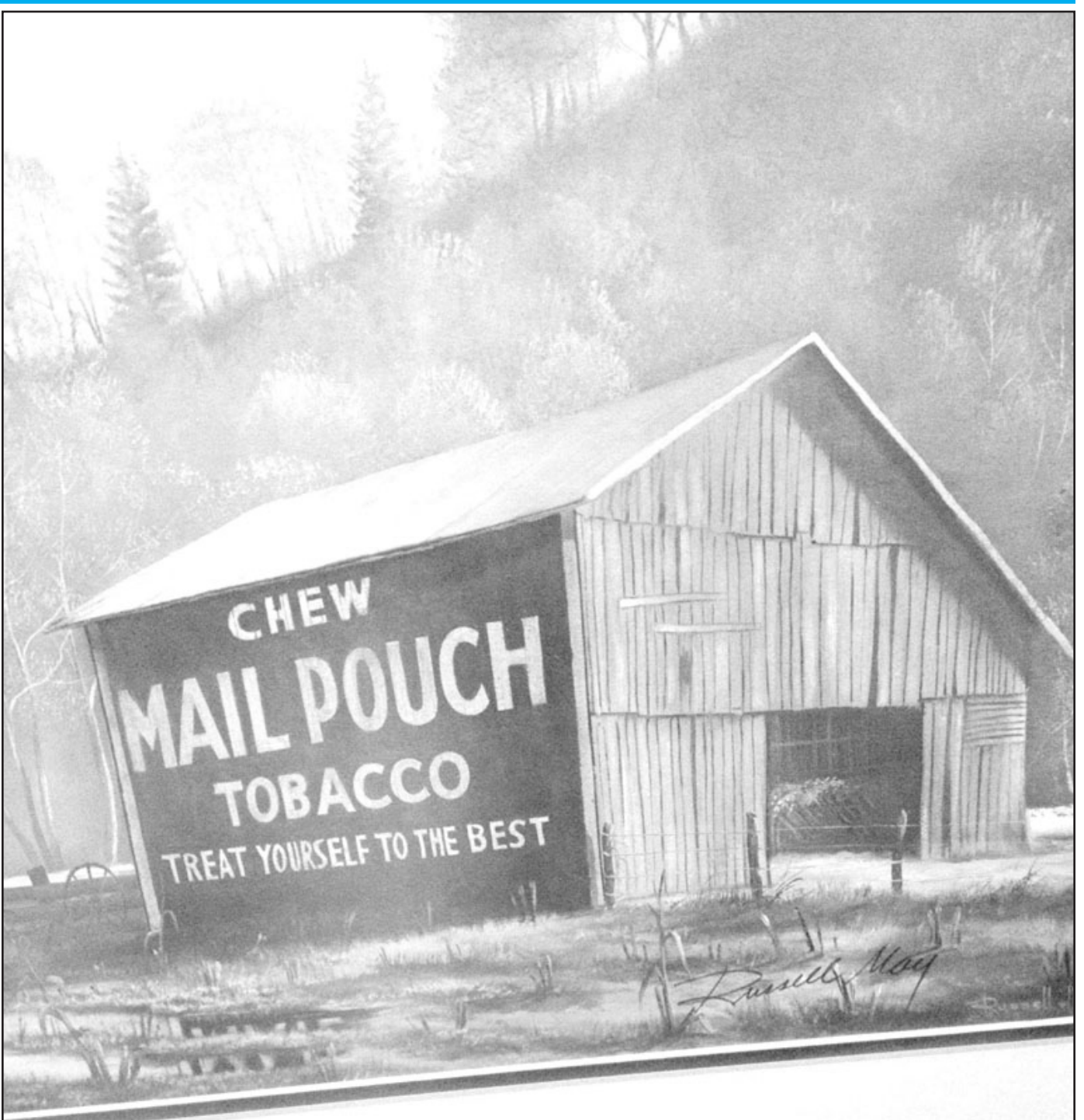
I learned that after World War II, the painter or artist was Harley Warrick from Ohio. He even initialed his barns after the job was finished. I often thought what a wonderful career; painting tobacco signs on thousands of barns in various states. The art work would not be in a museum but on roadways where everyone could see and enjoy.

Although many of these barns have fallen into disrepair, others have been listed as historic landmarks. Mail pouch collectors discover and report these historic barns on the Internet.

The owners of Mail Pouch Tobacco Co. stopped painting barns years ago, but the signs live on. They bring back a far simpler time, when these advertisements encouraged customers to buy their product.

I purchased a Russell May print of a Mail Pouch Tobacco barn some thirty years ago; I believe the barn was on the Mountain Parkway that Mr. May used for his print. It is my favorite Russell May print. I am told they are extremely collectible.

I don't if there are any of the old barns left now that had Mail Pouch Tobacco ads on them or not. You definitely would have to stray off the beaten path to find one. I love looking for antiques so that can be my next challenge; looking for old Mail Pouch Tobacco barns.



A photo of Russel May's painting of a "Mail Pouch" tobacco barn

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Jude in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Whom did God choose to replace Moses to lead the Israelites? Aaron, Jacob, Joshua, Caleb
3. Which disciple betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver? Peter, Judas, John, Matthew
4. From Matthew 12:24, who is the ruler of the demons? Lucifer, Satan, Devil, Beelzebub
5. Who was Simon Peter's brother? John, James, Andrew, Matthew
6. Which Psalm is the shortest? 23, 117, 120, 150

Answers on bottom of Page 13

Shock and Awe?

by BOB CASEY, preacher
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A few years ago our then president, George Bush used this phrase to describe the response that was being taken to show the Iraq nation that terror would be met by an even greater terror. I suppose that the night that this assault began that most, if not all, felt a great fear of shock and were awed at the bombing and noise, plus the fires that came as a result of this attack. And so it was a terrible time.

But I have written this as a reminder to all of us that an even greater time of shock and awe is coming upon the unsaved world. The Bible gives us a great detail of this forthcoming event. First, the stealth bombers that flew into Bagdad did so without being detected, but the coming again of our Saviour will supersede all prior events that this world has ever seen all combined forever.

Just think about the sudden sound from Heaven that will bring to a halt of all earth's activities. The voice of the arch-angel will issue a shout that will bring everyone to attention. Then the trumpet of God will sound (1 Corinthians 15:52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16) and before these men wrote, our Lord has much to say about this day in Matthew 24:29-31. Read these to see for yourselves. Here in Matthew's Gospel, it says that the sun will be darkened, even the stars shall begin to fall, because the powers of Heaven shall be shaken.

Then the clouds will begin to roll back as a scroll revealing the Saviour sitting upon his throne with all his holy angels around him. This will be the world's greatest event up to this time. Then we ask, "What will the unprepared do?" They will be a time of mourning, and lamenting, such as never before. Revelation 1:7 describes this time. John writes in Revelation 6:12-17 of this day with great accuracy. Men will be in a state of awareness that their day of salvation is gone forever. They will be a lot of praying taking place, but this is not for forgiveness and mercy, because they will know, "I did not take heed!" So they will flee to the places in the earth, praying for the mountains to bury them, simply because they will not be able to stand and be judged by the one they didn't obey. They know that their doom is sealed forever. We need to read passages like Ephesians 6:13-14, "Stand therefore, having our loins girt about with truth, and having on the breast plate of righteousness." But verse 13 also says, "Take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, having done all to stand."

Friends, this will be a terrible day for you if you have not prepared for it, but it does not have to be! Awaken, and arise and obey our Lord. He will forgive you, save you, and add you to his elect. Acts 2:36-47 guarantees it. If you fail, whose fault will it be?

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Sincerely, Bob Casey

Seeds of Hope

There seems to be an attitude of arrogance in the world today. It is summed up in the epigram that was written above the door of the saloon on the Titanic: "Not even God can sink this ship!" Imagine the irony of those words. They are carved in a piece of wood that is still rotting after all of these years.

Unfortunately, there seems to be no fear of God in the world any longer. Today, the list of the world's fears include a nuclear disaster, global warming, the national deficit, health care, a flu epidemic, identity theft or a stock market crash. It seems as though God has been assigned the role of being an ex-officio member of the "Board of Governors." It is a "posi-

tion" with no power or influence. He is no longer recognized as one who makes any difference in the day to day operation of the universe. He's simply around to humor some people. Man is in charge now, thank you, and will bring good things to pass now that God is out of the way!

Psalm 34 takes the opposite view of God. The author blesses the Lord for what He has done. In deep humility he recognizes the power and presence of God. His view of the world is God-centered not man-exalting. Therefore, "His praise should always be on our lips."

How different it is today. People seem to do what they do for the recognition they may receive. Glory and honor belong to the one who can score the most points, accumulate vast wealth or demonstrate great power over people. God, to them is a "thing" in the past.

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