Artist of the Month Dan Lawler at the Key Largo Art Gallery

In the heart of Islamorada a famous painting hangs in a local Pub and Restaurant called the Whistle Stop. A typewritten note attached to the painting reads:

"Sleepy Jack... Real person... Homeless. Painted at The Barrel House Bar (now the Whistle Stop) in the 1970s. Sleepy Jack stayed 27 days at the bar. He was killed in Tampa by a Busch Beer Truck while hitchhiking to visit his parents in Princeton, NJ."

Key Largo artist Dan Lawler was commissioned to paint "Sleepy Jack" and sometime later the painting was stolen. The police were able to recover the painting and the owners of the Whistle Stop claimed it and put it where it proudly hangs today, in the bar at mile marker 82.5.

But Whistle Stop is only one place where the work of Dan Lawler can be found. If you stop by the Key Largo Art Gallery at mile marker 103 you can find many of his paintings and you also just might catch him working. Another place to view his work is over at the Buzzard's Roost Restaurant, mile marker 106, where there is a large display of his

Wherever you view his art you will see that all his paintings tell a story. And no one can tell a story quite like Dan Lawler. When you have lived in the Keys as long as Lawler, some 50 plus years, there are plenty of stories to tell and he is the master. One look at any of his "Smugglers" series and you are brought back to the day when it all happened, right here in the Keys. They are absolutely

His works also depict other historical scenes such as wreckers, seascapes, and local characters. When friends from out of town come to visit I take them to the Key Largo Art Gallery and they always leave happily with a Lawler painting in their arms. Captain Dan Lawler is a retired iron-worker and has a 100-ton master license from the U.S. Coast Guard. He has also designed and built homes as well as a Spanish galleon restaurant in Islamorada for the late Gus Boulus (Now there is another great Keys story but you'll have to ask Dan about that).

For more information visit the Key Largo Art Gallery or the Buzzard's Roost Restaurant where you can meet Lawler's son, Dan Lawler Junior or just check out his website www.danlawlerfineart.com.

> One of Dan Lawler's paintings at the Buzzard's Roost for sale.



Dan Lawler at the Key Largo Art Gallery, MM 103 bayside.



Sleepy Jack... Real Person... Homeless.





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APRIL ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY **VEDNESDAY** Luke Somme David Bowma Allen Truesdell Luke Sommer Luke & Dave 2-6pm Mr. Nice Guy 1-5pm Jammin w/ the Kevin Hurley Blackwater Harry French Ego TJ Karaoke Kim Bankston Steve Venini Band Sound 7-11pm 7-11pm during Band Breal Luke Sommer David Bowma Allen Truesdell Luke & Dave Felix "The Catt" VIVA 2-7 Kim Bankston Jammin w/ the Kevin Hurley Gypsy Road Band 7-11pm Mosquito Harry French TJ Karaoke during Band Breaks Steve Venini Band 6-10pm 6-10pm Heads 7-11pm 6-10pm 6-10pm David Bowma Luke Sommer Allen Truesdell Luke & Dave 2-6pm Eclipse 2-7 Jammin w/ the 1-5pm Kim Bankston Harry French Limerock Vhipping Post TJ Karaoke Steve Venini Band 6-10pm 6-10pm Luke Sommer 5 David Bowmar , Allen Truesdell Luke & Dave Felix "The Catt 1-5pm Harry French Kevin Hurley Justa Head Justa Head TJ Karaoke

HAPPY EASTER, APRIL 24! Join us for family fun...