

Prelude to Suicide



While we had our house in Port Aransas, Mustang Island, an island that connects to North Padre Island, Texas, on a regular basis we browsed many antique shops in the area.

August 8th, 1996, on one of our frequent visits at an antique shop in Aransas Pass, Texas mainland, I stumbled on the enclosed painting picture, and because of its striking visual message, I bought it. I asked the woman who owned the shop if she knew anything about the painting. She told me, and wrote on piece of paper the following: “I bought the painting at a storage sale. Later in my shop, a customer recognized the self-portrait of someone she had known. The customer said that the painter was an extremely intelligent and talented man, a social outcast, and prone to depression. Ultimately, he ended his life. I believe, she said, that he was a motorcycle biker and in a gang ...”

In the back of the painting, in heavy marker writing, inscribed are these words:

“Phil,
From our house to yours,
Let’s don’t break the circle.
Good friends are hard to come by.
Si casa es Su casa. Boo Boo
10-89”

Is there a story here?