

Excerpt from the novel, Redemption on Skunk Ridge, Ray Hazel, 2017

...Sitting enjoying the experience of being alone without feeling lonely was refreshingly peaceful. I took out a sketch pad and a number four pencil I carried in my backpack. Feelings from within were expressed by my hands. My fingers captured on paper what my eyes and emotions were seeing and feeling. It's difficult to describe how my hands capture the essence of who I really am. All my life, when I strayed from nature and my creative needs I invariably lost sight of what truly mattered most in life.

Everyone searches for serenity, peace and happiness in life. It isn't that difficult to achieve. Life's rewards only come when you let go of man-made expectations that society dictates and determines as success. Happiness and serenity in life are lost by most people. They complicate their existence overlooking the obvious. Serenity and peace only come from within; it's never been bought or sold. It's free if you look. It's all around. Unfortunately, it's usually overlooked completely...