

My Back Pages

By Warren Watson

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Welcome to the Back Pages of my website. Yes, there is a Dylan song covered and made popular by the Byrds, that I like, of the same title, catchy tune. It amazes me how many of my favourite songs are written by Dylan² but sung by someone else. No wonder he is part of the Rock 'n' Roll Trinity. Dylan is the father, Clapton is the son and Lennon is the Holy Ghost and I am going straight to H-E-double hockey sticks for my religious irreverence.

I saw the Byrds, in the early nineties, in a bar in Toronto. Actually it was just the drummer using the Byrds' name.

I thought that it was hilarious that the drummer, the player of the one instrument that sounds almost the same for every band (Keith Moon is not alive to refute that statement and he definitely could have), would tour as the Byrds. Even more amazing was that the replacement they got for Roger McGuinn sounded just like him. All the songs they played were spot on, except the drumming was a bit different. ☺

I am a former engineer, with a knack for experimentation and graphical design, with a diploma in Fine Arts. I am currently trying to get my Bridge software company off the ground, yet in the quiet moments of my day, I like to write. Writing is and always has been in the back pages of my mind, so it is fitting that a sample of my writing gets to the back pages of my web site.

I have written several novels and novellas and the synopses of a few of them are found here. I have also included some comic pieces, and all the samples of my writing have one thing in common. Except for my bridge columns and lesson handouts, my writing does not get read much by anybody save me. However, "Papers in the wastebasket" did get reviewed and polished by an editor I hired.

The artistic process, whether it is writing or painting, is not completed when the artist lifts his pen (puts the computer away) or cleans his paint brush respectively, but is ultimately completed when it has been viewed by someone other than the artist.

In my mind, the artistic process for any particular piece of art that I make is done when it has been placed on my website. That way I do not have to bother my friends incessantly showing them my plethora of work. Furthermore, showing any artwork to my cat is relatively unsatisfying because the art needs to be placed in a box before she would be interested, and then she would have to be bribed with food to show anything other than indifference at the actual piece.

When my cats were kittens, I did not want them getting into my oil paintings before they dried so I would put them, the paintings not the cats, inside cardboard boxes which only piqued the cats' interest. I cleaned paw prints from the floor and paint from their paws a few times.

Except for the photographic poem about Beautiful BC, I have not shared any of my 174 poems (word paintings), including two poems about Indonesia (one 1,200 words and one 2,800 words written from "emotion recollected in tranquility¹") and a visual poem about Toketee Falls of Oregon, because my back pages are just a sample of my writings.

²Aplusa

Dylan songs I like:

- Byrds' "Mr Tambourine Man," "My Back Pages," "All I really want to do," etc
- Cash's "Girl from the North country," a duet with Bob Dylan.
- Cash's "It ain't me," a duet with June Carter.
- Clapton's "Knockin' on Heaven's Door"
- Hendrix's "All along the watchtower"

¹ An expression penned by William Wordsworth, also a W². ☺