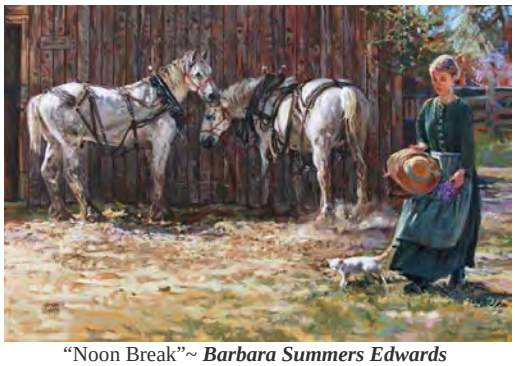

"Noon Break"~ ***Barbara Summers Edwards***

BARBARA SUMMERS EDWARDS
EDWARDS FINE ART
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July, 25, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,
I am a visual artist and have worked first as an illustrator and now as a fine art painter for 40 years. I received a Bachelors of Fine Art Degree in Illustration with a Minor in Painting from Utah State University in 1974.

To me the copyright law is not an abstract legal issue but significantly influences my business; Edwards Fine Art and income.

When people ask me how long it took me to do a painting I explain to them that it took me my lifetime as I've worked very hard to perfect and hone my skills to get to where I am in my career now. I also work very hard for my income. The galleries that sell my work take 50% of the retail cost and I provide the frame and shipping to them. The opportunity to keep exclusive rights and use of the image I created help compensate me for the value I lose initially when I sell the original painting. I can do limited edition prints, books, card, bags, etc. that allows me make a livable wage and become my business inventory. If I do a limited edition print and lose my copyright license, others can infringe on the number of prints made and the value of my prints become worthless. Also I lose the ability to quality control what happens to my one of a kind image if others are allowed to copy, change and marginalize my creation. The power to create is such an extremely valuable right for me that I can't even imagine losing it and having it taken over by others without my permission or control. Taking from me something I created is stealing from me. I am the one who sacrificed and worked for years to have this ability and to have it taken over by people who can't do what I do is frustrating and maddening!

Please allow me to maintain the exclusive copyright to my own work without registering it. It should belong to me and no one else, no exceptions unless I choose to be financially compensated for it! This is America after all and not a Socialist or Marxist nation! I am the one who did the work and who should profit from it.

Thank you for your attention and please DO NOT pass the Orphan Works Act.

Sincerely,
Barbara Summers Edwards
gbcedwards@aol.com
www.edwardsfineartstudio.com