

C H A R L E S   W E S L E Y   B U C K

“ I W A S B O R N O N T H E K I T C H E N T A B L E . ”

D A D C A M E O U T W I T H T H I S G E M

D U R I N G A Q U I E T M O M E N T

A T A F A M I L Y G A T H E R I N G N O T L O N G A G O .



T H I S W A S T H E H O U S E .

H E L I V E D H E R E U N T I L H E W A S S E V E N .



dad, porch and wagon

*oil on gesso board*

*eight by ten inches*

2006

*collection of scott buck*

grandpa and grandma buck

oil on canvas

eighteen by twenty four inches

2006

collection of melina buck



DAD WAS BORN TO  
ISABELLE RICHEY BUCK AND CHARLES HAROLD BUCK.  
HIS DAD RAN AN AUTO REPAIR SHOP,  
ARMSTRONG AND BUCK,  
AT THE CURVE IN THE ROAD IN FANCHER.  
THERE WAS A STORE WITH CANDY AND CIGARS,  
PINBALL AND BILLIARDS. AND A BARBER UPSTAIRS.  
EVENTUALLY, IT MOVED ACROSS THE STREET  
AND BECAME FANCHER GARAGE.



HIS DAD WAS FROM HILTON,  
AND USED TO DRIVE CATTLE TO THE STOCKYARDS  
IN ROCHESTER ON HORSEBACK.



HE LIVED AT OUR HOUSE IN ONTARIO FOR A WHILE,  
BOARDED OUT AFTER THAT, AND  
EVENTUALLY DRANK HIMSELF TO DEATH.

isabelle and grace richy

oil on canvas board

sixteen by twenty one inches

september 2005



HIS MOM WAS ISABELLE.

SHE WORKED AS A HOUSEKEEPER IN ROCHESTER,

AND AS A CHAMBERMAID AT THE HOLLEY HOTEL.

IN THE DEPRESSION, SHE SOLD EGGS DOOR TO DOOR

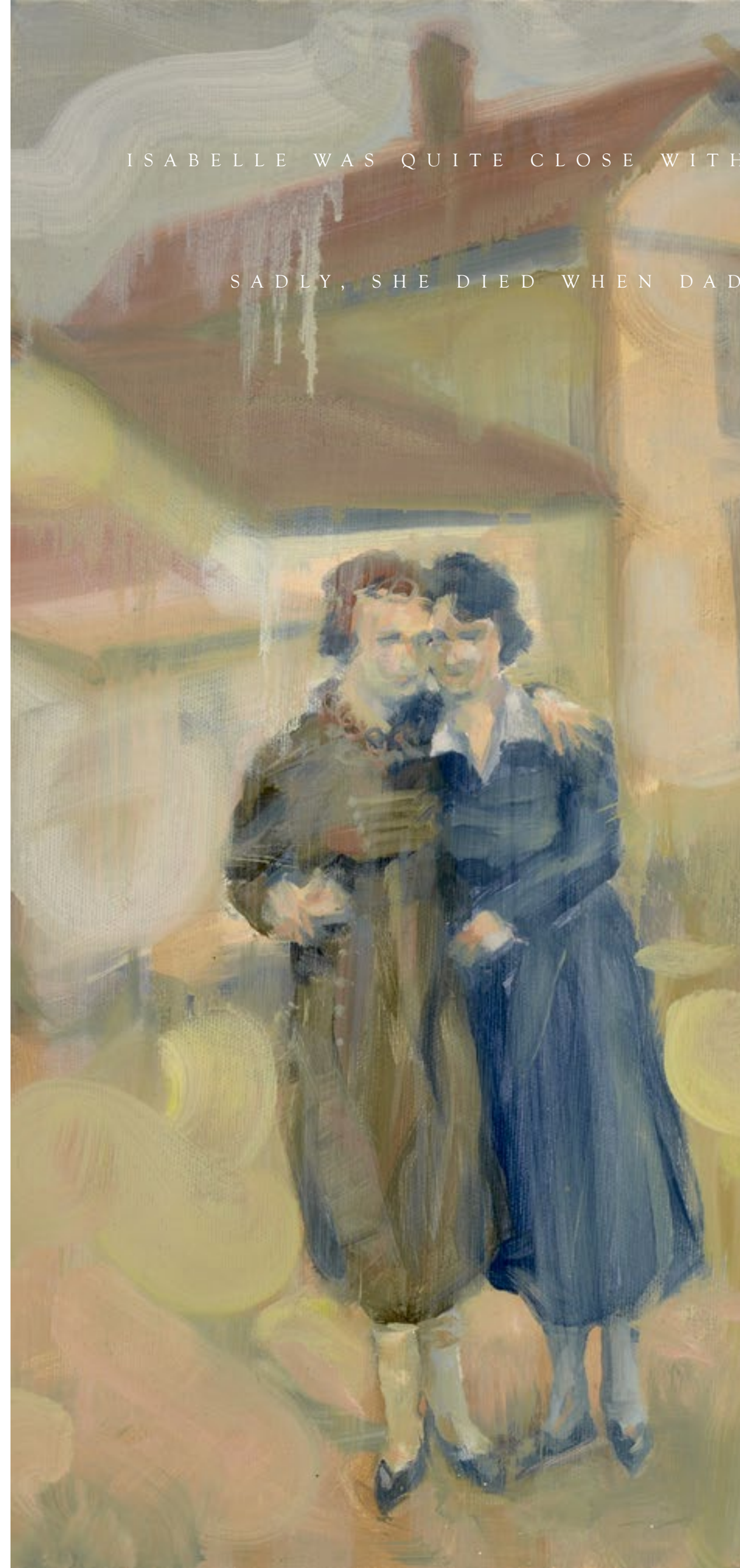
WITH CHARLIE ALONG FOR THE RIDE.



SOME EVENINGS, HIS MOTHER WOULD TAKE HIM ALONG

TO THE GARAGE WHILE SHE DID THE BOOKS.

ONCE, HE FELL ASLEEP IN A TIRE.



ISABELLE WAS QUITE CLOSE WITH HER SISTER GRACE.

SADLY, SHE DIED WHEN DAD WAS JUST 23.

goodbye

oil on canvas

sixteen by twenty one inches

2006, rev. 2007



HE TOLD ME A STORY ABOUT MR. BARKER  
ACROSS THE STREET.  
AFTER GETTING ONE OF THOSE  
NEWFANGLED HORSELESS CARRIAGES,  
OLD BARKER FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY THAT  
SAYING "WHOA" DID NOT STOP THE CAR.  
HE DROVE RIGHT THROUGH THE BACK OF HIS BARN  
AND INTO A DITCH.  
GRANDPA BUCK TOWED HIM OUT.

dad, dog, and wagon

*oil on gesso board*

*eleven by fourteen inches*

2005, rev. 2007

hunter child

oil on gesso board

eight by ten inches

2005



HERE'S LITTLE CHARLIE AT SIX,  
WITH A REAL RIFLE AND AMMUNITION VEST.



LATER, HE BECAME KNOWN AS  
"THE GREAT WHITE APPLIANCE HUNTER"  
AFTER ACCIDENTALLY SHOOTING THE OVEN.  
LUCKILY, MOM WAS DOING THE DISHES.



ANOTHER TIME,  
A MORE PREDICTABLE RESULT WAS ACHIEVED.  
HE SAT IN THE KITCHEN, SIPPING COFFEE,  
HIS GUN ON HIS LAP, THE WINDOW OPEN,  
WAITING FOR A SQUIRREL TO VISIT  
THE BIRDFEEDER JUST OUTSIDE THE WINDOW.

BLAMMO!

AT HIS NEXT HOUSE IN FANCHER,  
HE COULD RACE TRAINS RIGHT OUT HIS BACKDOOR.  
THEY WEREN'T GOING TOO FAST,  
BECAUSE THEY STOPPED  
AT THE WATER STATION NEARBY.  
HE MADE FRIENDS WITH THE GUYS IN THE CABOOSE.

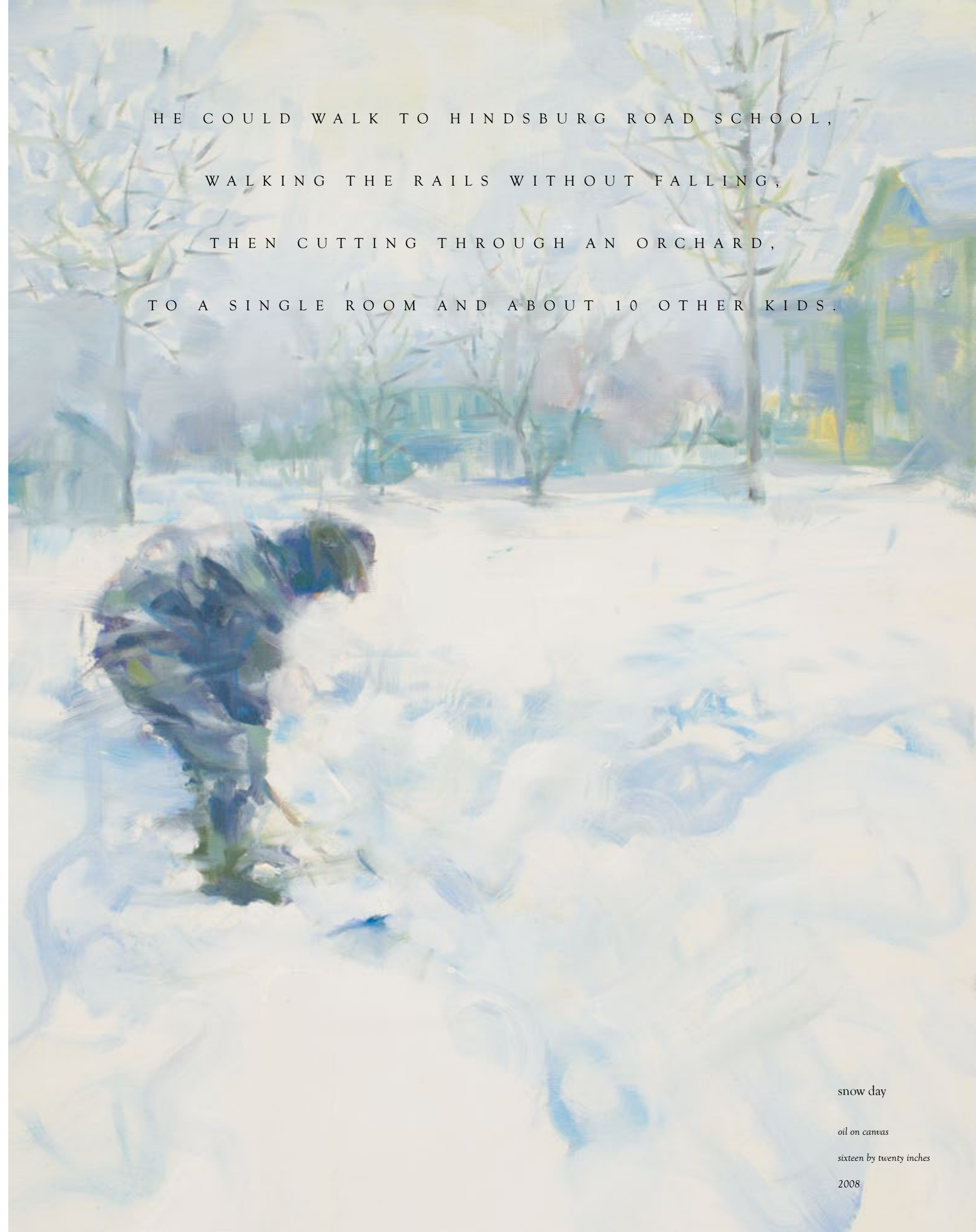


EVERY DAY, HE HAD TO GET  
A BUCKET OF MILK FROM MELE'S UP THE ROAD.  
TONY MELE WAS HIS AGE.



SHOOTIN' SKEET WAS A SUNDAY PASTIME.  
LITTLE CHARLIE WOULD BE BEHIND A SHIELD,  
CHANGING DIRECTION EVER SO SLIGHTLY  
BEFORE PULLING THE STRING RELEASE.  
GRANDPA COULD HIT 99 OUT OF 100,  
SOMETIMES EVEN 100.

HE COULD WALK TO HINDSBURG ROAD SCHOOL,  
WALKING THE RAILS WITHOUT FALLING,  
THEN CUTTING THROUGH AN ORCHARD,  
TO A SINGLE ROOM AND ABOUT 10 OTHER KIDS.



snow day

oil on canvas

sixteen by twenty inches

2008

MY DAD WENT TO ALBION HIGH,  
WHERE HE SET THE SCHOOL RECORD  
IN THE 100 YARD DASH.  
TEN SECONDS FLAT.  
A RECORD THAT WILL NEVER BE BROKEN,  
NOW THAT THE EVENT IS 100 METERS.

the sprinter

*oil wash and pencil on gesso board*

*twelve by fifteen inches*

2005

*collection of michael and gwen scibienski*







the canoe

*oil on panel*

*eleven by fourteen inches*

2008

CHARLIE BUCK WAS WORKING ,

ALWAYS WORKING .

IN FACT , AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER

HE WAS AN ADDING MACHINE REPAIRMAN ,

A FARMER , A HOT DOG VENDOR ,

AN INSURANCE SALESMAN ,

A XEROX MAN , AND A PILOT ,



ONCE A COW FELL IN THE NEIGHBOR'S WELL

WHEN HIS FAMILY LIVED ON DENSMORE ROAD .

HIS DAD SENT HIM CLIMBING DOWN WITH A ROPE

TO FASTEN AROUND THE DISTRESSED ANIMAL .

THEN THEY HOISTED THAT COW OUT .

AFTER HIGH SCHOOL,  
HE AND SOME FRIENDS STARTED A CLUB  
CALLED THE COSMOPOLITANS.  
YOU HAD TO HAVE LETTERED AT ALBION.  
IT WAS RIGHT OVER THE BAKERY,  
NEAR THE BOWLING ALLEY ON MAIN STREET.  
THEY WOULD PLAY FOOTBALL AGAINST THEIR RIVALS.  
GO COSMOS!



WHEN HE LIVED NEAR 5 CORNERS,  
HE HAD A GIRL TO THE LEFT AND RIGHT.  
HAD TO CHOOSE WHEN HE GOT TO THE MAIN ROAD.



DAD LOVED DOGS AND HAD MANY.  
BUSTER THE WATER SPANIEL WAS A FAVORITE.



dad, dog, and flowers

oil on gesso board

eight by ten inches

2005

(dad had his pick of the paintings.  
and this was the one he chose.  
curious choice, too, because he did  
not recognize the dog or the street.)



winter outing, 1939

*oil and wax medium on gesso board*

*ten by eight inches*

2004

HERE HE'S CRUISING IN HIS FIRST CAR,

A 1937 PLYMOUTH.

HE HAD PLYMOUTHS LATER IN LIFE TOO,  
MOST MEMORABLY THAT BRONZE '64 SPORT FURY  
WITH THE PADDED CONSOLE WE ALL LOVED.

(UNTIL MY BROTHER JOHN TOTALED IT.)



ONE FAMOUS NIGHT,

DAD, GEORGE KIRBY, JOHN CARR AND OTHERS

WERE TRYING OUT A NEW HUDSON.

IT WAS WINTER BUT

THERE WAS A DANCE IN BROCKPORT.

THEY ENDED UP IN A SNOWBANK,

SCATTERING A PILE OF RAILROAD TIES AS WELL.

SOME GUYS IN THE BAR NEXT DOOR

LIFTED THE CAR OUT.

ONLY A DENT IN THE HUBCAP.

“ THAT WAS THE SADDEST DAY OF MY LIFE ”  
HE SAID TO ME WHEN I SHOWED HIM THIS PHOTOGRAPH .  
DURING WORLD WAR II, DAD WAS FLYING BLIMPS  
IN THE NAVY’S LIGHTER THAN AIR CORPS,  
PATROLING THE US COAST.  
HE WAS COMMITTED TO A CAREER IN THE NAVY.  
HE ALSO PLAYED PULLING GUARD FOR THE BASE  
FOOTBALL TEAM, AND SUFFERED A HEAD INJURY.  
DAD THOUGHT HE WAS FINE,  
BUT HE GOT SICK DURING HIS NEXT MISSION AND  
WAS ORDERED TO REPORT TO THE INFIRMARY,  
AND LATER AN OFFICER’S HOUSE, FOR CONVALESCENCE .  
CONSEQUENTLY, HE WASN’T ABLE TO GRADUATE  
WITH HIS CLASS AND BECOME AN OFFICER .  
HERE HE IS WITH ONE OF HIS CLASSMATES  
ON THE DAY THE OTHERS GRADUATED .  
NOTE THE STRIPE ON HIS FRIEND MARTIN’S ARM .



“the saddest day of my life”

oil on gesso board

eight by ten inches

2006

edie and cholly's anniversary, 1951

oil on panel

twelve by sixteen inches

2007

collection of alison and doug arnold



HE HAD A BLIND DATE WITH  
A PRETTY NURSING STUDENT ONE NIGHT,  
AND IT WENT PRETTY WELL.



AND SO ON JULY 21, 1943,  
HE MARRIED EDIE CHASE,  
A LIVELY GIRL FROM PAINTED POST.  
IT WOULD BE "CHOLLY AND EDIE"  
FOR THE NEXT 66 YEARS.

THEY BOUGHT AN 1836 COBBLESTONE  
ON WALWORTH ROAD IN ONTARIO,  
AND PROCEEDED TO LIVE THERE FOR 59 YEARS.

HE DID A PROJECT OR TWO.

(THOUSAND.)

HE NEVER HIRED A MAN TO DO SOMETHING

HE COULD DO.

OR THOUGHT HE COULD DO.

BUT WHO INSTALLS THEIR OWN FURNACE?



HE WAS A SAVER OF SCRAP  
AND A FINDER OF GOLF BALLS.

(THOUSANDS.)



AND HE SLEPT IN THE BUFF, SO  
ANY LATE NIGHT DISTURBANCE WAS  
A LITTLE MORE SO.

gaywind

*oil and graphite on panel*

*sixteen by twelve inches*

*2007, rev. 2008*

*collection of stephen and kristyn scibienski*





T H E R E   W O U L D   B E   F I V E   C H I L D R E N ,

J E F F R E Y

C H E R Y L

J O H N

J A M E S

A N D   D A V I D .

dad and jeff wrestling, 1958

*oil on panel*

*thirty by twenty four inches*

2007

the skating party

oil and graphite on panel

thirty by twenty four inches

2008

collection of john buck



AND SOON SIX GRANDCHILDREN,

JEREMY

STEPHEN

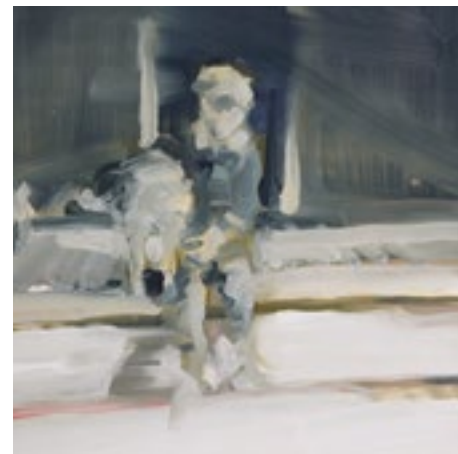
ALISON

MICHAEL

SCOTT

AND MELINA.





dad and buster

*oil on masonite*

*eleven by fourteen inches*

2005

A N D G R E A T G R A N D C H I L D R E N T I M E S S E V E N ,

M A C K E N Z I E

R Y A N

E M M A

A D D I S O N

N A T H A N

M A T T H E W

A N D A V A .



HE WAS GENUINELY PERPLEXED AS TO  
WHY I WOULD DO THESE PAINTINGS OF HIS LIFE,  
A LIFE HE SEEMED TO CONSIDER NOTHING SPECIAL.  
OF COURSE,  
NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.

family album

*oil on plywood*

*twenty two by twenty four inches*

2004

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