



FRESNO PACIFIC
UNIVERSITY

FPUScholarWorks

A hope, a prayer, a cry.

Author(s): Paul Buxman.

Source: *Pacific Journal* 16 (2021): 49-50.

Publisher: Fresno Pacific University.

Stable URL: <http://hdl.handle.net/11418/1359>

FPUScholarWorks is an online repository for creative and scholarly works and other resources created by members of the Fresno Pacific University community. FPUScholarWorks makes these resources freely available on the Web and assures their preservation for the future.

A Hope, A Prayer, A Cry

PAUL BUXMAN

These three paintings sum up my most sacred memories and my most passionate hopes for this Central Valley. They are a visual autobiography of my life's history:

The water: both wild and tamed ...

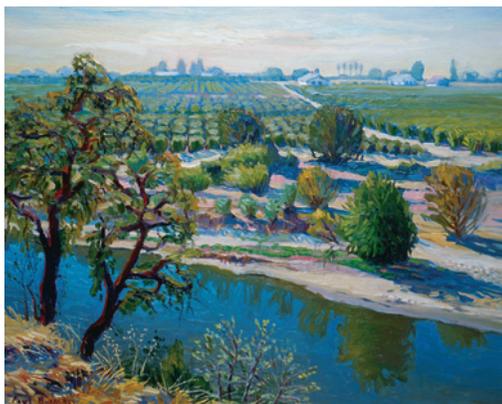
The soil: fertile and deep, yet fragile ...

The air: filled with the sweetness of ripening fruit ...

In my youth, the abundant water, the fertile soil, the expanse of clear skies seemed endless and eternal. But early on in my farming career I watched the water become tainted, the soil become laden with harmful chemicals, and the air become polluted. It became my lifelong quest to do what I could to preserve these precious and life-giving resources.

So, these paintings are much more than beautiful Central Valley scenes. They are a hope, a prayer and a cry. They are saying, "Look at what we have! Look at its beauty! Please, care with me. Hold on to what is precious."

Paul Buxman is a plein air artist and retired small family farmer in Dinuba, California.



The Kings River, flowing its natural course, meanders through miles of thirsty farms and small towns. Here, seen from a bluff north of Reedley, its lifegiving beauty sustains us.



The Irrigation Canal is like a small vein branching from a huge artery. Each farm is kept alive by these connecting waterways. Here, we farm kids refreshed ourselves by swimming in the cold snow melt water throughout the summer.



The Raisin Farm in October is the true evidence of what abundant clean water, with deep fertile soil, over arched by clear warm skies, can produce: abundant pure fruit, healthy rewarding work, and a magical place to spend a childhood.