

**ROBERT E. FREY, CFP  
LAKESIDE ADVISORS, INC.  
1115 EAST DENNY WAY  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98122  
206-285-1730 / FAX 1-866-639-0099**

**"SENTIMENTAL ILLUSTRATOR"**

**I SAW MYSELF IN A NORMAN ROCKWELL PAINTING. IT IS A PORTRAIT OF A YOUNG MAN AND HIS FATHER. THEY MIGHT BE MIDWESTERN FARMERS FROM WHERE I GREW UP. THE OLDER MAN IS SITTING ON THE RUNNING BOARD OF HIS PICKUP TRUCK.**

**HIS HANDS ARE HARD. HIS FACE IS SUNBURNED AND CREASED FROM YEARS OF FIELDWORK. HE HAS A LOOK ON HIS FACE OF PRIDE, WITH A TOUCH OF SADNESS. HIS SON IS GOING OFF TO COLLEGE.**

**BACK THEN, I WAS THE SON. BRIGHT EYED, I STOOD UP TALLER THAN I WAS, WITH AN EXPECTANT SMILE. I DID NOT KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN I GOT OUT IN THE WORLD, BUT WAS SURE IT WOULD BE SOMETHING GOOD. AND WHATEVER IT WAS, I WAS READY FOR IT.**

**BUT NOW THE WORLD HAS MADE ITS TOUR OF THE SUN OVER 40 TIMES. AND NOW I HAVE TAKEN A NEW PLACE IN THE PORTRAIT.**

**IT IS AT TIMES LIKE THIS THAT ONE SEES THE MERIT IN MODERN ART. YOU CAN LOOK AT GLOBS OF PAINT OR BANDS OF COLOR AND SEE NOTHING. IT IS AS MEANINGLESS AND EMPTY AS A PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH. IT HAS NO MORE EFFECT THAN HERB TEA.**

**NORMAN ROCKWELL SPENT HIS CAREER PAINTING PICTURES THAT HELPED PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THEIR OWN FEELINGS... PICTURES THAT ENRICHED THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES AND CELEBRATED THEIR OWN LIVES.**

**BUT THE ART ESTABLISHMENT BRANDED HIM AN "ILLUSTRATOR," A SENTIMENTAL ONE AT THAT. REAL ARTISTS, THEY SAID, WERE DOING ART FOR ART'S SAKE, NOT FOR THE SAKE OF THE BOURGEOIS PUBLIC. REAL ARTISTS WERE PUTTING SWIGGLES, SMEARS OR DAUBS OF PAINT ON THE CANVAS. THEY WERE DOING "INNOVATIVE" AND "CREATIVE" WORK. IF THEY WERE HIDEOUS AND GROTESQUE; WELL, THAT'S WHAT LIFE REALLY IS!**

**YOU CAN LAUGH AT MODERN ART. YOU CAN'T TAKE IT SERIOUSLY. ROCKWELL, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS ALMOST TOO SERIOUS. I TURN**

**BACK TO THE PAINTING AND CAN BARELY STAND TO LOOK. I SEE EVERY LINE, EVERY WORRY AND EVERY REGRET ON THE OLD MAN'S FACE - IN MY OWN MIRROR.**

**SHOULD YOU FIND YOURSELF IN GREAT FALLS, MONTANA ON THE EVENING OF THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 2005, PLEASE BE MY GUEST TO SEE ALL 323 OF THE NORMAN ROCKWELL SATURDAY EVENING POST COVERS - AS WELL AS YOURS TRULY AND HIS PORTRAIT - AT THE C.M. RUSSELL MUSEUM.**

**WE ARE MOST PROUD TO BE SPONSORING THE MEMBERS' OPENING EVENT. THE EXHIBIT WILL REMAIN UNTIL FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>. DON'T HESITATE TO ASK FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.**

**REF**

**ROBERT E. FREY, CFP®**

**[BOB@LAKESIDEADVISORS.COM](mailto:BOB@LAKESIDEADVISORS.COM)**

**VISIT US ON THE WEB:**

**[HTTP://WWW.LAKESIDEADVISORS.COM](http://WWW.LAKESIDEADVISORS.COM)**