



THE STORY OF 39 BOXES

How I explained the story of the boxes to a friend in a letter I wrote him:

I wouldn't share this maybe yet. It's kinda a bit wordy and needs to focus, but the back story is this: Braun Farnon, my ex business partner in Redmotel Films, took the 39 boxes of negative that we had filmed on our journey so many years before, a million dollars worth of filmmaking, not to mention the years of effort I had put into trying to finish that film, so many hours I put into that dream, only to lose it all during some of the worst days of my life, at the hands of a partner's lies and betrayal.

As per the agreement his lawyers had drafted up, he was supposed to try and get an agent to rep the footage for stock, sell it off to other producers, commercials, whatever, but he just put the boxes in a storage locker and then over time stopped paying.

The short story is the boxes, in that storage locker which was in Kelowna BC, had reached their locker limit.

That's when a Native Canadian guy named Dan McGonigle, a guy who went through the charter school story by the way, a guy taken from his family as a child, both him and his sister, and were put through years of abuse at the hands of the Canadian Catholic Charter School System.

He and his sister were Dene tribal members who grew up on a river in a log house with five others, their mom and dad, a cousin, an uncle and an aunt, but then were taken away. Dan never learned though in that charter school how to read or write. But later he learned how to be a rock star welder, so good a welder that he

got hired to work pretty big jobs, bridges, big projects, all over B.C. despite his never getting his official welding papers.

Anyway, the story goes, he was driving with his wife through Kelowna and they saw a sign that said, Storage Locker Auction Today. He was like 'damn my favorite show is Storage Wars, lets go' he says.

Hed been welding all day and was in his dirty work clothes, but whatever, so he pulls his truck up to the doors just as some white guy pulls up in a nice mercedes Benz. He said they both get out at the same time and the white guy looks at Dan, looks him up and down with a look that says, 'What are doing here you dirty Indian'.

Well, that got Dan's back up and he says to his wife, you know what, fuck him, and because welders make pretty good money he decides hes gonna go in and out bid this rich white dude on everything the white guy bids on.

The first locker opened that day is the one with my 39 boxes of negative. Hes got no clue whats in the boxes but jumps right in.

1000 dollars later he owns my movie. He said to his wife 'I don't know what's in those boxes exactly but it looks important'.

It took him almost another five years to finally find me. And its been another four years that the boxes have sat in his basement. His wife kinda wants them out of there.

Anyway its a brilliant story especially how his history ties into the themes of the film

So i have a partner, KJ McKusker, good looking First Nations guy as well, and it turns out both him and Dan are both from the same Dene reservation way up north. KJ as well was taken and farmed out to some white Canadians. He always tells me he was raised by the back hand of an Irishman. We have a script about two Mafia Hitmen, one a Cree Indian, and the other a bible carrying White guy, partners, called Evidence of God.

So Im trying to raise the money to go with KJ to load the negative into a motorhome, and drive the route I took with Jordie and Troy some 30 years ago, maybe with a new dog I'll name Rooster, stopping at every place I filmed at back then and see whats up, and maybe shoot some conversations with the people who are there now.

Whats cool is that Goerge Takes A Gun, who's on the website, an elder whose father was actually at Custers battle, and was almost 80 years old when we filmed with him, his grandson is Supaman, the Eminem of Native Rappers. google him hes super cool Well he wrote to KJ and wanted to thank us because he never

would have known anything about his grandfather if we hadnt filmed him. So he says he'll even do music for the film

I would start in Alberta and start where it all really began on that ranch just south of Black Diamond where I lived for five years with Jordie and the place where it all started, so much of everything that my life became, (and likely my fucked up hips that have shut me down pretty much, probably the producto of getting bucked off way too many horses. I sucked at being a cowboy).

Anyway the story is profound because as you know that both Jordie and Troy committed suicide and those were two super fucked times in my life. And now here I am limping on canes, and whatever else, but I am still here to tell the story.

Once we get the neg to LA Beau Leon will transfer it all to super beautiful 4k resolution and then I will give the hard drives to Pat to start the edit and I believe it will once and for all conquer its Destiny, whatever that is. But between us, Im thinking what suit I would wear to go get our Academy Award

so thats my new dream

And it's gotta happen in the short term. For real

Sincerely

Jeth



FORT SIMPSON NWT