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COMMUNITY HISTORY...

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Each community on Fire Island has its own personality and history, from the general stories to the little-known tidbits of fact and lore. Perhaps you have a scrapbook, or a collection of postcards, photographs, newspaper clippings, letters, or even old Fire Island newspapers that you wish to share. The Fire Island Tide would be pleased to receive them. Please contact me via e-mail at historycolumn@cs.com or send items to me, Cheryl Dunbar Kahlke, c/o Fire Island Tide, 40 Main St., Sayville, NY 11782. I will duplicate your items and return the originals.

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his fine art career is undergoing a resurgence.

Titus Kana has three new styles of photographic art to capture Fire Island, which he refers to as *Ile de Feu*. He was inspired to use French because "Fire Island is a most romantic place and French is the most romantic language, so I combined the two."

Ile de Feu Panoramique offers the artist the most challenge because the finished work is comprised of many images "stitched" together. For example, for the *Ile de Feu Panoramique* of the dune front houses in Davis Park, Titus captured each individual home as a head-on view from the ocean, and then magically stitched the images together on Adobe Photoshop. In contrast, a conventional panorama would require the photographer to shoot the entire group of oceanfront homes with only the center home head-on and the remainder of the homes viewed in traditional perspective, diminishing in size and angling out from the center.

Ile de Feu Historique brings new life to vintage photographs. The treasure trove for this endeavor came from his grandfather, Herb Austin, who died when Titus was only eight. "The photography bug didn't hit me then... My grandfather never knew of my eventual career. In a funny kind of way, I do feel that he is watching over me now." Indeed, working so diligently to restore each of his grandfather's photographs must lend a time-warp sensation as if they are collaborating on each photo.

Ile de Feu Infrarouge is his most innovative endeavor, where scenes are photographed in both the visible and the infrared spectrums. He combines the two in Photoshop to create a surreal aura to a scene.

He started his first website, www.kana.photo.com,



"Hindsight," four cousins, 1949.

Photo by Milan Kana

back in 1996 as a site for his commercial work, a Kana and Austin Family Album, and a section called "Inspirations." The latter is unusual for a website because it gives an insight into the man behind the camera. His inspirations span the gamut of diverse areas including the music of Todd Rundgren, water related sports like windsurfing and sailing, Fire Island itself, Davis Park's art shows and yacht club, digital restoration and other digital possibilities in Adobe Photoshop.

Last year, after a successful exhibit at the Davis Park Art Show, Titus added a new website, www.fireislandvision.com. His work is available on line, and at an ongoing exhibit at the Leja Beach Casino in Davis Park. He will be at the annual Davis Park Art Show on Labor Day Sunday, September 4, and at the Sayville Summer Fest on Sunday, August 7, 2005. He can also be reached at (212) 691-8627 weekdays or (631) 597-7421 weekends. ■