

Pictures that Resonate

Fall River photographer's personal journey to Sao Miguel helping others to connect.

FALL RIVER — Local artist and photographer Henry Krauzyk didn't realize it when he visited his deceased grandmother's homeland of Sao Miguel, Azores, but he was going to end up helping many Portuguese-American and Portuguese Canadian people connect with their homeland.

Krauzyk arrived on the island in July 2003 with his Nikon F2 camera, one lens and several rolls of black and white film and proceeded to capture images that he solely intended to hang on the walls of his home.

"I was very excited about traveling to Saint Michael's" Krauzyk said "You don't grow up in Fall River without being affected by the culture, especially when your grandmother is Azorean. Some friends were going to see their own grandmother and generously

asked my wife and myself along. I brought one of my cameras hoping to get a few shots to hang on the wall."

Upon his return to Fall River, the photographer developed his film and was pleased at many of the images he got.

From sweeping landscapes and dramatic seascapes to portraits and abstract close-ups of things like traditional buildings materials, Krauzyk saw many good photos that uniquely represented Sao Miguel.

So did his friends.

A few asked for copies of their favorite prints. Their relatives saw them hanging on their walls and asked for their own copies. It didn't take long before Krauzyk tried to sell them on the Internet and Ebay and found a waiting and ready audience.

"I was very surprised how quickly they began to sell," he said "Portuguese people from all over North American

started buying them. I've even gotten sales in Europe and places as far away as New Zealand. I believe some people may even be reselling them in their communities

because they are buying the same prints over and over!"

Krauzyk's introduction to serious photography began during his teenage years. At that time he would take photos on slide film to document his many hiking and camping expeditions throughout

his native New England. He counts many valuable lessons among these experiences, including equipment selection, lighting conditions and learning to go to lengths to capture desirable subject matter.

In the 1980's he attended the Rhode Island School of Design, which he credits for honing his judgement of composition and the selection of subject matter. He also counts his skills as an illustrator and painter as an important foundation to his successes in photography.

Those successes have resulted in striking a chord with the international Portuguese community.

"It's not just people who used to live there," Krauzyk said. "Some customers are



This black-and-white photo of a church at Salga in Sao Miguel is part of Henry Krauzyk's portfolio from a recent trip to his grandmother's homeland. The photos have found a following and a fan base not only locally, but internationally.

PHOTO
HENRY KRAUZYK

second or third generation Portuguese-Americans, Canadians, etc. who feel a strong connection to the homeland of their fathers and grandfathers, mothers and grandmothers."

"It was that same connection that made me want to visit the Azores and then jump at the offer when a friend made it."

Krauzyk said that his most popular prints are "The Church as Salga" and "The North Coast of Sao Miguel."

He also said he would like to return to the Azores and see the other islands some day.

For more examples of his Sao Miguel series, go online to: www.krauzyk.com



This black-and-white photo, "The North Coast of Sao Miguel," is part of a series of photos of Sao Miguel taken by Fall River photographer Henry Krauzyk (left).

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