

LOOKING FOR A HOUSE TO RENT

by Miles Mathis

I have been seeking lodgings now for over a year, and it looks like my time is running out here. The landlord wants to sell this place while the market is hot and I can't blame him. He has asked that I leave by the end of the month, which is little more than two weeks away. But the market for rentals is very tight nationwide, as you may be aware. A property goes up and within hours it has 100 contacts. Many states have almost nothing available in my categories. So although I have put in dozens of applications nationwide on Zillow and other sites, nothing is happening.

You may remember that I thought I had found a place in Oregon a year ago March. But the previous tenant wouldn't vacate. She still hasn't vacated. So I gave up on Oregon. Just as well, 1) because Oregon has no properties available, and 2) because Oregon has gone off the deep end. Their bought-out governor is trying make masks permanent. I don't want to be stuck there.

So I am reaching out to my readers, to see if they can help. I have already had several offers in the past year for a place to crash temporarily, but that isn't really what I want. I am looking for a long lease in a nice place, with room for my little museum of paintings, books, bicycles, kittens, etc. I am not asking for charity. I have been in this house for ten years and have never missed a payment, even during Covid. This house is about 1400 sqft, and I am looking for something that size or larger. It needs to be cat-safe, meaning not on a corner lot or a busy street. A rural site near a town or city with a college would be perfect. I have been looking at Boone, NC, for instance, but so far no luck. I need an unfurnished place, but with appliances. The usual. Don't need a dishwasher or microwave, just the basics. Hardwoods would be great and high ceilings would be perfect. It has been heaven being able to put my really big paintings on the walls here. At previous houses I just had to lean them.

For myself, I have been looking mainly at red states, since the blue states seem to be imploding. As I said, I have been looking at North Carolina, mainly the western part but also the environs of Raleigh/Cary/Chapel Hill. Also keying on New Hampshire, but Maine and Vermont would also be dandy. Also looking at central Pennsylvania. I thought I had found a place outside State College, but that fell through as well. I am focusing on the less populous parts of the Eastern states, because I am also fleeing allergies. I grew up in the West and so my allergies are to this region. They were bad in Texas and almost as bad in New Mexico. But I had almost no allergies when I lived in Massachusetts or Europe.

I generally avoid the big cities and the far south, since I don't like it hot. Well water would be wonderful, since I am also fleeing fluoride. But of course it is looking like I am going to have to compromise, so I don't expect all my desires to be met. I am just putting them out there for luck. Contact me if you would like an interesting tenant.