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that led to the Massacre of Wounded Knee in 1890.

"As soon as we got everything set up, the wind started blowing," Kennedy said. "The fringe in her dress, her hair, everything went wrong. I was saying (to myself), 'Do you see, David? Grandfather is telling you you shouldn't (shoot the photo) and he is not going to let you do it.' I was fighting all these feelings but ... I kept shooting"

Just as the sun was setting behind the horizon, the wind stopped.

"All of the fringe on the dress fell and her hair fell beautifully (into place)," he continued. "She looked into the camera and raised both of her arms in the air and I shot it ... My assistant, myself and Alice, the woman who was dancing, all sat there for a minute or two ... Then I said, 'Alice what happened?' She said, 'David, it was so amazing.' Her great grandfather had been at the original Wounded Knee Massacre. He was one of the dancers. As the sun went down, (she said) that he had come back. For me, it was a huge affirmation that this was right."

Images from the road

Par for the course, Kennedy's latest work, the "Images from the Road" series which is also on display at Heinley,

comes from personal odyssey as well.

"In 2000, my house burnt down. (Later that year), I got a divorce. I really had no idea what to do so I sold everything. I bought a '59 airstream trailer and took off for two years," Kennedy says, reminiscing about this more recent turning point in his life.

Using a 4x5 format homemade camera, Kennedy shot more than 2,500 negatives on his 70,000 mile trip, much of which he is still sifting through in preparation for a larger viewing and possibly a book. Kennedy returned to New Mexico with a new perspective on the people and places that make up rural America.

"Part of the reason that I took off was because I was really disillusioned about what was going on in this country," Kennedy says. "I think part of the journey for me ... was finding out where America is today ... Basically the people who populate America are amazingly beautiful, industrious, caring people. I met Pentacostal ministers, fishermen and just tons of people from every walk of life ... I came away from it feeling very positive because there is still a soul in this country that is very much alive."

Indeed, it is a soul that only an image-maker like Kennedy can capture.

Heinley Fine Arts is located at 119C Bent St. in Taos. For more information, call (505) 579-9678 or (617) 947-9016. Visit heinleyfinearts.com.



Courtesy photo

'Taos Hoop Dancer' by David Michael Kennedy

Courtesy photo

'Rain, Luna County, N.M.' by David Michael Kennedy



Courtesy photo

'Willie On His Bike' by David Michael Kennedy