

**Gilbert Poole**

815-20, 816-20

Visting Dublin, Charlie Poole

A magazine or photograph offers me an opportunity to travel to a place in my mind. This photograph in the National Geographic Traveler Magazine provided me with just such an escape from prison life. I could picture myself walking amongst the people, and for a brief moment, I am there. I painted myself in (I'm the one holding the paper bag and wearing a hat) because I loved the colors and atmosphere of the cheery street in Dublin. When I say I can picture myself there, I literally can. Hope you enjoy. All thanks goes to God for giving me the ability. Gilbert Poole

In 2012, after 20 years of incarceration, I decided to find my estranged father, Gil "Lee" Poole.

With the help of my attorney, I found Dad's address and sent him a note. He responded with a card that said he had hoped for me to contact him. I sent Dad a 20 page biography.

After waiting a couple of months for a reply, I sent another letter. A N.C. Pastor named Bill Poole, (my father's brother), notified me that Gil Poole had passed away in his doctor's office during an outpatient eye surgery.

Left on Gil's nightstand was an unfinished letter to me, a photograph of Gil Lee playing a piano, and an article from a Rolling Stone about Charlie Poole.

The letter didn't mention Charlie Poole, but it did tell me of his career touring Europe entertaining the troops with country music legend Tom T. Hall. The last line written said he had to get up early for laser eye surgery.

I've been incarcerated since 1988. My inspiration for art comes from photographs that evoke an emotion in me. Whether it comes from my awe of God's creation, or from the possibility of being a descendant of music legends, all glory goes to God.

Lee Poole