

Making Spirits Bright

By Evangeline Doyle



If you're looking for a little holiday cheer, you don't have to go very far, just head downtown Vernonia to Buckleberry Cottage and Out on a Limb. There your Christmas treasures await you, along with piping hot Wassail, holiday treats – and shop owners ready to make this holiday time special for you.

The owners, Rietta Behnke and Sharon Bernal, even make it easy on husbands this time of year – they do the shopping for you! Well almost. They can certainly assist with your selections, but unique to the shop is their "Wish List" service. Ladies come in and fill out their "wish lists" for Christmas; making shopping easier than ever for their husbands.

Many locals know the shop as Buckleberry, Buckleberry Cottage or just Out on a Limb, but in fact it's two shops in one business location. The two have done such a great job of sharing the space that most don't realize they are visiting two shops at once.



thing," says Rietta, "a time to stop, relax and visit with friends." She began serving complimentary tea to customers in 2000 and has offered teas for sale ever since.

Out on a Limb has done business in Vernonia since 2001, the name came from Sharon's idea to take a risk and do something she'd always dreamed of – owning a gift and decorations shop.

Behnke and Bernal began sharing their Bridge Street location in 2005, and have been on a roll since. Together they decided to do a twist on the traditional "Ladies Night." On the second Thursday of each month, they stay open until 8 p.m. offering women an opportunity to visit, eat, shop and have fun. Rietta says Sharon is the marketing wiz – the creative behind their often hysterical Ladies Night postcard mailings. Rietta



The result of this combined space is an interesting blend of country romance meets city sparkle with a dash of shabby chic. Rietta Behnke, recently quoted in Country Business Magazine, says "there are many definitions for romantic style, but the one she likes the best is not quite real." Romance should be special, not your everyday occurrence – otherwise it wouldn't evoke that special, not quite real feeling in us.

Rietta Behnke has been in business since November of 2000. Her business sign for Buckleberry Cottage, a giant red teapot, is a Vernonia landmark. "Taking tea is another romantic

laughs, "my grandson often sees the postcards and says, 'what's wrong with Grandma Rietta?'"

To sign up for Ladies Night postcard mailings, or to learn more about their Wish List service, visit Buckleberry Cottage and Out on a Limb at 919 Bridge Street. Open holiday hours: 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesdays. Also open Christmas Eve until 5 p.m.



**Buckleberry Cottage
and
Out on a Limb**

Holiday Hours:
Wed. to Sat. 10am to 6pm
Sat. 12pm to 5pm

Ladies - make it easy for husbands to complete their Christmas shopping. Fill out your Wish List at the shop today!

Open Christmas Eve until 5:00 pm

Closed Dec. 25 - 28
Returning Dec. 29

ring 503.429.0706

Merry Christmas!
And thank you for a fabulous year!

New, used & handmade items for children and their families

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HOLIDAY SPECIAL!

All puzzles, games, & di-cast cars, buy 1, get 1 half off!

(all of December!)

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SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS!
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