

Bicycles for Everyone *continued from front page*

from there. Obviously it got out of hand. But I saw an opportunity and it's a fun opportunity."

Burklund says he tends to deal in quality merchandise, and only buys and sells good brands of bicycles. "I like to help people step up a level from the Walmart or Fred Meyer throwaway bikes," he explains. "I've met some really great people."

During COVID a friend of Burklund's, George Kadey who owned a bicycle shop in Tigard, passed away. "George was about 85 years old when he died. My dad bought my very first Schwinn from George's dad and I used to go over there and ask George questions when I was trying to fix a bike – he was just a wealth of knowledge," remembers Burklund. "When he died he left a note for his only living relative, his sister, to contact me and I would

help them liquidate the shop. I found 30 year old bicycles still in the box."

He also used those estate sales and auction contacts during COVID to acquire more bikes. Sometimes those can lead to some interesting finds. He also likes to go to pawn shops and will buy all the bikes they have in the store. He doesn't mind traveling either, sometimes as far away as Olympia or Bend, in search of a good deal. "I still have the kid in me," says Burklund. "I get excited when I find a bike I don't have, or something that is different or unusual." He shows me a bike, an Apex, that was only manufactured for two years. "You don't pedal it, you pump it. It has a chain on each side that drives the rear wheel." He also shows me a used Electra bike, with slightly recumbent pedals. He remembers a very rare Schwinn, one of only a thousand of that style that were made, he once helped sell. He has a used custom-made Rodriguez tandem bike on his lot right now, that probably cost \$20,000 when it was brand new.

"The car salesman in me reminds me that I have to have variety," says



Burklund. Right now, he says he has over 500 bikes in stock, although many of those are for parts. He has road bikes, mountain bikes, BMX bikes, kids bikes, adult tricycles, a few tandems, and a few real specialty bikes. He says he also is willing to take trade-ins, so dust off that old cruiser in the garage, because Burklund might be interested.

While Burklund enjoys working on his bikes, he also gets some help from Ken Murray, a retired bicycle mechanic living in Vernonia, who helps him out sometimes. "I always have a few bikes going through his shop and help supplement his retirement," says Burklund. He also says he loves Google for, not just finding out how to fix something, but also just for

gathering more bicycle history, trivia, and knowledge.

"We just live in a gifted area, in the middle of one the longest bicycle paths in Oregon," says Burklund. He says he often rides a bike when he goes out hunting. "I attract a different kind of crowd when I put a gun rack on the front of my bike," he says with a chuckle.

So, if you're in the market for a bicycle now that summer is finally here, hopefully, stop by and see Herb Burklund, Vernonia's bicycle guy.

Rebike is located at 2011 N Mist Dr. You can reach Herb Burklund at 503-429-0646 or 503-807-1893.

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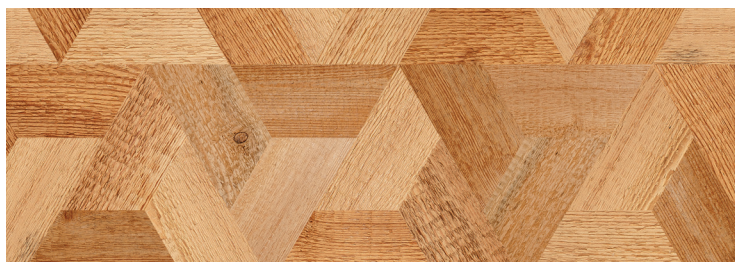
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