

Thomas flies high' in plane construction



Photo by Brian Snook
Durwood Thomas displays a model of the Navy World War II fighter plane he is building in full scale at home. Thomas keeps busy with several other hobbies besides his involvements as department chairperson of law enforcement, fire science and graphic arts at this college.

Thomas said that it is four feet high and will hold 12 gallons of gas, and is an exact duplicate of the real thing.

"I hope it won't take 10 years to build and I know I won't get sidetracked on sailboats," Thomas said.

About 12 years ago Thomas and his friends rebuilt a Piper Cub (J3). Since that time, he has helped rebuild about five or six other aircraft.

Thomas has been flying for years as a hobby. When his plane is finished he plans to fly to Ashland or San Francisco as his first trip.

When Thomas isn't planning and working on his plane he often routs signs out of redwood.

"I didn't know much about the signs used for national monuments which are done by routing. I discovered that the prisoners at McNeil Island Federal Prison in Washington do the routing for the monuments so I spent a day there observing and taking notes. I even ate lunch with them and they were very eager to be of help," Thomas said.

Thomas has also studied art in Southern Germany and in an advertising art school in Portland.

Some of the signs Thomas has done are for Fashion Lande at Danielson's Shopping Center, the redwood sign at Still Meadows, both located in Oregon City, and the Wild Strawberry florist sign located on Beaver-creek Road.

Payne tells study goals

Members of the Blue Ribbon Athletic Studies Committee were recently selected by the Clackamas Community College Board

of Education to study the athletics programs at CCC. The committee elected Anna Payne, Milwaukie, citizen chairperson at their first meeting.

The committee will be looking into every aspect of the intercollegiate program, said Payne.

"We will be looking at each sport separately," she said, "not just football."

These sports include volleyball, basketball, cross-country, baseball, golf, wrestling and soccer. The sports will be broken down into men's and women's teams for the purpose of the study, according to Payne.

"The studies will be concerned with the expense of each sport and the amount of participation," she said. "We hope to figure out the degree of enrollment and the percentage of turnout and interest in the community."

The CCC board had intended that the committee be made up of persons both for and against the athletic program but nearly everyone has approached the subject with an open mind, according to Payne.

"Generally, all are supportive of the college whether or not they are in favor of the intercollegiate sports program," she said.

Payne has been very involved with CCC in the past. She worked as the head of the Clackamas Community College Foundation door-to-door campaign during the last budget election.

"That's where I heard the citizens of the community questioning the intercollegiate sports program," she said.

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and Thomas has several hobbies to busy when he's not teaching law to Clackamas Community College students.

Thomas, chairperson of law enforcement, graphic arts, does oil painting redwood signs and private investing. His latest endeavor is building an exact duplicate of a Navy Corsair World War II fighter plane at one-half scale size.

Thomas built a 20-foot by 40-foot shop to hold the tools, materials and the plans. The shop was built until three or four years ago there were no plans available to buy. Now, for those who can purchase plans for this aircraft, Thomas said.

According to Thomas, when the aircraft is completed it will have cost him \$5,000 or more. He discovered that a new engine would cost him about \$5,000 so he purchased a used one for \$3,000.

The plane will have a 20-foot wing span with a fuselage, Thomas said. "It will also have folding wings so I can tow it home and store it."

Thomas obtained a 100-pound practice engine which will be hung under the fuselage as an extra fuel tank on long flights.

Faculty to preview humanities class

Faculty members at Clackamas Community College are being given the opportunity to preview a class now being offered to CCC students.

On Oct. 14, which has been set aside as a development day, 50 instructors will participate in a Humanities Experience Day, which will introduce the new Humanities experience course.

The Humanities Experience Day will include an exhibit featuring the works of Norman Leland John, Les Tipton and Larry Travers, art instructors at CCC; and recorded guitar music presented by John Travers, a professional musician.

The film, "They Hailed the Steamboat," will be shown and the morning will conclude with a presentation of Oregon history and stories by John Hooley, division chairperson of humanities and social science.

Lunch will be served at Hooley's home in West Linn and will feature Oregon cheese, redwood, poultry, wines, beer and punch.

A tour of the Pittock Mansion, guided by Fred DeWolfe, CCC history instructor, and an art museum tour guided by John will complete the afternoon's activities.

The Humanities Experience (HUM 110) is being offered to students on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. The class will be taught by Hooley; DeWolfe; John; Gary Nelson, CCC music instructor and Tom Richards, chairperson of the CCC English department. The class is required by most occupational curricula and is offered to transfer students as an elective.

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