

On local farms

# Tradition grows all year



Tree farms, like the one above, raise in profits at this time of year. Photos by Chuck Quimby

## Craftswomen turn dough into extra holiday cash

By Leanne Lally  
Of The Print

With Christmas just around the corner, people are looking for unique and old fashioned ways to show off their Yuletide spirit.

Homemade cookies, pies, and candy adorn many tables. Macrame, sewing, knitting, and other handmade items find their way into the hearts and hands of appreciative receivers. Handmade items are becoming more popular for Christmas.

Sandy Zimmer, part-time staff member at the college, has been hand-crafting for five years. She and partner Dianna Schaffer make and sell dough art ornaments for decorating Christmas trees.

The pair work out of Zimmer's home in Canby and are doing very well. Last year an estimated 4,000 ornaments were sold from August to December.

The dough artists are in the process of writing a book so anyone interested can learn how to create the miniature miracles themselves. The book is scheduled to appear on the shelves in September 1979.

"The popularity of dough art is sky rocketing for two reasons," Zimmer said. "One is that people have more leisure time, and two, they are really into making things themselves."

The sense of "I did it myself," is expressed in Zimmer and Schaffer's book not yet titled. The book goes through instructions and variations on the constructing of the dough artistry.

"It's hard to explain the process of making the ornaments out of dough," Zimmer said, "it's like baking, you just have to 'feel' when it's right."

"We add a lot of extra

touches to our works," said Zimmer. "One is that we mix the paint right in with the dough so we don't have to paint them after they are baked."

The two also have a trademark. They sign and date each ornament they make, so the objects become timely and worth a little more to each customer.

They also use a draftsman pencil to draw in facial features and accent small lines.

The artists also make mirror frames, jewelry, macrame beads, toys and other bright and useful items.

Zimmer will demonstrate dough art techniques Thursday from 12:30 to 1 p.m. in Barlow Hall, room 252 for the Calico Christmas class. Anyone interested in purchasing ornaments may contact the shop at 651-2711.

By Don Ives  
Of The Print

In these modern times some traditions are being tossed by the wayside. But one tradition still lives and grows bigger every year: the Christmas tree.

Ed Wanke, Oregon City Christmas tree grower, hopes it will stay that way. Wanke retired into the tree business in 1970, and his three-acre tree farm gives him "more than enough work," especially during the holidays. According to Wanke, the Christmas season has already begun for tree growers.

"I've had people come in and reserve trees even before Thanksgiving," he said, "but business doesn't really get heavy until about the first of December."

There is more to growing Christmas trees than planting and cutting, as Wanke is quick to point out. When Wanke buys his Douglas Fir seedlings from either state or commercial nurseries, they are usually no more than four inches tall.

"These are about two years old," he explained.

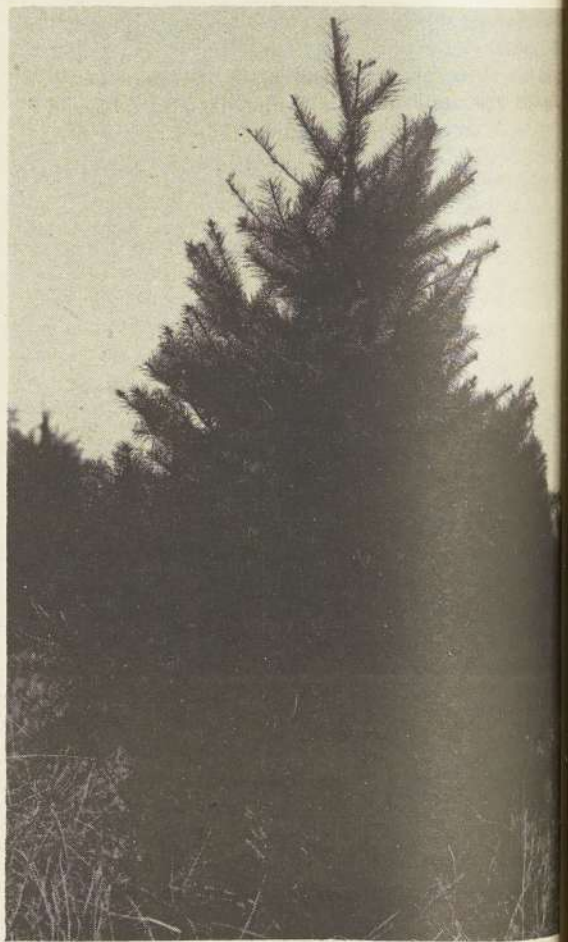
After planting, trees are sprayed to ward off insects and control weeds. Then begins the long process of trimming and shaping.

"I begin shearing them early as July," Wanke said.

The first shearing a tree receives, according to Wanke, is the trimming of the "handle." The handle consists of the top foot of the tree from the ground. It is trimmed to be free of branches for easier cutting and carrying. Then each tree is trimmed yearly to obtain the popular cone shape of a Christmas tree. In addition to this, Wanke cultivates and fertilizes his three-acre tree farm at least once a year.

"It's not a paying thing," Wanke said, "when you consider the work involved, it takes six to seven years to grow a good five-foot tree."

Wanke is now selling both cut and u-cut trees for \$10 a foot. His farm is located on Molalla Avenue between the College and the Fire Station. Besides his tree business, Wanke sells filberts for 50¢ a pound and says he will continue them free of charge.



Trees such as the one above, adorn many houses.



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