

"Sweet Williams": a dream come true

With the rising cost of everything today, it is common to find more and more people about running their own business. It is unusual, however, to find someone who has successfully done just that.

By Leanne Lally
Of The Print

Jean Biddle, former "dusting lady" for the college, is one of the few people who not only about opening her own business, she did it. She owns and operates "Sweet Williams" at the Holly Farms Mall in Milwaukie. Biddle's brainchild opened March 12 and already has won a wide following.

"Sweet Williams" is nestled around the corner from Albertson's. Adorned with a variety of plants, the shop is a welcome sight for people who are looking for a gift for that "special someone." While the shop is primarily a florist, one can find many gifts, ranging from hair combs and plants to dried flower arrangements.

Years ago, "Sweet Williams" was only a



SPECIAL TOUCH—Sweet Williams designer Pat Berry works with arrangement. The shop is around the corner from Albertson's in the Holly Farms Mall. Photo by Kelly Laughlin

dream as Biddle worked at the College doing light janitorial work.

"They called me the Dusting Lady," said Biddle. "I took care of Mahogany Row, and the other buildings on campus."

Biddle left the College and took with her several rules for success. The first and more important one: "find my talents and work at them."

She did just that by graduating from the Western School of Floral Design. She and her six daughters sat down one summer evening and brainstormed on a name for a floral shop. The crew cut the contestants down to six possible names. They finally decided on "Sweet Williams" which is named after Biddle's husband, William, who will retire in two years and help run the shop.

The inside of the store is designed with cedar and burlap wall covering. William did all of the carpentry work. The shop is small with most of the merchandise neatly and attractively displayed over all four walls and a middle "island" stocked with many small plants.

Designers Pat Berry and Biddle do most of the flower arranging. Biddle commented that Berry takes care of the business end, as well. Wendy Putnam does the ceramic work and Biddle's two youngest daughters, Terri and Tami, are learning the tricks of the trade.

Biddle reminisced about her days at the College saying that she met many nice people and many not as nice.

"I sometimes felt as if I were being pressured to believe in other ways. I've always said, 'be true to yourself, you can't compromise your beliefs,'" she said. Biddle shed another light on the College by stating that it was a good institute for "developing talents."

Biddle hopes to explain her shop in a few years and "open a few more here and there." That is her goal, and if she goes at it with as much verve as her first projects, Oregonians may be seeing a lot of "Sweet Williams."

New Guess Who

No more pop in rock

By Mike Koller
Of The Print

One of Canada's biggest groups ever, the Guess Who have released their first album in over four years. The new Guess Who sounds nothing like the band once led by Burton Cummings and Randy Bachman who teamed out hit after hit during the late '60s and early '70s.

This version of the Guess Who has opted for a much harder, guitar-oriented style with some crisp vocal harmonies and many stand-out guitar solos.

The original Guess Who no doubt always be remembered as one of the supergroups like Three Dog Night and Grand Funk Railroad who dominated AM radio with hits like "American Woman," "These Eyes," "Laughing"

and so many others. They were a band that was trying for hit singles, so their sound was commercially oriented.

It appears that on "All This for a Song," the Guess Who have leaned away from the pop formula that once made them so successful. Possibly, without Burton Cummings at the helm, the band's straightforward rock and roll side is showing through.

The title cut gives a nice example of their new sound with strong vocals by Don McDougall, who at times sounds much like Burton Cummings, and a searing guitar solo by new member David Inglis who plays lead guitar on the album.

Only McDougall and bass player Jim Kale remain as previous members of the Cummings-era Guess Who. All of the group's material on "All This for a Song" was

either written or co-written by Kale and McDougall.

The majority of their compositions feature strong rhythms with sharp, piercing guitar, especially on songs like "Sweet Young Thing," "Raisin' Hell on the Prairie," and "C'mon Little Mama." McDougall and Kale's love for rock and roll was often overshadowed by Cummings who preferred many soft piano ballads when he led the Guess Who.

The only weak point on the album comes when the band attempts a ballad titled "That's the Moment," written by McDougall, where silly lyrics on the over-used topic of love prove boring.

Overall, the Guess Who have survived minus Cummings (who many believed was the total key to their success), to make an excellent album of rock and roll, Canadian style.

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