



Instruction on operating the heavy duty sewing machine required for use in the Tuesday night upholstery classes at West Gresham grade school, is given to Mrs. Donald Lanz by Tom Nelson, class instructor. (Sandy Post photo)



Mrs. Robert Osborn and instructor, Tom Nelson, attach covered buttons to complete the project of Mrs. Osborn at the weekly upholstery class held at West Gresham grade school. Mrs. Robert Osborn is just beginning work on the chair she will upholster. (Post photo)

Upholstery Classes Mend, Revive Old Furniture

By DOROTHY GILLARD

Some ladies crochet antimacassers to hide the worn spots on davenport and chair. Some ladies knit up an afghan to cover faded upholstery. Most ladies face broken sagging springs with that awful "there's nothing left now but the rummage sale, and what are we going to sit on?" feeling.

For these Tom Nelson has a satisfying solution. His Tuesday evening upholstery class in a basement room at West Gresham grade school has been the scene of an amazing metamorphosis for many an old piece of

furniture. In fact it's hard to believe that the beautiful pieces of furniture the class members are taking home came from anywhere but the finest of custom upholstery shops. Certainly they bear no resemblance to the old pieces that were brought in at the first class.

Nelson, who has been teaching adult upholstery classes in the Gresham-Sandy area for 13 years, finds the work an absorbing avocation that fits in well with his full time profession of instructor of mechanical and architectural drafting at Roosevelt high school, Portland.

He became interested in upholstering a number of years ago when he was teaching in Downers Grove, a suburb of Chicago. Those were depression times, but the father of a student who had learned the upholstering trade at the Kroehler company started a little basement business when he was laid off. Soon he was hiring several men and keeping his wife busy sewing cushions. Nelson learned from this man and was soon called on to teach an upholstery class in the shop at Downers Grove high.

Probably because he finds this business of "new chairs for old" a fascinating hobby himself, his classes are much in demand and often there are long waiting lists of persons eager to try their hand at taking a davenport apart, right down to the bare wood frame. Nelson shows them how to stretch webbing, tie springs, cover with burlap, put on padding (usually tow moss or curled hair.) Then the student upholsterers are ready to cover with muslin and put on the outside cover.

In this Gresham class some have ventured into the use of

foam rubber cushions in seat and back and for arm padding. Among the pieces the class has done are a davenport, studio couch, barrel back chairs, fluted back chairs, platform rockers, and several unique pieces—one a child's chair, another a charming slipper chair created out of an armed dining chair.

Because of the size of the projects and the fact that each different piece requires considerable personal attention from the instructor the classes must be limited. Nelson finds the present class of 14 just right.

This is actually the second class of the year. The first was organized last fall when Mrs. James Metzger got a group together and called Nelson about teaching them. At his suggestion the class was organized through the school, with the state defraying half the expense.

The present class was organized in the same way by Mrs. Ernest P. Lundbom. Each weekly meeting lasts for three hours, from 6:45 to 9:45 p.m. There is a brief break for coffee at 8:10, with some member usually sup-

Accidents Injure Two Aims Women

AIMS — Two Aims residents were injured in accidents early this week and one of them, Mrs. Mike Spring, still is hospitalized. Mrs. Spring is at Gresham General for treatment of face, back and chest injuries suffered Sunday evening when the car in which she was riding overturned just outside of Sandy on the Bull Run road.

Bids Received To Alter Bridge

Among bids received by the State Highway Commission in Salem this week was one for remodeling and widening the Wildcat Creek (Boulder Creek) bridge on the Mt. Hood highway about 10 miles east of Sandy.

This work will widen the present reinforced concrete bridge from a 19-foot roadway width to 34-feet. Little interference will result to traffic during this work, according to the Oregon State department. The project is scheduled for completion late this summer.

roof of the car. Mrs. Edward Steele suffered two badly-burned fingers Monday afternoon when a wall plug literally exploded as she was plugging in a light cord. She also was treated in Gresham.

Farmers Union Plans Card Party Saturday

The Farmers Union card party will be held Saturday evening, April 15, at 8 p.m. in the Women's Club hall in Sandy. Both Pinochle and Five Hundred will be played. The public is invited.

The regular Farmers Union meeting will be Thursday, April 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the Women's Club hall. A potluck dinner followed by a business meeting and a program is planned.

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