

# Tole painting becomes popular decorative art

By SUZANNE ASHMUN  
Women not only take to tole painting—they get hooked on it.

This is the opinion of Joyce (Mrs. Leonard) Paola who has been tole painting for 8 years and teaching classes for 6.

Tole painting comes from the French and literally means "painting on tin" although today most and every surface is used for the decorative art.

Tole painting is done on everything from wooden duck decoys to old chests to milk cans.

"Packing lids make nifty metal trays," Mrs. Paola said as she picked up one painted with daisies, a favorite pattern of tole painters. The often used term rosealling means flower painting in Norwegian.

Mrs. Paola said the joy in tole painting comes from making something attractive from some old piece of wood or metal.

"Collecting is a lot of fun—if you've got 10 extra minutes in town you're looking for a junk store," she laughed. "Of course most of us collect much more than we could paint in a lifetime."

Since tole painting has become so popular the prices of the most popular pieces of junk have risen to meet the demand. For example, duck decoys which formerly went for 50 cents now cost about \$6.50 to \$15.00 and milk cans have risen in price, which were free now cost about \$5.00.

Some retired people, Mrs. Paola said, are making a good retirement income just cutting boards (preferably with cracks, for that antique look) for tole painters.

Many have home decorated in Early American furniture but not all, tole painters use their work to decorate their Early American homes and blend right in with antiques.

"The two most popular patterns—flowers and fruits—will fit into most any decor," Mrs. Paola said.

The early tole painting in this country was done on metal coffeepots.

Mrs. Paola has an original

1866 metal chest which has the original tole painting still intact, though the top painting is wearing thin.

Mrs. Paola first got hooked when she began taking lessons 8 years ago from Charlotte Owens, then of Fairview. Now she teaches tole painting in her basement to 17 students.

Most anyone can learn to tole paint, Mrs. Paola said.

"It's a technique you can learn, like knitting," she said. For example, "The are certain prescribed ways to paint a pear or a daisy."

Before you start painting, the surface must be prepared—an undercoating on metal or varnish or semi-gloss paint on wood.

Then the pattern, selected from a number of tole painting books is transferred to the surface with graphite paper. This process is similar to the tracing paper used in sewing. Then the pattern is painted in, always keeping the pattern in front of the painter.

Most tole painting, such as the everpopular flowers, is done with one basic stroke called the teardrop. To give perspective to pears, cherries or other fruits the brush is "loaded" with dark paint and then the tip is put in light paint to give the highlights of color on the fruit.

"It's important to use the proper brushes for the design you've chosen," she said Mrs. Paola said.

After the paint dries, the surface is painted over with a glaze of burnt umber and paint thinner.

When the glaze feels tacky it is wiped off with lintless cloth to give the desired highlights for an antique look.

"Beginners are afraid to leave much on at first," she laughed. "They don't like to cover up their painting designs. I antique my thing quite dark, though."

Besides the fruits and flowers other popular patterns include the primitive people and animals and the hearts and flowers designs so popular in Scandinavian paintings.

The Paola home near Hood View School is a charming example of the many creative uses of tole painting in decorating a home. Their early American furnishings are much enhanced by Mrs. Paola's tole painting.

Mr. and Mrs. Paola have four children, Jack, 11, Melenie, 8, Mitchell, 6, and Danny, 4. Mrs. Paola thinks the sign she saw in a fellow painter's house fits her own situation:

"There's a lot of painting done in the kitchen, but you get kind of hungry."

## Pine rust widespread

Large yellow-orange swellings on pine trees are not new ornaments but a serious disease warns Oregon State University horticulturists.

Pines most often affected by the disease known as western gall rust are the hard pines or those with two needles in the fasticle or bundle where the needles attach to the branch.

Shore pine (Pinus contorta) and mugho pine (Pinus mugo) are most susceptible to the disease and there is no chemical control yet known.

Wilbur W. Burkhardt, area extension agent, explained that western gall rust appears on branches of any size as a round swelling ranging in size from that of a walnut to as large as a grapefruit.

At this season the galls ripen and appear to burst showing a yellow-orange colored dust.

The dust is a mass of spores or fungus seeds capable of re-infecting other susceptible pines nearby. Many galls may be found on one tree.

Despite lack of chemical control, Burkhardt advises immediate removal of all galls by pruning.

In cases where the gall encircles the trunk or removal of all galls denude the tree, there is little use in attempting to halt the disease by gall removal.

All galls removed must be immediately burned

## Births

A daughter, Teresa Rae to Mr. and Mrs. Daryle LaVern Dowell, Rt. 2 Box 1175, Sandy, May 9.



JOYCE PAOLA is shown in her basement workshop with several pieces of tole painting which she and her students are

making. At right is a milk can with a primitive design.



TOLE PAINTING done by Mrs. Joyce Paola and her 18 students include both metal and wooden items. After the pat-

terns are traced on with graphite paper, the items are painted and then antiqued.

## Bridge winners announced

Surin Surgsnit of Bangkok, Thailand, and his partner, J.A. Anderson of Portland won the Mt. Hood Bridge club tournament May 11.

Second overall winners were

Mrs. Naomi Lee, Gresham, and Mrs. Sadie Eitelson, Portland. Other winners were Mr. and Mrs. George R. Kaye, Wemme, Mrs. Lou Kippe, Wemme, and Mrs. Kay Bechtold, Rhododendron, Mrs. Richard Schultz, Troutdale, and Mrs. Lillian Willis, Portland. The club meets at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Bowman's Country Club. Partners are provided.

## Gardeners show begins

"The Gardeners Notebook" a special gardening information feature of Oregon Educational Broadcasting on channels 7 and 10 on Tuesday June 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Each Tuesday broadcast will be repeated on the following Thursday at 10:30 p.m.

Host for the weekly presentation is Wilbur W. Burkhardt, area extension agent who serves the North Willamette Valley counties from his office in Portland.

Regular weekly guests will be Portland area horticulture specialists, landscape architects, gardeners, nurserymen and gardening specialists demonstrating the latest techniques of home grounds maintenance and gardening operations.

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