

around the county

Women combine talents to put on sale

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

Two Mt. Hood women, one a florist and decorator, the other a carver and cone gatherer, have combine their talents for the second year for a Holiday Open House sale.

The event is scheduled for the weekends of Nov. 21 and 22, and Dec. 12 and 13. The sale will feature the works of Bobbie Pearson of Welches and Beverly Stonebrook of Brightwood.

Pearson and Stonebrook put on a similar sale last year, and have worked together several months for this year's event, which they claim "will lead peo-

ple from autumn to winter."

Each will be selling a number of hand-crafted creations that utilizes dried flowers, pine cones, pods, weeds, and other natural ingredients from the forest to make a variety of gifts for fall, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

To prepare enough arrangements and crafts for the sale, Pearson and Stonebrook have worked all year gathering cones and weeds, formulating ideas for new projects, and putting in long hours laboring over their creations.

"You don't just have a sale," said Stonebrook. "You have to have it in the

back of your mind all year. You've got to gather your materials and then create out of what you have gathered."

Pearson is an artist at heart who never really had an opportunity to put her talents into practice until just recently. Whenshe was 19 years old she was ready to begin a career in art, but had to put it on hold for a while. She married her high school sweetheart, Bob Pearson of Portland, who then enlisted in the service. World War II was in full swing.

For her part in the war effort she worked for the American Red Cross at the Portland Army Air Base, and later, at the Veterans Hospital.

When the war ended, along came three daughters. Once again her art career went on hold.

Today the three daughters have grown and have families of their own,

and Pearson's art endeavors are just beginning to blossom. She's a carver, a weaver, a painter, and a collector of pine cones and pods that she integrates into her work. It is not unusual to find her making baskets out of pine needles, carving animals and like figures out of avocado pits, making bears and birds out of nuts, or a creation she calls "woodnicks" out of pine cones.

Pearson's pride, however, lies in the ducks and owls she makes out of the pine cones she and her husband have gathered, driving 2,500 miles and spending two weeks on the road.

They cover a territory extending from Mt. Hood to Northern California.

One large duck that Pearson makes contains interwoven scales from sugar pine cones gather in Southern Oregon, from

3,500 to 6,500 feet, white pine cones from Mt. Hood's own slopes, Norwegian spruce cones, cultivated in Norway but now grown domestically, and Engleman spruce cones, which grow from the 3,500 to the 5,000 foot level on Mt. Hood.

Pearson attributes her interest in art to her family tree. She's the eldest granddaughter of Billy Welch, who, along with his

father Sam, homesteaded the lower Welches Valley area into a township by the same name.

Pearson said that her grandfather Welch used to work with wood and leather, and since she spent so much time with him, the creative interest just naturally got passed along to her.

She said that her grandfather on her father's side, Fred E. Bailey, also had a

major influence on her work by taking her out for walks in the woods.

Stonebrook is a florist who worked over 20 years in the Portland area. She has spent about 30 years in the field of arts and crafts.

Stonebrook has lived for three years in the Brightwood area, and is the

proprietor of Cannonwood Floral.

Stonebrook said that wreaths are her specialty, and that they are no longer just for Christmas.

Both women's work can also be seen at the Hoodland Women's Club's Snowman's Bazaar on Dec. 5 and 6.

Boring district has fund deficit

BORING — An audit report for the 1980-81 school year shows the Boring School District spent \$52,525 more than revenues could cover, violating Oregon's local budget law, according to the auditor.

Milt Baum, associate superintendent of the state's Department of Education, said the violation of the budget law does not result in jail sentences or fines. He said while it is illegal for a school board to spend money it doesn't have, there are legal ways to make up that money.

"They are just starting in the hole," Baum said. "It happens. They will have to start off behind the eight ball."

The audit, prepared by Kent and Snow, a certified public accounting firm from Oregon City, shows a general fund deficit of \$49,799. The general fund is the money actually used to run the school district, said superintendent Joe Taylor.

Taylor said the district plans to make up the money out of this year's budget. The difference will come out of supplies and other funds, not by cutting staff, he said.

He said the deficit is about 3 percent of the total district budget. Boring spent \$13,457 less than expected, however, the revenues were about \$13,645 less than planned.

The major shortfall was in cash carry-over, Taylor said. The 1980-81 budget had called for \$97,000 in cash carry-over from the previous year, but there was only \$44,565 available.

The audit report also showed that the district received \$21,770 less than budgeted for basic school support, and a total of \$18,350 less from all state revenue sources.

The district received \$588,931 from property taxes and other local sources, which is \$7,068 less than expected.

Intermediate sources including federal forest fees, and funds from the county and the local educational service district were up

\$11,773. The audit revealed that most of that was due to an unexpected jump in forest fee payments.

In the report, the auditor said the district had followed all necessary steps in maintaining good records. The report said the district should eliminate the deficit as soon as possible. And the auditor criticized the district for not having a thorough accounting of fixed assets like buildings and large equipment.

Taylor said that the district keeps a complete list of fixed assets through its insurance company. "The cost of setting up a program through the ESD to keep track of our fixed assets is more than the benefits of doing it," he said. "Our insurance company is satisfied with what we're doing now."

Taylor said he would discuss the deficit with school board members at the Tuesday meeting.

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