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## Foundry helps artists sculpt ideas

by DAN DILLON

Maiden Bronze of Sandy is making its presence known in art circles throughout the Pacific Northwest.

"When a piece leaves here, it is of museum quality. It's ready to go to a gallery," according to general manager Lyle Isaak. "It sounds kind of conceited, but we are the biggest, best facility in the Northwest."

The local bronze foundry serves some 140 artists from California to Alaska, helping them sculpt their ideas into reality. Besides casting the works of art, Maiden Bronze personnel help artists with cost-analysis, counseling and budgeting.

"I guess we're the overall consultant for the artist to pull off a big job," Isaak said.



Lyle Isaak

Recently, big jobs at the foundry have included three life-size sea lions for the Sea Lion Caves on the Oregon coast, a mural for Portland Adventist Medical Center and three "heroic-size" statues of John Wayne.

Heroic-size is life-size plus one-third, Isaak said, "so John Wayne was about 8-foot-6."

The local plant in Industrial Park is just half of the Maiden Bronze operation owned by Mike and Vicky Maiden of Sandy. The preliminary work is done by the firm in Walla Walla, Wash.

By the time a piece arrives here, it is a hollow wax pattern with its imperfections tooled away. Once at the Sandy plant, the pattern is sprayed with lacquer and inspected for engineering problems. A shell is built around the pattern and the wax is melted out.

The project is then cast with hot metal, welded, tooled and finished with patina. The "normal" piece takes six to eight weeks to complete.

The John Wayne figures took three to six months.

"We enlighten a lot of artists here," the general manager pointed out. "Their dreams become reality."

He said some artists' eyes fill with tears when the technicians at Maiden Bronze cut up an original to make it easier to cast. "It's like watching your child get operated on, I guess," Isaak said.

"We have a lot of pride in our work," he said, "because I don't think there's a harder person to please than an artist."

Of the 140 artists Maiden Bronze serves, about 40 are professionals, Isaak said, "and about 10 support us." The foundry's business is split between 70 percent Western art and 30 percent modern and fine art.

"When people think of bronze casting, they think of baby booties. That's not what we do—no baby booties here."

The cheapest casting is about \$150 and that's kind of expensive for a pair of bronzed booties, he pointed out.

The firm located in Sandy three and a half years ago to be closer to galleries and prominent artists that gravitate toward larger population centers. Both Maiden and Isaak have purchased homes in the area.

Since that time the foundry has employed up to 35 persons at a time but is running at about one-third capacity now.

Isaak graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in fine arts, concentrating on painting and drawing.

"Once you understand form," he said, "sculpture is an extension of that. I sculpt every day. It's just not with my name on it."

Mike Maiden graduated from a Washington university with a degree in art education.

Education, Isaak said, is a big part of their work at Maiden Bronze. Besides helping artists see their projects through from ideas to finished products, Isaak teaches the process to the employees. "You can't just pull someone off the street to work in a bronze foundry," he said.

The workers have completed projects ranging from desk-top statuettes to major installations—and all points between. "We have yet to turn away a project because we were afraid of it," Isaak noted.

The average 12-inch bronze retails for \$1,000. The John Wayne pieces retailed for \$200,000.

Obviously when you're working with works of art in that price range, patience and attention to the craft are valuable virtues.

"Bronze is the kind of medium that's going to be around years and



Brad Lorang grinds a piece after it has been cast to eliminate imperfections and bring it closer to the artist's original.

years after we're all dead," Isaak said. "Knowing this gives us a little more pride in our workmanship."

Tours are available through the plant by appointment. Area artists are invited to meet with Maiden Bronze personnel and discuss their

projects. The foundry does not sell directly but can put prospective purchasers in touch with the proper people.

## Informant tips lead police to two arrests

A secret informant didn't even know that his assistance to police could be so valuable—both to the case and to himself.

The informant whose tip led investigators to charge two men with the Aug. 26 slaying of a Gresham man will soon collect a \$1,000 reward posted by the victim's mother.

Information provided Oregon State Police led to the arrest of Perry Ellis Lovejoy, 20, of Damascus and William Robert Graber, 25, of Portland.

They are charged in the death of Herbert "Gene" Weed, 25, whose body was found by a hunter Sept. 4 about 20 feet from Wildcat Creek Road near Brightwood. He had been shot once in the head.

Lovejoy was arrested Oct. 29 at his home and charged with murder. He was being held without bail this week in Clackamas County Jail.

Subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Graber, owner of the Pleasant Valley Market. He was taken into custody last Thursday.

He was indicted on charges of murder, first-degree kidnapping and two counts of felony murder in connection with Weed's death. He is also being held without bail in the county jail, however, he has a bail hearing scheduled this Monday, Nov. 29.

Weed was last seen about 1:30 p.m. Aug. 26 as he was driving west on SE Powell Boulevard. The next day, a man was seen parking Weed's vehicle on Union Avenue in Portland. The driver left the car and hopped on the back of a motorcycle driven by another man.

About three weeks later, Weed's mother, Mrs. Ross E. Gearhart of Gresham, offered the reward for the arrest and conviction of her son's murderers.

## Shopping mall still in works for Sandy site

by DAN DILLON

Mercury Development Inc. hasn't abandoned plans to build a large shopping center here, across from Sandy Industrial Park.

With current economic conditions, however, the company has found signing clients to be its biggest task.

"People don't see a lot going on," Dave Zimel, of the development firm, said this week, "but behind the scenes we're going full steam ahead."

The project, approved by local officials in late 1979, will include two major retailers and a host of smaller shops in the 100,000-square-foot complex. Cost at the time of approval was estimated at \$3.5 million.

Zimel said the firm doesn't plan to break ground on the complex this year, but the future could change plans practically overnight. "As far as 1983," he said, "I don't know."

"What we need to do is get two anchors. As soon as we get two anchors, we would probably break ground. If they came on board, we'd have ourselves a project and we'd be starting in the spring."

Along with the shops, Zimel anticipates "a restaurant or two" will be included in the shopping center. At the time of city council approval, Mercury Development representatives told the city council that Shari's Restaurant would be a tenant.

The length of time it has taken for the project to develop hasn't dimmed Mercury's enthusiasm, Zimel said.

"We're more excited about completing that project than we have been for some time," he said.

## Alderwood hearing delayed again

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

For the second time in two weeks, a rehearing on the 192-unit Alderwood Mobile Home subdivision didn't happen.

Monday morning developers and opponents, ready with legal counsel and conflicting facts and figures on the proposed planned unit develop-

ment's potential environmental impact, went to the Board of County Commissioners only to find just two commissioners present. Missing was Commissioner Robert Schumacher who was home under doctor's care.

Diane Spies, attorney representing the project's developers, asked that the hearing be set over until Schumacher could be present to hear testimony.

"It's very important that all three

commissioners hear the entirety of the evidence," said Spies. "Ordinarily we'd be eager to get going (but,) on the other hand, this matter has been appealed once and (there are) threats for a second one, so we want to make sure the procedure and everything is fair."

Commissioner Ralph Groener questioned the motion, saying, "We are constantly getting set over-it." He preferred to hear the testimony

because all the witnesses were present.

Deanne L. Darling, attorney representing Robert and Debbie Stephens, property owners bordering the development, objected. She asked that Schumacher read the record before rendering his decision, which has been done in the past when a commissioner is absent from a hearing.

Commissioner Stan Skoko,

however, agreed with Spies and said it would be beneficial for both parties if the hearing was set over until a later date. He said with one of the commissioners absent it would not be "good practice" to take testimony a development such as this one.

"I would have no problem with going ahead personally, but I know what will happen," said Groener. "It won't be a 2-0 vote on it, so for practical purposes I agree with what Stan's saying."

The hearing has been set over until Jan. 10.

The proposed Alderwood Mobile Home subdevelopment, near Brightwood, originally went before a hearings officer July 8, 1981, but was set over for two months due to improper notification. After a hearings officer ruled in favor of the opposition, the developers appealed the decision to the commissioners.

This past summer, shortly after the commissioners had overruled the earlier hearings officer decision and gave the OK for construction of the controversial development, opponents appealed the decision to the Land Use Board of Appeals. LUBA remanded the development back to the commissioners for another hearing.

To date, the proposed development has undergone the public hearings process five separate times, with two of these hearings set over due to improper or lack of notification on the part of the county. This marked the third hearing where Mt. Hood residents made the trip into Oregon City for a hearing that never took place.

## Budget cuts don't deter sixth-graders

Gary Nelson's sixth-grade class at Cottrell School doesn't take a setback sitting down.

Faced with the elimination of funding for Outdoor School from this year's budget, the enterprising class has taken it upon itself to raise the money to attend.

A large thermometer on the classroom wall charts the progress as the class attempts to raise some \$1,700 before the spring activity begins.

The class has sold trail mix and held bake sales to raise the temperature to \$600 so far. In January they plan a rummage sale and paper drive.

Next weekend the class will sponsor a Christmas Craft Bazaar, Dec. 4, at the school. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Members of Gary Nelson's sixth-grade class at Cottrell have been keeping a close eye on the classroom thermometer as they attempt to raise money for Outdoor School.

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