

Local businesses kick off season

As Christmas approaches, local merchants are doing their part to kick off the season with annual open house celebrations.

Most merchants seem to agree that this Christmas will be a good one, both for retailers and customers.

Mari Lang is owner of Sandy Country Florist, which was one of three businesses to host an open house this weekend.

An open house has been a tradition at Sandy Country Florist for the nine years she has been in business in Sandy.

"We have had a nice response," she said about Sunday. "So far it looks like it is going to be a good Christmas."

The florist shop is located in a turn-of-the-century house on Pioneer Boulevard. Meri and her husband, Gary, have been in business since December of 1974 and the open house serves as both an anniversary and a Christmas celebration.

The Langs operated a smaller store for two years before moving to their present location.

"We got married in 1973 and went totally crazy and bought a business," said Gary.

Mary presently handles most of the operation, although Gary worked in the flower shop the first two years. Gary's handiwork can still be seen.

"Gary is the genius who makes the mechanical things in the window display go," said Meri.

The window displays change frequently with a variety of themes and movement. "I feel it's the best sign I've got," said Meri, who designs the displays.

Gary, who owns and operates Alpine Refrigeration, was also responsible for

much of the remodeling of the building.

Meri said the floral business has changed since she began in the field in 1969. Instead of just offering roses, carnations, mums and gladiolas, floral shops now offer a greater variety. The old favorites are still available, but so are miniature carnations, miniature gladiolas, lilies, alstromerias, freesias, delphinias, larks spur, iris and tulips, and a variety of other flowers.

In addition the arrangements have gone from more traditional to a European design. Sandy Country Florists also sell green, growing plants, and do dry and silk arrangements.

If there have been changes in the floral business, one constant remains, and that is Marguex, a cat who makes herself comfortable on a desk within range of the cozy wood stove.

Garfield is probably the only cat that would greet a person at Sandi's Hallmark.

Asked how his open house was going, Rick Stone said, "Great. People's attitude for this Christmas is better than I've seen for a long time."

Compared to last year, that is not saying much, according to Martin Stone, Rick's brother. "You could get more laughs walking into a funeral home than you could in the stores last year," Martin said.

"We are a lot more optimistic because of the attitude this year," Rick said.

Rick and Martin are principals in Stones Incorporated, which includes Gordon Stone's Key to Fashion in both Sandy and Gresham. With another "rother, they work in a fashion not dissimilar to the three

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Meri and Gary Lang

Christmas Gift Specials

Prices good for 10 Days Only!

December 1st thru 10th at
Sandy Rexall Drug and Hoodland Park Pharmacy

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Ye Olde fashioned Bath Soap Boxed (3 Cakes) Reg. \$2.75 Gift Special \$1⁹⁸	English Leather Shower Soap on a Rope 6 oz., Reg. \$4.50 Gift Special \$3⁷⁵
le jardin Eau de Toilette Spray 1 oz. By Max Factor, Reg. \$11.00 Gift Special \$8⁹⁵	Brute Cologne By Faberge (Great Stocking Stuffers) Gift Special \$2⁵⁰
Aviance Night Musk By Prince Matchabelli 1.3 oz. Spray Cologne, Reg. \$10.00 Gift Special \$8⁴⁹	Old Spice Deluxe Travel Kit Containing: Shave Cream, Stick Deodorant & After Shave, Reg. \$12.00 Gift Special \$10⁹⁵
Wind Song Natural Spray By Prince Matchabelli 1.4 oz. Cologne, Reg. \$9.50 Gift Special \$8³⁹	Amity Leather Tri-fold Billfolds \$15.00 to \$16.50 Gift Special \$3⁰⁰ OFF!
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Prices good for 10 days only — December 1st thru the 10th

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