

# Historical Society hosts quilt exhibit

by SHARON NESBIT

People who see the Oregon Historical Society's "Heritage Quilts" exhibit should know that Gresham resident Jan Nicholson had a hand in it.

A white-gloved hand, of course. Gloves, Nicholson says, diving into her handbag for her pair, are standard equipment for all hosts and hostesses at the exhibit. "That way," she says, "when someone wants to see the back side of a quilt, we can turn it over for them with no risk of damage or soiling."

Nicholson knows a thing or two about quilts. A regular volunteer at OHS, she has learned much of her quilt lore while assisting guest curator Ruth Griffith in preparing the exhibit. The display, which features nearly 100 quilts, began as a germ of an idea two years ago. It went into high gear last year with Nicholson helping to sort, prepare, photograph, mend and document the quilts in the museum's collection.

So far, Nicholson has not tired of seeing the exhibit. Almost every quilt, she points out, has a story behind it. For instance, there is the "murder" quilt, made and auctioned off by McMinnville residents to pay for the court defense of a pair charged with murder.

There are quilts made of odd things: cigar bands, blue ribbons from the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition, and patches of leather.

There are beautiful quilts and homely quilts. And a bunch of quilts from prolific quilter, Grandma Zerelda Stone, who did not quit quilting until the age of 90.

Nicholson, who has always been fascinated by fiber art, sees the exhibit with an artist's eye, pointing out the good use of color in humble patchwork, the exquisite embroidery on crazy quilts and fine design.

"Quilt-making was a creative outlet as well as a necessity," she says, showing the "best quilts" that brides once made for their trousseaus. "They celebrated the primary things in a woman's life —

reproduction, love and birth." On the opposite side of the coin, Nicholson leads the way to the lumpy quilt made by Oregon suffragette, Abigail Scott Duniway. "It's ugly and the workmanship is lousy," Nicholson says with a grin, and then adds more kindly, "Obviously her creativity was not in the visual field."

As a bonus, Nicholson offers a little free advice for people who have antique quilts of their own. Don't fold them, she says. Or if you do, refold them frequently so they don't get soiled edges.

The best quilts, though, may be quilts that are used. And Nicholson remembers back to her own childhood to explain her fascination for the humble coverlets: "I've always responded to quilts and I think it's because when I was little I used to stay on my aunt's farm. We'd sleep upstairs under her homemade quilts and when I woke up I'd lay there all warm and smell the coffee and count the dust motes in the sun coming through the window and inspect the prints on the quilt."

In those days, she didn't have to wear white gloves.

The exhibit, which opened for a five-month run over a month ago, is so popular that the center's doors have been opened Sunday afternoons to accommodate the crowds.

There is a \$2 admission charge. The Oregon Historical Society is located at 1230 S.W. Park Ave. in Portland. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and from noon to 4:45 p.m. on Sunday.



Rene Knight-Weiler and daughter, Denali.

## Knight-Weiler finds job challenging

Down in Oxbow Park, while Denali and Hayden are fast asleep, their mother is pounding out a national publication on parenting.

Rene Knight-Weiler, recently named editor and publisher of the nationally circulated "Spiritual Mothering Journal," says her new duty is proving to be a challenge. After her little ones have drifted into dreamland, she said, "I manage to put in what might otherwise be a full day of writing, editing and answering an armload of daily correspondence."

"I keep telling myself that sleep deprivation enhances the creative process," jokes Knight-Weiler, a

physical therapist and graduate of the University of Maryland.

She said that prior to this new publishing endeavor, she'd been an "amateur" writer. "I've always loved to write," she says.

The permanent Oxbow Park denizen — husband Bill is the park's live-in supervisor — describes her publication as "a quarterly periodical that promotes a creative, nurturing approach to parenting. The Journal is dedicated to the personal growth and well-being of family members," she said.

Her publication enjoys a circulation of almost 3,000 readers. Included in the Journal are

feature articles, book reviews, poetry, columns ("On Fathering" is one), and a question-answer column.

Knight-Weiler said the publication is inspired by the teachings of the Baha'i Faith, of which she is a member.

"Although inspired by Baha'i teachings, the Journal has a distinctly non-denominational approach," she explains.

According to the new publisher, upcoming issues will focus on learning through nature, war and peace, the spiritual nature of children and step-parenting.

"In the past, the Journal has

focused on the East Coast," says Knight-Weiler. "It's really not that well known here on the West Coast."

Knight-Weiler said she encourages queries of all kinds as well as submissions of articles and poems. Subscriptions are \$7 annually.

For more information, people can call her at 663-0790, or write: 3010 S.E. Oxbow Park Way, Gresham, 97030.

In the meantime, she'll be writing her articles, editorials, and answering letters about parenting... and checking on the kids.

## Woman receives promotion; is stationed in Okinawa

Marine Corporal Shelly M. Erickson, a 1982 graduate of Sandy Union High School, has been promoted to her present rank while serv-

ing with the 3rd Force Service Support Group on Okinawa.

She joined the Marine Corps in October, 1982.

### Public Notices

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday March 7, 1985, in Room 602, Multnomah County Courthouse, 1021 S.W. 4th Ave., Portland, Oregon, there shall be a public hearing by and before the Portland Metropolitan Area Local Government Boundary Commission on proposals, including the one listed below. Interested persons may appear and be given reasonable opportunity to be heard.

Proposal No.: 2070 - DISSOLUTION OF THE MT. HOOD LOOP WATER DISTRICT of territory located generally in Mt. Hood Corridor E of Brightwood in Sections 24 & 25 T2S R6E & Sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33 & 34 T2S R7E & Sections 5, 8, & 9 T3S R73, Clackamas Co., OR.

General information and an agenda, listing order of items including the one listed above, may be obtained by calling 229-5307.

Wayne Ateberry  
Chairman  
SP0285-5  
2-14 & 21

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to ORS 294.401, that a meeting of the budget committee of Sandy Elementary School District No. 46 will be held on the 4th day of March, 1985 at 7:30 P.M. o'clock for the purpose of receiving the budget message and budget document of said district for the fiscal year 1985-86.

This is a public meeting where deliberations of the budget committee will take place, and any person may appear and discuss proposed programs with the budget committee at that time. A copy of the budget document will be available at the Administration Office of the Sandy Elementary School District #46 at 39065 Pleasant Street, Sandy, Oregon at the time of the meeting.

Clark Lund  
Budget Officer  
SP0285-6  
2-21

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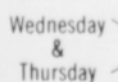
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