

Welcome to the parlor

Calico Country Fabrics changes focus

by PAULA BURNS

Calico Country Fabrics has recently been transformed partway into a country gift store. Previously it contained mostly fabrics and hand-sewn craft items.

"We (employees) had a lot of requests from people in Sandy, and

tourists, for gift items," said Arlene Stuck, who owns the store, which is located on Pioneer Boulevard in Sandy. "We also realized it was time for a change in the store — just like when you look at your house and decide it's time to move the furniture."

The inside of the front part of the store looks like a relaxing parlor.

Some of the gift items in the parlor area include handmade throw pillows that sit on the floor in front of an early 1900 Victrola record player.

A large, round oak table, with a floor-length ruffled tablecloth, holds a ceramic goose. The large goose sits in an antique washtub filled with straw shavings and fabric-wrapped

eggs. Backdrops of fabric also sit on top of the table.

Handmade ceramic ducks, lambs and geese with colorful bows around their necks are scattered throughout the store.

There are also decorative items made from wood that are used to hold display items, such as an old ammunition box. The box, recently equipped with spokes, is used to hold spools of thread.

Stuck said people can now come into the store and enjoy a free cup of tea. Bentwood cane chairs are in the front of the store where people can sit and relax while drinking their tea.

Stuck said she likes the new country-store look. "It has a warmth it never had before." When she bought the store nine years ago, it was mostly a dime store, with a few fabrics for sale.

Stuck said she learned that people in Sandy wanted a fabric store, and within six months converted it into one. She also offered hand-sewn craft items. Four years ago one part of her store was occupied by an antique business. When the antique store moved, she negotiated on her rent and expanded the business.

The expansion, which is now an adjoining room to the main part of the store, contains craft supplies. "We

don't profess to have everything for everybody, but we try to have a little bit of everything," Stuck said.

Besides holding craft items, the large room is used for classrooms. Garment sewing, smocking, knitting, crocheting and handmade and machine quilting are some of the classes offered to the community. "Most all our classes are workshop classes. People actually work on projects rather than just hearing a lecture. We want to make sure when they leave, they have something finished," Stuck said.

Stuck said future plans include a Christmas class that will be offered to the community on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The class will focus on "how to make fast and easy Christmas items."

Other plans include a major change in February, 1986. Stuck will be selling Calico Country fabrics to Fred and Sharon Pellum of Sandy. Stuck, who has worked full time at Western Transportation in Portland for 30 years and also owns six rental homes, said she hasn't been able to give the store the attention it needs.

She said the Pellums have the time and energy to devote to the store and "will do it a great justice." She said Sharon is an artistic person and Fred, a skilled carpenter.

According to Stuck, the Pellums plan to continue renovating until the entire store permeates a country theme. They intend to put in a Christmas feature area "where it will be Christmas 365 days a year."

Stuck said she has thoroughly enjoyed the store and has mixed feelings about selling it. "I enjoy it and the people, but it needs more time and attention. The town is growing and you have to grow with it."



Arlene Stuck

Photo by Paula Burns

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what to study.

Whitlock may pursue communications or tele-communications at George Fox College in Newberg. She played a small part in a movie produced by Rogers Cablesystem in Portland last summer, and drama is her primary focus, but she is looking

for a career that's stable. "I'm not planning on starving to death," she said.

For now, the future can wait. For one more weekend Whitlock will be Rosemary, the incurable romantic, and Park will be Finch, rising star of the corporate world.

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