

Wreaths and business keep woman busy

by PAULA BURNS

It is safe to say that Leila Sommerfeld is a woman blessed with many talents.

The energetic mother of two and grandmother of two thrives on using her hands in creative ways.

She and her husband, D.D., along with pygmy goats, horses and dogs, live on 10 acres in Boring. The Sommerfelds have turned their plain ranch house into a quaint, country-style home with many extras. D.D. knocked out several walls, added wood trim and built a gazebo sun room with spa adjacent to the master bedroom.

"This house in a way is a classical example of how you can change a California, three-bedroom ranch into a cozy country home," Leila said. I love making a house a home, and like to help others (do the same) too."

The comfortable home is furnished with antiques and homemade items that Leila has made. Her homemade paper-mache dolls and chalk paintings are displayed in the bedrooms. The sweet-smelling wreaths she creates hang throughout the house.

Sommerfeld started making wreaths five years ago. A year ago she started to sell them to antique dealers and home furnishing stores. "I have a passion for making them

and I needed an outlet. There are only so many you can give away and hang in your home," she said.

She said her wreaths, many of which are trimmed with herbs, dried flowers and ribbons, are used in a variety of ways in homes. They soften a blank wall, add coziness to a room, welcome a guest at the front door and give a nice smell to the home.

Some of the Christmas wreaths are adorned with porcelain angels and hearts. "If you're not chintzy with your materials, you get a beautiful wreath for visual display," she said.

She spends between 30 minutes to two hours on each wreath. "I can't stand anything less than perfection. I create as I go along." Sometimes she tears her hair out and starts over. "If I wouldn't hang it in my own home, I won't sell it," she said.

In addition to decorating her home and making wreaths and other items, Sommerfeld works in her salon, Leila Rae, Ltd., in Gresham, which she has owned for eight years. She has been a licensed cosmetologist over 20 years.

Recently she was approved by the Oregon State Board of Cosmetology to provide continuing education to licensed cosmetologists. She teaches aesthetics, makeup techniques and color analysis to other cosmetologists.

She has also taught makeup application to blind women. "I would like to pursue this more if people are interested in it," she said.

Her background in cosmetology prompted her to write a book on inner and outer beauty, which she has been researching for 10 years. She hopes to have the book completed in January 1986. "I would really like to finish it and have it published," she said.

She said another goal is to expand her current one-half acre garden of herbs into several acres, and grow the herbs for commercial use.

"I only set short range goals because you can't always meet the commitment of a long term goal," she said.

Sommerfeld said even though she gets tired at times, she is able to meet her current commitments, most of which involve using her hands and natural talents. "I've always used my hands, since I was nine or 10," she said. She took one oil painting class, which she said was "disastrous" because she couldn't use her fingers. "I knew it was not for me," Sommerfeld said.

When asked where she got her many talents, she said simply, "Anything I've got is God given."



Leila Sommerfeld at her home in Boring.

Photo by Paula Burns

IRS may be looking for you

Over \$300,000 in unclaimed federal income tax refunds are waiting for their proper owners to file claims for them, according to T. Blair Evans, Internal Revenue Service district director for Oregon. He said most of these refunds are going unclaimed for lack of a current address.

The Portland District IRS office has received names of over 900 persons who filed refund due federal income tax returns from Oregon in 1985. The original refund checks were mailed to the home address listed on the tax form but were returned to the government as undeliverable by the

Post Office.

Evans said many checks remain undelivered because taxpayers have moved and failed to leave a forwarding address with the Post Office. Other refund delays, according to Evans, are caused by errors and omissions on the tax return, or illegible names and addresses.

"By publishing these names," Evans said, "we hope to encourage these people to contact the IRS so we can arrange to have their refund checks reissued." The average unclaimed refund amounts to \$311.38. The total amount is \$302,038.59.

People listed should call the IRS's toll-free information number, 1-800-424-1040, for instructions on how to apply for their checks.

Information needed includes name and address as shown on the tax return, present name and address, tax year for which refund is believed due, social security number, amount of refund claimed, signature of taxpayer, and any other pertinent information to verify the claim.

Evans indicated that the processing involved for reissuing checks normally takes six weeks.

People from Sandy on the list include Lorinda S. Adams, Odette F. Minnis and L. Kuy Kendall Gail, Lloyd O. and Dovie Williams, and Barbara J. Williams.

Teen-Parent Project help young mothers

Teen parents are more likely than older parents to live on welfare and below the poverty level. Many teen mothers raise their children as single parents, while those who do marry have a higher rate of divorce than the general population.

Last year in Clackamas County over 300 unmarried women under the age of 19 gave birth. Of this number, 96 percent chose to parent their child. Now there is a program in Clackamas County that offers support services to this population. A Teen-Parent Project offering ongoing support services to teen parents has been established by the Mt. Hood

Council on Camp Fire.

This program, which is partially funded by United Way, is available to pregnant and parenting teens. Teen parents may contact Teen-Parent Project Director Amy Wisener at 656-2530, or may be referred by anyone working with the teen population.

The planned programs include counseling services, health care information and referrals, and parenting and life skills planning.

"The goal of the Teen-Parent Project is to help the teen become a self-sufficient individual in society," said Wisener, who since 1981 has worked with troubled youth.

The Teen-Parent Project hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. It is housed at 5427 Glen Echo Avenue in Gladstone.

PO accepts applications

Applications will be accepted early in December for the position of rural letter carrier, according to Sandy Postmaster Arnold Becker.

An examination will be given to establish a register of eligible people from which future rural carrier vacancies in the Sandy, Boring and Troutdale offices will be filled.

Applications for the exam will be available and accepted from 8:30 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 2 to Friday, Dec. 6 at 5 p.m. at the Post Offices listed above.

For additional information about the positions, applicants should review the announcement that will be posted at the Post Offices.

Man assigned to Fort Carson

Army Pvt. Troy L. Pruitt, son of Troy L. and Gaylene Pruitt of Eagle Creek, has arrived for duty with the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Pruitt, a bridge crew member, was previously assigned in Portland, Ore. His wife, Tiffany, is the daughter of Jan Patterson of Eagle Creek.

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