

Teacher returns to the drawing board

by SCOTT NEWTON
Staff writer

Raising a family and pursuing a career put Gloria Swanton's artistic endeavors on hold temporarily, but now the long-time Sandy-area resident is back at the drawing board and enjoying every minute of it.

Swanton, who teaches art at Cedar Ridge School, has participated in a number of shows recently. Preparing for them has forced her to re-evaluate her art and define her direction.

Her pencil drawing of bear cubs lounging about under an apple tree recently earned her a first-place ribbon at the Western Art Exhibit and Trade Show at Vancouver, Wash. It is one of two drawings in what is expected to become a series.

The other drawing shows a baby moose chewing a mouthful of reeds while baby ducks swim between its legs. One of the ducks is pulling on a reed in the moose's mouth.

Swanton's new direction is a playful approach to wildlife art.

Although there is an unpleasant side of life, hunting and survival, animals also enjoy times of peaceful, interesting interaction, Swanton said.

Swanton's recent work is a continuation of what she did earlier in her career.

Swanton, who grew up in the Mount Hood area, always has enjoyed drawing her pets, wildlife and outdoor scenes.

As a girl, she was known for riding all over the area on her horse, Amigo. In fact, she spent so much time with Amigo that her father refused to let her ride on Sundays. That was Amigo's day off.

After attending and graduating from Welches School and Sandy High School, she moved to Los Angeles, where she attended the Chouinard Art Institute, now the California Institute of Art.

Attending art school was a dream come true.

"I've been interested in art since since I've been able to hold a pencil," she said. In high school, the typing teacher taught art, and Swanton helped her plan the course.

At Chouinard Art Institute, she finally received the instruction she needed to make her dream a reality.

After four years, she moved to New York City, which was the thing to do for a person who planned to make a living in art. It did not occur to her that she might not be able to make it as a free-lance illustrator in the world of book publishing.

"I think I was too naive to be overwhelmed," she said.

"When I look back on it, as a



Wolves have always been a favorite subject for wildlife artist Gloria Swanton. Her works will be on display the month of November at the Clackamas County Bank.

mother myself, I'm surprised my parents let me do all that. I guess they let me do it because they supported me and knew that's what I wanted to do."

She sold a children's book that she had written and illustrated in college, and found other work illustrating children's books.

She had friends in New York from art school, and enjoyed going to the art galleries, the theater and to other cultural events.

But after three and a half years, she was lonesome for the country. She came back, married, and gave birth to a daughter. Her daughter, Tahnee, is a sophomore at Lewis and Clark College.

Swanton, in addition to her job as

an art instructor, has worked on her master's degree in art education in recent years, completing her course work in 1985. Her career and work on her advanced degree left little room for creativity.

Swanton does not seem to have any regrets, though. She said she enjoys teaching junior high students and is proud of the fact that two of her former students currently are studying at art schools.

She did miss the creative outlet, though, and her life has been hectic as she has made up for lost time in preparing for recent shows.

She recently showed her art work at the Salmon Festival at Oxbow Park recently and plans to par-

ticipate in an Audubon Society show at the Western Forestry Center.

Her work will be on display during the month of November at the Sandy branch of the Clackamas County Bank.

The bank has been featuring the work of local artists for about two years, according to Kylie Milne, customer service representative. "We've had some wonderful art work in here."

Swanton has also done oil paintings and watercolors, but currently she is concentrating on her pencil drawings and ceramic sculptures.

She has been selling prints of her bear cubs, which is titled "In the Good Ol' Summertime."

New nursery supply store to employ nine in Boring

Nurserymen's Supply Inc. has opened at 27600 S.E. Highway 212 in Boring. The Boring store employs two people.

The business, which opened Oct. 1, carries supplies for growers. It is owned by John Babcock and managed by Ben Walker. The company has nine

employees. The Boring store opened from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The store will be open on Saturdays during fall and spring or as needed.

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Historian says recent sites deserve preservation efforts

by SHARON NESBIT
of The Outlook staff

TIMBERLINE — Population pressures will force us to defend more recent historical sites, said Jerry Rogers, keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, last weekend at Timberline Lodge.

Rogers, keynote speaker at the 11th annual Governor's Conference on Historic Preservation, pointed to Timberline Lodge, built in 1937, and Portland's 1948 Equitable building as proof that 20th century buildings can be valid and valuable historical sites.

His talk came just a week after Gresham residents learned that the Satellite Restaurant in Rockwood, built in 1968, is listed as a potential Gresham historical site because of its space-age decorations.

"Because the West Coast was settl-

ed more recently than the east," Rogers told the Oregon preservationists, "you should have more 20th-century resources."

He mentioned drive-in restaurants, gas stations and hamburger stands as sites that show the nation's historical dependence on the automobile.

"We are a young nation, a 20th-century nation and we should not shrink from defending 20th-century resources," he said.

The urgency to look at more recent historical sites, Rogers said, is the result of population pressures that are threatening historic properties. He pointed out that there are now Civil War battlefields in the midst of new subdivisions as well as demands to widen historic roads, "so cars can travel three abreast instead of single file."

"That is happening in Yellowstone, Antietam and other sites. What about the Columbia Gorge?" Rogers asked.

The national register, which lists historic sites throughout the nation, judges those sites according to their significance on local, state or national levels. Rogers said 58 percent of the sites listed on the register are of local significance only.

"We do not limit our history to the great or exceptional," he said.

Rogers said many potential historical sites are threatened by development in the private sector. The national register is intended to protect sites when they are threatened by federally funded projects.

In the case of development in the private sector, where no federal money is involved, Rogers said it will be up to state and local government to control and regulate property.

Costumes

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to choose from: a Wonder Woman suit; Indian garb; "My Fair Lady" era costumes; suits for buccaneers, matadors, Spanish dancers; George and Martha Washington period costumes ("Those have won I don't know how many prizes over the years"); a Playboy bunny suit (a lot of women try it on, but few rent it because it's so skimpy, Burg admits); authentic peasant dresses Burg's daughter brought from Germany; Civil War-era clothes; and military uniforms from every

branch of the service.

"I think I could start a war with all the uniforms," Burg quips.

For those lucky enough to have the right foot size, she also has shoes from the 1920s, '30s, '40s — right up to the present. Her shoe collection also boasts women's boots from the turn of the century that Burg bought at a close-out sale in Portland's Chinatown.

"I can't really remember how I ended up with all the shoes," Burg says with a shrug.

Her racks are so full that her customers often have difficulty choosing just the right outfit. Some spend two or three hours trying on costumes in a spacious dressing room that once served as a bedroom.

People who want to rent the costumes for parties, for work — many employers such as banks and restaurants ask their employees to dress up for Halloween, Burg says — and just for fun can call the Masquerade Mart at 668-4017.

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