



'BEHIND THE BAR'

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Arvi Ostrom, behind the bar, in the Snug Harbor Tavern.

Arvi Ostrom, owner of the Snug Harbor Tavern in Uniontown, left behind vast, hidden body of work

By **KAELIA NEAL**
FOR EO MEDIA GROUP

The world is only beginning to appreciate the talent and massive output of Arvi Ostrom, an Astoria

native who quietly produced thousands of works of art during his lifetime.

Ostrom, who owned the Snug Harbor Tavern in Uniontown, passed away in 1995. While in hospice care, he had one last request.

"He said, 'Will you take care of my art for me?' the day before he died," said Ken Carlson, Ostrom's grandson. Carlson, an artist and a musician himself, shared his grandfather's interest in art, so naturally he agreed.

But what Carlson figured would be a few hundred pieces turned out to be more than 10,000 that Ostrom left behind.



"At that time I didn't really know what he had done," Carlson said. "No one did."

In order to create so many pieces, Ostrom must have averaged about three a



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

ABOVE, LEFT: A piece by Arvi Ostrom

week.

For the past 22 years, Carlson has made it his mission to display his grandfather's collection. "I felt like his stuff should be honored," Carlson said.

Recently, he opened an exhibit, "Behind the Bar: The Folk Art of Arvi Ostrom and the Snug Harbor," at the Clatsop County Historical Society's Heritage Museum to display selections of Ostrom's work. Carlson

collaborated with Astoria artist Darren Orange, who said "it's really an honor" to be involved.

Ostrom has been "finally given a voice and a place to show his work (by) being honored at this exhibition," Orange said. "It's inspiring for me as an artist to see the value the community puts on his work."

Continued on Page 16



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Gallery**
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HOURS**

*Every Saturday
through summer
from 5-7pm*

Gilbert District Gallery
Beach Books Ballery
Seaside Coffee House
Moxie Fair Trade
Sun Rose Gallery

