

# The clothespin queens

Duo designs original dolls that celebrate heritage and history

BY KATHERINE LACAZE

Gearhart resident Nancy Bell Anderson has adopted the self-appointed title of “Clothespin Queen,” and for good reason.

These small, seemingly insignificant items have played a rather large role in her life, from helping her establish the Knappton Cove Heritage Center to serving

as a productive outlet during the coronavirus pandemic.

“I’ve always liked miniatures,” Anderson said.

Working with wooden clothespins, scraps of cloth, lace, buttons and other items enables her to successfully channel her creativity in a rewarding way.

“I just love doing it,” she said.

## Heritage Folk Clothespin Dolls

heritagefolk.com

Instagram: @heritagefolk1

It started decades ago when Anderson’s father purchased the former Columbia River Quarantine Station, which occupied more than 4 acres in Naselle, Washington. The building was deserted and put up for bid.

For many years, Anderson’s family used the property as a sport fishing campground, called the Knappton Cove Camp.

Eventually, it was subdivided among Anderson and her siblings. She was intent on preserving her portion, the historic hospital building, and operating it as a museum.

To help cover the cost of making payments to her mother, property taxes and other bills, Anderson turned to her affinity for crafting and started designing and selling clothespin dolls.



A doll made by Nancy Bell Anderson and Heather Henry.

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Katherine Lacaze

Nancy Bell Anderson, left, and her daughter, Heather Henry, are the creative masterminds behind Heritage Folk Clothespin Dolls.



Katherine Lacaze

Nancy Bell Anderson has designed hundreds of original clothespin dolls.



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