

# Flora silversmith taught himself the craft



By Bill Bradshaw

**F**LORA — It's mainly a post-retirement hobby, but Don Mallory really enjoys the craft of silversmithing.

"I really like making bits and spurs, but jewelry sells better," the longtime Flora resident said. "I've got a better market for it than the bits and spurs."

You won't find Mallory with a brick-and-mortar shop or even an online presence.

"We don't have a computer out here," he said, adding that internet connections in his area are a bit sketchy.

Mallory and his wife, Sandy, live just outside of Flora. He has two sons, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

His version of marketing is mainly word of mouth, "and I do a few shows."

Silver enthusiasts can find Mallory's work at various shows and bazaars, such as one held around Valentine's Day at the Hurricane Creek Grange, during Hells Canyon Mule Days in September — for about 20 years — or, more recently, at bazaars held during the Christmas season.

He's also shown his stuff outside of Oregon.

"I got invited to Sheridan, Wyoming, to the Great Western Silver Exposition in 2011 by silversmith out of California, Jeremiah Watt," Mallory said. "Somehow, he got my address and



Silversmith Don Mallory of Flora shows some of his silver wares at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Christmas bazaar Friday, Dec. 3, 2021, in Enterprise.

invited me. He invited several silversmiths from Australia, Germany, Canada and all over the United States. About 20 people were at that deal. It was to show off your engraving and what you can do."

### Largely self-taught

As Mallory neared retirement from about 20 years working for the Oregon Department of Transportation, he realized he'd need something to fill the time. "I figured I'd need something to occupy my time,"

he said. "It turned into a job after I got started at it."

In 1993, a cousin, Larry Bacon, who lives near Lost Prairie in the northern part of Wallowa County, went to a silversmithing school in Nampa, Idaho. Bacon invited Mallory to accompany him, but he didn't think he should leave because of his job with the ODOT.

"I didn't go because I thought sure it would snow — it was January," he said. "He came back with bit and spurs. He's the one who helped get me started in it."

From there, he taught himself.

"It was all hit and miss. I basically taught myself," Mallory said. "When I needed help, Larry would help. ... The rest of it I would learn on my own."

### Working with silver

Mallory said he buys the sheets of silver in 16-24 gauge sheets that are about 6 inches wide and 18 inches long.

"That'll last you quite a while," he said.

He starts by determin-

ing and cutting the pattern of whatever he's making with an air-powered pneumatic engraver. He said it has a blade that's about 1/8-inch wide.

"It's like a jackhammer only it's a lot smaller," he said.

Most of the polishing, he said, happens before it's engraved.

He does that "on a back porch on our house. I have a shop where I do the buffing," he said. "It's really dirty and causes a mess."

Mallory also has leather

### DON MALLORY, SILVERSMITH

What: Silver works

Where: 82945 Weatherman Road, Flora. Take Flora Lane to Weatherman Road, turn left and it's the first house on the left.

Phone: 541-828-7765

No online presence

items made that he spruces up with silver.

He has headstalls and spur straps made at Ray Wilson Saddlery in Joseph.

"He does most of my leatherwork and I just doctor it up," Mallory said.

### It's not cheap

Mallory takes pride in his work, and acknowledges that his finished pieces can cost a lot. He said a set of spurs go for about \$800 for ones with an overlay and \$1,100 for ones with an inlay, since they require about twice the work. Bits are around the same price.

Earrings, he said, go for \$20-\$50 a set. Bracelets start at about \$65, topping out at about \$150 for one made of 16-gauge sterling silver.

Still, he said, it's not a big moneymaker.

"I don't make enough off this silver stuff to justify a living," he said. "It's just a hobby."

Bill Bradshaw is a reporter for the Wallowa County Chieftain. Have a business tip? Contact him at 541-398-5503 or bbradshaw@wallowa.com.



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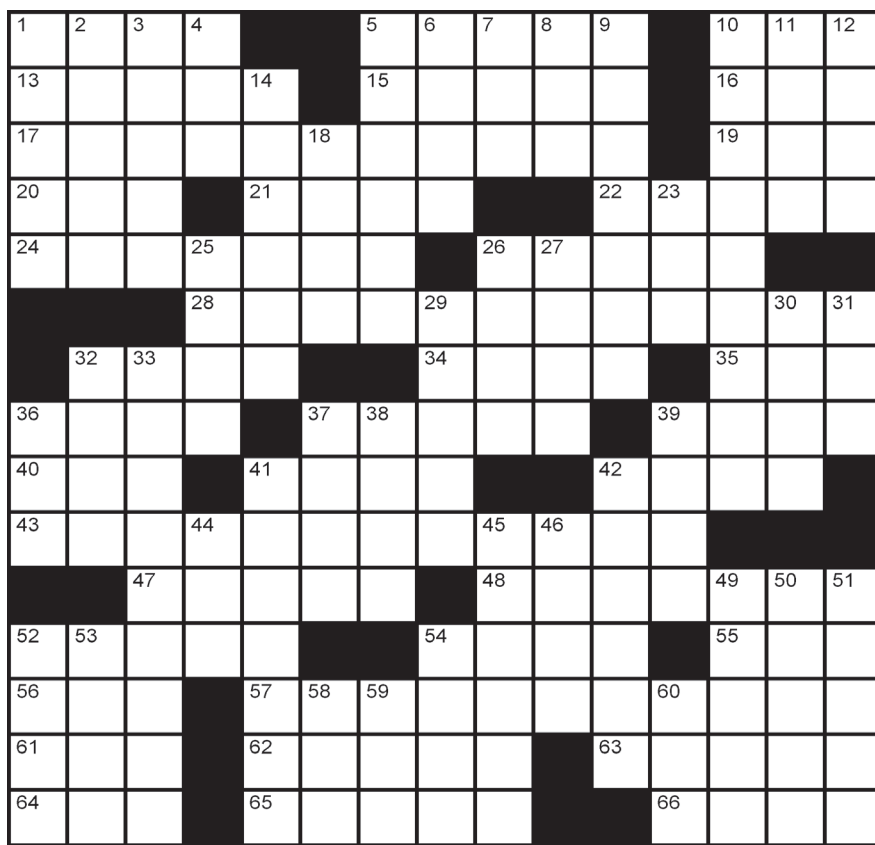


### CLUES ACROSS

- Norse god of thunder
- Not up to \_\_\_ (subpar)
- Tool set
- Person who could aptly be named Parker
- Book before Joel
- Words to say on your wedding day
- One may do the hustle (In this clue's answer, see letters 4-6)
- Man cave, perhaps
- Chowed down
- Approximately
- Personal prose piece
- Ornamental symbol in typography
- Anticipate
- Helper in a white coat (... letters 3-6)
- Beam behind drywall
- Fats Waller's "\_\_\_ Misbehavin'"
- Winged stinger
- Criticize harshly
- Tricky pool shot
- \_\_\_ club (singing group)
- Helpful hint
- Deep cut
- What an oboist soaks
- United States Senate, for one (... letters 3-7)
- Rub out
- Time piece?
- Family car
- Panache
- Central airport
- Angsty music genre
- Quickest way, usually (... letters 6-10)
- Bird in Liberty Mutual ads
- Short yet severe
- Spud
- Touch, as a dog's head
- Scrap, at a junkyard
- Take a break

### CLUES DOWN

- Father such as Homer Simpson
- Caribbean country



- Jimmy of the Daily Planet
- Word before "league" or "room"
- Northern California's Mount \_\_\_
- Eating candy before dinner, e.g.
- L.A. Coliseum school
- Plumber's charge
- Eurocentric name for Thailand's region
- Thanksgiving spot for young ones
- Concept
- Tiger on a Frosted Flakes box
- "Better luck next time"
- Visually plain
- Take a load off
- Down in the dumps
- Words in a used car ad
- Napa Valley output
- Youngest Obama daughter
- Require
- Golfing gadget
- Lose one's footing

- Broke, or spent
- Alphabetical nickname
- Apple offerings
- Athlete Arthur who adopted a daughter named Camera
- Actress Jewell
- Old Pontiac
- Comeback
- Stretch of history
- Legendary mime Marceau
- Manchester man, e.g.
- Waterslide feature
- Ancient music makers
- Longtime film critic Roger
- Leak gradually
- Actress Thompson
- Letter after alpha
- Diamonds, slangily
- Dull routine
- Lifeboat propeller



### Joseph United Methodist Church

3rd & Lake St. • Joseph  
**10 AM Worship**  
 Online AND In Person  
 For More Info  
 541-432-3102  
 JosephUMC.ORG  
 Pastor Cherie Dearth

### Grace Lutheran Church

409 West Main - Enterprise  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
 at 9am  
 Pastor John B. King Jr  
 phone (message): 541-426-4633  
 web: gracelutheranenterprise.com

### Enterprise Christian Church

85035 Joseph Hwy • (541) 426-3449  
 We have 'In-person worship' @ 9:00 am  
 (Guidelines observed)  
 Sunday School at 10:30  
 Parking Lot Radio/Facebook @ 9:00  
 David Bruce  
 Pastor, Enterprise Christian Church

### St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

100 NE 3rd St, Enterprise  
 NE 3rd & Main St  
 541-426-3439  
 Worship Service  
 Sunday 9:30am

### Lostine Presbyterian Church

Discussion Group 9:30 AM  
 Worship Service 11:00 AM  
 Childrens program during service  
 Blog: dancingsouth.blogspot.com  
 541.398.0597  
 Hwy 82, Lostine  
 Stephen Kliever, Minister

### Summit Church

**Sundays at 10 am**  
 at the Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise  
 Pastor: David Pendleton  
 Summit Church  
 www.summitchurchoregon.org  
 Cloverleaf Hall • 668 NW 1st St. • Enterprise, OR 97828

### Wallowa Assembly of God

702 West Hwy 82  
 Wallowa, Oregon  
 541-886-8445  
**Sunday School • 9:am**  
**Worship Service • 10:am**  
 Pastor Tim Barton  
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 Church Office: 541-263-0505  
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**Sunday School - 9:30 AM**  
**Worship - 10:30 AM**  
 723 College Street, Lostine

### Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School

305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)  
 P.O. Box N, Enterprise, OR 97828  
 Church 541-426-3751  
 School 541-426-8339  
 Pastor David Ballard 503-810-9886  
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 10:30 a.m. - Noon

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