

Cottage Grove celebrates its ‘Rosies’

By Caitlyn May
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When Jan Barto attended the twice-a-month meeting of local Rosie the Riveters and their Rosebuds (aka children), she asked if any of the women would be interested in receiving a handmade quilt as a thank you for their service during WWII. One hand went up.

That was August of last year. Since then, she has completed 17 quilts and is readying to give away her last creation having managed to reach every known Rosie in Lane County.

“The other ladies thought it was a good idea after I made the first one,” she said, recalling the slow avalanche of requests after the first quilt was delivered in a short, but sweet ceremony.

“I usually just ask them to stand if they can and if they can’t too they just open the quilt and there’s a tag with the Rosie the Riveter, you know with her bicep up saying ‘We can Do It’ and under that it says that the quilt was for their service. The presentation is very simple,” she said.

Between 1940 and 1945, one in four American women



COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL
Yvonne Fasold and Opal Nelson attend a rose planting ceremony earlier this year to celebrate Rosie the Riveters.

worked outside of the home and not necessarily driving rivets. Women filled positions on farms and factories taking positions as welders, drivers, parachute packers, railroad workers, ammunition inspectors, typists for war bonds and plane spotters. Not every Rosie was a riveter.

That was the case for Arlene Williams, a Cottage Grove resident who received a quilt from Barto for her role as a Gandy Dancer — a slang term for individuals who worked on the railroad. Barto found Williams through the monthly Rosie meeting and with the help of Yvonne Fasold.

Fasold, a Rosebud herself, has worked with area Rosies to help raise awareness of their eligibility for the national Rosie the Riveters Association. She’s also worked to bring the Rosies stories to the next generation, manning lectures and presentation at schools across the state, often accompanied by a handful of Rosies, mainly from Cottage Grove.

Doris Graham worked typing war bonds. Bettie Jean Funness Layman was a driver in the south and once drove Sammie Davis Jr., who couldn’t stay overnight in the town he was performing in. Opal Nelson still marches in the Bohemia Mining Days Parade. Alice Heiney was an ammunition inspector. She just celebrated her 100th birthday this year.

All from Cottage Grove and

the surrounding areas and all of them recipients of Barto’s quilts — each with colors chosen for individual Rosies and roses incorporated throughout.

She started making quilts for quilts of valor, a program aimed at providing quilts for veterans. But when Barto’s relative asked her to make a quilt for another relative, she realized there was a need for the Rosie community.

“After giving one to my family member and seeing how much it meant to her and giving her that honor that yes, I remember what they went through and how they stepped up and helped to win the war. If the women didn’t do what they did when the men were gone, we wouldn’t have won that war,” Barto said.

Now, as she readies for her last quilt presentation, Barto finds herself nostalgic. Of the course of the year, she had hoped others around the state would join her efforts, unable to complete quilts for Rosies in other areas and Rosebuds a little closer to home.

“I had a woman who was a Rosebud ask me if I could make her a quilt and she said she would pay for it but I had to decline because no Rosie has ever had to pay anything. Just hugs. I’m hoping someone else will jump up and help,” she said. “I would love to have other people step up because it’s just an amazing gift to be able to do this for these ladies.”

Pet tips ‘N’ tales

By Mary Ellen
“Angel Scribe”



Getting skunked

“Getting skunked” is a nightmare that pet parents hope to avoid. Their pets feel the same, but it happens every day.

If you think that “getting skunked” is when someone beats you at a card game or fails to make a payment, it also falls into the, “I never want that experience” scenario.

The following is a story shared by Lisa, the owner of a five-year-old King Charles Cavalier/Poodle mix rescue dog named Freddy. She describes Freddy as the love of her and her husband Clark’s life, along with their cat, Archie.

However, Lisa’s experience is another example of what it means to “get skunked” — *literally*...

One morning at 6 a.m. I opened the door to let him into the backyard. That’s when I saw it; a skunk. It was the characteristic cute black animal with two white stripes down its back.

I took off running to save Fred, but too late. It spotted Fred innocently sniffing “his” back yard and — like slow motion when you can see what is about to happen and are powerless to do anything about it — the skunk spun around and sprayed Fred in the eyes!

The smell was sickening and poor Fred was covered. He did the only thing he knew for safety: He made a beeline through the open door, into the living room and rubbed his face on our new leather coach.

The skunk’s oily spray dripped off Fred’s fur onto the wood floor. I grabbed a cloth and tried wiping his face, but instead the goo spread over his fur.

It is one thing smelling skunk odor from your bedroom window at night but being next to it and having it permeate your home is nauseating.

My husband, Clark, jumped on the internet and discovered that using tomato juice to remove skunk spray is a myth. Luckily the information offered a better solution: 1 quart of 3-percent hydrogen peroxide, 1/4 cup baking soda and 1 teaspoon liquid



Fred shares his smelly skunk experience over a cup of coffee.

dish washing soap (which we didn’t have.) So, Clark drove to a 24-hour store. We will never be without these products again.

We mixed the ingredients, and without getting Fred wet with water, we applied it full strength as per the directions keeping it away from his eyes.

We were all traumatized. The first application removed most of the smell, so we applied it twice more and then bathed him in Nature’s Miracle Skunk Odor remover. We also used the bio-enzyme product to remove odors from our clothes, floor and couch.

As Fred was recovering, curled up in his bed and covered in a towel, his best friend, Archie our cat, came up to him. Archie lovingly washed Fred’s ear letting him know that all is well and that he is loved even though he had a “date” with a skunk.

Fred was not himself for days. He would cautiously look outside and not want to go out. Was he humiliated, scared or feeling vulnerable after his experience of being attacked by a cute cat-like creature?

Also, like Lisa, my friend Lynda had a similar experience...

As my elderly poodle, Silky, and I walked in our yard, a skunk surprised us, turned and sprayed Silky in her eyes. I knew just what *not* to do: let her in the house until I was ready! My sister’s dog had recently “met” a skunk and ran under her bed smearing skunk oil all over her bedroom.

Silky immediately rolled in the dirt rubbing the oil off her fur as I raced in the house and prepared the skunk mixture. I picked Silky up with a towel, put her in the tub, and poured the mixture over her. The skunk’s green goo slid off her fur and went down the drain. And with it 98 percent of the smell. I gave her a second rinse and the hydrogen per-oxide whitened her white fur, so it was an adventure with a happy ending.

TIPS:

“The skunk odor took five days to leave our home,” said Lisa. “We placed open boxes of baking soda and white vinegar in shallow bowls around the house to neutralize the horrible smell.”

Lynda added, “I placed cut onions in bowls of water to absorb the odor from the air in my home.”

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