

Froyd from A6

Froyd also managed to get a master's degree in art to accompany her master's in aviation while raising three children. When her youngest child went off to college in 1977, only then did she leave her final flight instructor position at the Bates Aeronautics Program at Harvey Mudd College.

For Froyd, every end seemed to be a new beginning and she took this new opportunity to move to the humble town of Cottage Grove where a bold project would help define the next chapter of her life. Froyd immediately joined a small group of pioneers in the Cerro Gordo project, a cooperative effort seeking to establish a utopian ecovillage on a 1,200-acre plot of land north of Dorena Lake.

Though she'd never built a house before, Froyd adapted to the situation and, with the help of others, built a log house duplex with her own hands, even furnishing the house with some pieces she'd taught herself to craft.

Froyd moved onto the land in 1978, but it would be years before electricity and running water were put in place.

"My first summer with her here was 1979, when the roof and walls were complete but we still hauled water from town in five-gallon jugs, cooked on camp stoves, and read by propane lamps or flashlights at night," recalled son Eric

During this time,

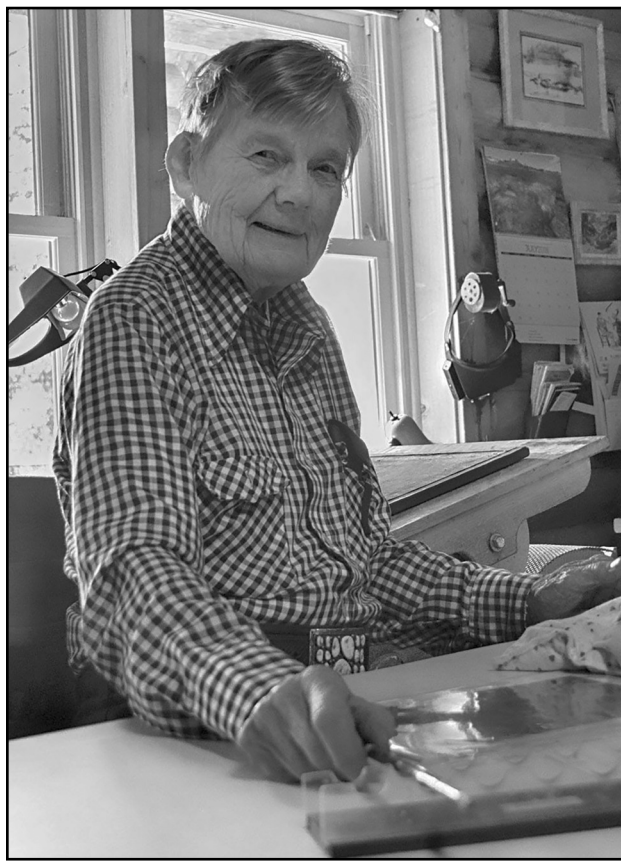


PHOTO BY PAULA GOODBAR

Shirley B. Froyd in her home art studio in Cerro Gordo in 2018 at age 92.

Alan.

Despite the Cerro Gordo project never attaining its lofty goals, Froyd loved living in nature and years later participated in the Cerro Gordo's shift to a focus

on land conservation, a project which succeeded in preserving 1,000 acres of land on the north shore of Dorena Lake via two conservation easements.

Froyd expressed her

love for nature, too, in twenty years of volunteer work on Mt. Pisgah where she was a member of the Monday Morning Regulars doing trail and land maintenance. She also was a central member of the outdoors group the Obsidians, leading roughly 70 hiking and biking trips.

Her love for art was also a constant throughout, and Froyd found a way to express it in the Cottage Grove community. Building her own art studio in her Cerro Gordo house, Froyd became well-known as a masterful watercolor painter and was an accomplished member of the Watercolor Society of Oregon, displaying her works in many galleries, shows and other venues. She was active in many other mediums as well, including acrylics, leatherwork, stained glass, colored pencil and woodwork.

"Everything was an art form to her, from aviation to house building

and mothering," said Alan. "She was prolific, producing hundreds of paintings, and her art always seemed to end up in the homes and offices of nearly everyone she came to know."

On top of her frequent displays, Froyd's art found more permanent space in several spots around town.

"There are more places in Cottage Grove than I know where it resides, but at the moment I know her work can be found in the William J. Welt, Inc. fuel company offices, The Bookmine, on at least two of the collaborative murals downtown (one by the Rural Organizing Project, and the other near the This'N'That thrift store), and in the Cottage Grove Community Center."

On the latter, Froyd was one of three people who made the three-dimensional town model sitting in the Community Center's lobby.

See PILOT 11A

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