

THE HUMANE SOCIETY FOR MOUNTS

JONNA'S HAIR SALON FEATURES TROPHIES FROM JOE WEST'S OLD BARBER SHOP

STORY & PHOTO BY RYLAN BOGGS



Jonna Bishop (right) describes her salon as the "humane society for mounts" because she hangs a great number of abandoned trophies on her wall.

Jonna Bishop describes her shop as "the humane society for mounts," because her storefront is nearly overflowing with trophies that have been handed down or discarded.

On the walls hang sun-faded bucks, a pair of longhorns from Texas and a one-eyed antelope. Against one wall are the original chairs, sinks and mirrors from Joe West's old barbershop on Main Street.

Bishop's salon is more than just a "humane society," though. It's partly a record of Grant County's hunters and partly a tribute to Joe West, a barber who owned many of the mounts before Bishop.

"It started out as a tribute to him," said Bishop of West, who had been a barber in John Day from 1960 to 2005. When West took his barber apprenticeship tests in Portland in the late 1950s, his results were the highest written score recorded at the time, according to Blue Mountains Eagle records.

In 1960, West joined his father, Con West, to work in John Day as a barber for over four decades. He died from cancer in May 2006.

An avid hunter of everything from deer to rattlesnakes, West is commemorated in Bishop's salon. Two bucks of his that once hung in his barbershop now decorate Bishop's walls, as does his old photo collection.

When West's shop was closed, Bishop couldn't stand the idea of his things being separated, so she incorporated as much of it as she could into her salon.

These trophies and photos carry a certain sense of history to them.

"This was like history, I felt, of Grant County," Bishop said.



Kimberly resident Jerry Russell travels the world to hunt.
From top: Russell has bagged a 1,800-pound Kamchatka bear in Kamchatka, Russia, a trophy-sized aoudad ram on the island of Nihau, Hawaii and a fallow buck taken on the south island of New Zealand.