

Great Grandmother Whittles Furniture And Gifts



G-T Photo
The six-gun cabinet at the Wayne Papineaus showing the rose design and the carver, Agnes Papineau Nichols.

various supplies home to carver Agnes. He is a Lexington native whose father Thomas Hale Nichols came to the area with Archie's grandmother in 1884. After farming awhile, T.H. Nichols joined W.E. Leach in the Nichols and Leach general merchandising business in town. In 1902 they sold out to W.F. Barnett who enlarged the store considerably in 1915. The stock changed hands four times in its later years. Archie was its next-to-last owner and operated as Nichols Grocery across from the I.O.O.F. Building. Before the store closed the Warners bought it and operated it briefly.

Now Archie has a few sheep, some chickens, a milk cow, and a terrific garden which supplies fine fresh vegetables to the members of the their families. He has adopted many homeless, deserted cats. Last spring he was giving a home to 19 cats which usually followed him as he made his twice daily trips to the barn carrying his milk pail. He kindly shared fresh milk with the cats who constantly passed the word around and more cats kept coming to him.



G-T Photo
The end table showing the Wheels that Mrs. Nichols carved from a solid piece of wood.

By JUSTINE WEATHERFORD

Five large gun cabinets, five kneehole desks, several tables, chests of drawers, a baby's clothes cabinet, 38 clock frames, various spice cabinets, dozens of smaller articles such as pot-holder hangers, thermometer plaques, napkin and letter holders, and many carved pictures have been created by Mrs. Archie Nichols, Lexington wood carver. A south paw, she has kept her talented left hand very busy practicing her ancient form of art these last few years. Her work is now in many Oregon locations, up at Friday Harbor in Washington, in Los Angeles, and even as far away as Iowa.

A few Examples

Each piece of original furniture, given to members of her family, has several carved designs. In son Wayne Papineau's home there is a large desk with seven drawers covered with roses and a six-gun cabinet with six drawers and a top board carved in similar rose designs. Wayne's family is also very proud of their spice shelf and of other examples of his mother's art.

At the Dick Hoffman home several fine gifts are being used with pride: a gun cabinet with animals carved on its head board and its six drawers stands in the livingroom. Mrs. Nichols chose deer, moose, elk, and mountain goats for its design.

Grand-daughter Penny (Mrs. Hoffman) is especially happy with their pair of davenport end-tables carved in the rose design with end supports of wheels carved out of single blocks. The Hoffman's T.V. set sits on a carved three-drawer chest. Grandma Nichols has promised Penny and Dick a carved coffee table, too.

Meet Agnes Nichols

Born Agnes Schoonover at Boise, Idaho in 1902, she first whittled at her logger father's knee. She recalls that her dad enjoyed years of winter whittling. She has always enjoyed it too, but she really got going in a big way after grand-daughter Penny brought home a small wood-carving knife from one of Tom Shear's art classes at Heppner High in 1970. Most of her carving is done in pine; however, she has also used tamarack and fir.

Agnes does not spend all her time carving. She also cooks, sews and freezes much garden produce. She is especially noted for her fine western-style men's shirts which she cuts without using a pattern. Each of her sons, and many grandsons, have Christmas-gift shirts every year since they were tiny.

She came to Morrow County with her logger husband Frank Papineau who was especially proud of his Clydesdale logging teams. Frank and Agnes imbedded a love of horses in their sons. Agnes mothered eight Papineaus; still living are sons, Fred of Union, Earl, Ray and Wayne, Lexington and daughter, Frances (Mrs. Bill Beck of Hermiston). Agnes has 16 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Early in the 1950's she married Archie Nichols and is now a step-grandmother and great-grandmother to the Bill Nichols family of Ione. Agnes has shown some of her work at recent county fairs. She sells a few carved frames with electric clocks for which she charges from \$35 to \$50 depending on the size and design.

Husband Archie

Archie Hale Nichols says he is the errand boy who brings



G-T Photo
Gun Cabinet at the Dick Hoffmans with the deer and elk on the headboard of the gun cabinet carved by Mrs. Nichols.



G-T Photo
Putting her name on the back of tea pot potholder is Agnes Papineau Nichols, left handed carver.

G-T Want Ads Pay Big

Prospecting Plans

Archie Nichols and step-son Fred Papineau, now pretty well recovered from a bad logging accident-but unable to do heavy work, are planning to go gold prospecting this coming summer. They expect to comb the mountains of eastern Oregon and parts of Idaho. They will have very good company. Agnes says she is going along, too, so they will not want good cooking and so that she will share the fun and excitement. Perhaps she will get some carving done around the evening campfires in some beautiful locations.

The Clan

Agnes and Archie live on Black Horse Canyon Road just east of Lexington's "downtown." Their green-colored home has a large livingroom and a big, busy kitchen centered with a good-sized table. There is a woodburning stove that must consume lots of wood chips from the busy left-handed carver.

Agnes carves and keeps her tools in a little shop room off the livingroom. Her son Earl and family live across the road on higher ground, and above them on the hill is son Ray Papineau's home. Son Wayne and family live in the large rose-colored house on the town side of the Nichols.

BMCC Tax Levy Up Only 3%

Blue Mountain Community College's tax levy for the 1973-74 school year will inch up by a bare three percent over the current figure if a budget proposal by President Wallace McCrae is approved by the college board of education and budget committee.

In his annual budget message last night to the board and budget committee, McCrae said the proposed budget reflects a shift in emphasis from meeting the steady enrollment pressures of the past to an attempt to raise quality and add programs that are long overdue.

The emphasis on quality, he said, follows three consecutive "hold-the-line" budgets which were designed to keep budget requests down to a "bare bones" level without diluting existing programs. The proposed budget, which calls for a 4.6 percent increase in operating funds, would allow a modest beginning in music and home economics and an enlarged Licensed Practical Nursing program.

The proposed levy is \$1.78 per \$1000 true cash value, an increase of five cents, or three percent over the current figure. Total proposed budget McCrae presented is \$2,058,875, up 4.6 percent over this year's \$1,967,350.

While colleges and universities throughout the country face continued enrollment drops, McCrae said he expects BMCC's full time equivalent enrollment next year to reach 1080 students. A full time equivalent is 15 hours of credit for three terms, an average full load for a full school year. The college's full time equivalent this year will be 1037, McCrae estimated. Total number of persons enrolled in the college this year, he added, will exceed 3000.

Although BMCC suffered its first enrollment decrease this year, McCrae said the reasons were well understood and the college adjusted rapidly. Among the reasons he cited were: 81 fewer high school graduates in Morrow and Umatilla Counties, changes in Selective Service regulations, improved enlistment opportunities in the armed services, and the desire of students for exploration, travel and independence.

McCrae said the proposed budget allows a modest beginning of the "long-delayed" music program and the first year of a transfer home economics program. It also allows, he said, for continuation of the Air Traffic Control program and enlarging the practical nursing program. The latter would permit continuation of a health services program for high school stu-

dents and permit preparations for an Associate Degree Nursing program later in the year, he continued. Members of the board who also serve on the budget committee, are: Bob Abrams, chairman, and Ben Holdman, Pendleton, secretary. Members of the committee, in addition to Mautz and Holdman, are: Bill Etter, Pilot Rock; Pendleton, and Bob Zerba, Homer Hughes, Lexington; Athena. Robert Stangier, Pendleton; Vlene Ringhand, Milton-Freewater, and Shirley Ziellinski, Boardman.

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Importance of Communication

Rose-design clock frame similar to 38 others that Mrs. Nichols has carved and sold or given away.

Guest speaker Andy Landforce, Extension specialist from OSU, stressed communication between youth and adults when he spoke at the Morrow County 4-H Leaders Banquet at Ione High School Feb. 15.

The banquet sponsored by Columbia Basin Electric Co-op, was served by the Empire Builders 4-H Club, under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Brownfield of Heppner. Annually, 4-H leaders from the north and south of the county are honored for their work in the 4-H program. One, five and ten year leaders were presented with pens from Harold Kerr, Morrow County Extension Agent, who also introduced all the county's leaders.

Mrs. Garry Tullis introduced special 4-H community sponsors, especially the sponsors of the summer school program.

Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Empire Builders pres. Jan Ekstrom of Ione. Empire Builders serving the dinner were Anita Davidson, Tom Wolff, John Kilkenny, Debbie Yocom, Sherrie Kemp, Phil Carlson, Mark Rietmann, Micki Hoskins, Charlie McElligott, Kay Bergstrom, Mary Pat McElligott, Melissa McElligott, and Rick Peterson.

First Year Pin Leaders: Sharon Biddle, Bonnie Hardiman, June Lindstrom, Barbara Peterson, Sandi Rodriguez, Sheridan Tarnasky, Kathy Wahl, Ken Nelson, Phyllis Crowl, Dora Sundin, Edith Partlow.

Five Year Pin leaders: Gladys Alderman, Bonnie Clow, Beverly Doherty, Nancy Myers.

Ten Year Pin leaders: Lou Crum, Rose Wilson, Rita Wolff.

Fifteen Year Pin leaders: Pat Pettijohn.

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