

## Bidding expensive at 'famous' auction

By Steven A. Powell  
Items at last week's "Famous People Auction" were selling at inflationary prices as a Laverne and Shirley tee shirt sold for \$25.

But the money was only play money that was earned by Heppner Grade School sixth graders in Brenda Weygandt's class.

The project began last September when students in the class sent letters to famous people requesting them to send articles to the class for the auction.

"The hardest part was getting the addresses for the people," Weygandt said. "We looked in Teen magazines for some. We did not get a good response from the television networks."

As an incentive to read books outside of class, Wey-

gandt paid the students "play money" for turning in book reports. The play money was put into a savings account book.

Weygandt said most of the book reports were paid from \$2 to \$3 with the most for one report being \$5. Dana Reid ended the year with the most play money with \$67.80. Shelly Biddle was second with \$54.60.

"All of the reading was done outside of class on their own," Weygandt said. "They had to answer questions about the book and they were paid money for how good a job they did on their reports. Some students did not catch on to what was going on until it was too late—which was a good lesson too."

The bidding at last Thursday's auction was fierce as the students could only bid what

was in their play money account so they had to budget it carefully. Many students had some play money left over.

Bidders became very clever near the end of the auction. As an example, Ron Sporseen kept bidding \$12.60 on the items so the other bidders would yell out \$12.61 or more, to Sporseen's frustration.

Auctioneer Harold Kerr gave some advice that a bidder should not let the other bidders know how much he has.

The bidders also learned a lesson in listening carefully as a Portland Trailblazers sticker was bid up fast and finally sold for \$6 because some of the students thought a John Ritter photo was the item being auctioned. Jack Estberg paid for the over-priced sticker.

Biddle got the Laverne and Shirley tee shirt for \$25 along with the John Ritter picture for \$16.45, a note from John Travolta for \$10 and a Commadores booklet for \$3.15. Reid bought a Valerie Ber-

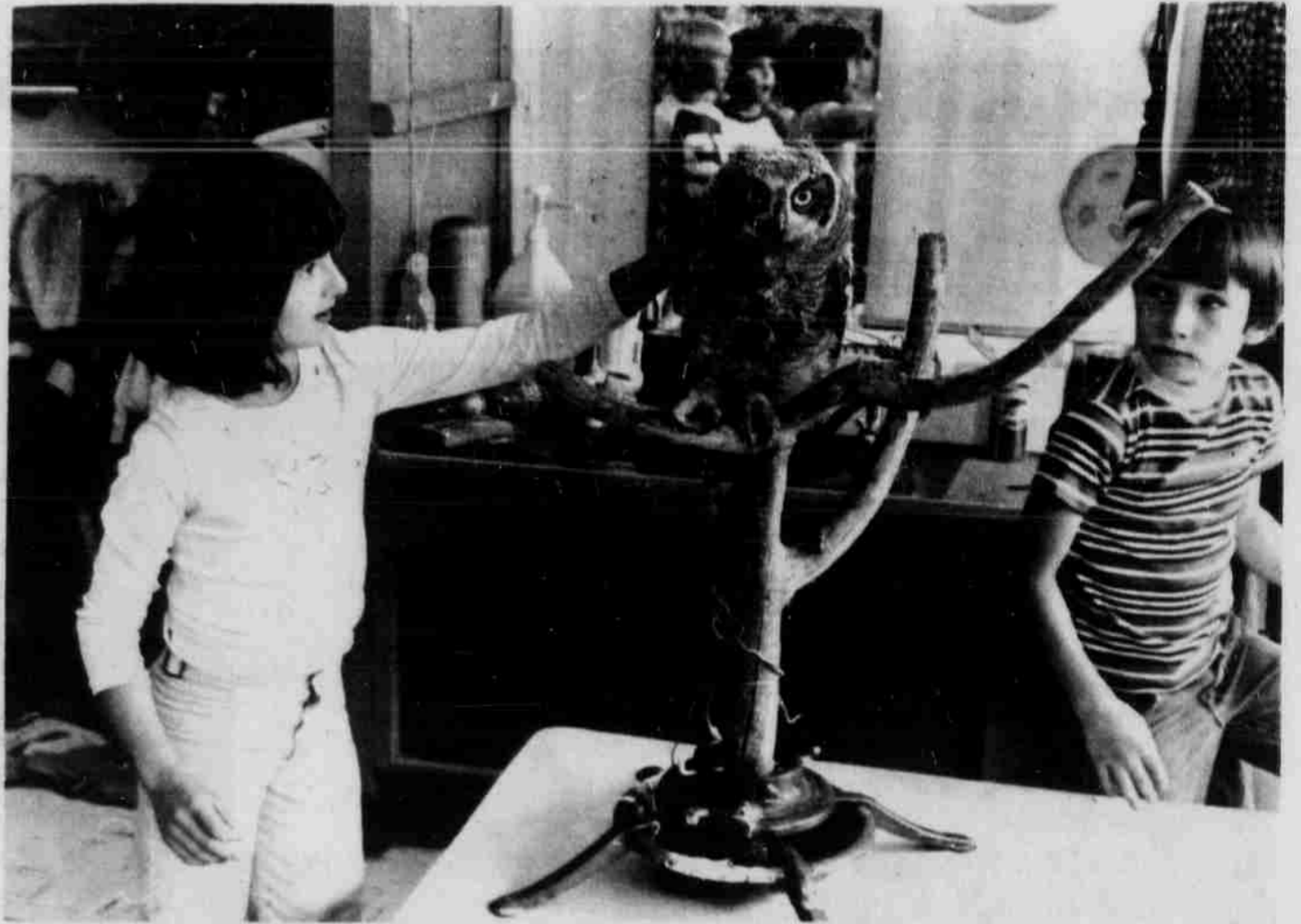
tinelli picture for \$15, a book about the Commadores for \$15.50, a necklace from the Commadores for \$21 and a Debby Boone picture for \$15.50.

Missy Turner was another high bidder as she received a Robby Benson scrapbook for \$12.75, a picture of the Commadores for \$18, a picture of the Los Angeles Lakers for \$13 and a John Travolta picture for \$13.

A surprisingly popular item at the auction was a color photo of Mel Blanc, famous cartoonist vocalist. Travis Harrison bought one for \$12.65. Wendy Toombs spent \$17, and Jack Estberg \$13.

The least expensive item sold was a letter from the White House. It was auctioned to Heidi Samples for \$1.30. A letter from Laverne and Shirley went to Harrison for \$1.50 and an autographed picture of Bob Hope went to Toombs—for \$2.60.

Even by bidding with play money, some of the students got a bargain at the auction.



Science teacher Steve Brownfield paid a visit to Phyllis Paynes 2nd grade class last week and he brought an owl with him. In this photo, Lana Schmidt pets the friendly critter while Mike Gorman catches another glance.



Harold Kerr auctions another famous item.

## 44,000 affected by mills

Although 44,000 persons still remain affected by curtailments or closures at 362 lumber mills in the 12 Western states, conditions improved slightly during the week ended May 17, the Western Wood Products Association has reported. Still, lumber production, orders and shipments remain far below normal.

Surveys indicated 50,000

people were being affected—either laid off or working adjusted schedules—at 427 of the West's 820 lumber mills.

The WWPAA said that 108 mills employing 8,000 people remained closed. Another 254 were on curtailed schedules. The May 17 report showed 151 mills closed and 276 on adjusted schedules.



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