

Business Notes

Jeanette's has varied ceramic services

Though Jeanette Searles' ceramic business held a grand opening as recently as February 1st, that event only celebrated the completion of an addition to the Searles' home to accomodate an enterprise now in its tenth year.

In this upstairs studio, Searles makes greenware in an infinite variety of shapes formed of a liquid clay-base product. These she sells to customers for whom ceramics is a hobby or serious artistic endeavor.

Liquid clay is poured into a mold of her client's choosing and, after a relatively short-time, the clay in direct contact with the inner surface of the mold sets. The excess clay is then poured from the mold, leaving a one-eighth to one-quarter inch thick hollow figure to harden.

When the figure has hardened, the mold is removed and the resulting greenware is allowed to dry and harden.

At this point, the customer takes over to begin excising

her ceramic art, working to smooth rough ridges and other imperfections. It can be fired in the Kiln, stained or glazed and fired again, from two to four times, to obtain the desired result.

The studio, already bursting with shelves of greenware, bisques and finished ceramic artifacts, also accomodates 8-10 eager artists practicing and learning the ceramic arts - enjoying each other's company and, Searles says, sharing a little of the local gossip.



Jeanette Searles at a work table in her studio, puts finishing touches on a covered ceramic dish.

First part of trail set for fall completion

Opening of the first segment of the Banks-Vernonia Linear Park - from Vernonia south to Adams Road - is planned for early fall, according to Joe Paiva of the State Parks & Recreation Department.

That section of the park will include two trails, one paved for bike riding, walking and jogging, and the other unpaved for horses.

Tentative plans also call for completion of a bypass at the horseshoe trestle and decking all of the bridges by fall, Paiva said.

Agreements have been completed for land trades with most of the property owners along the trail who objected to using the original railroad right-of-way because of its proximity to their homes. Negotiations are

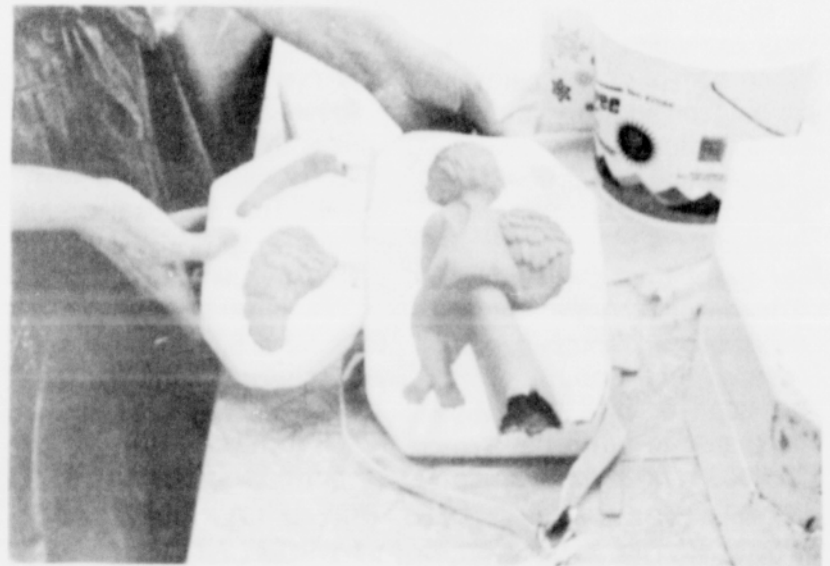
continuing for agreements with the two remaining property owners, Paiva said.

The Parks Department has condemnation rights, but prefers negotiating for mutually acceptable solutions, according to Paiva.

Census problems phone number provided

Columbia County Clerk Elizabeth E. Huser reports that her office has received several phone calls asking for information regarding the 1990 Census.

She suggests that anyone who has not received their questionnaire, or who has questions regarding the census forms, should call 1-800-999-1990.



Two molds are required for this greenware angel, one for the torso and another for a wing and arm, which will be attached after removal from the forms.

im-par'tial', adj. Not favoring one more than another; equitable; just.

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Fifth Ed.

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Rumor of Olympic mill close denied by owner

Though The INDEPENDENT rarely mentions rumors floating around the area, one is currently frightening many people because of its potential impact on the local economy.

The rumor says that Olympic Forest Products is going to shut down the sawmill and declare bankruptcy, so The INDEPENDENT went directly to Robert Sanders at the Kelso office of RSG Wood Products, owner of Olympic Forest Products sawmill, for more information. Sanders refuted the anonymous charges.

"There is absolutely no truth to the rumor," Sanders said emphatically, "There is no financially stronger company in the entire area when it comes to sawmills."

The number of work hours at the mill has been reduced from 120 hours weekly, or three shifts, to 80 hours and two shifts, which is appropriate for the current log supply, he explained, and added that 80 hours a week is the maximum for any other plant in the state.

According to Sanders, the Olympic mill produces approximately a half-million feet of lumber daily and has been a profit maker for the twenty years he has owned it.



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