

Business Notes

Ceramic tile business gets approval

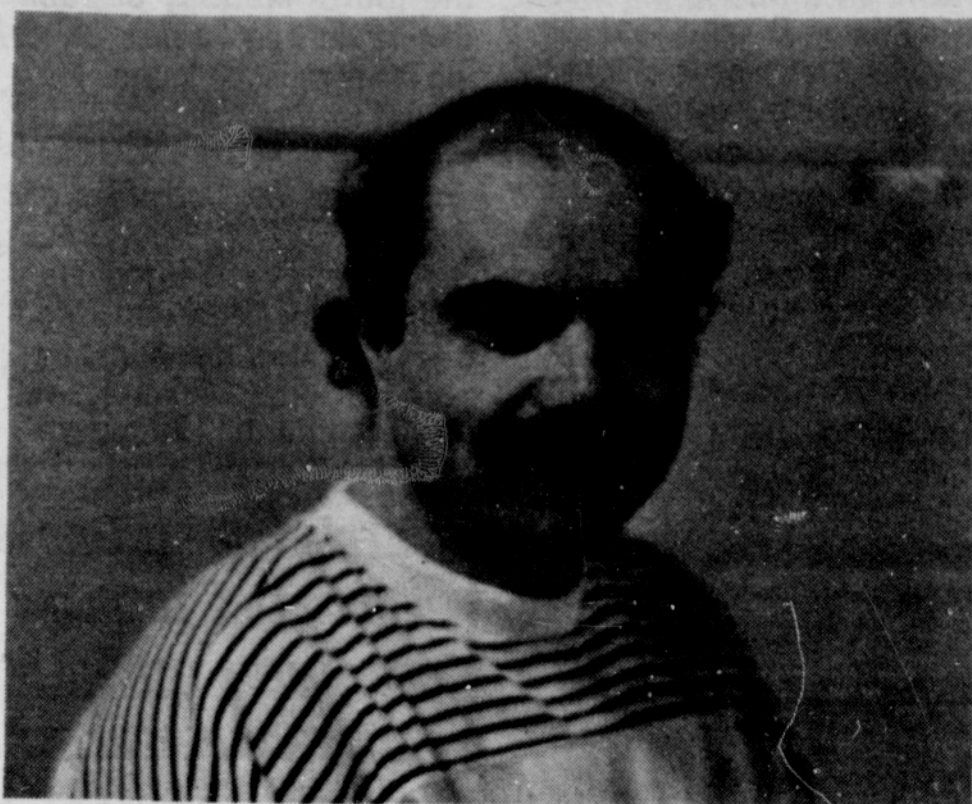
The community has been wondering for the past two months whether a newly arrived business would be permitted to set roots in Vernonia's former bowling alley. At issue has been the nature of the business and its conflict with the existing zoning ordinance.

Now, however, it appears the conflict is being resolved (Please see related City Council article) and a business license will be forthcoming for Enzo Lanzadoro's "Yes, Si, Oui, Ja Renaissance."

Gone now are the bowling lanes and pool tables, the lunch counter and pizza makings. In their place are work tables covered with greenware on the way to becoming ceramic tiles that will bring custom looks to baths, showers, hot tubs, kitchens or any other place where the classic look of ceramic tile is desired.

The greenware, freshly stamped with handcrafted dies to produce a variety of tile designs, is awaiting inspection before the tile-making process continues.

Already six employees, all local people, are working in the preliminary production phase. Presently on the labor force are Diane Roberts, Shannon Fennel, Cleone Anderson, Chris Stevens, Glendine Harms and Ernie Barela. Lanzadoro supervises, instructs and offers encourage-



Enzo Lanzadoro

ment.

Lanzadoro emigrated from Italy to Portland in late 1975, but he's not a stranger to Vernonia. He first came here many years ago to visit relatives, then met a local restaurateur named Dimitri, who was from the same area of Italy. Soon, thereafter, he met and went to work remodeling old buildings for Mario Leonetti.

When he first came to the U.S., Lanzadoro trained as an interpreter, but he was unable to follow either that profession or his second choice, plumbing, because of the language barrier.

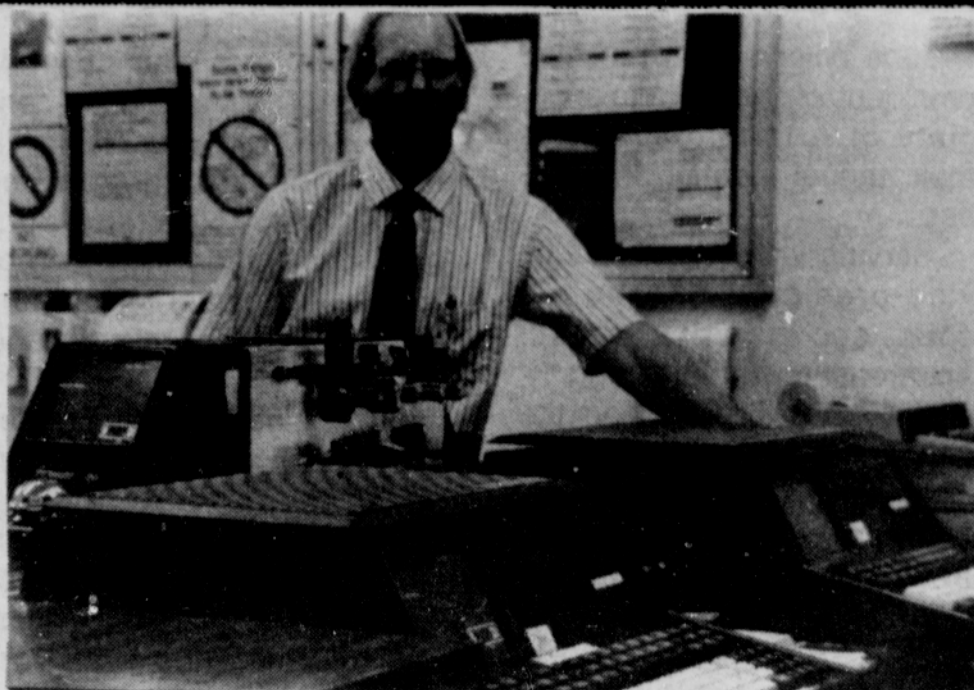
Casting about for an alternative, he re-established connections with people in Italy

who made decorative tile, and became an importer. For a time, he also imported marble slabs from which he fashioned custom fireplace hearths, mantles, tables and counter tops.

As an importer/wholesaler he observed the U.S. tile market, then submitted a few of his own designs to the Italian tile makers. This led to his current business of designing and manufacturing tile for the wholesale market in the U.S. He also exports his tiles to other countries.

At present, Lanzadoro is buying clay from a supplier, but hopes soon to develop his own pottery-clay production facility, a process that is non-toxic, utilizing only special types of clay mixed with water.

A native of a small Italian town, Lanzadoro says he likes small towns, he likes Vernonia; he wants to stay and help make it a better town. Yes, Si, Oui and Ja!



Dan Fletcher displays the new Post Office equipment.

New, computerized equipment is installed at local Post Office

A computer technology developed several years ago for the U.S. Postal Service has recently been made available to the Vernonia Post Office, Postmaster Dan Fletcher has announced.

Twin modem computer terminals, referred to as "integrated retail terminals" are precisely that—a combination of all postal functions in a unified system at the patron service counter.

The multifunctional equipment handles all transactions, including postal rates, zones and classes, both domestic and international, in response to the clerk's keyboard signals.

For each selected category, it calculates the cost of the transaction, factoring weight,

class and zone among a multiplicity of variables, then displays the cost to the patron on a wide screen.

The scales, Fletcher says, eliminate the possibility of human error, with accuracy as precise as 1/10 of an ounce.

"A major advantage provided [by the computerized equipment] is complete accountability," he explained, "each clerk has his or her code so all transactions are identifiable."

"Furthermore, at the end of a day, the machines will produce a printout of all transactions, which can then be checked against the day's receipts, providing a continuous daily audit." Fletcher concluded.



Glendine Harms, Chris Stevens and Cleone prepare freshly stamped greenware for the kiln.

Butterfly Renaissance

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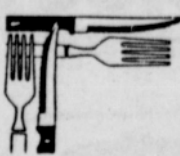
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