

Quilters relax and help raise funds for Senior Center operations

By Rebecca McGaugh

So, sew. Every Tuesday for 1-1/2 hours, three dedicated lady quilters do sew at the Vernonia Senior Center. Faith Reynolds, Louise Hamnett and Susan Goodhope complete an average of two quilts per year which are then raffled off to benefit the senior center. They are joined from time to time by other quilters and there is space for more.

The ladies find quilt tops or blocks at auctions or by donation. Then they put the top together and transform all those little pieces of fabric into a beautiful and functional quilt. The latest was put together February 25 and the quilting, which started the end of April, is nearing completion.

Sitting and watching the ladies work is soothing, though the quilting itself looks as though it requires patience, which these three seem to have in abundance.

Faith Reynolds made her first block (fabric pieces appliqued onto other pieces in a square pattern) in 1933, and learned to quilt in the 1940s, here in Vernonia. She didn't make her next quilt until 1985 or '86 when she did one at home. Quilting at the senior center started about nine years ago. Faith is not sure whether she learned patience because it was useful to her in her career as a teacher, or if being a teacher taught her patience. "Finishing a quilt is satisfying, that's where patience comes in," said Reynolds.

"Everybody's got to have a hobby to stay healthy," according to Louise Hamnett. She says she has always had patience and uses some of it to do lots of home canning, in addition to her quilting. Her first quilt started as blocks when she was nine. In 1974, she turned the blocks into her first quilt and has been quilting ever since.

Susan Goodhope came to quilting later than her two co-quilters. She and an already-quilting sister went to a quilt retreat in 1998. Susan did machine quilting while her sister did hers by hand. Susan decided she preferred her sister's work to her own and was a convert to hand quilting. Her first quilt was made from blocks won in a raffle from Fiber and Stitches, in St. Helens.

She has been quilting at the senior center for about a year and, so far, has worked on four quilts.

Susan recently submitted a block to Ruralite magazine that was selected as one of 50 (out of 125 submissions) used in their 50th anniversary quilt. In fact, she made two identical blocks, as Ruralite had two quilts made, one for exhibit at their office in Forest Grove and the other for a traveling exhibit. Susan received a commemorative wall plaque and a picture of her block.

If you have the itch to make a quilt and have - or wish to acquire - patience, there is a standing invitation to join this trio of dedicated quilters in creating beauty while helping the senior center. So, sew.



Above, from left: Faith Reynolds, Susan Goodhope and Louise Hamnett obviously enjoy quilting. Left: Susan Goodhope displays the wall plaque she received from Ruralite magazine.

Pacific University offers jazz nite with Tom Grant

Kick off your holiday season and spend an evening with jazz great Tom Grant, one of Oregon's finest musicians. Grant will be joined by vocalist and percussionist Valerie Day for a special concert at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6, at McCready Hall on Pacific University's campus in Forest Grove. This concert is part of Pacific University's 2003-04 Performing Arts Series, sponsored by Tuality Healthcare and Bank of the West.

Since 1983, Grant's records have repeatedly topped the smooth jazz charts. Throughout his career, he has been a pioneer for smooth jazz, and he made headlines when he became the first non-classical pi-

anist in the Northwest to be awarded the prestigious status of Steinway Artist. At home on stage, Grant has toured and recorded with such jazz greats as Woody Shaw, Joe Henderson, Charles Lloyd, and Tony Williams, and he has been featured on CNN and the Tonight Show with Jay Leno.

Valerie Day has been a vocalist, percussionist, and songwriter for many years, most notably with the R&B/Pop group Nu Shooz. During her tenure with the band (from 1980 to 1992) she toured extensively in the United States, Canada and Europe, appeared on national and international TV programs, sold over a million records worldwide, and in 1987 was

nominated for a Best New Artist Grammy by the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences.

Tickets are \$20. To reserve your tickets, call Pacific University's Box office at 503-352-2918.

United Way gets forestry help

Wauna Mill employees and Georgia-Pacific raised \$223,452 for three United Way agencies in their 2004 campaign. Of the total, employees raised \$164,452 and \$59,000 was contributed by Georgia-Pacific's corporate foundation. Wauna Mill exceeded its goal of \$200,000 by 12 percent.

United Way of Columbia County will receive \$89,772 of the funds, the Clatsop County United Way agency will receive \$84,079 of the funds raised, and \$49,601 will go to the Cowlitz/Wahkiakum United Way.

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