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The finishing touches on a 16-foot-long totem trout on the side of the rest rooms at the Chiloquin city park are added by artists Carly Allen, 11, left, Brian Garlock, 12, and Solar Kirk, 13, right.

Totem trout' finds home at Chiloquin

CHILQUIN — A 16-foot-long totem trout has taken up residence at the Chiloquin city park.

The multicolored fish is the focal point of a 20-by-5-foot mural painted last week on the wall of the park's restroom building by a group composed of as many as 20 youngsters. "We've gotten lots of encouraging words from people going by, who like

what they see," said Anne Rodgers, who designed the mural and sketched it onto the wall for the children to paint.

The "Art in the Park" project was sponsored by the Chiloquin United Methodist Church. Sharon Allen supervised the young artists, ages 8 to 14.

The mural's blue background is latex paint, while the trout's many

colors are in oil-based paint. The entire picture has been varnished to protect the surface from the weather and to enable any graffiti added to the mural to be removed.

The fish's outline and eyes were painted with a finish that glows in the dark.

Said Rodgers: "We'd like to do another mural somewhere in the city next year."

H&N Photo by Lou Senneker

Artbeat

GALLERIES

Unique Northwest Art

This unique collection of Native American art from Klamath Basin artists is blended with Northwest art. Owner Ann O'Mohondro, an artist herself, creates "original totem art" through a personally developed process on fine finished hardwoods. The gallery is located on the Williamson River.

The Riverhouse Gallery
Ann O'Mohondro
422 South S Main Post
P. O. Box 601
(503) 783-2961



Submitted photo

"Totem Elk" is the title of this myrtlewood piece by Chiloquin artist Ann O'Mohondro. She said it's representative of her work on display at The Riverhouse Gallery in Chiloquin.

Riverhouse Gallery opens in Chiloquin

CHILQUIN — The Klamath Basin seems to have more art galleries popping up these days than endangered species.

Chiloquin's first bonafide art gallery, The Riverhouse Gallery, opened last month.

The gallery features artists from the Klamath Basin and the "totem art" of owner Ann O'Mohondro.

O'Mohondro paints Native American-influenced art on hardwoods.

"I've always felt a real kinship to Native American art," she said.

O'Mohondro isn't Indian herself, although she does have a foster brother who is a Makah Indian.

The former heavy-equipment operator grew up in Spokane, lived in Newport for 12 years and

moved to Chiloquin a couple of years ago. A self-taught artist, she considers her extensive travels in South America and Europe as her art education. O'Mohondro is a volunteer art teacher at Chiloquin Elementary School and was also behind the children's murals that have shown up around Chiloquin.

Some people believe the designs within her animal totems are internal organs, she said. Wrong.

"I take an animal and more or less tell a story," she said.

O'Mohondro tells those tales at the gallery on Highway 422 South, 1/4 of a mile off Highway 97.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tues.-Sat. The telephone number is 783-2961.

November 2, 1992

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Area artists get together at last

By **LEE JULLERAT**
H&N Regional Editor

CHILQUIN — "People who should have been doing this years ago" were doing it Sunday afternoon.

A first "Artist-Network Soiree" aimed at bringing together a cross-section of Klamath Basin artists was held Sunday at Train Mountain near Chiloquin.

"I found it more or less difficult to meet other artists because we're all so rural," explained Annie O'Mohondro, owner of Chiloquin's Riverhouse Gallery and organizer of the first of artists gatherings to come.

"A lot of people have known other people, known who they are, but they hadn't met each other," explained O'Mohondro. "I think traditionally artists are a little shy about promoting their work and themselves."

What O'Mohondro hopes to promote are methods of joining artists together to stimulate creativity and better merchandise their work.

"I'd like to do what I can to promote the local artists that have been here for years and deserve recognition," stressed O'Mohondro, citing Priscilla Bettles and Tom Daugherty as examples. "Artists need feedback and we need to critique each others' work. I'm really excited about

what's going to happen to this community if we can get really rolling."

In addition to promoting other artists, O'Mohondro creates her own art, specializing in woodburnings on sculptured hardwood.

"I'm feeling like I'm starting out on the ground floor of my art. I've got a long way to go and the beginning of this is very exciting."

O'Mohondro's husband, Ed, and their three children are involved in selecting and preparing the wood, usually burls. She then creates transparent images of wildlife, emphasizing totem trout-salmon and buffalo.

Examples of O'Mohondro's art were among the samples and portfolios by other artists, who ranged from sculptors to painters to dress designers. Several were contacted by gallery owners eager to display their work.

Although originally intended for Chiloquin-area artists, the invitation list for the initial gathering was expanded to include mainly non-established artists from a wide area, including Klamath Falls, Malin and Tulelake. O'Mohondro expects other artists will become involved as the now informal group becomes better established, holds informal quarterly gatherings and defines goals.

Possible goals, she believes, might include facilities with shared printers and wheels, resident artists and, eventually, a workshop-oriented gallery where displays of art would be complimented with lessons for adults and children and working space for artists.

"Chiloquin is really unique in the culture that's here and the diversified home-steaders," said O'Mohondro of the blend. "You don't find that in a major city."

Sunday's first gathering was held at the shop building of Train Mountain, which owner Quintin Breen said will eventually be a private miniature railroad club, and featured music by "The Great Unknownz" band. O'Mohondro said interest by musicians may eventually broaden the "artists' network."

O'Mohondro, who moved with her family from the Oregon Coast, believes Klamath Basin artists offer quality creations that are marketable outside the region. After living in the area 1 1/2 years and promoting the area, "There are people now surfacing who are realizing I'm serious about what I'm doing," she said, noting personal plans to build a larger gallery.

"Once you get hooked on the Klamath Basin it's hard to look at moving on because you have everything you want right here."