

Penland Man Makes Custom Designs:

Mark Stanitz' Jewelry Is Musical

BY SUSAN LARSON
Toe River Arts Council
People can hear Mark Stanitz's jewelry as well as see it. In his studio at Penland he has been making pieces which tinkle and ring-small

flower-like bells, flattened globes with snail-shell clangers at the base. It is not too surprising that Mark should be concerned about how his work sounds. As an undergraduate at Kent State he took a class in the making of musical instruments and became so interested that he wanted to make that his major. Unfortunately Kent State didn't offer such a degree and he had to choose something else. Jewelry making required the same preci-

sion and use of fine materials as instrument making. He earned two degrees in it, a B.F.A. (Bachelor of Fine Arts) and an M.A. at Kent State.

From Ohio Mark and his wife Nancy came to Penland two years ago. He was asked by Bill Brown, the director of Penland School, to teach jewelry in concentration, an intensive eight week course offered to serious students in the fall and the spring of the year. He taught in 1973-74, is teaching again this year, but

had 1974-75 to do his work. His work is his real love. He would like to spend full time in his studio on the second floor of the Barns at Penland. He is looking forward to the winter months between concentration courses when he can see a piece through from beginning to end. He hopes to produce some jewelry so

stunning in design and technique that he'll find a market for it at Tiffany's or Cartier's in New York.

For Mark the design is the most important element of any piece. He makes a difference between the craftsman, who, he says "is one who has learned a number of techniques," and the artist,

who "has the ability to make an aesthetic statement." He says "the person who can handle both design and technique is the real artist. Design is what makes a piece great."

Mark doesn't do a drawing of his work before he makes it. He thinks it through, sometimes working on it in his head for several weeks before he actually makes it. This thought process even keeps him awake at night. The design he creates reflects the ego state he is in and the piece he makes is one that he himself would feel comfortable wearing. His mood has changed radically in the last eighteen months. Whereas in the summer of 1974 he was producing large, heavy things today he is making small, delicate, intricately detailed pieces. Very likely one can find on later work some fragment of nature—a tiny cluster of gold flowers, small bells shaped like a lily of the valley blossom, a pendant shaped like a curled up seed pod.

Also evident is Mark's love for beautiful stones, particularly opals. He uses opals of many different colors (black, orange, the traditional pinks and blues) and from different countries (Mexico and Australia, to name two). Sometimes he uses local stones. Recently he purchases



Making Music Part Of Jewelry

at the Gem Shop a sapphire from Jim McKinney (Mark calls him the finest stonecutter he's seen). He used the sapphire in the engagement ring of a wedding set he was commissioned to make. Mark would like to use local gems more in his work for, as he says, the rubies and emeralds found here are of superior quality. However, they are just too expensive.

Expense is a limiting factor in his work. He would like to use gold instead of silver, for example, as it offers the greatest versatility to the jeweler. It doesn't tarnish, is easily worked and has a good sound. His dream is to sell enough of his work so that he is able to make the pieces he would like to make

and feels capable of making. Meanwhile he sells through galleries, at art fairs and to people who commission him to do a piece. In the latter category, people come to him, often with only a hazy idea of what they want, and ask Mark to create something. This is the kind of challenge he likes—to create something unique and fitted specifically to one person.

His wife Nancy reaps the benefit of Mark's design and ability. She wears an ornate gold flower-bell necklace he has made for her as well as rings and other pieces. This is the second year for Nancy of teaching kindergarten at Ledger School, a job which she loves. Though she and Mark have travelled to many parts of the country, they can't find any place they like better than this area. They hope eventually to have their own home and studio here.



Agri-Vues

BY WM. C. BLEDSOE
EXTENSION CHAIRMAN

The Multiflora Rose was brought into Yancey as a conservation plant some 20 years ago. A few people have the mistaken notion that Extension brought them in but it was another agency. The Rose is commonly regarded here as a botanical pest. Many people ask how to get rid of it. The current recommendation from N.C. State University Weed Specialist, is to use one of the following herbicide programs:

(1) a combination of herbicides of 2, 4-D + 2, 4, 5-T + Banvel mixed with water at recommended rates and sprayed to wet Multiflora Rose during the active growing stage.

(2) A second herbicide

program choice might be ROUNDUP mixed with water and sprayed to wet the plant at the "petal fall" period.

Either program 1 or 2 is recommended to control the rose. Re-application in succeeding years may be necessary to effect complete control. All safety precautions and recommendations of all the herbicides should be strictly adhered to. Special caution should be exercised to avoid drift of herbicides onto sensitive crops nearby. If you have questions please call me. Work is now underway to set up a demonstration in the county for people to observe the effectiveness of this eradication program.



Burley Test Tobacco Studied

Pictured above are Everett Mace, Federal Tobacco Grader; Tammy Riddle, daughter of Sam Riddle; and Bob Davis, Extension Tobacco Specialist, looking over a hand of tobacco from one of Yancey's On Farm Burley Tests. The test being run by Sam Riddle is a study to determine the profitability of applying lime to tobacco fields that need liming. Addition of lime improved production to increase profits as much as \$250/Acre. Sam and Tammy are a good example of the eight other farmers that cooperated with On Farm Tobacco Tests here in Yancey County last summer. As a result of the work of these people we are able to pass on to Yancey tobacco growers reliable advice on fertilizing, liming, varieties, diseases and numerous other production and management ideas.



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Armed Forces Report

Richard A. Westall, 25, son of Mrs. Frankie S. Westall of Route 5, Burnsville, N.C. was promoted to Army private first class November 28 while serving with the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Pvt. Westall, an assistant gunner in Company C, 1st Battalion of the division's 19th Infantry, entered the Army in October 1974 and completed basic training at Ft. Polk, La.

He is a 1968 graduate of East Yancey High School, Burnsville.

Charles Gillespie

& Ferril McCurry's

HEALTH NEWS

from Pollard Drug

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South Toe Community Organization Meeting

The next Community Organization Meeting of the people of South Toe will be held Thursday, January 15, 7:30 p.m. at the South Toe Elementary School. It is important that people from all communities within the South Toe township attend this meeting and help to establish the type of Community Organization needed to serve the best interest of all people of South Toe.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this meeting.



March of Dimes Time.

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