

# Fashion writer turns silk into art

## Chimacum woman designs quilt for her church's raffle

**POLLY FISH WAS** at work one day when she happened to spot it — the most beautiful coat she had ever seen.

It was periwinkle blue, she recalled, with lamb's wool sleeves.

Asking if she could be notified when it went into "the closet," she can still hear the person looking at her in disbelief and replying, "It's jee-van-shee."

Apparel from big-name designers like Givenchy, it seems, did not go into the closet, where it might be coveted by staff, but was returned to the designer or — horror of horrors — shredded at customs.

Polly now lives in Chimacum but used to work for *Vogue* and New York fashion houses.

### New York fashion

So it's not surprising that when someone donated a box of fabric swatches to her church group, Polly knew just what to do with them.

"They were going to make them into tote bags," she said. "I said, 'I don't think so.'"

Instead, Polly took the swatches, most of which are silk, and made them into a quilt, which will be raffled at St. Paul Episcopal Church's St. Nicholas Faire on Saturday, Dec. 4.

She took on the project despite a lack of quilt-making experience but had something better — an eye for color and design.

"I took the squares home and pinned the squares to a blanket on the wall," she said. "I moved them around."

Polly works in her studio on the top floor of the three-story house in Chimacum, which she and her husband, **Bob Fish**, bought two years ago.

But she used to be a "West Sider."

After high school in Appleton,

### PORT TOWNSEND NEIGHBOR

#### Jennifer Jackson



writer and editor for catalogs and books.

In the '60s, Polly was working for Simplicity on Madison Avenue and 34th Street, a block from her apartment.

"I don't watch 'Mad Men,'" she said. "I lived it."

She also wrote for *Vogue* and for fashion designer Pauline Trigere, an experience that she said mirrored "The Devil Wears Prada."

But after meeting and marrying Bob, the son of family friends, Polly left the bright lights of the city.

To be close to both sets of parents, they moved to North Carolina, choosing Bald Head Island, off the coast.

It was a compromise between Alaska, where Bob had worked for the National Forest Service, and Polly's home ground.

"The fashion editor and the forest ranger," Fish said. "Whatever works."

On Bald Head, the couple built a house, and Bob had a charter fishing boat as well as a sawmill and woodworking shop.

Polly continued writing and, on the side, developed a line of oatmeal cookies, Emmies, inspired by those served at her favorite restaurant, Mary Elizabeth's, on East 37th Street in New York.

The restaurant closed long ago, but Polly still makes Emmies, actually more of a candy because they have no flour, in her Chimacum kitchen, shipping them to North Carolina to sell.

She also bakes them for church coffee hour and the church's Wednesday soup lunch, volunteers at the Port Townsend Food Bank and writes for the church newsletter, the *Bell*.

### Inspired by fabrics

Turning her hand to quilting was inspired by the donation of the fabric squares by **Lynn Dunham**, who brought them to a meeting last fall, Polly said.

When **Connie Johnston**, who volunteers at the food bank, heard about the project, she donated a piece of red silk, which Polly used as a border and the larger blocks.

Many of the donated fabric squares had small motifs — figures, trees and other landscape elements.

Polly was especially delighted to find one with the family logo on it, so she incorporated it into the quilt.

"There's a fish in every corner of the border," she said.

There's also art in every cranny of the house.

Bob's mother, **Helen Fish**, belonged to the Esther Stephens Brazier Guild, whose members went door-to-door in New England collecting tole patterns used in Colonial America.

Before painting the designs on tin, guild members would do trial runs on paper, creating works of art.

The couple have many of Helen's samples stored in the upper floor of Bob's woodworking shop, where he makes boxes, decorative objects and carvings.

Polly's mother, **Dudley Glass McGraw**, was also a painter who did rosealing.

The daughter of Atlanta newspaper columnist and critic Dudley Glass, for whom she was named, she had the chance to



JENNIFER JACKSON/FOR PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

**Polly Fish works on the quilt she is making from donated fabric in her Chimacum home. On the wall behind her are framed maps of Bermuda, where her husband's family is from.**

meet Enrico Caruso, see Anna Pavlova dance "Swan Lake" and stand on the stage with actress Sarah Bernhardt.

The great singer Caruso also was a caricaturist who sketched likenesses of people on dinner napkins.

Polly's family lost the one he did of her grandfather but had others, including one of Richard Strauss, which Polly gave to the Metropolitan Opera's collection.

Other mementos: On the living room wall, along with maps of Bermuda, where Bob's family came from, is a framed remnant from Lord Horatio Nelson's ship, *HMS Foudroyant*, the admiral's flagship from 1799 to 1800.

According to Wikipedia, the ship, an 80-gunner, served in the Napoleonic wars, eventually ending up as a tender in the Liverpool, England, docks.

In 1897, it broke loose from the dock during a storm and grounded on Blackpool Sands.

Carpenters salvaged the timber for furniture and paneling, according to Wikipedia, making it probable that the large splinter of wood that Polly's aunt bought and gave to Bob, a maritime his-

tory buff, is actually from *Foudroyant's* capstan.

### Quilt raffle

Tickets for the quilt raffle are \$1 and will be available from church members or at the St. Nicholas Faire on Saturday, Dec. 4.

The event, scheduled to coincide with Gallery Walk, is from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and is a fundraiser for the church's outreach fund.

It features an art show and sale by the congregation's artists and handmade crafts, baked goods and jams.

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be available for a donation.

A rocking chair donated by **Karen Long** and decorated by **Arlene Nesbitt** also will be raffled.

For more information about the event, phone 360-385-0185.

Jennifer Jackson writes about Port Townsend and Jefferson County every Wednesday. To contact her with items for this column, phone 360-379-5688 or e-mail [jjackson@olympen.com](mailto:jjackson@olympen.com).

# No cheap, quick shortcuts to equine dentistry

## "ARE YOU KIDDING me?"

I uttered those words in disbelief three times in three days:

On Friday evening, when handed the invoice for equine dental work on my Shetland pony, Snowball Express; afterward, turning on the lights on my truck and trailer to drive home at night in the pouring rain and discovering the trailer lights weren't working; and again Monday morning, after telling family members the previous night to not drive down our steep driveway if it was snowing.

When I awoke, I discovered my mom's car had slid partially off the drive, potentially blocking any who tried to return.

### Frozen horse water

I got to work plowing our 450-foot curved driveway — during a freezing cold snow flurry — so I could dig her out, put chains on her car and get it out of the way.

Not prepared for such freezing temperatures, I also hadn't put deicers in the horse water troughs, so their drinking water had frozen over.

I took care of their water needs and then put blankets on the horses who, by then, in spite of having shelters they could stand under, were running around with frozen icicles on their body.

By then, I was chilled to the bone and so thankful for the warmth of my wood stove.

Please everyone: During freezing temperatures, remember to give extra feed to your animals to help their bodies stay warm, and make sure they have access to clean drinking water.

Last Thursday, I attended an equine dental presentation and talk by **Richard Vetter**, a doctor

### PENINSULA HORSEPLAY

#### Karen Griffiths



of veterinary medicine and specialist with Performance Equine Dentistry.

He gave an informative slide presentation explaining

the mechanics of a horse's mouth and why maintaining teeth is important.

The program was hosted by the Jefferson County 4-H Horse Project at the Washington State University Extension office in Port Hadlock.

Most horse owners are aware of the need to float, or get rid of sharp points that have grown on the sides of their horses' teeth.

### Floating teeth

When not taken care of, the points can cut the inside of their cheeks and cause all sorts of painful problems.

The idea of floating teeth without sedation is now considered outdated because there isn't a way to examine the condition of the incisors or their relative importance to molar occlusion.

"You wouldn't go to your regular doctor to work on your teeth," stated Vetter in his talk.

"You'd go to a dentist. Well, the same should be true for your horse."

On his website, [www.perquinedentistry.com](http://www.perquinedentistry.com), Vetter provides photographs, diagrams and information about the methods and importance of equine dentistry.

He said there is no such thing as a "cheaper or quicker" way to shortcut such an important health care practice.

He's found that many



KAREN GRIFFITHS/FOR PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

**Tanya Schweitzer, president of the Jefferson County 4-H Horse Project, shows equine veterinarian Richard Vetter of Performance Equine Dentistry a video of her horse lapping water, a very unusual method for a horse to drink — after his informative presentation to adults and 4-H'ers**

malocclusions (poor meeting of the teeth) are being missed and continue to create performance problems, and then the horse is blamed for misbehaving.

My pony was exhibiting many of the same symptoms of a problem mouth Vetter described, such as excessive head tossing when wearing a bit.

I'd had dental work done less than a year ago by my regular veterinarian on my other three, but he didn't have time to work on Snowball.

I was feeling the guilt, so I made arrangements for his last time slot Friday afternoon during his clinic at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

Dr. Vetter has the perfect setup.

He works out of a customized, 24-foot aluminum gooseneck trailer.

It has a double-padded horse portion in the rear with aluminum stocks that adjust from mini to draft horses, and the clinic portion is in the front.

Specialized equipment includes X-ray and a speculum to keep the mouth open when the horse is sedated.

A speculum is an instrument with two bite plates that the front teeth rest on that is gently ratcheted open to allow manual and visual access to the mouth.

### No fear for horse

I have to say, Snowball walked right up the ramp and into the stocks.

He was then sedated and experienced no fear or anxiety the whole time his mouth was being worked on.

Turns out, Snowball

was the "one in every 20 patients" Vetter sees who has a mouthful of cavities. Eight to be exact.

He used his probe in each cavity to show me the depth.

I reacted with, "I see dollar signs here, and I don't even know how much this session is going to cost me."

### Expensive procedure

I asked for an estimate. He couldn't give me one while still working on the mouth, so he agreed we will wait to fill the cavities on our next visit (and prior to his talk, I had no idea fillings were put in horse teeth).

Much work was done on Snowball's teeth.

His first visit came to just under \$500.

An estimate for restoration work on his eight cavities for next time is \$490 to \$637.

Ouch!

## McPhee's Grocery

A sprightly little market unlike any you've seen

Austria - Rieder Beer  
Bangkok - Fried Anchovies  
China - Groceries  
Dominican Rep. - Naranja Agr.  
Ecuador - Gandules Verdes  
France - Cig. Papers  
Georgia - Pomegranate Juice  
Holland - Grolsch  
Indonesia - Ginger Candy  
Japan - Groceries  
Korea - Laver  
Latvia - Bread  
Mexico - Groceries  
New Zealand - Steinlager  
OMG!  
Philippines - Groceries  
Qatar - Nope!  
Russia - Groceries/Beer  
Scotland - Black Douglas  
Taiwan - Shredded Squid  
Ukraine - Flavored Wines  
Vietnam - Hats  
Wash. - Black Diamond Wine  
Xciting Stuff  
Yemen - ¡Nada!  
Zanzibar - Zilch!

717 RACE ST. PORT ANGELES

But thankfully — and no kidding — prior to leaving the fairgrounds, I discovered a loose wire in the trailer, fixed it and was able to drive home safely.

Karen Griffiths' column, *Peninsula Horseplay*, appears every other Wednesday.

If you have a horse event, clinic or seminar you would like listed, please e-mail Griffiths at [kbg@olympus.net](mailto:kbg@olympus.net) at least two weeks in advance. You can also write Griffiths at PDN, P.O. Box 1330, Port Angeles, WA 98362.



## Confessions of a Restaurateur

By Bushwhacker Bob

### Sweet Dreams...

Shhh... Bob's sleeping...

He's dreaming of his boyhood home in snowy Montana. His Dad just gave him a gift certificate to the Bushwhacker Restaurant.

"Dad, what's the Bushwhacker Restaurant?"

"Little Bobby, it's a dream restaurant you'll realize some day. It will make a lot of people happy."

"Dad, you have made me happy."

"Be kind to yourself and each other" ~ Bob G.

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