

Cousins share farm scenes on slate

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ELWOOD CITY — Three days a week Sandy Clyde and Grace Hufnagel change out of their blue jeans, leave their farm chores behind and head to town.

A year ago these two cousins from Farnell formed a partnership and opened an art gallery, where they sell their work.

These two very country gals call their business "The Countryside Gallery." The name suits the business well since Sandy and Grace bring the country atmosphere along with them to share with their customers.

Using a paint brush and a few colors of paint, Sandy and Grace create warm country scenes on canvas, slate, or almost any other material that a customer requests.

Both agree that slate is the most popular and cheapest medium, ranging in price from \$5 to \$30. "The customer in our area, because of the economy and not much work, just doesn't have the money," Sandy says.

Since both Sandy and Grace have farm backgrounds, they most

enjoy creating art that has plenty of country style.

Sandy has been lived on a farm all her life. She is married to Bill Clyde and they have two sons and a daughter. The eldest son is married and has blessed his mother with the official title of "grandma."

All of the Clyde's children have been in 4-H and enjoy showing game horses and ponies.

Sandy and Bill raise market steers and grade Holstein heifers to sell later as bred heifers. In the past, they had a dairy milking operation, but Bill wanted to try construction work. While working in construction Bill was in an accident that forced him back home to the farm.

Having 120 acres keeps them busy and Sandy readily admits that they really do enjoy the farm most.

Grace is responsible for milking 27 Holsteins in the morning and evening. "My husband, Jim, does all the feeding of approximately 70 head and the field work, while I do all the milking, even before I come in here," Grace says.

Jim and Grace have two married



Grace, left, and Sandy display some of their special dairy paintings that Grace did of her own animals from her farm.

Homestead Notes

sons who grew up on the family's 200-acre farm. They also were active in 4-H and showed pleasure horses.

Grace admitted that she paints most scenes with dairy animals while Sandy does most of the horse scenes, but they both can and do paint horses and cows.

As young girls, Grace and Sandy enjoyed painting and about 20 years ago worked together either at Grace's home or at an art gallery. Three to five times a week they took their paintings to art and craft shows.

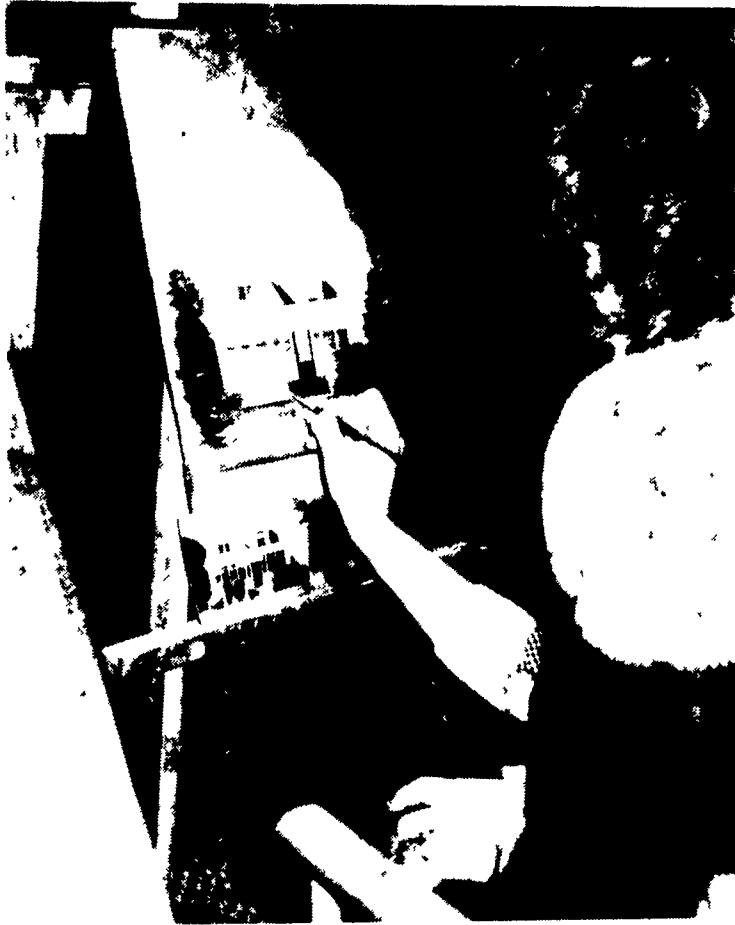
They enter only a few shows now; most of their time is spent working on commissioned paintings. Customers' homes and animals are the most common requests. These projects take a lot of time since Grace and Sandy make sure each detail is done correctly.

Because canvas paintings are much more costly, most customers prefer slate. Gray slate is easier to work on since the black slate tends to peel. However, both can be used.

At one time Grace and Sandy bought most of the slate, but now people just stop in and ask them if they want some slate.

Their most popular commodity right now is "Welcome" signs. Orders have been especially heavy during the holidays.

The artists make the signs to
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Grace Hufnagel works on a painting of a customer's home. Working from a photograph, Grace has spent well over a week on this project and has much more work to do on it.



Grace, right, and Sandy, left, pose in front of an attractive display in their gallery.



This eye-catching window display is sure to attract attention to the Countryside Gallery.



Sandy Clyde transforms a piece of gray slate into a Welcome sign. Welcome signs which feature flowers, a small animal such as a mouse, and a mailbox bearing the customer's name, are big sellers.