

Beki is artist, businesswoman

Local History

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Her father's profession, that of artist, art historian, collector and author, had a great influence on the career which Beki Anderson chose for herself.

She is the owner and operator of Hopfengarten Gallery in Sunnyside. The business name suggests the background which she and family is bringing to the unique gift shop in the Mini Mall on Sixth St. for Hopfengarten, means, literally translated, Hop Yard.

Before her marriage Beki belonged to the Gannon family and in this state the Gannons and hops are nearly synonymous.

"From my earliest childhood memories I have always been connected with art objects," Beki recalled. "My father got his doctorate in art from the University of Iowa and I lived there until the age of five when the family returned to Mabton."

Not long after that her dad started the Mabton Museum of Wagons, which not only housed a very substantial selection of wagons from buckboards to fancy rigs; it also contained a very good collection of Indian artifacts. The family donated much of that to the Yakima Valley Museum.

"I was with my dad in the museum and the gallery which he had started in connection of the wagon museum in 1956," she said. "I can remember as a girl of 11 accompanying my father to shows in Seattle and Portland and helping him search for unusual gifts that we might want to have in our own shop."

After attending and graduating from Mabton High School she enrolled at Washington State University where she majored in international studies until she realized that her calling and interests lay more in interior design and fine arts history. Beki graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in these two areas.

"I was the first woman from WSU to go to Japan to study interior design," she said, "and while I learned a lot from the Japanese, I think they also learned a great deal from a tall, blond girl from America."

Beki said she was very impressed with the minimal style of interior design that is found in the typical Japanese home. Every piece of furniture is designed for a purpose and many fulfilled two or three uses.

"In Japan, there is little of the free spirit and the playfulness that one finds in western design," Beki explained. "Everything is severe and functional and will take a minimum of space. Also, nearly all pieces of furniture are useful only and decorative only secondarily. Everything is designed to save space in a land where space is at a premium."

"My designs were so much freer and I think that the Japanese envied me for my ability to have fun with design."

When she returned to the United States in 1972 she enrolled at the University of Washington to take



BEKI ANDERSON, owner of Hopfengarten Gallery, is a unique blend of artist and businesswoman. She inherited her artistic talents from her late father, who started the gift shop and gallery in connection with the Mabton Museum of Wagons. Beki also is an interior designer. She keeps very busy managing a business and taking care of her family which includes husband Gary and daughter Roz.

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