

Knitting yuletide presents

Years ago women would knit sweaters as a means of clothing their families during cold winter months. Today, knitting has become one of the most popular crafts for women of all ages.

Clickity Wool opened on Mar-kham's Main St. in 1985. Nikki Young chose the area because she was familiar with the vil-lage and its tremendous growth potential.

Clickity Wool specializes in fancy yarns. Young caters to a select audience in this area who feel confident working with the wide variety of wool textures available.

"I like working with fancy yarns and geared my shop to my personal preference," Young explained.

Over the last several years she has become known for her original sweater patterns. She sells ready to wear knit outfits, including a two-piece skirt/sweater sets and dressy sweaters.

Some are accented with hand appliques or beading, others are shown in the shop with complementing silk scarves or de-tachable satin collars.

In order to keep up with the high demand, Young employs four to five local knitters who keep the store stocked with these unusual pieces.

While prices vary depending upon the work involved and fi-ber used, the average skirt costs \$98, while the coordinating sweater runs the same. Dres-sier sweaters can range any-where from \$139 to \$399.

"People never take into account the number of hours that go into handknitting a sweater, especially if it is accented with beading or lace. Many times you just can't charge for the actual time a pro-ject took," she said.

Young explained that while her skirts are actually knitted on a machine, for uniform stitching, they are handcrafted.

She has more than 25 years of knitting experience and while she has taken design courses, she prides herself on original ideas and unique designs. She will only sell original patterns in kit form.

Clickity Wool introduced a Wish Card last year whereby husbands, for example, are mailed a postcard with their wife's gift choice for Christmas, birthday or anniversary.

The client may have her eye on a sweater or particular pat-tern and come in to address a card to their husband.

Young will mail the card near the holiday date as a reminder of that special occasion.

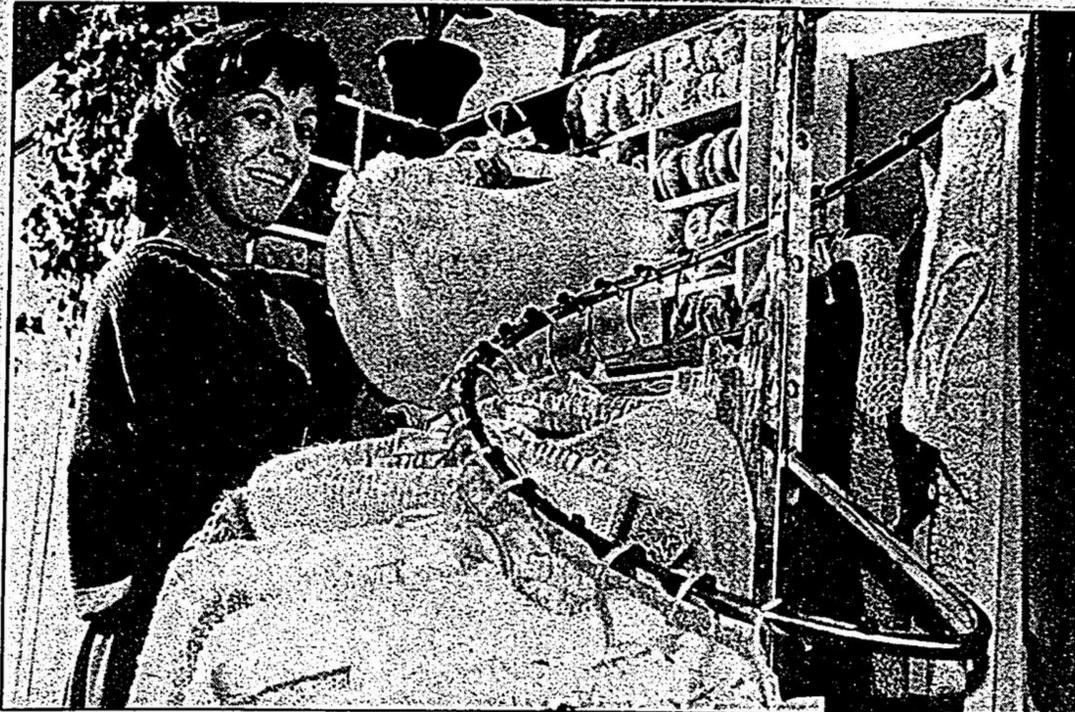
Young believes that indi-vidualized service brings cus-tomers back. She will help them out when they have a problem or question concerning the pattern they're working on.

While many of Young's ori-ginal patterns are easy, even for a beginning knitter, they look more complex with the different combination of yarns available to use.

Clickity Wool also carries knitting supplies and pattern books for knitters — beginners through advanced levels.

Nikki Young, owner of Mar-kham Main St. knitting store Clickity Wool, displays some of the designs avail-able at the store. She spe-cializes in hand-knit swea-ters and outfits and has pat-terns for knitted outfits that anyone can do.

— Bill Lanning



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