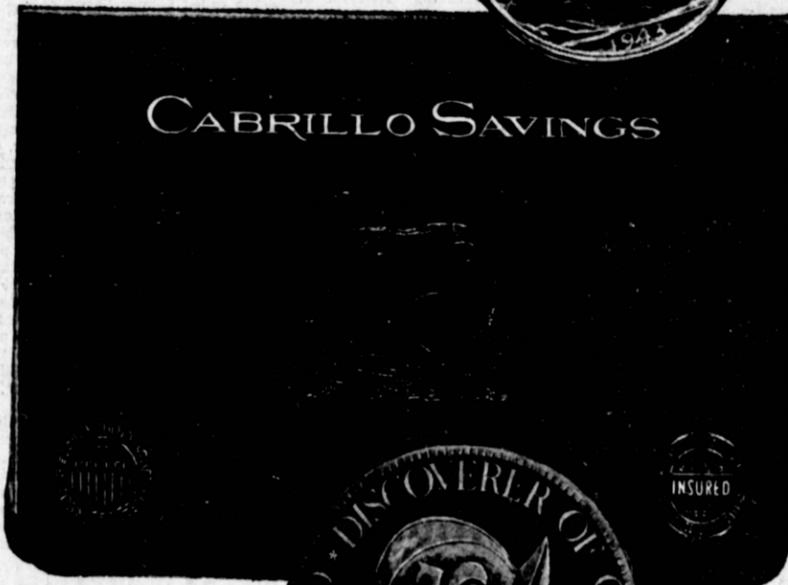


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**WOOD ART . . .** Alfred Bourdelais of 23304 Orchard spends many hours working at his workbench on inlaid wood carvings. Here, he works on his current project, a replica of "The Last Supper" in which he has invested about \$75 for wood and spent 280 hours. (Herald Photo)



**INTERESTING HOBBY . . .** Bourdelais, a carpenter by trade, shows off to his wife a coffee table he has made. Unlike many homemade coffee tables Bourdelais' had inlaid wood work on its top. Bourdelais has been working at his hobby about seven years. (Herald Photo)

**Carpenter Dislikes Modern Art; Turns Own Hand to Unique Work**

By DARRELL MADDOX  
Herald Staff Writer

Dislike for a painter's modern art prompted a Carson area resident to embark upon a hobby which has filled his home with items rivaling any painting.

Alfred Bourdelais of 23304 Orchard spends many hours each day at his workbench making beautiful inlaid wood mosaics and pictures.

It all started some seven years ago when Bourdelais, a carpenter by trade, was working on the home of an artist whose art work he thought horrible. One night he came home with pieces of wood used in construction of the artist's home, went into his basement and in about an hour made an inlaid wood mosaic.

SINCE THAT time Bourdelais has made about 35 inlaid wood mosaics and pictures

Established Jan. 1, 1914

**Torrance Herald**

Member of National Editorial Association, Calif., Newspaper Publisher Assn., Verified Audit Circulation  
Publication office and plant, 1619 Gramercy Ave., Torrance, Calif.  
Published semi-weekly, Thursday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.

King Williams Glenn W. Pfeil Co-Publishers  
Reid L. Bundy—Managing Editor  
Doug Anderson—Display Adv. Mgr.  
Darrell Westcott—Circulation Mgr.  
Chas. R. Thomas—Mechanical Supt.

Adjudicated a legal newspaper by Superior Court, Los Angeles County, Adjudicated Decree No. 218470, March 30, 1927.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By Carrier, 50¢ a month. Mail subscriptions \$3.50 a year. Circulation office FA 8-4000.

comprised of various kinds of wood from throughout the world.

His current project is a replica measuring about 20 by 40 inches, of the famous painting, "The Last Supper." He has worked on the inlaid wood art 280 hours, expects to work about 30 more hours on it and has invested about \$75 in wood.

Bourdelais is retired now and works as a part time janitor at the Mariga Regina Convent in Gardena, but love for his hobby prompts him to start working at it as early as 5 in the morning. His hobby is an exciting one, often involving carving of wood smaller than a dime. "You've got to like it," Bourdelais says.

Being a carpenter has permitted Bourdelais to build coffee, end tables and other pieces of furniture with tops similar to the mosaic and picture wall pieces he has made.

None of the inlaid wood works has ever been sold by Bourdelais. "I would like somebody, such as an art critic, to tell me if this is something worth marketing or just a hobby," Bourdelais said.

**BOURDELAIS' HOBBY** might be carried on in later generations. He is teaching a 13-year-old neighbor boy, Gary Stanart, how to make the inlaid wood carvings. More than 50 different types

of wood are used in the inlaid wood art. Parts of his first mosaic, the one in his basement, were hand painted but now he uses wood dyes various colors.

Each inlaid wood carving takes longer to make now than the hour spent on the first one because it has become more of a "science" with Bourdelais, but he doesn't mind.

"There's nothing I'd rather be doing," he explains.

**Legion Opens Drive to Get 500 Members**

Possibilities of a record membership for Torrance Post were announced by Commander Earle Sumpter of the local American Legion unit when the post passed its 1962 quota early this week.

First Vice Commander Nathan M. Mathis, in charge of membership, stated that he has launched a drive to reach the 500 mark before the Legion year ends early this summer. The growing threat of communism and world tensions are attributed to the increasing interest among veterans in the program of the American Legion, according to state commander Roscoe T. Morse, who recently paid a visit to Torrance Post.

The local post owns its own clubhouse located at 1109 Border Ave. in downtown Torrance, and the cocktail lounge is open every afternoon after 3 p.m.