

Local

Local craftsman sells custom-made furniture



By TINA LINCH
Battalion Reporter

Jack Abbott began making furniture five years ago in an 11-by-16 barn about 10 miles outside of Bryan. Today, Abbott owns and operates an expanding custom furniture business.

Abbott said his popularity is due to the quality furniture he makes from real wood.

"Disposable furniture days are drawing to a close," he said.

American domestic hardwoods are used in his furniture and Abbott said the hardwood supply is good, even though some people think there may be a shortage of hardwood.

One of Abbott's local customers, Jan Hunter, had been unable to locate good hardwood furniture in the Houston area when she and her husband visited Abbott's store. Abbott and the couple drew a sketch and chose wood for the "reasonably priced" bed which Hunter describes as a "conversation piece."

Like Hunter, most customers have a vision of a certain type of furniture. Popular pieces include stereo centers, desks, dinette tables and chests of drawers.

Few of Abbott's pieces are original designs, but he modifies basic designs to the customer's needs and personality. Abbott said he enjoys the "challenge of getting to know his customers,"

which enables him to create furniture specifically for them.

Abbott describes his furniture as useful and practical but maintains that useful can be beautiful.

He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1977 with a degree in building construction and subsequently worked several years for a building contractor. At that point, Abbott felt a spiritual need to change his work and "doors began

to open" to his current business, he said.

Abbott attributes his success in business and personal life to his relationship with Jesus Christ and said he hopes to do something useful for his fellow man through his work.

Abbott's shop, Jack Abbott Handcrafted Furniture, is located at 3605 A South College Ave.

Jack Abbott moves a bishop on the hardwood chess table he designed and constructed. He makes furniture from sketches customers bring in and from his imagination. Several of his pieces are in the Memorial Student Center.

Staff photo by Becky Swanson

Competition under way for 516 Fulbright Grants

By CATHY CAPPS
Battalion Reporter

Competition is under way for Fulbright Grants in graduate and performing arts study abroad for the 1982-83 academic year.

Approximately 516 grants to 50 countries will be awarded for graduate study or research in academic fields and professional training in the creative and performing arts to students across the country. Mona Rizk-Finne, Study Abroad Coordinator at Texas A&M University said.

Ronald Kresta, a 1981 Texas A&M graduate in modern languages, won the Fulbright Grant for 1981-82 and is now studying in Germany, Rizk-Finne said.

Five types of Fulbright Grants are offered with varying benefits. The Fulbright Full Grant includes round-trip transportation, language courses, tuition, books, insurance and expenses for one person for one academic year. Other grants offered are in conjunction with foreign governments and universities, or provide partial fixed-sum payment or travel expenses.

The grants were established under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961. The program is supported by foreign governments, universities and private donors, the coordinator said.

Competition for the annual awards is conducted by the Institute of International Education. To be eligible for the Fulbright Grant, applicants must be U.S. citizens and must generally hold a bachelor's degree or its equivalent before the beginning date of the grant. Those ineligible include candidates holding a Ph.D. at the time of application, except for certain awards, and students who have been doing graduate work in a country for six months or more during 1981-82.

Creative and performing arts students do not need an undergraduate degree, but must have four years of professional study or equivalent experience. Social work applicants must have a Mas-

ter of Social Work degree and at least two years of professional experience. A candidate in medicine must be an M.D. at the time of application. Further information and brochures are available in the Study Abroad Office.

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