

Festival of Flowers

...If these walls could talk

Carpenters, Iron Workers, Plumbers, Roofers, Cement Masons, Bricklayers and other building tradesmen gathered at Pioneer Courthouse Square last week to sign an art installation for the annual Festival of Flowers.

The autographs were the finishing touches of "Foundations," a 14-foot tall, 10-foot-long sculpture

created by artist and Carpenter Local 247 member Linda Wysong. Composed of the interlocking forms used to mold concrete at construction sites, "Foundations" is designed to remind viewers of the materials and workers that have made Portland's buildings possible.

"Because the interlocking forms

are stripped away after the concrete hardens, their role in our city's architecture is only briefly visible," Wysong said. "Similarly, the vital contributions of the building trades are also often concealed from public view — a situation the signature wall is meant to address."

Last week craftspeople signed their names on the wall, noting the Portland building projects on which they've worked.

The artwork is one of six commissioned by Pioneer Courthouse Square for its 1990 Festival of Flowers. All sculptures will be displayed June 1-10 on the square, surrounded by 25,000 blooming annuals.

"Foundations" was made possible by donations from Masons Supply, Van Lom Concrete and WACO Scaffolding and Equipment Co.

The Oregon-Washington Carpenters-Employers Apprenticeship and Training Trust members and Timberline Job Corps personnel helped assemble and dismantle the sculpture.



The Oregonian/STEVE DIPAOI

Linda Wysong's "Foundations" is an altar of concrete with signatures of local union workers.

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