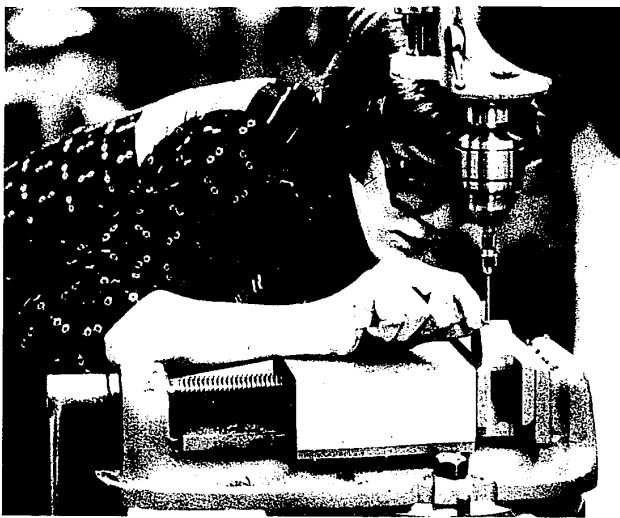
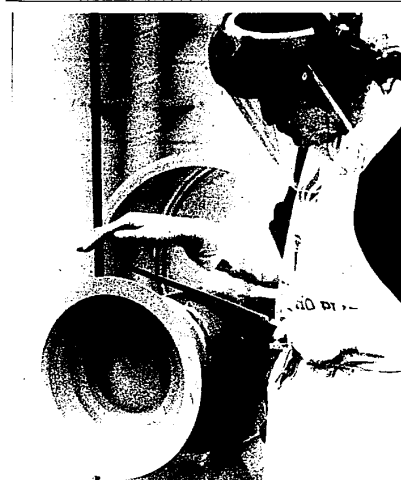




Senior Bill Burns may be able to apply for one of those Bridgeport operator jobs one sees in the want ads with this kind of experience.



North Farmington High student Lee LaFleur gets down for a close look while locating on this welding machine.



Senior Mickey Pastor doesn't mind being the only female in her woodworking class, as she puts the finishing touches on a wooden salad bowl.

At North Farmington High Industrial arts gets a facelift

By LYNN ORR

Vocational education until recent years was an also-ran in every aspect—enrollment, funding and support.

A quick tour through North Farmington High School's remodeled industrial education wing suggests that "we ed" has come a long way from the lackluster, "filling time" function of the past.

More than \$300,000 over the last 10 years has provided the industrial arts wing with expansion, improvements and new equipment for the machine shop, auto shop, and woodworking area.

The machine shop used to be a "total disaster" according to instructor Fouad Baidoon. A new ventilating system, welding area, and machines have boosted the curriculum as well as the students' spirits, Baidoon says.

"Some of these kids would be drop-outs if you didn't get them going on something," he says. And concrete applications of math in welding classes often give the student a purpose to learn what he might have considered abstract or unnecessary, Baidoon adds.

About 62 students are enrolled in Machine Shop I and II, while 17 students take a two-hour vocational block in the subject.

SENIOR BILL BURNS is one student who enjoys machine and auto shop classes.

"Here I get good grades," he says, and he's also interested in the subjects, especially cars.

In Charlie Scheer's auto shop, students get a chance to work on anything from teachers' cars to a '76 Eldorado damaged before sale that General Motors donated to the school.

A \$6,000 electronic analyzer allows the students to detect what's wrong with the 200 cars per year on which they perform brake service, tuneups, oil changes and lube jobs. Students have put in two transmissions and two

clutches this year, as well, Scheer says.

Residents, teachers and parents bring in their cars for work, says the auto buff, who actually prefers old cars like his 1912 Packard and 1930 Buick speedster.

Auto I and II have a total enrollment of 67 students, while 18 students take a two-hour block in career auto shop.

The feminists have invaded the previously male stronghold; two girls enrolled in the career class.

"Mostly I want them to understand the use of machines," Kantor says, adding that increasing leisure time attracts more woodworking hobbyists.

"Some of these kids will continue on

if they feel they have a knack, but the classes also give them an appreciation of furniture and craftsmanship."

Mickey Pastor, the only female enrolled in a beginning woodworking class, gets a little hassle from her friends, but she's willing to put up with it.

"I love it because I like to make things," she said, as she worked on a salad bowl. She's already completed a table in the class, while student Dave Alvarez worked on a chessboard.

Nearly 100 students are enrolled in cabinet construction, Woodworking I, and advanced woods. A new exhaust system has eliminated most of the sawdust in the air, and a spray room for finishing has expanded the area.

While the instructors are proud of the expanded facilities, there still hurtling in some areas and donations would be welcome, Baidoon says.

"We're always looking for aluminum, any type we can get our hands on," he says.



Machine shop instructor Fouad Baidoon is hoping for some aluminum donations for his welding students.



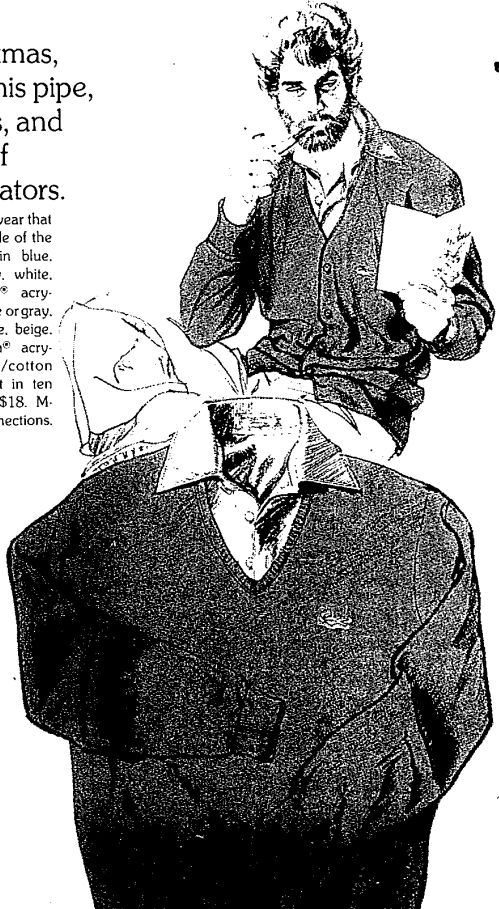
Instructor Charlie Scheer prefers old cars, but he likes working on this diesel engine.



Working on a stripped down '76 Eldorado Cadillac are student Kerry Turner, instructor Charlie Scheer, and students Kevin Smith and Bill Burns.

This Christmas, bring him his pipe, his slippers, and his share of Izod® Alligators.

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