Basememt full of artifacts is their base of operations

By DIANE ABRAMS
Whether it's an Ecuadorian pot or a Brazilian basket you are after, two West Bloomfield Township women can fill the bill.

Operating by appointment or private showing, Bobbie Beser and Linda Golden offer cultural Bodden offer cultural brome business artifacts. The women have continuous shipments of goods coming in. They also acquire pieces from buying trips of their own. "We don't deal in volume and we try to keep things that are different," said Beser. "We'd rather have fewer pieces, but keep them interesting. In this kind of business, it's sometimes impossible to re-order things."

Each of Artifacts's originators have a basement full of relics and unusual art forms. At present, the currower is fast, they said, and new items are turnover is fast, they said, and new items are always arriving.

MUCH OF their pot-tery is made by Ameri-can Indians from New Mexico. Beser went on a buying trip last summer to establish contacts with

to establish contacts with various potters. "We only carry pieces that are signed. Some of the potters inscribe sym-bols on their work for identification," she explained.

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THE DELICATE designs common to the Pueblo Indians are works of art in themselves. They are frequently geometric. The pottery is also thinner than most othern motterv.

The pottery is also thinner than most other; pottery. There are numerous variations between the pottery of different tribes. The pices from the Santa Clara pueblo are generally thicker than those of Acoma. "The Santa Clara pottery has to be thicker because the Indians frequently carve designs in the pieces," said Beser. "Most of the work from this area is done in black or red clay and has a shiny surface." Artifacts also imports pottery from the Islata Indians. One potter they deal with has work displayed in the Smithsonian Institution.

Although most of their Although most of their Although most of their potters are also and the simple properties and their potter they deal with has work displayed in the Smithsonian Institution.

that are signed. Some of the potters institution. Institution the potter is made on a wheel."

Most of the pices are made by a coil method, strips of clay are wound into a particular shape and then the entire piece is smoothed out.

ble with any kind of inte-rior design."

A lot of the pottery is, made in the form of planters. Beser presently has a large selection of planters from Ecuador stored in her family

FACES OR ANIMALS are carved on the front of the Ecuadorian planters. Each one has its own personality and style. "No .two pieces are alike, but they all have a pre-Columbian flare," said Beser. "The terracotta clay figures are fired in two tones, both shiny and dull." Part of their charm is the exaggerated features

in the design.

The average price of the platters is \$8.514, based of the size. Baskets are also popular items now. Artifacts carries all sizes and shapes. Beser is able to differentiate the baskets of various countries by the material-from which they're woven.

There are two types of baskets that come from Morocco. The ones made from reed are a tignity wowfe, fine material and the others are made from Palm and are made from Palm and are suffered to the plant of the pl

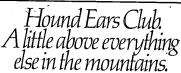
a thicker variety," said Beser.
"Countries use what-ever resources are avail-able to them," she added.
"For instance, most of

deep brown color with a place in my house," said red cast. Not only are all of the safety of the saf

the top.

"We try to represent baskets from all over the baskets from all over the baskets from all over the world," said Beser. "Most of th pieces will fit in any house."

If questions come up about the way certain pieces match particular furnishings or decors, the





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Ecuador sends Articfacts a wide variety of these terra cotta fig-ures. They are fired in dull or shiny tones. These primitive art forms have a pre-Colombian flare. (Staff photos by Stephen Cantrell)









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