

RETIRED PLYMOUTH COUPLE 'BUSIER THAN EVER'

By CAROL KATZ

For Steve Veresh and his wife, Mary Ann, of Plymouth, life has always been a full to the brim experience. And now that they have reached the retirement years, it is even busier than ever.

The ranch style home which they built by hand over 20 years ago, functions as their center. It is in the garage that many of their artistic creations are born: here Mary Ann hangs and dries flowers and Steve collects a variety of objects which are later preserved in clear plastic and sold at art shows and exhibits.

A FORMER CLAY MODELER at Ford Motor Company, Steve retired 3½ years ago at age 56. He's been busily pursuing a variety of interests ever since.

Although he began experimenting in plastic about 20 years ago, it wasn't until recently that he gained mastery of the technique of preserving objects in molded shapes of lucite, a process not unlike creating a jello mold.

Inside the plastic cubes, rectangles and domes are a variety of objects, which Mary Ann arranges in artistic fashion. Dried flowers, butterflies, peacock feathers, miniature groupings of twigs and leaves are



STEVE AND MARY ANN VERESH display some of the plastic forms he makes which Mary Ann fills in artistic fashion, generally with materials from nature. (Evert photo)

some of the materials from nature that the Vereshes use.

Captured within a cube of clear lucite, the most ordinary sight -- even a common household -- takes on a special importance. The observer is made to examine nature more closely than he normally would, and its beauty, strangeness and sym-

metry are dramatized and preserved forever within the specially molded shapes.

The Vereshes do not work only with natural objects, however. Some of their most arresting creations are intricate pieces from old watches whose delicacy and detail is set off very effectively within the lucite. They've even arranged rusty nails within one of their plastic designs.

Their work, which they exhibit at the Gallerie 12 in Plymouth and have taken to the Ann Arbor Art Fair, the Danish Festival in Greenville and the Plymouth Fall Festival, now supports itself.

OUTSIDE OF LUCITE, they're both interested in painting in watercolors and oil, and have taken classes in this direction. Steve looks ahead to sculpting in wood, and he's gone to Toledo for special instruction in the craft of glass blowing.

land ("It'll be another place for us to visit," says Mary Ann) has done weaving and macrame work, some of which adorns her parents' home.

Son Stephen, a research chemist, does sculpture and jewelry making in his spare time. He's a member of the Scarab Club in Detroit.

THE VERESHES WORLD is not confined only to artistic endeavors. Steve still does some free lance clay modeling and finds time for sailboating and fishing.

His well cared for two acres of land occupies his skills as a landscaper and gardener.

"We're great followers of Ewell Gibbons, the natural food exponent," Mary Ann comments. They maintain an organic garden in which they grow leeks, chives, peppers, parsley and rhubarb.



MARY ANN with her work...

Traveling, too, is a highlight of their busy life together. They began traveling extensively seven years before Steve retired and have gone to an exotic variety of places throughout the world, from Istanbul to Pongo Pongo.

Separate bank accounts --one for saving, the other for traveling --allow them to pursue both endeavors to their satisfaction.

The Vereshes may be "retired" in the technical sense of the term, but their many interests, developed over a long span of time, have given their lives a rich fullness that many an employed person might well envy.

ONE OF THE SECRETS to their success lies in a wise use of time. They're conscious of not idling it away and try to run their household on a schedule that is flexible but consistent. "We have the same 24 hours a day as everyone else," explains Mary Ann.

For the Vereshes life offers a never ending range of possibilities, best summed up in a story that Steve likes to tell about Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President of the United States.

"When asked if he played the violin," relates Steve, "he replied simply, 'I don't know, I haven't tried it yet.'

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