

# Pottery families share divergent beliefs

By BY BRIENMAN

The Glucks and the Wurtzbachers, two Farmington families, have made the city one of the busiest pottery centers in Michigan. Their divergent philosophies have made the craft more challenging and interesting.

The Wurtzbachers make pottery a family affair. It began with Ed Wurtzbacher who bought a building from a blacksmith in 1911 on Grand River and Eight Mile. He opened a little grocery store, which he later converted into a variety store as a 40-year-old. He ran a little pottery business in his garage.

In 1963 his son Ed Jr. went into the pottery business. Today, he believes pride and satisfaction can be had in production.

"It is 90 per cent pride. It used to be 100 per cent because workers didn't have such terrific pressure," he said. "People wanted to have pottery glazed. Now the demand is for rough pottery, like the old type made in the late 1700s. They are trying to get away from everyday cares and put a little nostalgia in the house. It gives them a more restful feeling."

"MY FATHER died when he was 81, but the tradition goes on," said Wurtzbacher. "The eight grand children are in their early teens and are very interested in helping and unloading the truck as we and our parents did. Pottery is in their blood," said Wurtzbacher, who prefers to be called by his nickname, "Babe."

Some of the pottery moves faster than others. "When it comes to sales, eagles have been real big for 30 years. Owls have been coming up for the last few years. A breadbasket made out of clay is the best buy today."

"We don't take special orders. It takes away from production. We get an art lamp, but we wouldn't do it even if the customer is willing to pay for the mold. It is just too time consuming."

Popular statuary are of W.C. Fields, Laurel and Hardy and Mae West, he said. Other big items are Astec calendar wall plates, picking crocks and regular crocks.

"We sell them to the pizza places. They make sauce and mix their dough in them."

Wurtzbacher grew up in Farmington and went to school in Clarenceville. His wife Pat and their children help out in the business. The oldest, 18-year-old Ed, says working with pottery is spellbinding.

"All articles can be decorated with any kind of paint or stain. It's fascinating. We aren't confined to the same design. We let our imagination go rampant," he says.

JOHN GLICK concentrates on functional pottery. A graduate of Cranbrook Art Academy, he has a masters degree in ceramics. He came to Farmington 10 years ago, buying a farm and building a house and barn.

"It's just too simple to make a teapot," he said. "It's different than any other potterman. I don't copy anyone. I use my own imagination. I couldn't be satisfied in 1975 trying to copy 18th century pottery from Japan. There will be plenty of people to praise you for duplicating an historical accessory, but I don't feel that way."

"The satisfaction aspect for me has totally to do with my private daily encounters and my excitement has to do with discoveries I make, like the texture, design and shape that are especially pleasing."

Sometimes he spends hours creating a design. All of his current pottery is done on two foot-operated pottery wheels, one electric and one, a potter's kiln which he built. It's fired with propane gas.

"I'M NOT A factory. I'm not in the production business. I don't take orders," said Glick, who sells his works through art galleries.

He has a waiting list of five years for dinner sets. Since his work is personalized, it takes a long time.

He says creativity and pride come before economical benefits. He has been writing a book about his philosophy.

"I'm emphasizing a philosophy of honesty in artistry. I'm trying to stress the art of surviving economically through dedication in the art of pottery. The quality of work sort of disappears in numbers," he said. "One of the reasons I'm writing the book is to encourage people not to do pottery by numbers and lose themselves in the process."

Glick said many of his students feel they must do cheap work and sell in quantity to make a living. In the meantime they don't develop into good artists, he said. Customers, at the same time, become accustomed to cheap work.

"The customer is so used and immune that when better work is introduced, he becomes shocked because of the higher price. I suggest to young students to make sure that they like pottery work and then I advise them how to fulfill themselves artistically and economically," he says.

"People like to buy craft and they can afford it. I love doing it. I really consider the art of pottery a treasure."



John Glick pushes a rack of his dishes into the corner after finishing a day's work. Glick believes pottery should be made for functional use.

## Achievers attend national meeting

86 Farmington youths are back from a week long national conference of Junior Achievers held on the campus of Indiana University.

The convention, which drew more than 2,700 JA members from across the country, featured a series of seminars for Achievers to compare experiences as business entrepreneurs and to discuss the energy crisis, government regulation of business and consumerism.

Local young people there were Marypat, Michelle and Rosemary Abowd of Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills; Kathy Czajkowski of Edythe Street, Farmington Hills; Donna Gurdie of Quaker Valley Drive, Farmington Hills, and Sharyn Thompson of Brookdale Drive, Farmington.



North Farmington High School junior varsity cheerleading squad warms up for the coming season. They are: Peggy Coleman (middle row, from left), Joanna Wright and Karen Clincher; (bottom row, from left) Captain, Sue Carney, Kimm Moore, Peggy Greet and Jan Falls.

## Conway is bank officer

Stephen M. Conway of Farmington Hills, who joined Detroit Bank and Trust as a co-op student in 1968, has been promoted to assistant vice president.

Conway is a member of the national division of the bank's commercial bank department.

He was a student at the University

of Michigan Dearborn campus when he went to work for DBT in its credit department. He subsequently became assistant manager of the credit department, commercial loan officer and assistant cashier.

His professional memberships include the Economic Club of Detroit, American Bankers Association and the Detroit Club.



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## Miss Sinacola wins Mercy scholarship

Rosanne Sinacola has won the President's Council scholarship for the 1975-76 academic year at Mercy College. The announcement was made by Dr. Milton K. Snyder, academic dean of the college.

Miss Sinacola, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marjo Sinacola, of Woodfarm Drive in Northville, is a senior nursing student at Mercy.

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