



FOUNDRY OPERATOR Leo Keleher is an artisan who believes that to work with hands, applying industry and skill is to enjoy what life is all about. In his foundry workshop in Guelph he reproduces much of the artistry of the past in aluminum castings. Seen are the operations of the unique craftsman as he completes an article. 1. Heats liquid in a crucible on a special oil furnace; 2. sets a pattern or casting on a fallow board over which a two-piece box is placed; 3. sand is riddled in and rammed until packed solidly so mould is well crammed with no breaks for liquid running out; 4. top of box is lifted off with mould inside

after which second part of box is lifted off and metal runs punched in the sand so that, with patterns out, liquid will flow in; 5. box with packed sand mould attached is replaced and aluminum poured into mould; 6. a series of moulds are seen set and cooling; 7. after cooling, sand is removed and part of a flower urn is completed ready to be added to a base; 8. shows the completed product on which elegant arms will be attached; 9. photographs of various items re-produced at the Keleher Foundry are only a few of those which encourage customers to come from distances.



Ancient artisan skills used at Leo Keleher's foundry

Leo Keleher is an unusual man. In an era when everyone else is looking for the easy way out he holds to the belief that pure, man-made craftsmanship, provides the best workmanship. On that basis he owns and operates one of the last foundries of its type, Keleher's Foundry, in an old building close to the outer perimeters of Guelph on Victoria Rd.

To Mr. Keleher, working with his hands is a way of life. For the last 25 years he has conducted the business that requires ingenuity, artistry, and solid slugging to reproduce exquisite designs of the past, revamp ideas of the present, and innovate to satisfy specialized customer requests.

A foundry worker all his life, Leo Keleher inherited the business from his father. Everything from trivets, old fashioned switch plates, handsome planters, and all types of traditional wall and ceiling fixtures evolve from the skills of the amazing foundry man. Customers come from many parts of

Ontario including interior decorators and architects, to put in orders for items not available in other stores.

150 years ago Mr. Keleher says his method of creating is not unique but the same as applied by foundry men over 150 years ago. He says his technique has had to change however. Originally an iron foundry with all items made in that metal, the Keleher Foundry was forced to use aluminum because of pollution control laws established approximately five years ago.

Today the genial gentleman can see merits in the newer material and explains it is lighter to handle, doesn't rust the same way, is less expensive to operate, and easier to manipulate. At one time the moulds for iron work absorbed a great deal of sand and daily supplies were required to be brought in from Michigan or Albany, New York. Today, with aluminum, new sand is required only on a weekly basis.

The vintage building in which business is conducted has been standing since the area was nothing more than a field with no other buildings in view. "It was built years ago when lots were being sold for twenty-five bucks apiece," said an informed visitor at the foundry who drops in occasionally to see what new things are being produced and find out what is happening in the district.

Dying trade Mr. Keleher is concerned that his trade is dying out. He feels that, with modern-day mechanism, the personal touch is gone. "With it, the craftsmanship where a man can be proud of his accomplishment and feel he's done a worthwhile day's work."

Old fashioned hitching posts, once a necessity of the past, are made for customers trying to revive some of the 1800 aesthetics. Century wall candle holders and scrolled door hinges with beautiful old English figure scenes are also part of the Keleher pattern

collections. "Just bring me a pattern or casting and we can reproduce it," says the man who has procured many of his designs after careful research, delving and hard hanting.

Even elegant garden sets are assembled, afterwards painted in whites or blacks, true replicas of originals which would be difficult to distinguish.

Trade dying out? Mr. Keleher can't keep up on production demands. Business is such that smoke from his melting furnace continues to belch from Monday to Saturday. The men he employs enjoy his easy attitude, the employer-friend relationship he has established is also a quality of the past. None of the artisan's five sons are interested in carrying on his rare trade but Leo Keleher hopes that perhaps some of his employees will see the value and apply his appeal for hand-made things to set up foundries of their own.



Sally Ann busy group

A report filed with Halton Regional Council recently shows the Salvation Army in Halton had an active year in 1973. According to the report

two boys or 314 days of care were provided at the House of Concord. Four unwed mothers were cared for a total of 377 days at an expense

of about \$3,100.

Thirty-eight welfare families received assistance at Christmas

Provincial budget worth \$1,600,000

The provincial budget released last week in the legislature provides substantial grant increases for Halton Region.

Regional treasurer Don Farmer said the grants would improve Halton's position by \$1,600,000 over what it would have received if it were a region last year.

The region will receive substantial grants over and above the \$1,600,000 because of the transition from county to regional status.

Depends on levies Farmer said the \$1,600,000 would be shared by the area municipalities and the region. The amounts each receives will depend on the 1974 levies. General per capita grants jump from \$8 to \$9 while police grants jump from \$5 to \$7

per capita and stabilization grants were increased as well.

Milton Treasurer Don Lougheed said the provincial budget had provisions that would go a long way towards stabilizing the mill rate in Milton.

He noted the town would share a percentage of what is given to the region as well as other grants directed to the towns.

He said the town was seeking more information on the budget as it affects library boards and start-up grants.

Speculators taxed One of the key features of the budget is the speculation tax. In order to stabilize the price of the land the province slapped a 50 percent tax on

the increase in value realized on the sale of designated land.

"The speculation tax is designed to bear most heavily on owners of land and properties which are purchased and resold without real value being added," the budget explained.

This tax will not apply to the principal residence or the principal recreation home.

Canvass on for cancer

Acton chairman of the canvass for the Canadian Cancer Society, Anne Usher, says that 25 captains are

heading up the local campaign which began Apr. 1 but will not be completed for another two weeks.

Industries, businesses, and residents have all been alerted, according to the chairman who feels that response will be comparable to that of other years. "Cancer can be beaten," is the message from the C.C.S. with early diagnosis their theory as the key to the cure. Acton residents not already contacted should be on the look-out for canvassers

Annual meeting Friday

Tories say press not fair

Halton West Tories will use their annual meeting Friday night to correct what they feel is unfair newspaper stories and editorials.

Halton West MPP George

Kerr who is also Solicitor General will accompany Robert Welch, Secretary for Justice and Attorney General at that meeting.

Welch will be the guest speaker and his address is based on "The future is people"

In a news release Ernie Lee, a member of the association said the Davis Government and individuals in it have been subjected to headline stories and editorials that are at best unfair to them.

Not acceptable "In the field of investigative journalism, influence and innuendo are not acceptable substitutes for hard facts. All too often in recent months Canadians have been subjected to examples of the press exaggerating stories out of all proportion in order to justify sensational headlines.

"These hard facts are going to be made available when Burlington's elected representative George Kerr and Lincoln MPP Robert Welch speak and answer questions," according to Lee.



ROBERT WELCH

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