



THE FINISHED PRODUCTS are held proudly by Bill, right, and Al. The pair hope to exhibit and sell their wares at a special show soon at the Farmhouse Pottery.

### Farmhouse Pottery

## Dream becomes a reality for two Erin twp. potters

by John Harris  
Biggest thrill for any craft-person is to hold a completed project in his or her hands that was once no more than an idea.  
For Bill Reddick and Al Pace, owners and operators of the Farmhouse Pottery on Five Sideroad, Erin Township, the idea was to build their own kiln and produce their own pottery. The idea became reality three weeks ago when they removed the fruits of six weeks of hard work from their own hand made kiln.  
The handthrown stoneware and porcelain Bill and Al produce is good by any standard, but what makes it most satisfying for them is knowing they control the whole process. There's no paycheck at the end of the week and no guarantee that their kiln

won't fall apart due to some defect they were unaware of, but when things go right, these factors only add to the feeling of accomplishment.  
"After building the kiln, we spent six days throwing pottery to fill it," said Al. "When it came time to put everything on the line and fire those pots we stayed up all night babysitting the kiln. We didn't even know if the thing was going to work. It was a very moving moment when we opened the door and took our first pots out."  
Al, from London, and Bill, from Toronto, met when they attended Lakefield near Peterborough, together. They studied the art of pottery making for two years under Lakefield teacher Richard Hayman, a former studio craftsman.  
In June of this year, when

few students were busy selecting universities, Bill and Al decided to take a couple of years away from their studies and open their own business. Their first crack at achieving financial self-sufficiency got off on the right foot when they sold \$500 worth of pottery to their classmates in an hour and a half, on the final day of school last June.  
"We've been working under a good sign ever since," said Bill. "It's only been six weeks since we began this project and it looks like we'll be in good shape for the Christmas buying season. Everything has fallen into place. By all rights, the failure of the kiln should have been our first mishap, but it wasn't."  
The kiln, valued at over \$3,000 represented their single largest investment.

But other expenses, including tools, clay, shelving and glazes add to the bill. The cost of propane alone, averages \$35 for every firing of the kiln.  
A sizeable loan was needed to finance the operation and getting everything right the first time was a must if Farmhouse Pottery was to become a reality.  
"If the kiln didn't work it was back to square one and probably we'd be doing something else right now," said Bill. "Christmas means everything to potters."  
Bill and Al will be marketing their wares in local gift and craft shops and hope to display some of their finer pieces in places like libraries.  
In a few weeks time, once they are well underway, they would like to invite students to tour their premises and plan a show and sale for sometime in December.  
The most difficult, though sometimes amusing task for Al and Bill is putting a price tag on their work. Currently the only system they've been able to devise for pricing a pot is to charge the same as a comparable work for sale elsewhere.  
"How do you put a price on something you've spent a lot of time on and an even longer time learning how to create," asks Bill. "It gets to be a very arbitrary process. Sometimes we find we don't even want to part with something after it's made. The only thing we can hope for is that it will please someone and find a good home."  
—Photos by Ian Waite



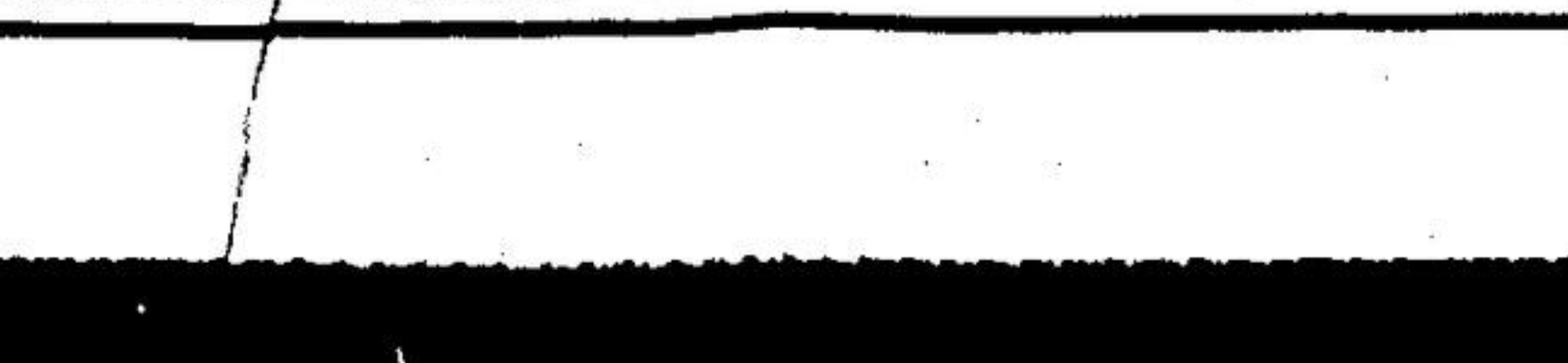
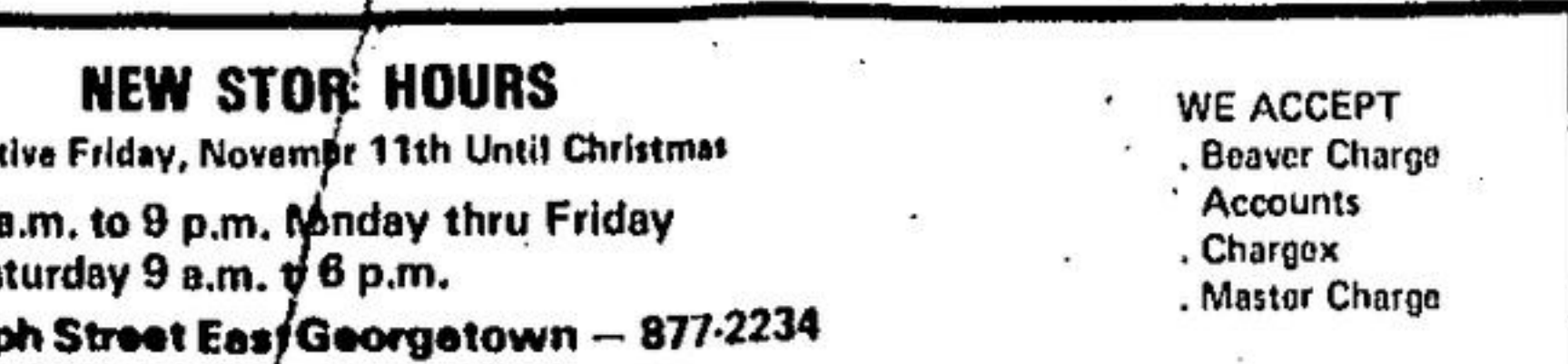
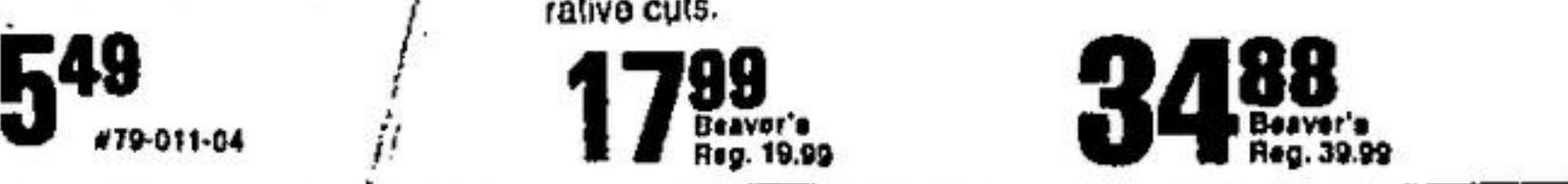
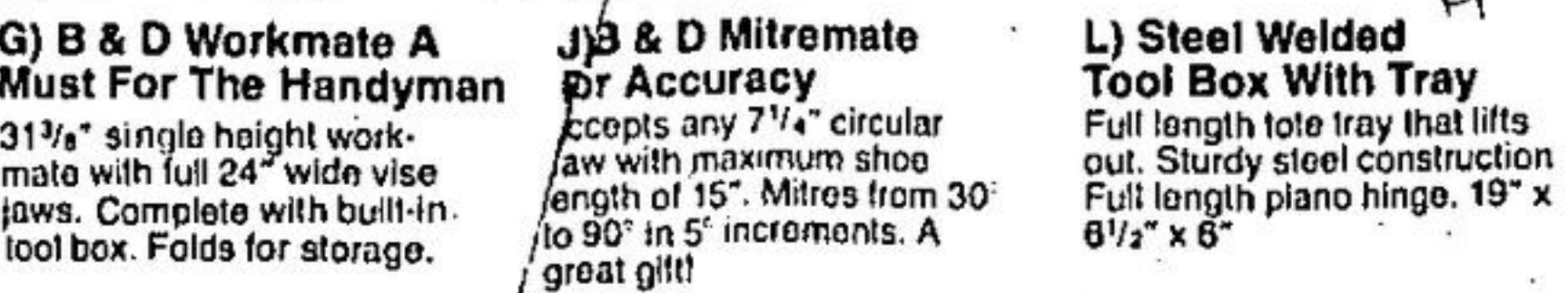
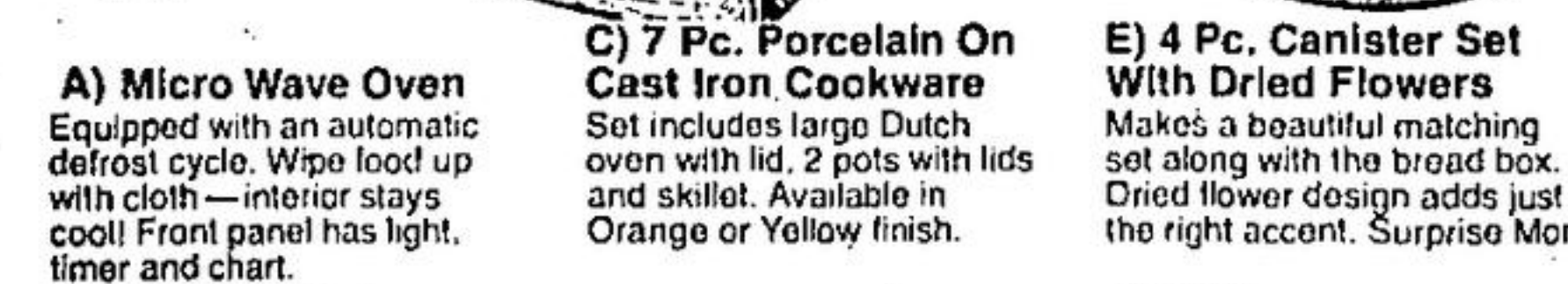
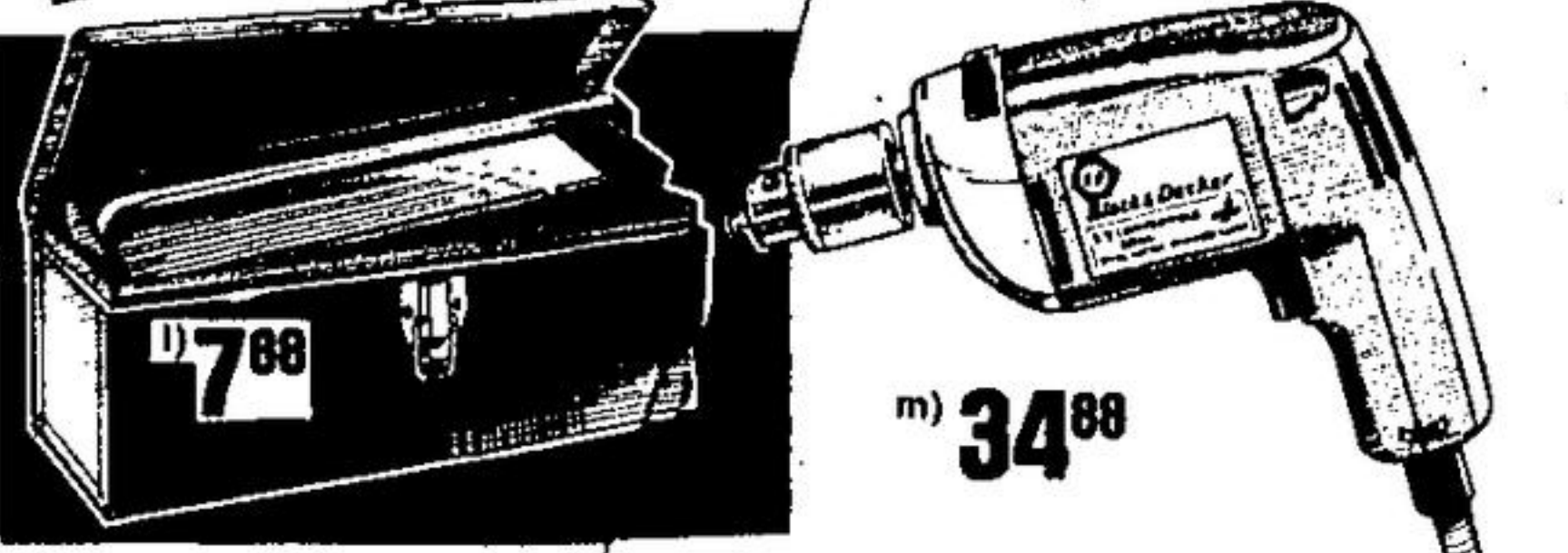
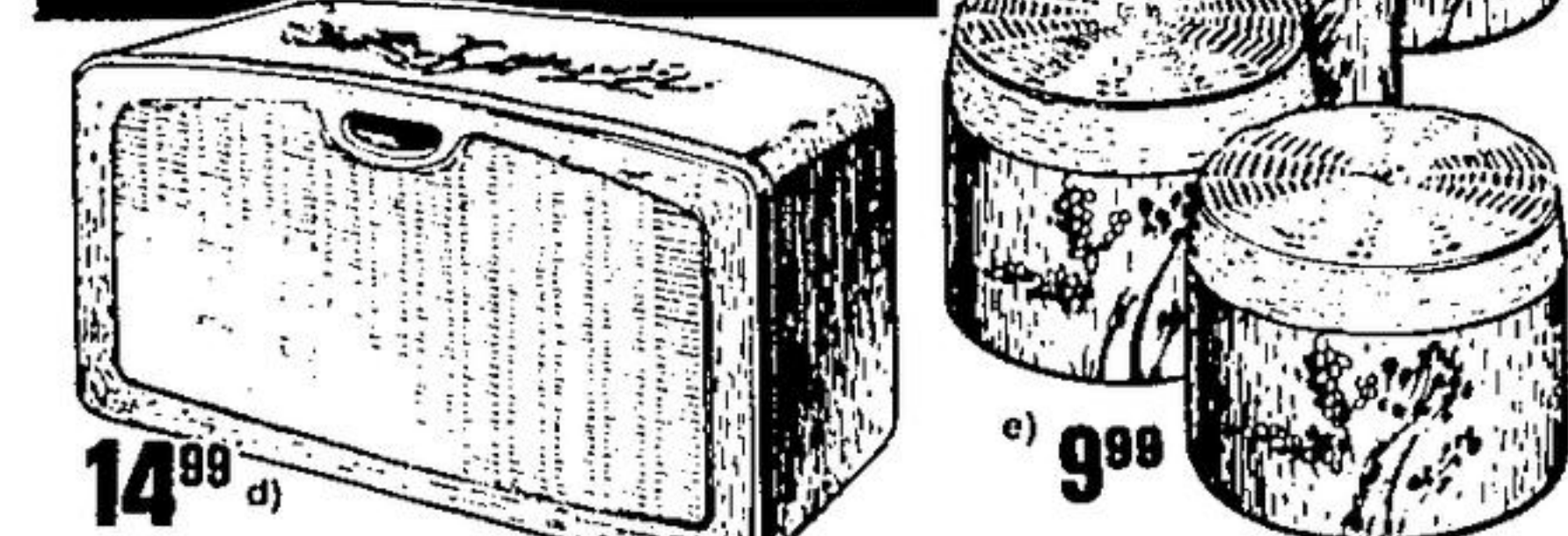
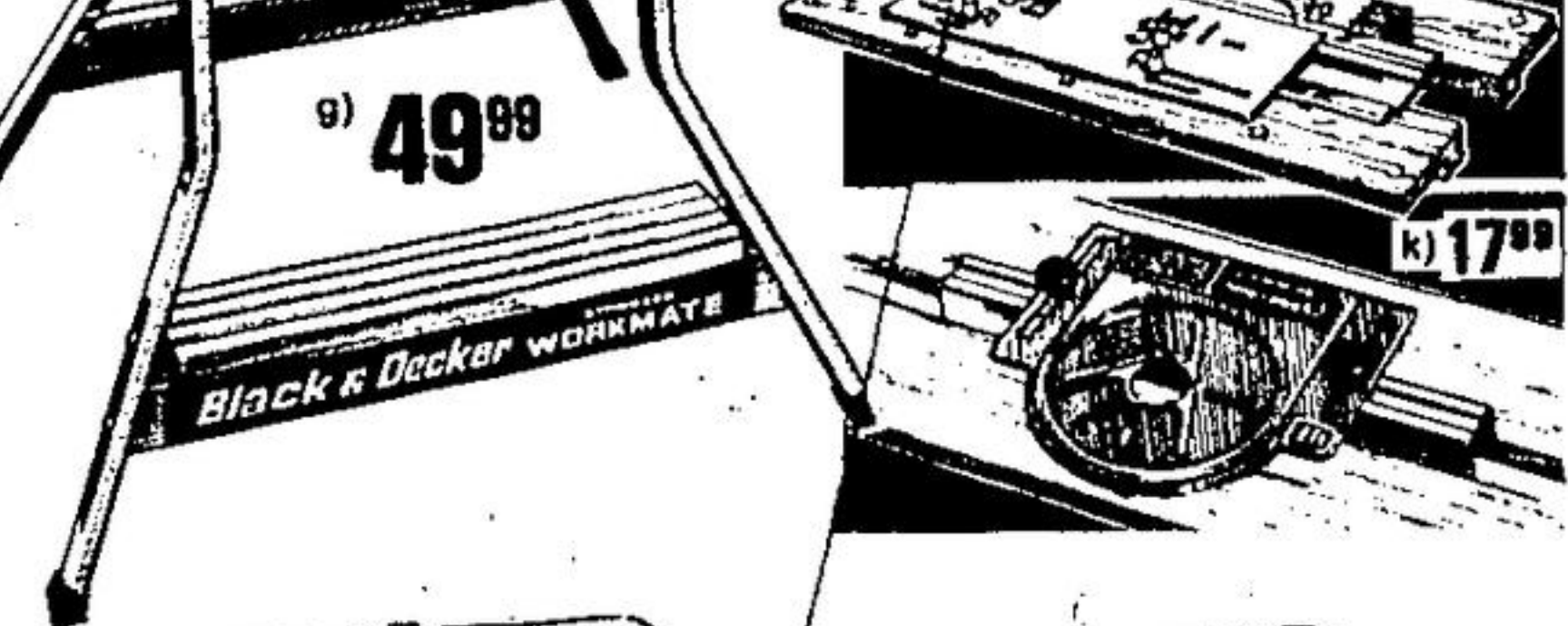
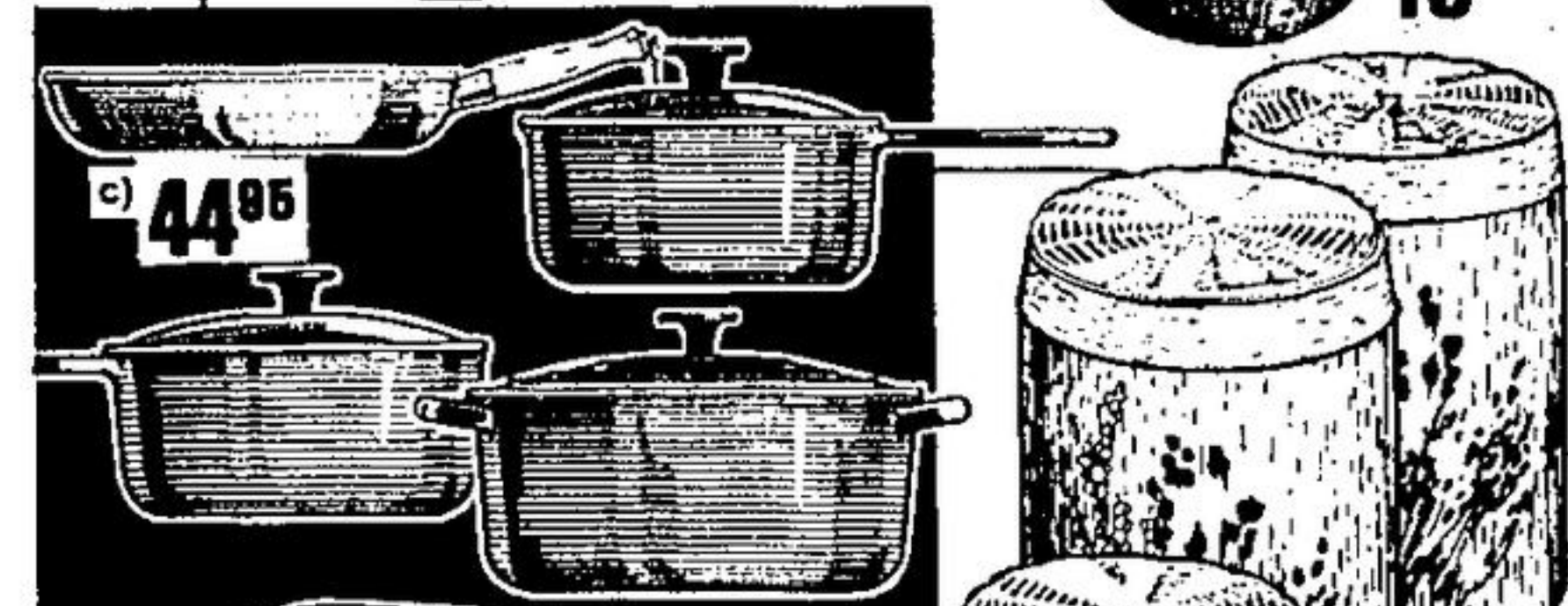
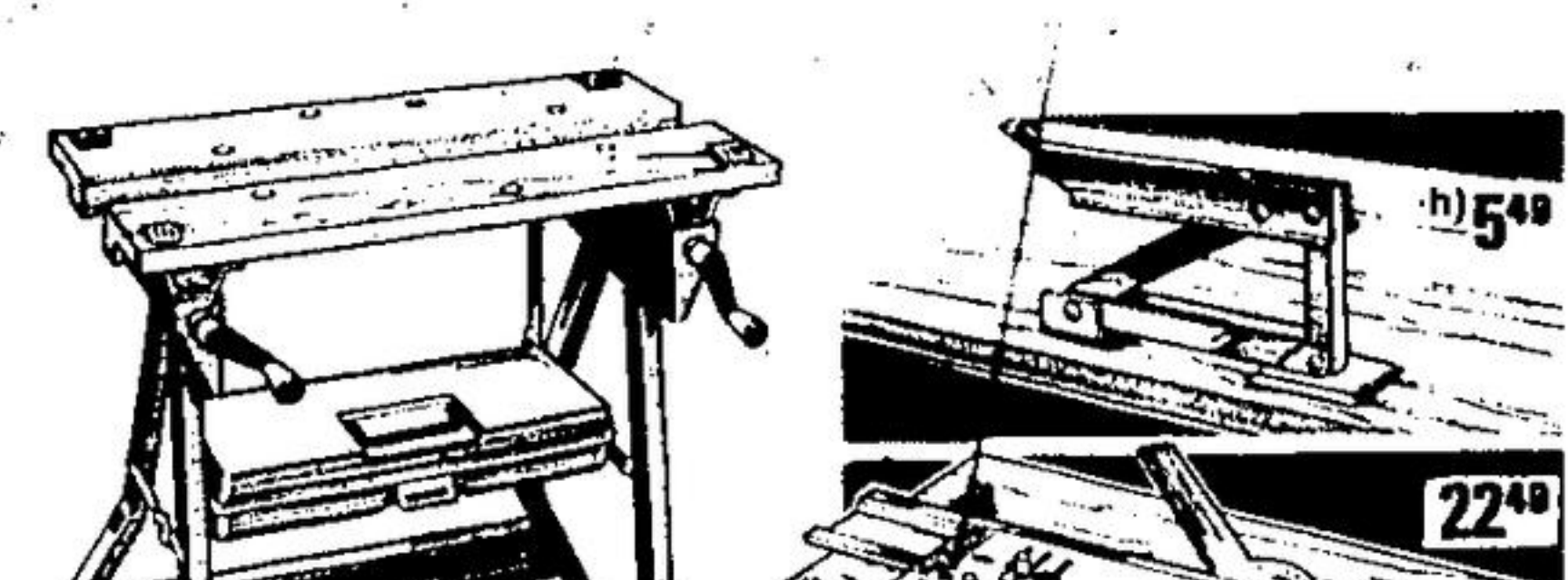
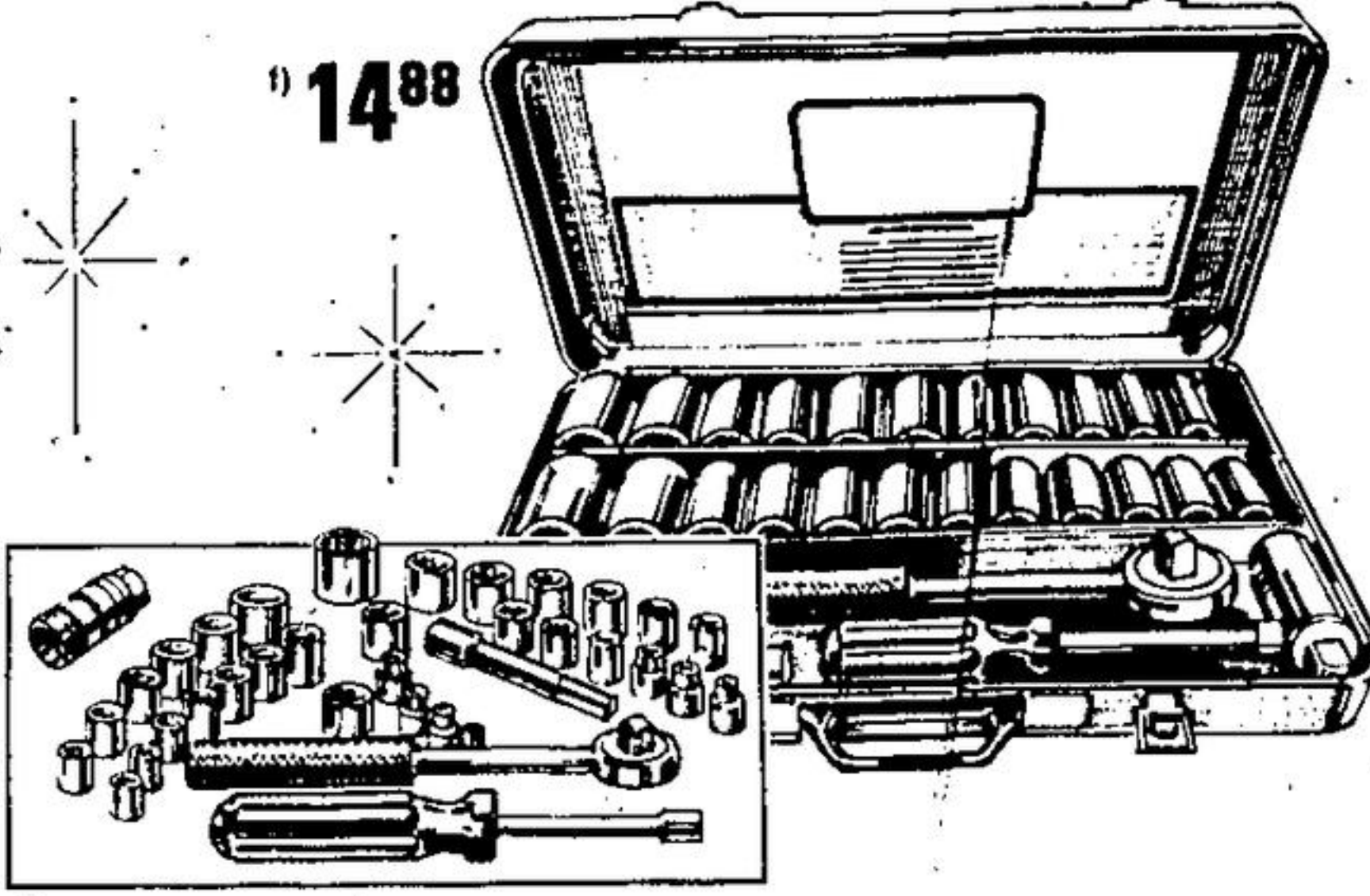
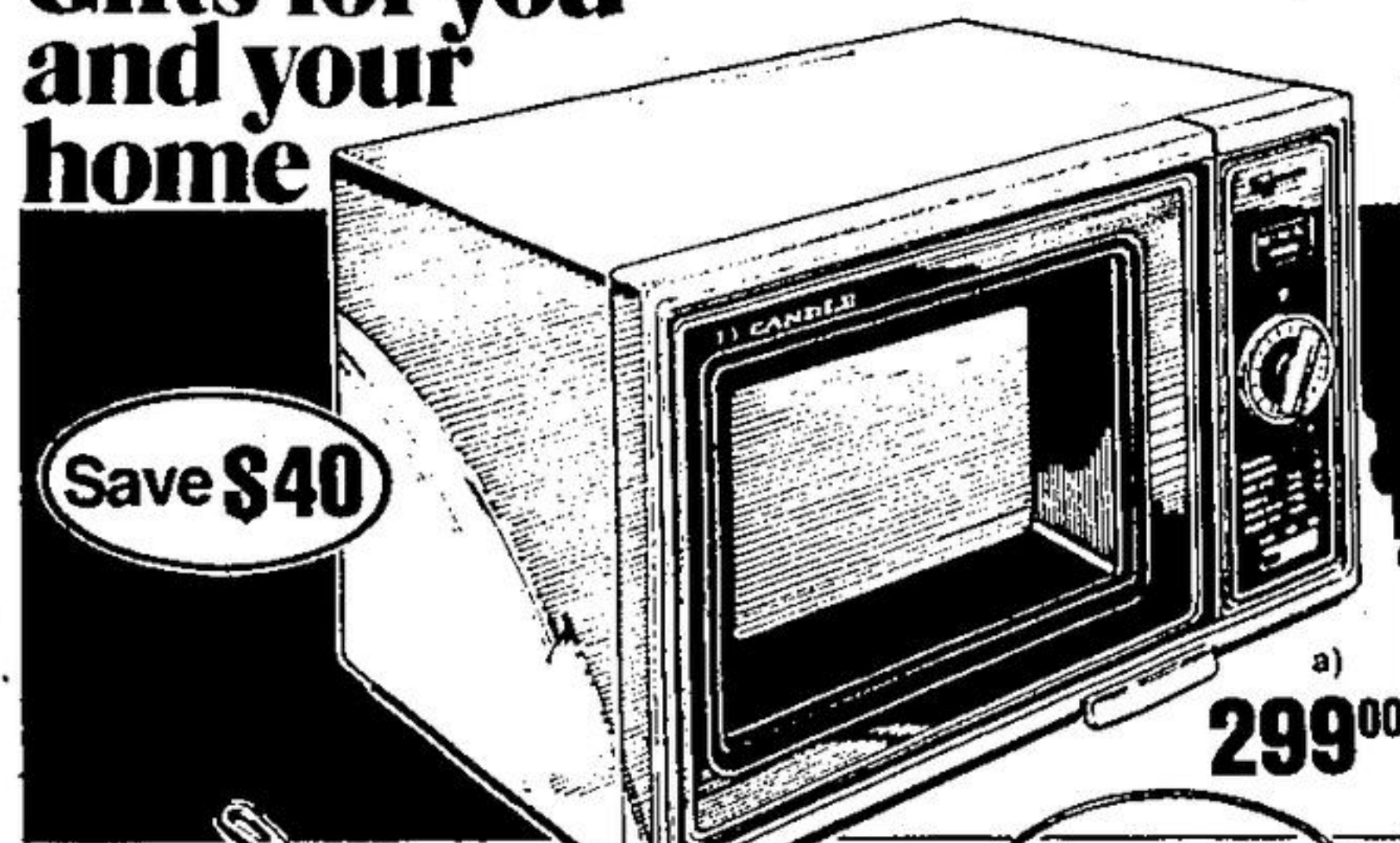
SURROUNDED by pottery, Bill Reddick works at the wheel. Bill and Al Pace spend six days a week throwing pottery to fill their kiln before each firing.

—Courtesy of The Erin Advocate.

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## Career action program

"Good help is hard to come by" is an old proverb that is fast becoming extinct throughout the halls of Sheridan College.  
For the second year in a row, Sheridan is giving unemployed persons between the ages of 16 and 24 who have left the educational system a chance to develop practical, marketable skills through on-the-job training.  
To qualify, the trainees must not have worked full-time at their chosen career. The majority have never held a full-time position of any kind.

"OCAP gives them an opportunity to try out a career and get some experience under their belts," explains Cliff Noble, co-ordinator of the Sheridan program.  
In return, the college gets 26 weeks of productive labor from each trainee—all paid for by the province. This year alone, OCAP trainees at Sheridan have put in eight to 10 man-years in labor.  
They may be involved in regular work tasks or in special projects but all are necessary jobs that need to be done. "This is not a make-work program," stresses

Noble. "These are things that need to be done but aren't because we just don't have the manpower or the funds."  
Sheridan has put OCAP trainees to work in a wide variety of positions at almost every campus, from plant maintenance and general office work to statistical surveying and social research.  
Special projects have included a study on how college resources might be used to improve multi-cultural relations in the community; a research study to determine the practicality of building a sports complex at the Oakville Campus; and a statistical survey of 1976-77 full-time students comparing their college academic performance to their high school marks.

During a 26-week training program, each trainee is paid a salary of \$100 a week and receives regular counselling and performance evaluation.

They are also encouraged to actively seek permanent employment and are allowed time off work for job interviews. The results have been a decided success. "We had 12 trainees last year, we have 21 this year and I don't know of any who are now unemployed," said Noble.

The response from Sheridan staff and faculty has been just as positive. "They're doing an excellent job," says one. "I don't know how we'd ever survive without OCAP," claims another.

College personnel have been so pleased with the program that they've even hired on two trainees full-time—one now works in the Oakville Campus mailroom and the other works in the office of the Burlington Campus.

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### ADAPT

The second annual meeting of the Halton Alcoholism Drug Addiction Program (Adapt) will be held on Monday, Dec. 12 in the classroom at Milton District Hospital at 8 p.m. The public is welcome.

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