

Halton Hills Arts Council



Bev de Jong spends her time working with metal at the Forge Gallery in Terra Cotta. She does a number of pieces strictly by commission, but enjoys the freedom also of working on items just for herself. (Herald photo)

Metalsmith dislikes the 'artist' label

In an age of specialization Beverly de Jong is one artist, craftsman, teacher, philosopher, who does not like to classify herself.

"I'm anything I want to be," she said. She is as proud of her art work as she is of her crafts. The Terra Cotta resident believes crafts will soon be as accepted by art lovers as much as traditional art is, and that one day crafts with a use other than display will receive that same recognition.

Mrs. de Jong is a metalsmith who has worked out of Terra Cotta's Forge Studio for the last seven years. Her home is across the street from the Forge.

Her studio is on the second floor of the Forge which she shares with painter Gretchen Day, Roberta Burrows, who works in stained glass, is on the first floor. One can see these artists at work between 1 and 6 p.m. Sundays. Mrs. de Jong said she is not always in on Saturday, but you may find her there on the occasion.

After 20 years of working with metal, she has experimented with different styles but has not been limited by only one. Some work stresses form, another process and then there is her conceptual work.

People's attitudes toward crafts and people who work with their hands is changing as more and more people find themselves in jobs that do not require physical labor, she said. Once society accepts physical labor as much as intellectual labor, crafts will be accepted as much as other artistic media, she added.

Her work can be bought for between \$40 and \$4,000. Gold, silver, bronze and copper are the materials she uses most. And of those, silver is her favorite. "It moves so beautifully," she said.

Much of her work is commission work. "I really enjoy making things customers like and I like," she said. Too much commission work can be stifling so Mrs. de Jong enjoys taking a break from commission work now and again to work on a more personal project.

They may not sell as well or at all,

she admits, but they are not made without recognition. Mrs. de Jong's work has appeared in art and craft shows all over North America.

Most recently her work appeared in the Ontario Craft Council's 10th Anniversary show called Mentor's Choice. A Canadian Craftsman of the Year, Lois Betteridge, nominated Mrs. de Jong's work for that exhibition.

The Ontario Craft Council wants Mrs. de Jong's work in their collection. That project will probably be part of the Council's next budget. "It's fantastic. Really, really good news. I can do just what I want and not have to worry about the cost of materials," she said.

Mrs. de Jong is also trying to get her design for the winter Olympic medal accepted. And she has applied to one of eight craftsmen from across the country to represent Canada in the Olympic Festival of Arts.

Life is very busy for the artist who has children, 1 1/2 years old and the other three years old, plus a husband she doesn't get to see much. "Children need one if not two main people around during the first two years of their development," she said.

Mr. de Jong runs the only Canadian company, SKB Industries of Brampton, that designs and manufactures fork lift trucks. And when he is home to take his shift with the children Mrs. de Jong goes across the street to do some evening work at the Forge.

"We're used to working that way (apart)," she said. The de Jongs are from Alberta where Mrs. de Jong learned her trade. She graduated from the Alberta College of Art in 1967 and worked there for eight years.

While at the college she was responsible for setting up the metalsmith department, she said. She also began work on an MA in metalsmithing at a school outside of Detroit and has taught at Sheridan College.

They all scream for ice cream

By LISA LATCHFORD
Herald Special

The hot hazy days of summer are a perfect time for a cool, refreshing dish of ice cream. Although summer hasn't officially arrived, the Georgetown District High School students couldn't wait to dig into the ice cream.

Last Thursday a ice cream eating pig-out contest was held. The pig-out, which was tied into the magazine campaign, was held in the cafe during lunch periods. Even candidates for council positions participated.

Speaking of students council, all ballots have been cast. All candidates ran an excellent race but unfortunately only one person can be elected to each position. The final results are as follows: President Debbie Pentesco, Senior Vice-President Lisa Walters, Junior Vice-President Vicki Hughes, Treasurer Cindy Murnaghan, and Secretary Stephanie Seiber.

Stephanie Seiber has been very busy of late. Not only has she been elected Secretary but she

represented the school in the University of Waterloo French contest. Stephanie did an excellent job and on behalf of the school I congratulate her.

French isn't the only language offered by the school. Students can take German if they wish. Not only will they learn the language, they'll experience it. The Grade 12 German class was taken to the Bavarian Inn by teacher Miss Campbell for dinner. Miss Campbell feels that part of a language course is to learn about the culture of the country whose language is being studied. The students were required to order in German to practise their speaking skills.

The owner of the Inn provided the party of 16 with a special menu consisting of a choice of four dishes, soup and-or salad and trifles for dessert. The meal was an approximate cost of \$13 which is an excellent price.

As the pace of things pick up so does the students' excitement about summer vacation.

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Search for Sun a multi-media event

By BOB TADMAN
Herald Special

In the fall of 1984, Open Door, in cooperation with the G.D.H.S. student council sponsored the presentation of In Search of a Sun, (Spectrum Productions) in a senior assembly.

In Search of a Sun is a three-screen, nine projector multi-image show combining 1500 visuals with a 50 minute sound track of pop, rock and new wave music. The show uses the analogy that we are like planets drifting through space until we find a sun to revolve around and live for.

The show explores six "suns" or goals people often choose to live for. In each case we are presented with both the attraction of that sun, and some dilemmas raised by making it our focus. Some of the "suns" looked at are: material possessions, sensual pleasure, partying and entertainment, real love and friendship, the pursuit of knowledge; and social-political causes.

The show does not promote certain values over others. Rather, using the lyrics of the songs that teens listen to, every day, it raises questions about what our values are based on and why and how we choose them. These questions provide a catalyst for discussion which the audience is left to wrestle with afterwards, usually with the assistance of a panel discussion.

In Search of a Sun was first produced under the Canada Summer Youth Employment Program in 1980. It has been revised and updated every two years since, to maintain its impact and cutting edge. Since then, well over 50,000 people have seen the show on some 80 campuses and 60 other events from Vancouver to Halifax.

In 1984, the response of the students and faculty was overwhelmingly positive:

"I felt this show was presented very well. At this point in my life, it is right on the point. It's good to know that others are feeling the same way. It brought out a lot of deep feelings."

"An excellent show. I agree with the idea that we are bombarded by sights sounds etc., around us. We all need to decide for ourselves what is right for us."

"Pretty decent! Awesome!" Age 16.



"I thought it was fantastic! It left everybody thinking and wondering about their lives and what is most important in the world. People should ask questions and try to understand what life is really about." Age 15.

"Good. Brought the point across clearly and constructively. Imaginative." Age 17.

On May 30 Open Door and GDHS Student Council are bringing back In Search of a Sun for another senior assembly. This time however, we are going to let the whole community in on the powerful and stimulating experience which this production provides.

Friday, May 30 at 7:30 p.m. In Search of a Sun will be shown in the school cafeteria with a sequel called Say It Isn't True. Between the two showings there will be a panel discussion to focus in on the questions and comments of the audience.

Say It Isn't True, which follows the panel discussion, uses the same multi-media format as In Search of a Sun, as an inquiry into faith. Again the concern is to raise questions which help us to explore the issue - the entire presentation provides a unique opportunity to enter the place where young people live. The show also provides an invaluable catalyst for discussion that can continue in homes and class rooms, long after.

Tickets for the evening show will go on sale May 26 and will be available through Open Door (located in St. George's Anglican Church), the Hope Chest on Wesleyan St., and Oxbow Books on Main St. S., Georgetown. For ticket orders and more information phone Bob Tadman or Mark Buttrey, 877-8044 (St. George's Church) Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Students who attend the school

New In Town?

Georgetown Newcomer's Club meets every third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is May 21st, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church, 89 Mountainview Rd. South.

The guest speaker is Clair Cole and she will give a presentation on scarf tying.

New members are welcome!

For more information call:

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