

# UNIONVILLE

News  
and  
Features



## Pottery - an ancient art

By Mark Niblett that there are interesting people in UNIONVILLE. It teresting people have its share.

One such person is Eva East, who has become a truism everywhere.

operates a pottery shop in her home west of Kennedy Road. The yard almost abuts on the back of Parkview School.

The shop has been running since August, and Mrs. East describes it as "quite busy".

"We get a lot of people here, on the weekends especially", she said.

Mrs. East, who has been making pottery since she was 16, moved to Unionville in May. Most of the work on display is her own, although some has been done by her young apprentice, David Baker. She denies having any particular style of work.

"I like to do both functional and sculptural pieces", she said.

There is a strong theme of "growing things" in much of Eva East's work. Flowers, buds, and so on recur in various pieces.

"I like to see people and meet people", she said, "that's one of the troubles with being a potter; you tend to shut yourself away and work without anybody around".

The work done by Mrs. East is called stoneware. It is fired in a kiln at very high temperatures; only porcelain requires

Eva East, of Unionville, (left), examines one of her more artistic efforts. Mrs. East combines style and functionality in almost all her pottery. Above, David Baker is learning the art of pottery from Eva East. He is shown at the potter's wheel, "throwing" a piece. —Mark Niblett.

more heat. The result is a smooth, hard finish.

It is difficult to draw a line between functional and sculptural work, because they share so much in common. Most of the sculptural pieces have at least a small practical use, even if it's only holding a few flowers; and most of the functional work is very attractive, simple in design and having rich, earthy colors.

Pitchers, mugs, casseroles, and other kitchenware items have a sort of built-in appeal. A series of flower baskets, which hang on rawhide thongs, are very popular.

Many of the pieces are glazed, and Mrs. East makes up her own glazes. She is a student of classical Chinese pottery which she considers "basic background" for potters. Among her possessions is a 900-year-old Chinese teapot.

Its interest lies not merely in its age or perfection - it is a "flawed" piece, which suffered an accident in the kiln; but in the fact that Western potters have only been able to produce similar pieces in the last 100 years.

"The Chinese were 800 years ahead of us", observes Mrs. East. Her apprentice, David Baker, has been making pottery for a year and expects to take another 5 years before he will be considered "good".

To the untrained eye, he looks pretty good right now. Starting with nothing but a round lump of clay, he places it on a wheel and eventually

turns out a vase. The dark-brown material moves and flows under his fingers, rising and falling and taking on patterns.

He explains that "Throwing", the process of bringing up a piece of clay, is one of the most difficult things to learn. Badly-thrown pottery is unbalanced, and has a poor "feel".

"People know good work when they see it", he said, "I don't like to sell anything unless I think it's good".

He talks as he works. The wheel hums smoothly and the lump of clay takes on shape and texture. Tools used in pottery are very simple; David maintains that the powered wheel which he uses is the only significant advance in centuries. Strong fingers are the main implements for shaping the clay; occasionally a small sponge or stick is used for defining an edge or cutting away excess material.

After a few minutes, almost magically, there's a finished vase sitting on the wheel. It now has to be dried and fired. It looks very attractive; but David shrugs.

"I'm not very good yet", he says, "it's a long learning process. But there's a great deal of satisfaction in learning to do a difficult thing, and doing it well".

David finds his work very satisfying.

"It's very soothing. If you get away from it for a while, you start to miss it".

It looks soothing, all right. The clay turns and the fingers smooth it, shape it. There's

## Young bowler rolls 879 in Junior League play

MARKHAM - Marc Furois, a Junior League bowler, recently rolled a very creditable 879. Playing in triples, he was with Stephen Goulet (635) and Jane McNamara (612). Lower scores showed in Single play, where Furois totalled 297 and Jane McNamara rolled 222.

Results of other play were as follows:

Emerson Electric - C. Booth, 667; B. Armstrong, 610; J. Harper, 609.

Monday Niters - D. Collinson, 726; St. Pat's - J. Featherstone, 795; B. Frechette, 745; E. Cripps, 711; J. Johnson, 705; P. Brunt, 694; J. Smith, 692.

Markham Mixed - A. Shaban, 756; K. Fields, 741; B. Walters, 713; J. Collett, 656.

Wednesday Ladies - F. Wilson, 650; B. Armstrong, 627; M. Taylor, 625; I. Adams, 622; P. Gough, 618.

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