

POTTER VISITS CAMPUS

By Donna Marie Bayer

Highacres was honored during the week of Feb. 3 with the presence of an accomplished potter, Nancy Ziegenfus. Ms. Ziegenfus spent the week giving informal demonstrations of her craft and displaying her work.

Ms. Ziegenfus has been working with pottery for two years. When asked why she so enjoys the craft she replied that she likes the feel of the clay. "I like to work with my hands," she said.

However, pottery is not the only form of art work in which Ms. Ziegenfus is interested. She is also interested in painting and sculpture and spoke with great authority on the subject of famous artists, photography and the emergence of art to what it is now.

Mr. Ziegenfus considers herself first and foremost a teacher. She gets great enjoyment from imparting her knowledge to others. She enjoys her craft. She considers herself a craftsperson rather than an artist--but feels no need to gain a lot of money through her craft.

Ms. Ziegenfus elaborated on the history of pottery-making, speaking on the technical advancement in the field. She noted the large amount of chemistry involved in pottery-making. Different clays need different temperatures to properly fuse, different chemicals cause varying shades in glazes, to name only a few examples.

Ms. Ziegenfus considers pottery one of the original crafts, science combined with craft and skill. She did note, however, that some people consider pottery a fine art. To explain this she noted that pottery that is designed for a specific function is a craft, while pottery which is designed for aesthetic value alone is a form of fine art.

The young lady noted that every potter and every pot are unique. She does not always end up with a piece exactly like the idea she had in mind. A

piece can change 1,000 times, she said, before she feels it is complete, and it may ultimately be nothing like the piece she began to make. She does not like to work on a set with matching pieces because of the great difficulty involved in forming similar pieces. She noted that she once threw 24 bowls to make a matching set of eight for her sister.

Ms. Ziegenfus' work was displayed and on sale in the Library for the week that she visited our campus.

Ms. Ziegenfus is returning to Highacres to display her work at the Fine Arts Festival to be held for the first time at Highacres this year over the weekend of May 9, 10, and 11.

Bicentennial Crafts

University Park--In connection with the Bicentennial observance, the Cooperative Extension Service at The Pennsylvania State University is conducting a survey of craftsmen in Pennsylvania for future craft development.

Craftsmen who make traditional, folk or contemporary crafts of quality, thereby contributing to Pennsylvania's cultural development, are asked to send a postcard with their name, address, telephone number and description of the craft they create to Miriam E. McGrew, 310 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, Pa. 16802.

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