

He creates

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face, can be fashioned into charming owl shaped lamps, turkeys, eagles, alligators, witches, and cats

Another gourd which can be transformed easily into figures such as a snowman or Santa Claus is the birdhouse gourd which supplies a smooth, round form

The dipper gourd can be used in combination with other gourds or by itself. Schneider has devised a ukulele from a

large dipper gourd. He used maple wood for the sounding board

Many of Schneider's creations have the addition of a music box mechanism to play an appropriate tune, such as an angel playing "Silent Night," or movable parts such as a turtle's tail or a groundhog's mouth or a monkey's head moving from side to side. All of these extra touches to the gourd crafts are evidences of Schneider's designing ingenuity and skill. The finished products are convincing in appearance and movement and each is all the more intriguing because it is made almost totally from gourds.

A time-consuming undertaking in Schneider's display was the locomotive he created for a friend who sent him a

photograph of a real locomotive. The train is made completely of pieces of gourds glued together to form the right shapes required for the wheels, the cow catcher, the cab and every other detail depicted on the photo.

Schneider did not let the Bicentennial year go by unnoticed. He did a great deal of research on the authentic outfitting of a group of figures he labels "Spirit of 1776." The group consists of a militiaman complete with uniform and weapon, an old man too old to fight, but taking part in a victory march, and a young man showing his desire to

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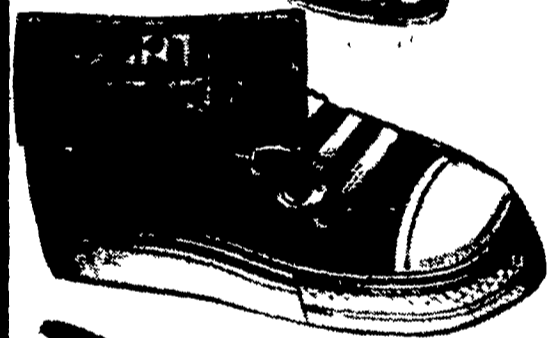
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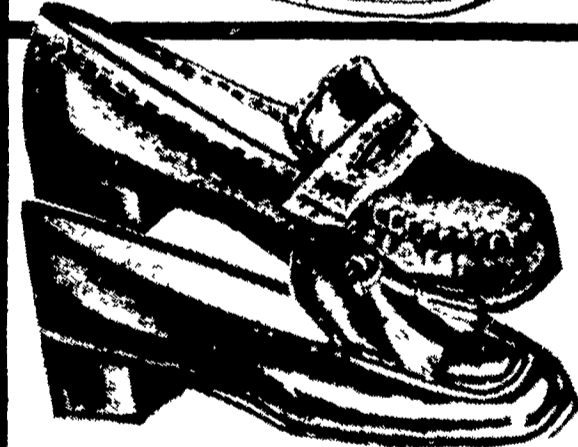
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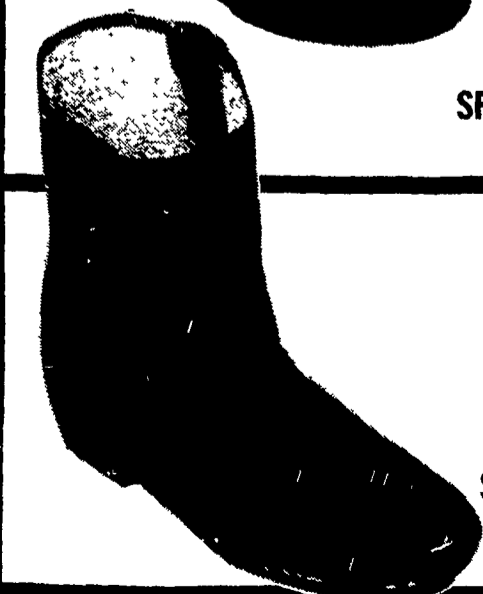
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