

Know your neighbor

Steeles ceramics hobby leads to full-time business



Grace & John Steele

Grace Steele's decision to attend ceramic class and learn to do some pieces for herself and members of her family has led to a full-time business for her and her husband, John.

Grace was going to classes taught by Louise James, who then lived in Vernon, but after her youngest daughter, Molly, now six years of age, was born, she did not have time to attend as often as before. She solved that by going to class, starting a piece and bringing it home to finish it.

Before too long, John became interested in her work and started to help her. Then he did some on his own and the Steeles were hooked on ceramics.

When the James' house was put on the market, John and Grace purchased it, including the greenware and other materials Louise

James had at the time. In the small studio in their home, they conducted classes and also made and sold ceramics to friends.

John, an engineer with Commonwealth Telephone Co., began to experiment with molds and finally came up with originals "Captain 'N' The Kids". He became licensed to use the characters in ceramics and still has the original molds.

Grace bought her own kiln and she and her friends fired many pieces to fill orders. The business grew until their home at Vernon was no longer large enough so they took a big step and built their Greenwood Crafts Wholesale, Retail Studio on Route 118 at Pikes Creek.

The studio opened in mid-April, 1975, and the Steeles have kept busy. John left the telephone

company and works full time in the business as does Grace, now that all the children are in school.

The Steeles no longer make their own molds. They did it for a while but the other demands on their time made it impossible to continue in that direction. Later, they sold all the molds, with the exception of the "Captain 'N' The Kids", to a local manufacturer who specializes in making the plaster molds.

Grace and John now specialize in greenware, selling it and also finishing pieces on order.

People order ceramics as gifts for all times of the year. Easter, shower gifts, weddings, birthdays, Christmas, or thank you items are in great demand.

In addition, the Steeles have classes every Tuesday night, 7 to 9 p.m. Presently, they are conducting

ceramic seminars, the first one May 15, 16 and 17; the second one June 9, 10, and 11. Factory representatives will demonstrate kinds of paints, newest techniques, and the blending or mixing of colors.

Tuesdays through Saturdays, the business is open to sell merchandise and work on orders from customers.

The couple fire all their own greenware and that of the students who attend Tuesday night classes. They also do it for others in the area who have no kiln of their own.

Grace and John have four children, Linda, age 15; John 14; Chris, nine; and Molly, six. All of them are interested in doing ceramics but nine year old Chris seems to enjoy working with them more than his older sister and brother. Six year old Molly

is the real artist of the children, according to her mother. She works at them all the time.

Among the most popular

pieces during the past year are planters and, of course at this season of the year, Easter items.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hoover

Shavertown couple wed 35 years

Mr. and Mrs. Fred B. Hoover, Sr., 168 Cedar Ave., Shavertown will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary on April 19. The couple was married April 19, 1941.

They will be guests of

honor at a dinner in their honor given by their children at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Patrick Connolly, Westmoreland Hills, Trucksville.

Guests will include the guests of honor; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hoover, Jr., and son, Jeff; Mr. and Mrs. Gene Radnovich and daughter, Tracy; Mr. and Mrs. Fran Hoover, Sr., and son, Fran, Jr.; and Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Connolly and children, P.J., Dick and Molly.

Erbs to celebrate 50th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Erb, Dalton, will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary, Sat., April 17. They were married April 17, 1926, in Wilkes-Barre.

Mrs. Erb is a former Back Mountain resident. She is the former Nora Weaver, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Weaver, Centermoreland. Erb is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Erb, Dushore.

A family dinner will be held at Shadowbrook Saturday followed by open house at the home of Mrs. Erb's sister, Ethel Cope at Centermoreland. Friends and relatives of the area are invited to call between 2 and 4 p.m.

The Erbs are well-known in the Back Mountain area.

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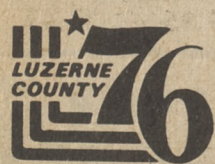


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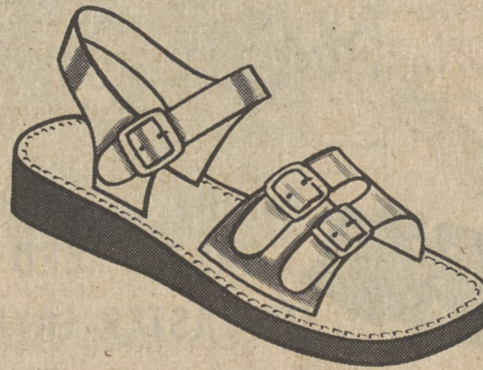


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