

American Art Pottery is simple and natural

AMERICAN ART POTTERY, PART I

Until the early 1800's most ornamental or decorative pottery was imported from Japan, France or England and was extremely ornate to satisfy florid and extravagant Victorian tastes. Suddenly, out of nowhere came Frank Lloyd Wright with his controversial architectural designs emphasizing elegant simplicity and nature in all its guises. Gustav Stickley was manufacturing plain oak Mission-style furniture to harmonize with Wright's prairie-style houses. Frills, furbelows, Capodimonte porcelain and sugary figurines looked ridiculous in such modern American homes. A new art form was born in pottery, that of the classical curve, the stylized geometric flowers, tree twig handles, clusters or borders of nuts, leaves, berries in richly muted colors. Glazes in russet and golden browns, pine green, terracotta, and the golden shimmer of native limestone took over from dainty pinks and blues.

Most American potteries had been making only utilitarian items, but they quickly converted to fill the demand for what has come to be called American Art Pottery. One of the earliest to make the switch from utility pottery was Gates Pottery, located in Terra Cotta, Ill. They called their art line Teco Ware, distinguished by aquatic designs. A few older companies on the east coast, such as Buffalo Pottery in New York, which used native olive green clay, decorated with Old English and Colonial scenes. Fulper Pottery, a New Jersey manufacturer of

Collector Chat Liza Deines



drainage tiles, created Bennington and Rockingham, yellow ware and, in later years, the famous Stangl bird figurines. Jugtown Pottery of South Carolina, began to decorate their jugs with blue. The major art pottery boom, however, took place in Ohio, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

Zanesville, Ohio, became a hotbed of potteries due to the abundance of indigenous clay deposits in the Muskingum Valley. Still familiar today are Roseville and Rookwood Art Pottery, which continued in operation until the 1950's and Weller Pottery, which closed in 1948. Potters and artists flocked to "Clay City" where work in their field was also abundant. They migrated from job to job, taking their designs and special talents with them. Most pottery was marked with not only the factory name, but that of the designing artist. These early pieces are true collector items, their value rising almost daily.

In the 1920's the popularity of American pottery led to the establishment of potteries wherever a suitable vein of clay was available. Newcombe Pottery was based in New Orleans, using a creamy local clay. Young southern ladies were taught to decorate it by a former Rookwood employee. One-of-a-kind designs were all handmade in delicate soft matte finish.

In nearby Arkansas, Camark and Niloak Potteries were rich in local kaolin clay deposits. Niloak specialized in natural colors and some very simple wheel thrown swirl designs which they called Mission Ware. Red Wing Pottery, made in Red Wing, Minn. was once Redwing Stoneware which, at one time, made only canning jars, crocks and water containers. Frankoma Pottery utilized red brown clay from Sugar Loaf Hill near Sapulpa, Okla., where they located their operation. The names of the lines as well as the potteries were often drawn from fertile imaginations. Niloak is kaolin spelled backward, Camark was a combo of Camden, Ark., and the name of the potter, Carnes. Frankoma also combined the name of the potter plus the last few letters of Oklahoma. Teco chose the first two letters of Terra Cotta.

Artus Van Briggie, a former apprentice at Ohio's short-lived Avon Pottery, designed for Rookwood until failing health sent him west for clean air. He and his wife Anna began throwing pots as therapy, eventually going into business in Colorado Springs, Colo. Van Briggie Pottery is still in business today, very popular with Colorado tourists.

It is impossible to mention every American pottery in one short article. Just a few kings of the kilns are covered here. Next week will deal with glazes, style of particular artists and today's values of American art pottery. I, for one, am glad it came into existence, and I hope you feel the same.

Remember when TV went off the air!



The Norton Junior High Band gave their final concert for the school year on Exhibit Night in the junior high gym. Pictured are Cameron Heikes and Audrie Burge. The band finished their concert with a tune called "Channel Surfing". This selection included theme songs from older television programs and ended with the sign off song "Star Spangled Banner" and the snow sound. The band members do not remember a time when the television stations went off at 12 a.m. and went to a snow picture. The band received a standing ovation at the end of their concert. Director of the Junior High Band is Don Mordecai.

-Telegram photo by Harriett Gill

Club News

By BEVERLY KINDLER

The GFWC Mid-Century Club sponsored two youth entries in the annual Creative Writing Contest. This contest is a project of GFWC of Kansas with categories for youth and clubwomen for poetry

and short stories.

Tessa Hauser entered poetry in category I, grades 1, 2 and 3. Hadley Hauser entered a short story, category II, grades 4, 5 and 6.

Both entries were judged in Sixth District and received first

place ratings. They were then submitted for the state contest.

In the state competition, Hadley received a third placing.

Both girls received certificates of recognition for their entries.

College graduates

Graduation ceremonies were held on May 6 at the University of Nebraska at Kearney Health and Sports Center where Alyssa Kaus, Norton, received a Bachelor of Arts in Education.

The following local student was among the 1,900 undergraduate and graduate students who received degrees from the University of Northern Colorado during the 2010 graduation ceremonies May 6-7 in Greeley, Colo.

Jessica Rae Sprigg received a Bachelor of Science, Business Administration.

More than 2,800 students graduated from Kansas State University in ceremonies this spring. Ceremonies were held May 13 and 14 at the Manhattan campus. Salina campus held their ceremony on May 7.

Norton: Brian Lee Juenemann, Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness; Clay Parker Madden, Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness; Lucas G. Maddy, Master of Science in Agricultural Economics; Joshua Thomas VanSkike, Bachelor of Science in Agriculture; Lisa Renae VanSkike, Bachelor of Arts.

The following students gave an out-of-county permanent address, but graduated from Norton Community High School:

Rebecca Marie Ebert, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Katie Lynn Maddy, Bachelor of Science in Agriculture; Whitney Rae Newell, Bachelor

of Science.

Logan: Heather D. Boys, Bachelor of Science in Apparel and Textiles; Anne Elizabeth Hartman, Bachelor of Science in Family Studies and Human Services.

Long Island: Julia Jean Nelson, Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

University of Kansas will hold graduation ceremonies on May 22 for the more than 4,800 candidates for degrees from the University.

Local students that will receive degrees:

Lenora: Annette M. Becker, daughter of John and Ann Becker, English Bachelor of Arts, Senior Bachelor of Arts/History of Art and Bachelor of Arts/English, graduate of Norton Community High School.

Mathew James Lawrence Shepard, Economics Bachelor of Arts; Senior Bachelor of Arts/Economics and Bachelor of Arts/Environmental Studies; graduate of Norton Community High School.

Norton: Charles R. Foley, Son of Ward and Donna Foley, Urban Planning Master of Urban Planning Graduate Master of Urban Planning; graduate of Norton Community High School.

Maggie Lynn Nielsen, daughter of Jeff and Kathy Nielsen, Biology Bachelor of Science, Senior Bachelor of Science in Biology; graduate of Norton Community High School.

Nuttycomb scholarships

The S.T. and Mabel Nuttycomb Charitable Trustees are pleased to announce the selection of scholarship awards for the school year beginning Aug. 2011. The trustees are awarding scholarships totaling \$49,500 to students in Phillips and Norton County.

\$3,000 Scholarships: Logan: Mark Pakkebie. Norton: Spencer Allen Shirk

\$2,000 Scholarships: Logan: Brady Tien; Norton: Dustyna Sprigg, Dakota Drew Dreher

\$1,500 Scholarships: Northern Valley: Kayla Lowry, Colton Lowry. Norton: Kyra Q. Fulton

\$1,000 Scholarships: Norton: Melissa Byler, David James Mizell, Kaylen R. Rossi. Northern Valley: Kenzie Elizabeth Chandler, Jake Robinson

\$1,500 Scholarships for Vo-Tech/Junior College: Norton: Cole Taylor Archer Northern Valley: Matthew Dole, Bryant Kenlee Tharman

\$1,000 Scholarships for Vo-Tech/Junior College: Northern Valley: Amber Kinderknecht. Logan: Charles Becker

\$500 Scholarship for Vo-Tech/Junior College: Logan: Amy Rae Zillinger



Kollean McMullen and Kyle Stewart

June wedding is set

Mr. and Mrs. Darren McMullen announce the engagement of their daughter, Kollean McMullen, to Kyle Stewart, son of Mr.

and Mrs. Dale Mulford and Mr. Kenneth Stewart. The wedding is set for June 11 at First Church of God.

Duplicate Bridge

There were three tables at Duplicate Bridge on Wednesday. First, Norman Walter and Janice

Persinger; Second, Jack Graham and David Graham; Third, Joyce Sumner and Jackie Porter.

Club and social news Call Harriett at 877-3361

Norton New and Used Furniture

Like New - Used Furniture for Bedrooms, Living Rooms, Kitchen, Dining Rooms, also Mattresses

Hours: Wed.-Sat. 10-5 p.m.; Mon.-Tues.— By Chance OFF KQNK ROAD E1 FOLLOW SIGN STORE IN BIG RED BUILDING BEHIND THE HOUSE

CALL 785-877-2818

Drivers Safety Course

On May 18 and 19 from 6p.m. to 10 p.m., an AARP Driver Safety Program (Defensive Driving) Class will be held at the Farm Bureau Office at 205 N. Kansas.

This course covers topics such as the effects of aging on driving, identifies the most common crash situations we face, gives tips on how to reduce the chance of crashes, and makes you think about how you drive. It will also offer tips on driving strategies that take into account the changes we experience as we age. The course is open to everyone with a valid driver's license although it is geared toward 50 and over.

The AARP Driver Safety Program has reached millions since its inception in 1979 and after

completing the course, you will be given a certificate that will give you a discount on your auto insurance for the next three years.

Cost for the program is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non AARP members which cover the material. However the majority of students receive the cost of registration through the discount on their insurance. You must present your AARP membership card to receive the reduced rate. Be sure and bring your driver's license with you.

Patsy Maddy, 785-877-3221, is the contact person to register. Anise Gill of Norton is the instructor and may be contacted at 785-877-5170 if you have any questions.

Good luck! Seniors

JOIN US AT

SHOW CHOIR CAMP

JUNE 20 THROUGH JUNE 24 - AGES 4-18

Call Cindy Mordecai by May 20 to register, 877-5475

May 13- May 18

Showing at the

NORTON THEATRE

Thor

2 Hours, 17 Minutes (PG-13)
Presented in Digital Surround Sound

Friday and Saturday: 7:00 and 9:20 p.m.
Sunday: 5:00 p.m. and 7:20 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Soul Surfer

1 Hour, 52 Minutes (PG)

All passes accepted for Soul Surfer, No passes accepted for Thor

Thor is Premiere Admission \$7.00 & \$6.00 - No Sunday Discount
Soul Surfer is General Admission \$6.00 & \$5.00 - Sunday Tickets \$3

Premiering in Norton - Friday, May 20
Pirates of the Caribbean 4:
On Stranger Tides (PG)
May 26: Kung Fu Panda 2:

COMING SOON

This ad is brought to you by The Norton Telegram