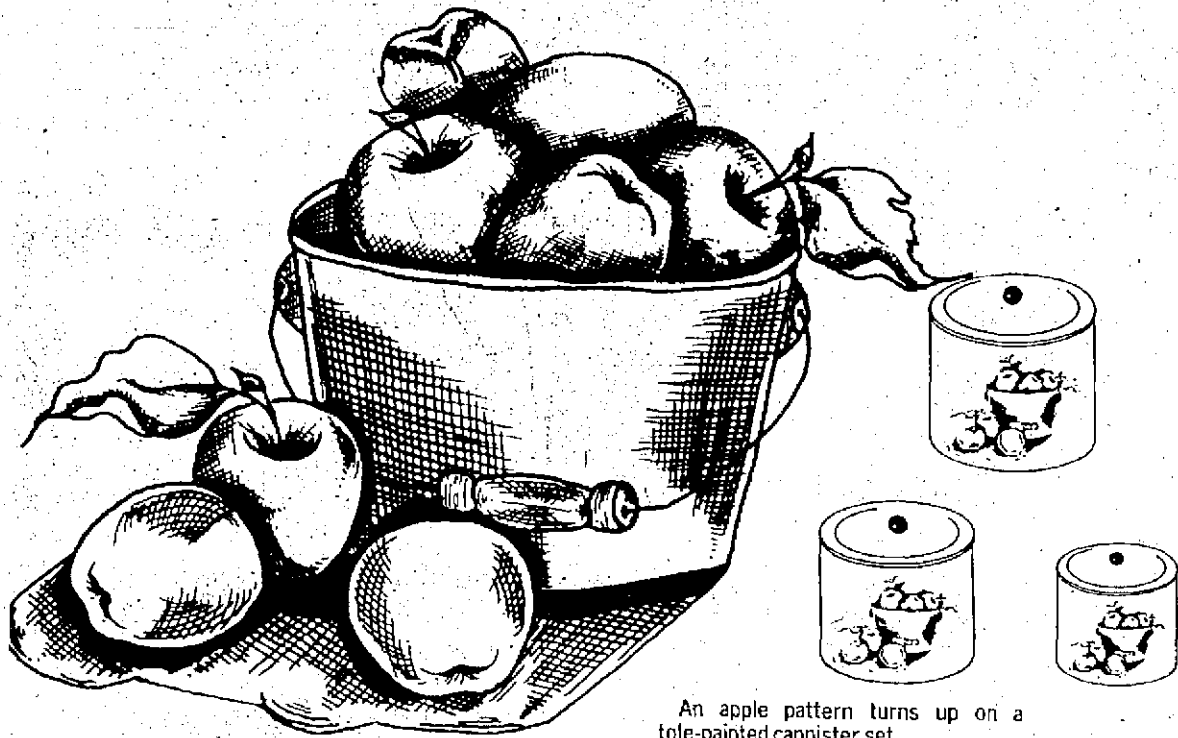


Leisure Times

DELAWARE COUNTY DAILY TIMES (PRIMOS, PA.)
Friday, November 4, 1977



An apple pattern turns up on a tole-painted canister set.

By TRISHA COFIELL
Daily Times Staff Writer

CONCORD — Betty Badgley never intended "to pose a threat to Andrew Wyeth," but she did want to paint. So, like Wyeth, she picked up a brush and dipped it her palette of oils. But, unlike Wyeth, she shied away from original landscapes and tried her hand at tole painting. For those who associate "tole" with the fare you pay on the Walt Whitman Bridge, you're in for an education. Tole originally meant tin; tole painting literally means painting on tinware. However, the term was expanded to "tole and decorative painting" to include any surface such as tin, wood, plastic and glass. Actually, tole painting is "a decorative touch added to an otherwise plain item," Betty said. In other words, the tole artist takes a tin can, wooden box, a glass jar or whatever, and paints a design on it to enhance its appearance.

HOWEVER, there's a difference between tole painting and other creative endeavors; i.e. a Badgley is not a Wyeth. "I'm no artist; I can't draw," Betty said. "I just want to paint. So, I use a pattern."
Tole painting is a method, not an inspiration. It involves a pattern design, a distinct brush stroke and a special way of blending colors.
Priscilla Hauser, founder of the National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters, wrote: "Tole and decorative painting is a method painting. It is a technique rather than a talent and it can be learned by anybody. You do not have to design or draw in order to do tole painting. You work from patterns."
ALTHOUGH tole painters can use their own design, Betty explained that there are hundreds of patterns for tole painting, including apple blossom branches, fruit arrangements, a country applesauce jar, strawberry borders, daisy motifs and mini-pictures.

Tole: If it isn't Art or Craft what is it?

These patterns are transferred to a wood or tin surface by using chalk or graphite, Betty said. Then the tole artist "fills in" the design.

"The two main factors in tole painting are the brush stroke and the blending technique," she said. "It's manipulating a brush and knowing how to hold it."
The main stroke with the round brush is the "polliwog," which looks like the top of an exclamation point. Then, there is outlining, double loading and dry brush blending with an array of natural colors.

THE FINISHED piece might "takes its tole" as a wooden towel holder with a fruit motif adorning the top; or a tin teapot with colorful autumn leaves climbing up the side; a clock face with a Pennsylvania Dutch design under the hands; a wooden hangar with strawberries and a "welcome" word scrawled on the face; or a tin sleigh painted and filled with holly.
Tole can be used to adorn anything. With a stroke of her brush, Betty turned an old tomato soup can into a decorative pencil holder. She even embellished a cork lid on a glass jar.

AS THE number of tole artists in the country increases, the question arises: Is tole painting an art form?
"It's a gray area," Betty said. "When I go to arts and crafts shows, it's funny, because the artists don't want us with them, and the crafts people say we don't belong with them either. I don't know what I consider it."
"The big struggle is with the pattern," she said. "A lot of people think you should use your own design."
The same issue was debated in connection with the current folk art exhibit at the Brandywine River Museum. Loosely defined, folk art is a utilitarian object



Betty Badgley holds one of her tole projects.

created by "folk" and decorated or embellished in some way to please the eye.
Often the decoration was taken from a traditional motif or was a copy of another design.

LIKEWISE, the tole painter takes a pattern design and decorates an otherwise plain object using oils and painting skills. Tole utilizes a traditional stroke and many of the designs have a colonial or antique look.
Whether tole is an art, craft or hobby, the "method" can transform plain objects into colorful, aesthetic pieces.
Betty's work includes a Declaration of Independence with a painted flag superimposed on the printing; a cutting board with ripe pears on the surface; a painted letter box; a stool with a small boy painted on the top; and many more objects.
"It's something people can do and get great fulfillment out of, plus they have something that is lasting," Betty said. "I've discovered that it's a therapy-type thing for me. It's so much fun and very relaxing."

BETTY IS a certified tole teacher and a member of the National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters. Presently, she teaches tole painting, conducts demonstrations and is trying to organize a local chapter of tole painters.
The Society had designated the week of October 16 as National Tole and Decorative Painters Week. Right now there is a tole and decorative art display, which
See IS IT on page 23



Bob Verbeck in front of some of his posters for old silent films.

Film nostalgia is his career

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The lights dim, the tinkle of a piano begins, the credits flicker, and Rudolph Valentino again gallops across the desert sands.
For those old enough to remember, it is a nostalgic return to the early 1900's, the golden era of silent films.
For those too young to remember how Valentino thrilled movie audiences with his portrayal of the Sheik, or Buster Keaton's antics in "The General," it is a lesson on
See FILM on page 24

Third daughter joins 'Golddiggers' become a true family affair

By PATTI MENGERS
Daily Times Staff Writer

N.J.

NEWTOWN — When the kids make it big in Tinsel Town, it's understandable that the parents should be bursting with pride. What most people don't realize is, along with that pride there is a "little-talked about" fear.
The other day, Albert Alberici of Oak Hill Lane, father of three members of the celebrated Golddiggers singing and dancing group, talked about the fear.
"The Monday before last we took our 20-year old daughter Darlene to the airport for her flight to Las Vegas where she was going to join her sisters," said Alberici. "There was no way she was going to go if she wasn't going to be with her two sisters."
Alberici's two oldest daughters, Maria Elena, 25, and Linda, 23, have been members of The Golddiggers since 1973 when they were regulars on the "Dean Martin Show," a former weekly television program. Since then they have been making guest television appearances as well as touring the country. Last June they appeared with Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin at the Latin Casino in nearby Cherry Hill,

"THEY'VE been waiting for Darlene and actually, I've been holding her back," stated Alberici. "I wasn't that anxious for her to go. I thought having two in The Golddiggers was enough. She was very happy and comfortable at home. Living out of a suitcase is not the right kind of life."
Alberici's two oldest daughters understand their father's fear, and in fact, have not been totally happy with their "on the road" existence. According to Alberici, Maria Elena and Linda have tried to quit The Golddiggers several times. He said they gave notice of leaving last summer and their agent persuaded the young women to stay by saying the whole six member group would fold if they left.
"Their contract is now on a month to month basis," said Alberici. "They'll probably stay with the group until they get their first hit. The Golddiggers is a routine and their talents are being smothered. They can't project their individual talents."
Alberici noted that Darlene, the newest Golddigger is a born actress and accomplished piano

player while Linda, who plays guitar, is very athletic and the businesswoman of the group. He described Maria Elena as the deep thinker and the composer.
"ACTUALLY I feel sorry for anyone who is in show biz because it is a lonely life," said Alberici. "I thank God all my daughters are together."
Despite the fact that Alberici coached all three girls in voice (he learned from Mario Lanza's teacher, Enrico Rosata) and both he and his wife, Lillian (her stage name is Lee Richie) have been entertainers, he said that he is not going to train any of his other six children for show business.
"I want to keep them home for awhile," stated Alberici whose other children include John, 22, (who originally was going to sing with the older girls), Alane, 18, Lillian, 15, June, 13, Albert 9, and Alisa, 6.
Meanwhile, Darlene has finished her first week with The Golddiggers at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas and is now touring the East Coast with the group, Milton Berle, Donald O'Connor, George Jessel, and the Inkspots.
The auburn-haired 20 year old
See A FAMILY on page 24