## Maine Man Copies Old Greek Urns

BY PATRICIA PEDDER

When 86-year-old Eric Soderholtz was a young man he wanted to grow flowers in the front yard of his West Gouldsboro seaside home. But the yard was solid ledge.

He planted the flowers, though. And grew himself a new career.

He turned out some king-size flower pots to hold the plants. With concrete and authentic molds he copied the pointed, graceful shapes of ancient Grecian. urns.

Friends saw the urns and wanted duplicates. More folks saw the duplicates and the orders kept snowballing.

That was in 1904. And that was the time when Soderholtz, then a noted 34-year-old architectural photographer put away his camera and became equally famed as an artist in concrete.

In the 50 years since, he's produced concrete pieces that span a wide choice of design. They range from delicate bird baths to huge ornamental gate

His largest order created a winter's work for himself and five West Gouldsboro men. The urns, statues, concrete garden fencing and ornamental gates weighed 52 tons and shipped to a Newport, R. estate by schooner. A great deal of his work was sold to summer residents of Mt. Desert Island.

When 13 years of age in East Boston Soderholtz assisted his father in the photography business. For a few years he also studied architecture. He chose photography as his life work and went into business in Bos-

He soon was photographing art objects for Boston museums and doing considerable archihe sold his business and with his explained. Then I coated the told me that one of my mines tographer of ancient architectural structures there.

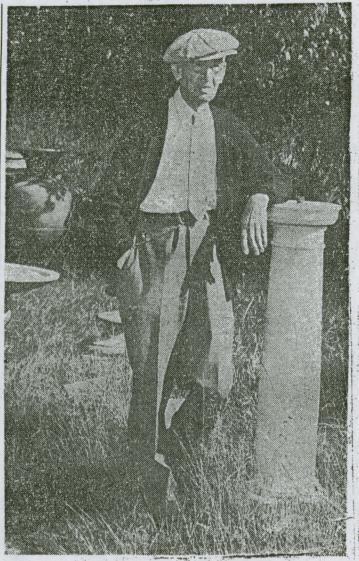
"We used 18 by 22 inch glass plates for our work there. Some-"A plates for our work there. Sometimes three men were needed to carry the glass filmplates for the government about it. I was garden pottery pieces.

"After I was sure it would of Soderholtz' mines in its office, as well as several of his garden pottery pieces.

The relates. Two years later referred to several offices and, he referred to several offices and he referred to he returned to Boston with a after much letter writing, I was Soderholtz has not been able to unique and priceless collection interviewed by government of the work is heavy and help is he still has.

the photos to duplicate the class- and went back to West Goulds-

Soderholtz developed a concrete "Two years later, I got a tele- Chicago Art Institute in 1913 underwater mine. "I covered phone call from a friend of for an exhibit of several large eval molds with cement," he mine in South Gouldsboro who Grecian type urns.



## Artist In Concrete

Photo by Joy

Eric E. Soderholt shows some of the delicate concrete garden decorations he designed and produced at his South Gouldsboro home. A veteran architectural photographer, he copied some of his items from classic European designs.

wife travelled to Southern Eu-rope on assignment as a pho-One mine I partially filled with him to 'Just leave her there'." 200 pounds of junk iron, sealed

When he was fashioning con-crete molds he often referred to long conference I put on my hat lamps and ornaments.

The Chicago Cement Associait up and let it float in the tion, however, for a good many years has had on display one

officials doubted that cement difficult to get. He now de-

Soderholtz has received foric designs as closely as possible. boro to forget all about the mal recognition for his artistry.

During World War I Mr. making of mines.

He most prizes an award of the "Two years later, I got a tele- Chicago Art Institute in 1913