

# Victoria craftsmen's work in great demand

By **Ginnie Beardsley**

A pleasant hands-across-the-border customer relationship recently resulted in the export by Jefferies & Co. Ltd., of Victoria, of a jewelled gold-



*Norman Griffin, silversmith & member of Jefferies & Co. Ltd., polishes orb of cross before packing it for shipment.*

plated cross. The cross, made of one-quarter inch sheet sterling and plated with 24 karat gold, has 100 synthetic and semi-precious stones, and agates bezel-set in pairs on the reverse sides.

Design has been copied by Norman Griffin, one of the partners of Jefferies, from an illustration of an original made by a Visigoth goldsmith (in solid gold, precious stone-set) in about 800 A.D.

The modern copy weighs 77 troy ounces, measures 22 inches high by 16 inches across. Synthetic stones include rubies, emeralds, blue sapphires, aquamarines, and tourmalines. Pierced-through openings in the cross permit light to shine through many of the larger pairs of stones. Semi-precious settings include: carnelian, turquoise, topaz, jasper, amethyst and agate. Bezels were applied to the cross by means of rivetting, and stones were bedded in the bezels by Belton Turner of Van Isle Jewellers (Victoria).

Body of the cross has a matte finish outlined with bright gold rope design. This engraving was done by E.

Swift Engraver, also of Victoria. Orb of the cross is also in the bright finish gold. The cross will be carried in church processions on an eight-foot ebonized birch staff. Its destination is Seattle's St. Mark's Episcopal (Anglican) Cathedral. It is a gift of a parishioner who is a long time customer of Jefferies & Co. Ltd.

Although the cross is Jefferies' most important single export to date, the Victoria firm, (believed to be the only manufacturing Canadian silversmiths west of Toronto), enjoys much business including custom work from American visitors to Victoria.

Locally, Jefferies receive many commissions for ecclesiastical and other ceremonial objects in both silver and gold. They have made chalices, wine flagons and sanctuary lamps; maces for the British Columbia Government and the University of Victoria; and an order for some 1000 plaques which were B. C. Centennial awards in 1958.

They also do a considerable business in restorations of old and valuable objects in copper and precious metals, as well as re-plating.

The company carries a most complete line of sterling and plated silver in the retail store which is in front of the workshop. The three partners, Jack Jefferies, Norman Griffin, and Ted Gardner, have been in business 20 years.