



the lively needle

Mary Kay Davis

Hints on adding finishing touches

Have you ever thought of stitching the needlework bookends or a doornest? Attractive kits are available at shops, directions abound in books, and the stitching is great fun. Here's how to wrap the completed embroidery around its brick to finish the job yourself.

Bricks, not to make too fine a point of it, come in different sizes. In the best of all possible worlds, you would have chosen your brick before you began stitching. The needlework would have been designed to fit. However kits and book directions can't predict which of 78 bricks you will choose and they are usually scaled to fit the largest brick that anybody's ever heard of.

That can present a few problems when the needlework is size 18 and your brick is size 10. The usual answer is to pad your brick until it more or less fills up the embroidery. This does a good job of stuffing but can eliminate straight sides and sharp corners. The finished product often looks like an inflated cracker box.

IF THE STITCHERY doesn't fit your brick, find a brick to fit your stitchery. Lumber yards and building supply firms carry many different brick styles. Think of the fun you'll have tracking down the right one for you. Cover the brick with a piece of old sheeting. Carefully miter corners and

stitch the wrapping firmly across the back. Bricks are abrasive. You don't want one grinding away at the inside of your needlework.

Block the stitchery carefully until its corners are all square. Leave a margin of two unworled inches beyond your needlework and cut away excess canvas or fabric.

Sew together the four side corners, working from the top to bottom, and put in your brick. If it's still too small, insert pieces of cardboard, cut to size, until the slack is taken up. This keeps sides slack and corners square.

FOLD YOUR two-inch margin in half and, on the back, lace opposite edges together with a long, strong thread. Pearl cotton, thin crochet cotton and strong twine do well here. Lace short side to short side, knot thread, and then lace long side to long. Keep tension firm at all times.

When lacing is finished, turn the brick over and check for positioning. You can shift and adjust the stitchery by loosening or tightening laces on the back.

Cut a piece of felt or Ultrasuede and whip stitch it over the laces to cover them. And that's that. But think twice before you set book ends on their short sides. One of mine fell over last month and almost demolished my big toe. And nobody gives you sympathy for a wounded toe.

Scout goal: Involve handicapped

"Scouting is for all boys!" Those are the words of the founding father of the worldwide Scouting Movement, Lord Baden-Powell.

The Clinton Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America is striving to make these words come true for the handicapped living in Oakland County. To this end, the council's Advisory Committee on Scouting to the Handicapped will kick off a major effort to bring the joys of scouting to mentally, physically, and emotionally impaired young people.

This kick-off meeting, called IMPACT '80, will be held on March 17 at the Community United Presbyterian Church of Drayton Plains. It will be a dinner meeting prepared by the church.

The keynote speaker will be Jack Richmond, national director of handicapped and educational relationships of the Boy Scouts of America's National Council staff based in Dallas, Tex. "We are very excited to have this National leader to help us make this event a really special one," said Mrs. Fran-

cille Anderson, committee chairwoman.

THE GOAL OF IMPACT '80 is to bring together leaders of different community groups, churches, and organizations to find out how they can use scouting to help handicapped youngsters. The scouting program works especially well for the handicapped because it allows these youngsters to do their best and earn recognition for their efforts. The BSA waives the upper age limit of 18 years for the handicapped so that a young person

can remain in the program as long as it meets his needs. There are currently eight packs, troops and posts serving primarily handicapped people.

Anyone interested in attending the IMPACT '80 meeting should contact Reed Brannon at the Clinton Valley Council at 682-7407. Any community organization interested in chartering a pack, troop or post for the handicapped is also urged to contact the Clinton Valley Council.

Conference on women in arts slated

The Michigan chapter of the Women's Caucus for Art will sponsor a conference on Sunday, March 16, at the Center for Creative Studies (CCS) College of Art and Design. CCS is located at 245 Kirby in Detroit's University-Cultural Center. Free parking is available on campus.

Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will be followed by a panel discussion, moderated by Julia Henshaw Wise, instructor of art history at CCS,

on "Feminist Support for Women in the Arts."

Josephine Kelsey, social psychologist, organizational consultant and assistant professor of psychology at CCS, will give a presentation on "Cultural Impediments to Women's Creativity." Feminist therapist Joan Israel will speak on "Special Needs of Women as Artists" and Susan Rossen, publications director at the Detroit Institute of Arts, will discuss "Matronage."

Slides of work by artists in attendance will be shown at 1:30 p.m.

A panel discussion on "Feminism and Artistic Standards," moderated by artist Lois Teicher, will begin at 2 p.m. Participants will include artist Connie Samaras, Betsy Hansell, art critic for Monthly Detroit magazine, Barbara Price, Cranbrook Academy's dean of students, and Ruth Rattner of the fine arts department of the University of Windsor.

Those attending are requested to bring three to five slides of their work. Lunch will not be provided. Coffee and doughnuts will be available during the registration period.

Admission is free to Women's Caucus for Art members and \$2 for non-members.

For further information, contact Julia Wise at 872-3118 (CCS-Detroit) or Lois Teicher at 487-0300 (Ypsilanti).

Meeting slated on Hodgkin's

The Michigan Hodgkin's Disease Foundation will hold its monthly meeting at Providence Hospital's Fisher Auditorium at 7:40 p.m. March 10.

The topic will be: "The effects on the children when serious illness strikes a parent or other member of the family."

The speaker will be Dr. William Schafer, clinical psychologist and member of the child development program at the University of Michigan.

There will be refreshments and an informal discussion period following the doctor's presentation.

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