TV viewers to get 'point'

By Linda Ann Chomin Staff Writer

STATE WRITTER

A Birmingham woman will bring the needle art of embroidery to Channel 66 on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

"The Embroidery Studio," a how-to program hosted by needlework expert Shay Pendray of Birmingham, will air at 12:30 p.m. once a week for 13 weeks.

"My grandmother used to do needlepoint. I used to watch her for hours," Pendray said.

"You can lose yoursell in it like ambrosia. A lot of men, surgeons do it to keep their hands supple. My granddaughter does it because it's fun."

In each episode, Pendray will feature a different stitch on a 13-band sampler, demonstrating the proper techniques for creating each stitch for viewers.

"It's a how-to series. We have two minutes of history of that band on an episode."

The sampler uses 26 colors. It is a traditional coloration

The sampler uses 25 colors. It is a traditional coloration for a sampler, Pendray said.

The oldest surviving samplers were found in Egyptian burial tombs. Embroidery most likely developed as a means of darning or strengthening fabric, then gradually shifted its emphasis to a decorative art.

"Catherine of Aragon brought it to England in the early

Samplers came about out of necessity to record patterns

Samplers came about out of necessity to record patterns and stitches. "Embrodery was always passed on from one generation to the next. If I came to your house in the 1700s, there were no TVs or no VCRs. There were no books on embroidery. If you had learned a new stitch and wanted to pass it on, the only way I could take it home was to stitch it on a sampler." For centuries, young girls were taught needle skills by their mothers and grandmothers. Their needlework hung in the home, serving to impress suitors with the girl's diligence, patience and artistic talents.

"When you married, you had to mark your licen because that was free. Your husband owned you, he awned your

property. The only thing he didn't own was your linen."

American embroidering developed from European stitchery. American Indians and embroiderers throughout the world have crafted the stitches for their decorative beauty. Utrainian, Czechoslovskian and 16th century German and French embroidery are some of the most beautiful in the world.

in the world.

In China, designs worked on children's clothing serve to protect the child. Robbits ward off evil, bats signify happiness and coins, prosperity.

"There's great embroidery in Turkey."

On each episode along with teaching the featured stitch, Pendray will show how to incorporate it into a separate project. One of the first endeavors is a wedding ring bear-er's cushion.

project. One of the risk ententions is a weeting, ring, bear-er's cushion.

One of techniques that Pendray will embroider onto the 13-band sampler is pulled threads.

"Because lace was so expensive in the courts of Europe, the average woman couldn't afford it. So people sitteded up a poor man's lace, and made the pulled thread look like

loce."
Pendray completed her first cross stitch sampler at the age of 10, after learning the basics at Greenfield Village. She has owned Needle Arts, a Dearborn shop, and taught embroidery there for the last 20 years.

Materials for the 13-band sampler and related projects

an be ordered through the show or from Pendray's shop.

In a five-week series similar to "The Embroidery Studio," viewer response was tremendous. An estimated 875,000 viewers tuned in. The show is produced by WKPC-TV. Channel 15 in Louisville, Ky.

Plans are to make "The Embroidery Studio" an ongoing series like "This Old House." In 1993, 26 shows will be taped for viewing. Thirteen will be taped in 1994 and 13 in 1995.

One of the series will make an ethnic band sampler, with each band using a stitch by embroiderers of a different country.

Authors to speak

Authors to speak

The Author's Luncheon Series of the Southfield Cultural Arta Division of Parks and Recreation will begin Wednesday, Oct. 14, and continue through April 21.

Each lecture will include lunch for \$10 or coffee for \$4. The price for the entire series \$35. The lectures will take place 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Burgh Site Church at Berg and Civic Center Drive. For more information, call 354-4717.

Renowing artist, architect and writer Louis Redstone will start the sensational series Oct. 14. He will discuss and explore significant examples of public art as he reviews his latest book, "Art in Public Places."

Julia Grice, author of the glitzy novel "Black Tie Only," will be sure to enchant the audience with her world of glamour, romance and Intrigue Nov. 18. She has recently published two mysteries, "Suspicion" and "Jagged Light."

The new year will begin with Helen Olmstead, scriptwriter and co-producer of "Homicide Host," Feb. 10. She is currently working on a new book, "Law and Corruption." Olmstead's interactive plays have been produced for leading hotels, clubs and conventions throughout the United States and Canada.

The series will close April 21 with Charles and Canada.

The series will close April 21 with Charles Baxter, author of five books of fiction, whose work has recently been adapted for the serren. His most recent novel, "Shadow Play," will be published in 1993.



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