

Everybody Gets Into The Picture

Glance at the picture hanging in the front hall of the Oak Hill Nursing Home Annex in Farmington and you see at first a farm scene done in primitive style.

The pond and the pine tree and the stork and the garbled old tree with a woodpecker and a bird's nest meet the eye right away.

Look more closely and you discover a turtle and a frog and a butterfly and a worm and a horse in the background and some mushrooms in the foreground.

Careful study shows that the picture is made of dozens of scraps of material, joined and decorated with beautifully-fashioned embroidery stitches and some not quite so expert.

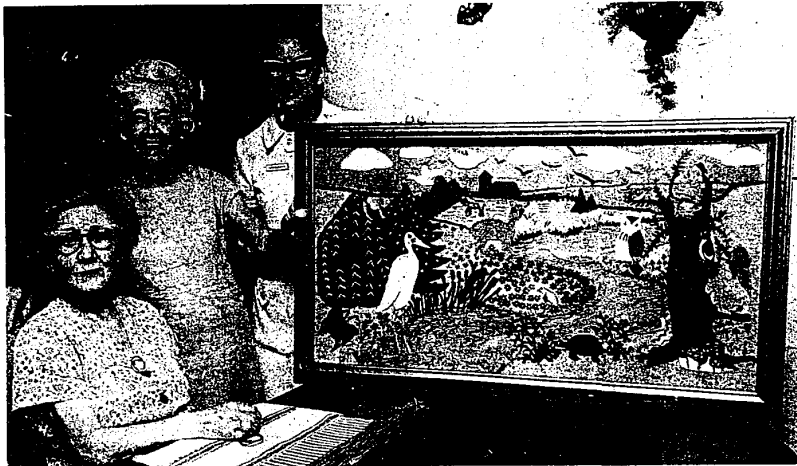
BUT YOU LEARN the real beauty of the colorful picture when you talk to the residents of the nursing home.

For everyone of the elderly people there, as well as all the staff of the home and the volunteers — who come regularly to visit, had some part in fashioning the scene.

"I made the butterfly," one lady pointed out, and her companion said she had contributed "that bird — that bird — you know, the one that brings babies."

One resident who keeps her room piled high with all sorts of needlework projects was proud of the several parts she has fashioned, especially the field of daisies with French knots for centers.

Some of the less adept with a needle helped glue the component parts to the green and blue burlap used for a background, and nearly everyone helped with the chain stitch outlines of each section.



EVERYBODY in the Oak Hill Nursing Home Annex in Farmington contributed something to the woodland and farm scene applique that hangs in the home now. Showing it off are Johanna Van Eys, left, and Ruth Hund, residents, and Mrs. Rosebud Zick, supervisor. (Photo by Fran Evert)

"EVERYONE DID something, even the men," said Mrs. Rosebud Zick, supervisor who originated the project a few months ago.

She had seen the picture in a magazine, and worked with Mrs. Lois Cosby, social director, to enlarge it and adapt it for the home's use.

Patients, staff and volunteers contributed to work into the picture. The mushrooms are made of bright red calico, and the tree trunk is a bit of rough-texture wool that once was part of a skirt worn by Mrs. Cosby's daughter.

A lot of the pieces are felt, and bright wool yarn was used for the embroidery.

The whole project took about two weeks to complete, Mrs. Cosby said, "though of course we were doing some other things in between."

MRS. ZICK, who has been with the home 3½ years, said cooperative projects for the patients have been a tradition at the home.

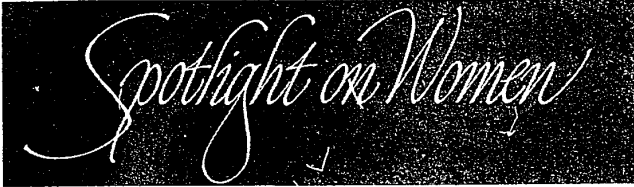
"We thought a decoration for the home would mean more to these people if they had a part in creating it," she said.

"This is the first project of this kind, but we've always had the residents work on decorations and placemats and such for holiday parties."

All the Oak Hill Annex residents are ambulatory so they can use the front hall and enjoy seeing their farm scene.

And already another cooperative project is underway.

Mrs. Cosby pointed to a colorful pile of afghan squares. "Everybody's working on these, too," she said.



m. m. memos

Though I had grudgingly accepted the idea that life begins at 40, I was absolutely determined to ignore the next landmark.

But, the girls pointed out, you can't avoid getting older by refusing to celebrate a birthday any more than you can pretend there are no calories in candy bars no one sees you eat. So I agreed to acknowledge the birthday in return for no candy bars on the sly.

Anyway, it's pretty difficult to ignore a birthday when you wake up to find half-dollars taped to strategic spots like the bathroom mirror, the coffee pot, the typewriter and the car windshield.

And receive reprints of front pages of two newspapers printed that unmentionable number of years ago.

So, since I made it through the day to be ignored, I'll pass on for others in similar straits the birthday message of one of my fellow workers. She wrote in part:

Your birthday makes it
Imperative
(And I speak as one
Authoritative)
To repeat these words
Memorative
"I don't mind birthdays when I consider the
Alternative."

With family and friends like mine, I don't mind them either.

—Margaret Miller

To Save Trees Ecology Is In The Bag

By ELINOR GRAHAM

When it comes to ecology on the homefront, area youth have been trying to do their part in improving the environment.

They have manned recycling collection points, planted trees, and helped clean clogged rivers and streams. They have "bugged" their parents about the use of non-phosphate detergents and become aware and concerned about the depletion of natural resources.

One young man, Clayton Miller of Plymouth, is going all out. He's making ecology his business.

The first we heard of his project was the announcement, "Clayton has a big ad in the Mother Earth News. That CHM Design & Development Co. — that's Clayton."

"What is he doing?"

"He's making shopping bags."

WHEN WE TALKED to the 22-year-old businessman, we asked how and when he decided to go into the manufacture of shopping bags.

Over a year ago, Miller explained he became interested in trees. His concern was triggered by a television program in which persons were urged to take their own containers to the grocery store. "Pour the milk into your own container, leave the one at the store. Take your own shopping bag along. A burlap sack will hold a lot of groceries."

The statistics were impressive. Since then Miller has done a lot of investigating on his own and come up with some staggering figures.

More than 24 million mature trees, he says, are cut to make the 1.6 million tons of paper grocery bags used in the United States each year.

"This contributes to the growing tree shortage," he said. "Pulp logs are sprayed with mercury compounds to prevent mold; paper mill wastes cause eutrophication of our waters, and used paper bags present a formidable disposal problem."

"Eutrophication. Excessive plant growth," he explained. "Recycled paper is not strong

enough for bag use, and recycled paper has a higher chemical content which causes greater ground water pollution if used in land fills."

WE WERE ADMIRING the white canvas duck Tree Saver with the silk screened design. "I started out being a purist," Miller said. "The first bags had no handles and no screening. I didn't want to use any chemicals at all but I guess they are more attractive this way."

"Did you know we spend \$500 million a year on paper grocery bags? The people at

Wrigley's told me they spend \$5 million for their 80 stores."

"What about plastic bags?" we asked.

"They are not biodegradable. They're made of high density polyethylene—from coal tar, strip mined."

OF COURSE we inquired, "How is business?"

"It's going pretty well," he said. "I would like to get out of the mail order business. Most of my orders have come from the southwest and midwest. They are selling at a couple of outlets in Ann Arbor, and I hope to have them in gift shops

all over this area in the near future."

"They would make nice shower presents," someone suggested. "You could put a few kitchen utensils in one; wouldn't even have to wrap it."

The silk screened posters for the Tree Saver bags "...disposing of used bags costs taxpayers \$65 million and untold damage to the environment...In normal use it will do the work of hundreds of paper bags and do it safely because it is stronger. So each time you use it you'll be helping to save a tree."



CLAYTON MILLER of Plymouth and his wife Marlene stow away a supply of groceries in Tree Saver bags. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring)

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