Women on the Go

Short Skirts Mean Mini Supply Of Wool

By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

Mrs. Ruth Rotnour of Plymouth really doesn't care much for the mini-skirts of recent years.

It's not any moral objection, though of course her own dresses are kept at a most modest length.

But the short skirts she finds now at rummage sales don't net very much wool to hook into rugs.

"And they cost just as much as ever," Mrs. Rotnour says.

USED WOOL dresses and skirts are the best sources of wool for the Persian-type rugs this longtime Plymouth resident has been hooking for about 13 years.

"Sometimes I buy some new wool to get a particular color," she said, "but the used material seems to blend better."

She always washes the wool she uses for hooking. "That sets the dye and prevents shrinkage," she said.

Plaid pieces make good mottled backgrounds, she said, and sometimes she sprinkles dye on wool and then steams it for special effects.

"Some people take the color out of wool and then dye it," she said. "That seems to me like a lot of work."

NOT SO the thousands of stitches she puts into the rugs that bear a striking resemblance to luxurious Orientals. She figured one completed recently has 261,870 stitches—computed by measuring the number in a square inch and multiplying.

But putting in the thousands of stitches is something Ruth Rotnour has found definitely relaxing since she first took up the craft.

She became interested when two Plymouth friends showed her their work and learned the basic method from them rather than taking lessons. "I like to make my own designs and work out colors my own way," she said.

MRS. ROTNOUR has made eight large rugs and two smaller ones with names such as "Persian Princess" and "Serenity" and currently is working on one called "Flight."

"I picked the name because one repeated design looks like birds to me," she explained.

In working out designs, she has a wide color selection at her fingertips.

One room of her home on Ann Arbor Trail is filled with her big loom and stacks and stacks of plastic bags filled with strips of wool in every color imaginable. Some are left over from rugs already completed, just in case repairs should be needed, and others are pretty shades ready to be worked in.

Mrs. Rotnour's rugs take between a year and two years to make. There's no pressure to get them done. "Sometimes I work for eight hours a day," she said, "but usually less than that.

SHE DEFINITELY spares time for other interests like knitting, sewing and cooking and active membership in the Plymouth Historical Society. Her husband, Ezra, is a member of the city planning commission.

And, of course, there's the checking of sales for more wool to hook. But, what with all those acrylics and short skirts, that part of the hooking hobby gets harder and harder.

RUTH ROTNOUR selects wool for her hooked rug called "Flight." (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

Smoke-Watchers Lecture Set Oct. 10

A new "Smoke Watchers" group dynamics program will begin in the Oakland YWCA, 839 Crooks, Clawson, with a free introductory lecture at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10.

The program by Smoke Watchers of Michigan is designed to help smokers break their habit without back-sliding.

It has been under way for several months at 8 p.m. Thursdays in St. Andrew Episcopal Church in Livonia.

Dan Hassenpflug, state director for Smoke Watchers International, said the program is much more successful than quitting smoking "cold turkey."

Those interested are invited to attend the free introduction or call Dorothy Moffett at the YWCA or Hassenpflug at Smoke Watchers of Michigan.

Classes In Crafts To Begin

Craft classes begin this month at Hudson's Northland, and Westland as well as downtown.

The Westland schedule includes papier toile classes, Oct. 6, 19 and 20; beaded flowers, Oct. 7; transfer art and macrame, Oct. 13. Decoupage under glass will be taught at Northland Oct. 12; candle-making, Oct. 16; and papier toile, Oct. 26.

Dental Units Plan Dinner

The Detroit and Oakland County Dental Auxiliaries are combining forces this year in an event to help dental health and education.

Their annual fund-raising party will be held at 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 20, in Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall. It will include a buffet dinner and tour of the hall.

Members of the Dental Societies or auxiliaries may obtain tickets from Mrs. Douglas Roeser of Clarkston.

Town Hall Sets Program

Actress Joan Bennett, bullfighter and painter Barnaby Conrad, African tour directors Betty and Jock Leslie-Melville, writer Reid Buckley and sculptress Fiore deHendriques will be speakers for the 1972-73 Royal Oak Town Hall.

Miss Bennett's talk Oct. 11 leads off the series. Tickets for the five lectures are $12, and reservations are being accepted by Mrs. Earl Reynolds, 2704 Vinsetta, Royal Oak.

Calumet High Plans Reunion

The annual reunion of Calumet High School, which in 1971 drew more than 1,000 graduates of the Upper Michigan school, will be held this year in Roma Hall, Livonia, on Sunday, Oct. 8. Details may be obtained from Irving E. R. Benson, 19604 Iron Gate Court, Northville.

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