

WELCOME LADIES to highway construction. For the first time in its 67-year history, the Michigan Department of State Highways has assigned young women to highway construction -- "on site, in the field." Call it what you will -- women's liberation, changing times or simply a shortage of engineers -- four young women, all graduate civil engineers, are now working in the same 56-week field training program their male counterparts are required to complete. They will work in areas of highway planning, surveys, research, design, right-of-way, construction and maintenance. He admitted that some construction supervisors said it was "a bit strange" having the ladies as part of the usually rough-and-tumble environment of highway construction. The girls, too, admitted to "some nervousness" in reporting to work in boots and hard hats. The young women, aware of their role as distaff highway pioneers, are determined not only to enjoy it, but to make a contribution to Michigan's highway program -- "not as women, but as engineers."

## Home Grown Hobbies For Fun And Profit

*Who can find a virtuous woman?  
for her price is far above rubies...  
She seeketh wool and flax, and  
worketh willingly with her hands...*

Women in Biblical times had little choice but to sew and spin, and weave. Today's woman often chooses such activities as an artistic outlet for her creative abilities.

On the mustard colored walls of Roseanne Boston's Westland kitchen is a striking purple and avocado rug which she hooked herself.

Decorated with an abstract apple pattern which she designed, the rug is one of many that she has made for friends and family.

Last summer she exhibited her rugs at the Ann Arbor Art Festival, selling them all. She has also taken some to local boutiques in Plymouth where, due to the current hunger for hand crafted items, they have also sold well.

Using a punch hook needle and regular rug yarn, Roseanne, the mother of two boys, estimates that she can do one rug in about a week of working during the evenings.

She learned the craft from a

neighbor, and while she enjoys making rugs for others, she recommends her hobby to every woman with a yen to work with her hands.

"It's really not difficult to do and it's extremely satisfying," she says wholeheartedly.

**MACRAME**, the art of tying knots into patterns that have intriguing lacy and cobweb-like effects, is one of the many talents of Marlene Backus of Plymouth.

She creates macrame wall hangings at home, often working on a commission basis for other people. "Macrame has an extremely softening effect upon a room," Marlene explained. Her wall hangings and ceramics are displayed at the Gallerie 12 on Penniman in Plymouth.

Along with the macrame work she does at home, Marlene also finds time to substitute teach in Plymouth and work on a graduate degree at the University of Michigan.

She has also been busy in establishing a woman's volleyball team in Plymouth.

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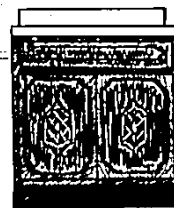
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