

## The lively needle

# Want to be best of show? Then try these handy tips

How can you improve your chances of winning in needlework shows? What are the secrets of blue ribbon stitchers? A chance to practice is coming up soon. Detroit Country Day School will present Needlework Showcase '79 in Birmingham from April 6-8. Here are a few tips which may better your odds.

Begin by taking the viewpoint of a judge at a typical show. She arrives on time and is given a ribbon with "Judge" printed on it in bright red.

While struggling to pin it on without bleeding, she's handed a styrofoam cup of coffee, pencil, paper, judging directions and the hands of four committee members. During the ensuing juggling of the coffee spills.

All walls of the room are solid needlework. As she looks at the judging instructions (they differ for different shows), it seems that all of Gaul is divided into eight parts.

Then she notes that each of these categories, needlepoint, crewel, quilting, etc., has at least three subcategories—original, kit or class project. This means that there are three times eight, or 24 categories to judge.

The fine print then indicates each of these 24 is further subdivided into ama-



By  
**MARY  
KAY  
DAVIS**

teur or professional, which gives the potential of 48 categories open with. And there are three hours in which to get it all together before the doors open at noon. Simple arithmetic indicates that 48 categories into 180 minutes means less than four minutes per division.

In no way can 17, or 25, or 42 entries be adequately studied in four minutes. The judge must eliminate some so that you can spend more time studying others. These quick eliminations are where stitchers rise or fall. Your talent has nothing to do with them, but to stay

in the running, they're all important. So here are a few shortcuts to go over before you hand your work in.

• Be sure that it's clean. A dirty strand of yarn in the midst of yellow basketweave is easy to spot.

• Don't let embroidery stencilwork. Your stitching should cover them.

• In needlepoint, keep your strands of wool parallel while stitching. Twisted yarns are considered poor technique.

• Anchor all threads firmly on the back. In one show I judged, a lovely piece was eliminated because one strand of yarn had come loose and was waving in our faces.

• Check your presentation. "Presentation" usually means framing. A poor framer is no excuse. Either make him re-do the work correctly or find someone who can.

Framing sins include:

- Inadequate blocking or mounting, the stitching ripples and isn't taut.
- Crooked stretching of needlepoint or cloth, with lines of stitches or cloth grain waving drunkenly against the straight frame edges.
- Non-glare glass. This makes it very difficult to see texture. No glass at all is preferable.

## Graphologically speaking

### Agile mind is in this writing

By  
**LORENE  
GREEN**



Dear Mrs. Green,

I enjoy reading your column each week and would very much like to have my handwriting analyzed. My handwriting seems to have deteriorated over the years and I wonder what that means.

I also seem to have two distinct handwriting styles—the one above and another that looks like this. I think I enjoy the second more, but revert to the former for any "formal" writing.

I also have a strong preference for writing with felt tip or fountain pens. Does this preference say something about me?

E. B., Bloomfield Hills

Dear E. B.,

Although you have two entirely different styles of handwriting, both are fluent and fast. This, coupled with the short cuts in your letter formations, tell me that you have an agile mind capable of

*I also seem distinct handwriting one above and looks like this. enjoy the second*

making short cuts and eliminating unnecessary steps.

Your strong preference for writing with a felt tip or fountain pen suggests your sensuous nature. You are a person who receives pleasure through any or all of the five senses. Two areas that are probably very enjoyable for you are music and the beauties of nature.

You do not like to bother with details. Leave those for someone else is probably your thinking. (Many i dots are missing in your handwriting.)

You have a rather direct manner when relating to others (lack of lead in strokes) and often have trouble refraining from a sarcastic retort (pointed t bars).

I think you are a person who is seeking an identity. You seem to perceive yourself in different ways (total picture of your writing). Sometimes there is a pretense about you (capital i's within some of your words).

Several of your letters, especially on the envelope, are shaped like numbers which is an indication of ability for numbers.

Although I think you are a busy person, you do not take on more than you can handle (good word and line spacing). Among the activities of your day you are going to arrange some time to be alone (some lower loops that are just sticks). Although you like people, you also enjoy time by yourself.

If you have a question about your personality, write to Mrs. Lorene C. Green in care of this newspaper. Please write on a full sheet of paper in the first person singular. I would like to thank all of you who have written to me, and to tell you that I can only answer your letters through my column.

## MSU courses in B'ham

Michigan State University's spring term program highlights three Saturday course offerings at the Birmingham Center for Continuing Education, 746 Purdy.

"Studies in Self-Concept," a three-credit seminar in education examining specific school climates, classrooms, teachers, peers and how they affect student's self-concept, will meet 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 31, April 7 and 28, May 5 and 12. Dr. Ron Jones will be the instructor.

"Modern Kindergarten," a three-credit make-it, take-it workshop, will have daily presentations on different

phases of the curriculum. It will meet 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 28, May 5, 12, 19 and June 2. Enrollment is limited and Beverly Price will be the instructor.

"Teaching Elementary School Social Studies," a three-credit course designed to introduce new strategies, techniques and materials for teaching elementary social studies. Students will develop materials for use in their own classroom. The class will meet Saturdays, March 31-June 2, with Genevieve Berkhofer.

Registration for these courses will be held at the center. For registration information, call the center, 645-5411.

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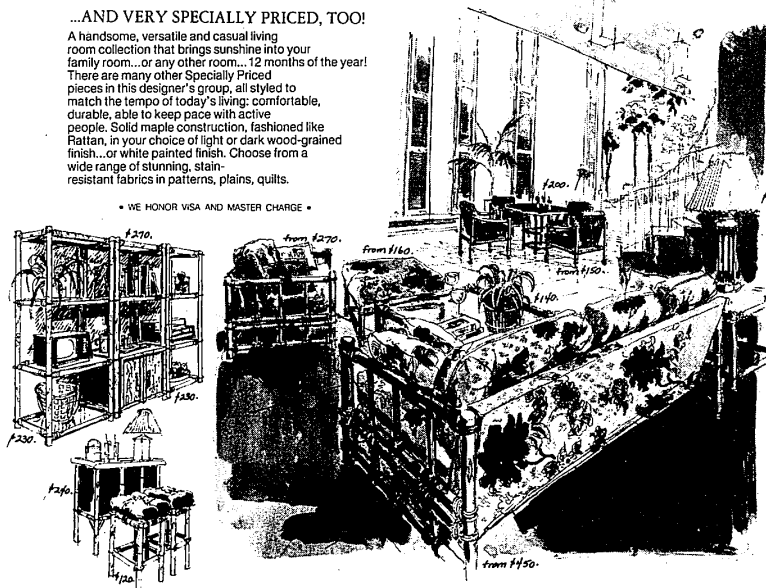
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