

Homemaker's craft ideas stem from dairy farming

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A paralyzed right arm led June O. Adams into creating a needlework masterpiece based on the American dairy farm heritage.

June and her husband Woody are part of the Adams Brothers dairy operation, located in a rolling valley about ten miles south of historic Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. The Adams families milk about a hundred cows and farm several hundred acres of upper Shenandoah Valley crop ground.

"I love to create; I love a challenge," says June, whose enthusiasm for crafts is unbounded. And this talented farm wife not only enjoys experimenting with traditional crafts, she creates her own original ones.

But two years ago, an agonizing pain in her right shoulder began numbing the nerves in the hand that created endlessly. Doctors discovered two slipped vertebrae discs in the very critical neck area, requiring immediate and somewhat dangerous surgery.

June woke in the hospital's recovery room to learn that a

problem had occurred during the delicate surgery, leaving her with a paralyzed right arm.

"Go home and do your thing," her doctor eventually ordered as therapy, hoping to restore some movement and feeling to the limb.

June's "thing" relied largely on the use of that right hand.

Lying on the living room couch - after years of boundless interest in crafts, sewing her own and her daughter's clothing, helping on the farm, 4-H activities and sports activities like skiing and roller skating - June made up her mind that somehow she would regain her physical ability to create things.

For June, working the hand and fingers, stretching the muscles, and regaining the strength and feeling, centered on therapeutic use of common things like knitting needles, and hours of shaping and kneading of the soft, pliable toy clay called Silly Putty.

Slowly, almost imperceptibly, the numbness began to recede and a tingling sensation crept into June Adams creative fingers.

And it was about that time that



A loving tribute to the dairy heritage of their children was what June Adams stitched into a contest sampler. Included in the intricate needle designs are her three children, a straw-hatted farmer with his dog, and farm symbols like the barn, silos, tractor, haystack, Holstein cows, a barn cat in each corner and the large

4-H symbol for the organization that played a large part of the Adams' family life. June's sampler now hangs in the arts and crafts display in the Museum of Art at Birmingham, Alabama. Pictured with her are Debbie and David.

Homestead Notes



June Adams holds a diminutive, dainty basket of burlap, filled with tiny dried flowers. The basket is popular at craft shows, eagerly purchased by collectors of miniatures.



Calico roses, arranged in a basket, are part of one of June Adams latest floral creations. The bouquet of tulips, crocheted in granny squares, was her entry in a woman's magazine craft contest.

she casually flipped through an issue of the *Progressive Farmer Magazine* and spotted an article on the "Southern Country Living Heritage Sampler Contest."

Contests, especially those that call for the creation of some craft, are an irresistible challenge to June.

"Don't ever get started entering contests," she laments with mock horror.

Traditional samplers, on which the contest idea was based, were designed by novice sewing students to practice their skills on various stitches and were usually worked in a design of familiar letters, numbers and symbols.

June finally settled on a sampler theme based on the dairy farm heritage of their three grown children, Frank, Debbie and David.

After carefully laying out the design on graph paper, June painstakingly began transferring and working the counted-cross-stitch motif on a 14-by-20 inch piece of sampler embroidery fabric.

She cross-stitched, nearly non-stop, for three months, the feeling in her hands gradually returning as the colorful farm theme began to take form in the cloth.

When the sampler was finally finished, June's use of the popular dairy slogan, "Milk Drinkers Make Better Lovers" set the theme for a whimsical look at dairy farm life.

The work "dairy," stitched 26 times around the outside, forms a self-frame for the farm life symbols set against an intricate patchwork sky in blues, and the ground in greens.

Prominent in the finished sampler are the Adams children and a large 4-H symbol, since that rural youth program played such a vital role in the children's earlier lives.

Other symbols include a black and white cow, with a red barn on the horizon, tractor inside, and

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