



# CRAFT CORNER

## Candlewicking fast, easy colonial stitchery

No matter how the name sounds, contemporary "candlewicking" has nothing to do with making candles. Candlewicking is actually a fast, easy embroidery technique and the most popular new craft in years.

Like the projects illustrated in the photos, candlewicking is characterized by elegant, dotted patterns. Most patterns are colonial; most projects, pillows and wall hangings.

The colonial sampler shown, for

example, expresses the traditional message: "Home is where the heart is." It is an Americana design by artist Charles Wysocki, stitched in red, white and blue.

The pillow is also a country design. It features candlewick geese on a star-quilt border. To enhance the design, the border was pre-printed in country French blue.

Both projects illustrated are available as kits, and may be ordered through your newspaper

by writing to the address that follows this column. If you wish to try candlewicking right now, however, you'll find directions below.

Candlewicking, beyond a doubt, proves the endless resourcefulness of colonial women. As the name suggests, candlewicking once used candlemaking supplies.

In colonial times, rather than throw away leftover cotton candle wicks, women stitched them onto empty flour sacks. Although the leftover wicks were only short ends, they were long enough for knots.

When the results still looked like knots on flour sacks, our clever ancestors washed the sacks. By the time they dried, the cloth tightened, the knots shrank, and each sack turned into a delicate-looking, embroidered cloth.

The candlewicking technique hasn't changed much throughout the years. With few of us purchasing flour in sacks, however, we've substituted 100 percent

cotton muslin and special candlewicking thread for the original supplies.

Because the craft is inexpensive, as well as fast and easy, it is no wonder candlewicking is once again popular. Here are directions for the craft:

**MATERIALS:** 100 percent cotton muslin; cotton candlewicking or other multi-ply cotton thread, water-soluble marking pen, scissors, needle. Optional: embroidery hoop.

**PREPARATION:** 1. For a pillow, quilt block, wall hanging, or other project.

1. Cut a square of muslin at least 2 inches larger all around than desired size. Do not pre-shrink fabric. 2. Draw a simple design on paper. 3. Lay muslin over paper. Using your water-soluble pen, trace design on muslin, drawing dots instead of lines.

**STITCHING.** 1. Optional Position fabric in embroidery hoop. 1. Thread needle. Work with two or four strands of thread, depending upon size of knots desired. 3. Stitch one french knot for each dot in your design.

**FRENCH KNOT:** 1. Bring needle through fabric. Wind thread around needle twice (a). 2. Return needle close to same hole (b), pulling thread gently to keep it wrapped snugly around needle. 3. To form knot (c), hold thread until it is almost through fabric.

**SHRINKING:** 1. Wash stitched fabric in cold water to remove pen marks. Use a mild soap if necessary. 2. Wash fabric in very hot water. 3. Roll fabric in terrycloth to remove excess moisture. 4. Unroll fabric. Place, stitched side down, on several layers of terrycloth. 5. Carefully press fabric until dry, taking care not to scorch.

## Four Paws to Freedom

The Four Paws to Freedom 4-H Club, Flemington, N.J., held their annual elections recently. The results are as follows: Janina Schyett, president; Jamie Zensky, vice president; Laura Pauze, treasurer; Judy Mottley, recording secretary; Dave Mottley, corresponding secretary; Jeff

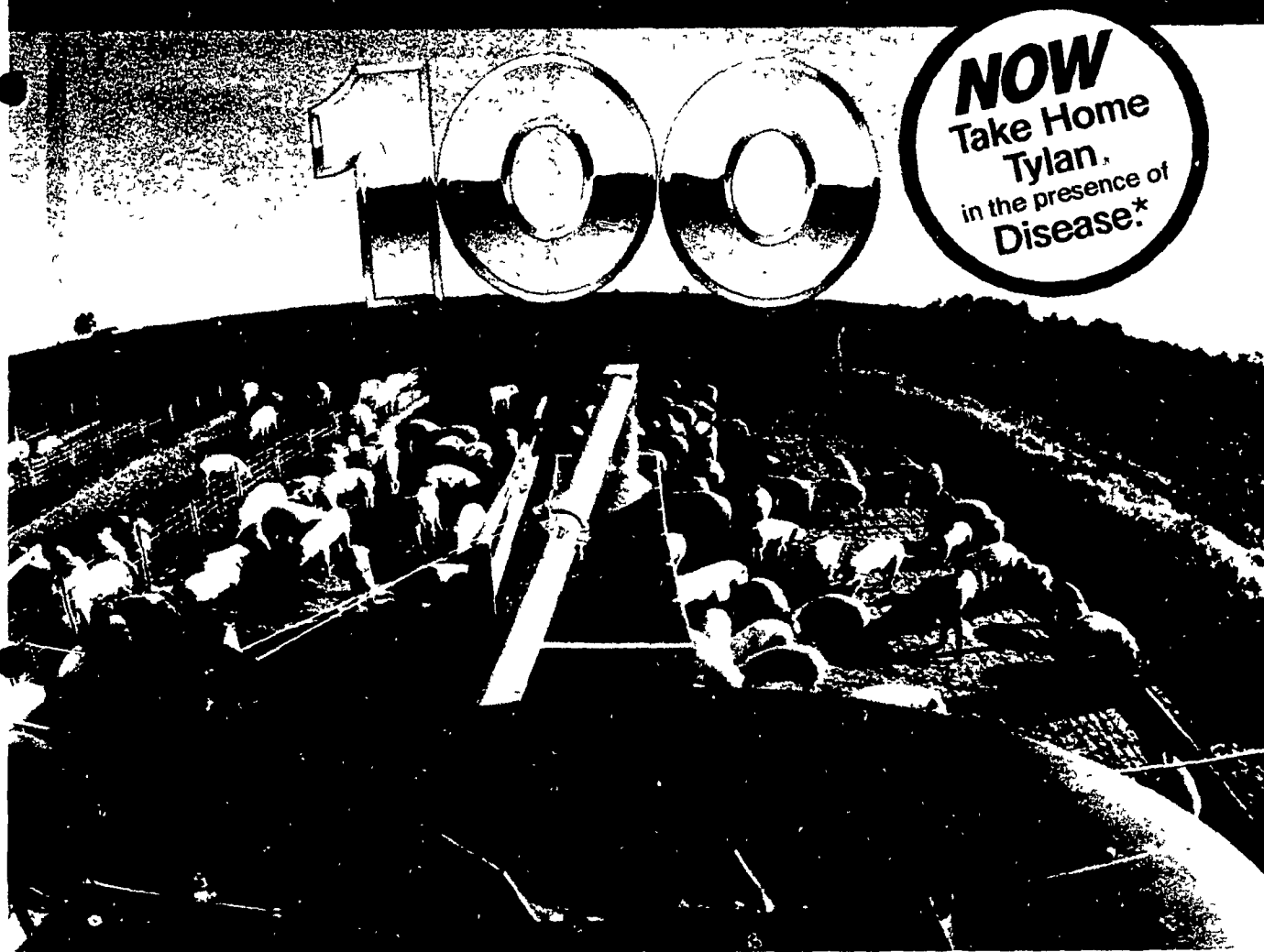
Mottley, reporter; Michael Fenwick, scrapbook keeper.

Shelley Kephart will be the group's junior leader



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