

CRAFT CORNER

Say it in stitches

You can say almost anything in a counted cross-stitch sampler. Beautifully stitched words can express friendship, welcome people to your home, commemorate an occasion or frame a special thought.

The sampler shown is a perfect example of a counted cross-stitch message. It reads: "The most beautiful things in the world are not seen or touched. They are felt with the heart."

The saying, framed in a border of floral stitchery, is lovely enough to hang on a wall, give to a friend or pass on as an heirloom. It is available as a kit, complete with counted cross-stitch chart, special fabric, needle and embroidery floss, by writing to the address that follows this column.

You can cross-stitch your own message right now, however, with graph paper and counted cross-stitch supplies. To learn to letter, just read on.

Almost any lettering style, including your own handwriting, is fine for cross-stitch. You can work with a charted alphabet, copy letters from a calligraphy book or design your own alphabet.

No matter which lettering style you choose, "plan ahead" is certainly the most important lesson to learn. If you don't, you'll surely wind up with the last letters either squeezed into a tiny space or stretched to fill a nearly empty sampler.

Proper spacing and centering are also crucial elements in lettered designs. When all the planning, drawing and centering are finished, however, words are as fast, fun and easy to cross-stitch as the simplest designs. Here are directions for counted cross-stitch messages:

MATERIALS: Aida, hardanger or other even-weave cross-stitch cloth, graph paper, pencil, embroidery needle, embroidery floss, optional: embroidery hoop.

WRITING RULES: 1. Write your

entire message on graph paper as it will appear in your sampler. 2. Leave at least one blank square between each letter. 3. Leave between two and five squares between words, depending upon size of letters and message.

PROPORTION: 1. Make all capital letters the same height, but vary width according to the letter. In other words, make the letter "M" wider than the letter "I." 2. As with capitals, draw lowercase letters in proportion to one another.

SIGNATURES & CURVES: 1. Sign your name, or write your message, on graph paper. 2. Darken whole squares as neatly, as possible along the curving lines. 3. When finished, look over the design. If it doesn't look right, make changes as necessary.

SYMMETRY: If your message stretches across an uneven number of squares, mark the line to the left of center as the center of your piece. 2. If you prefer perfect symmetry, add or subtract a square between the words in each line.

CENTERING DESIGN: 1. Count boxes to find the center of your graph paper. 2. Darken horizontal and vertical center lines. 3. Fold fabric in half lengthwise and widthwise. 4. Baste along horizontal line nearest horizontal fold in fabric. 5. Baste along vertical line nearest vertical fold in fabric. 6. Open fabric and press flat.

CROSS-STITCHING: 1. Count squares in fabric to find the top left square in embroidery hoop. 3. Starting with the top left square, cross-stitch as usual, following the charted letters.

THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS SAMPLER KIT, by "Dimensions," includes 9-by-14-inch unprinted, 14-count cotton aida cloth, cotton embroidery floss in soft shades of pink, green and brown, embroidery needle, color-accented, easy-to-follow, counted



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ming, P.O. Box 388, Lititz Pa. Include the Lancaster Farming. Name somewhere on your request.

'Gingerbread Lady'

(Continued from Page B16)

her that because she spreads "joy, love and teaching." The irony is that in her youth Patti had considered becoming a missionary.

Asked about the charm of gingerbread houses, Patti says, "I think it has become very popular in the last few years. I was making them before they became nationally popular and they began appearing on the covers of national magazines. I think it has to do with the interest in crafts and the fact that handmade things are so valued. It also ties in with the interest in nostalgia, and antiques and family history."

There is no doubt that making a gingerbread house is a "labor of love," as with any baking. Patti says she learned quickly when she began her business that "I couldn't

do for the world what I did for my family. You can't put a price tag on it."

While gingerbread houses are definitely for Christmas, Patti makes them for other occasions as well, including Halloween and Easter. In fact, she will be returning to the Smithsonian for a Valentine workshop in February, and has been asked to return for three days next year before Christmas.

While she is almost finished with workshops and demonstrations for this Christmas season, she will be serving next week as a judge for Historic Strasburg's second annual gingerbread house contest. That takes place on Dec. 20, and the winning houses will be on display for one week after the event.

Since she began giving

workshops, Patti has also written a book which includes detailed directions, patterns and many of her novel ideas for creating unique gingerbread houses.

Patti calls her visit to the Smithsonian the "exciting frosting on the cake. It's something you never dream of." For her it was just one more adventure in her life as the Gingerbread Lady as she shares the joy and rewards of making gingerbread houses.

Saddle-Up

A new 4-H horse club has been formed in the Readington Township/Whitehouse Station area. Mrs. Marie Pallizzari and Mrs. Lynn Sargent are leaders of the Saddle-Up Horse Club. The club is open to youngsters 9-19 years of age who would like to learn about horses and horsemanship. Seven members have already joined the club. More are welcome. Just call 534-6411 or 738-3745 for more information.

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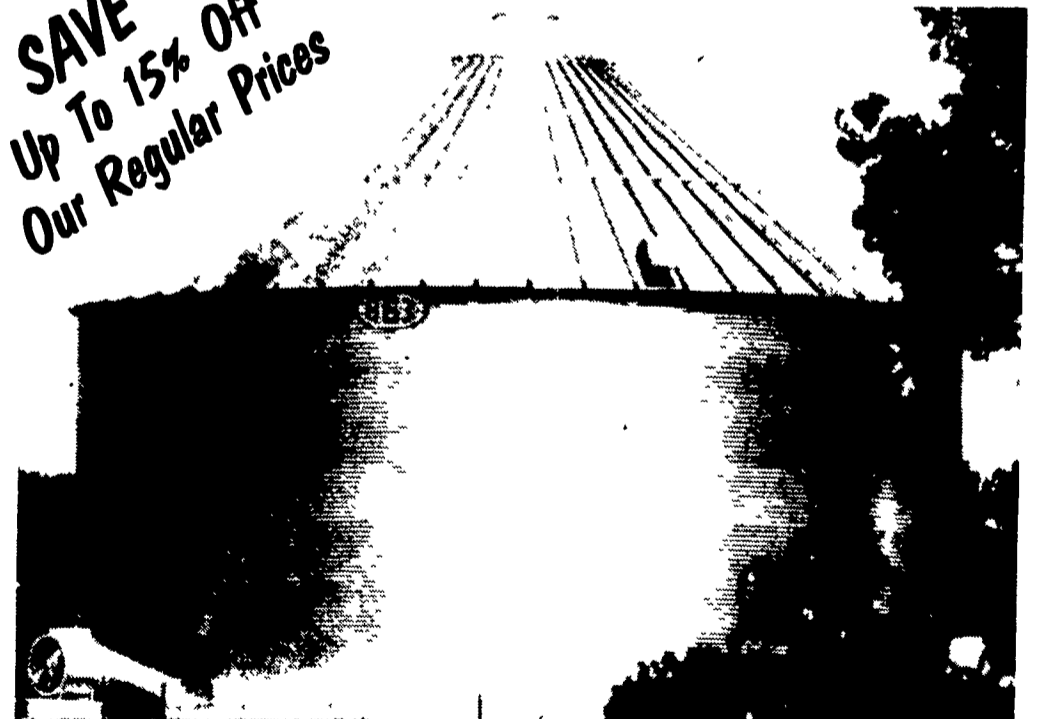
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