



Betty Buffington feeds information into the computerized sewing machine. In addition to reproducing original pictures, logos, and photographs, she has more than 4,000 designs from which to select patterns.

Stitching A New Career

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Maryland Correspondent

TANEYTOWN, Md. — Once she helped milk cows. Now she stitches them on jackets and hats, shirts and more. With her home-based business, B & B Monogramming, Betty Buffington of Taneytown stitches cows and dogs, cats and logos . . . almost anything a customer requests.

From her home that sits on part of the land that was once a 140-acre dairy farm belonging to her husband's family, Mrs. Buffington works daily in the business she began almost seven years ago.

"I was wanting to get into something when I saw the machine in a magazine," Mrs. Buffington said of her venture. "My husband, (Harry) said if I wanted to do it he was 100 percent behind me, so I went to look at the machine." A few weeks and just one lesson later she was forging ahead in a territory she knew little about.

"I didn't know anything about computers," she said. "When I first stitched on it I cried a lot!"

The sewing machine Mrs. Buffington uses, made by Pantogram of Florida, reads the design she chooses from a computer disk then tells the machine how to stitch it. Mrs. Buffington picks the colors and the size of the logo, then programs it and other information on how it is to be sewn into the computer. The design comes up on a screen, filling in color as it sews so that she can see the work in progress on it as well as the actual stitching taking place under the needle.

"I have over 4,000 designs to choose from," said Mrs. Buffington, spreading out stacks of catalogues with logos and design inside. She purchases the right to reproduce the designs. Mrs. Buffington said she can also reproduce original pictures and logos and even photographs of people and animals. Just five days after she requests a design to be set onto disk it is made and ready to run.

Today Mrs. Buffington sews about 300 items a week. She said she begins working early in the morning and sometimes doesn't stop until after 9 p.m. Her two daughters Cheryl and Betsy often help her. She is excited about her work, and it shows. "It is just so

rewarding to start with blank fabric, then see the finished product when it is done," she said.

"Not long ago I was looking through a magazine and I saw a picture of the Maryland Junior Holstein members leaning on a fence," Mrs. Buffington said. "They had their backs to the camera and they all had my jackets on, with the Holsteins showing. It was exciting to see my work like that!"

Mrs. Buffington has sewn personalized jackets, backs of captain's chairs, hats, shirts, black belts, blankets, towels, lap-warmers and more for more organizations than she can name. She has produced work for Derrwyn Farms, Big Springs Farm, Himes Custom Farming, Pop's Farm, Bowman's, Peace & Plenty, Golden Meadows Farms, the Maryland Brown Swiss Association, the Maryland Holstein Association, R.J. Rodeo Associates, Maryland Jersey Association, University of Maryland's Partners in Education Program, country music singers, and Hydes Taxidermy Service,

just to name a few.

"I've learned a lot," Mrs. Buffington said with a smile. Her eyes sparkled as she told about the time a gentleman called and asked her if she had any designs of limousines. "I said yes," she recalled. "Waiting for him to arrive I got out my books and pulled out all of the limousine designs I had. When he arrived he looked at the catalogues and shook his head. 'Maybe I should have made myself more clear,' he said, 'I was talking about cows!'"

Mrs. Buffington pored over the books again and found, to her own surprise, that she did have several Limousine cow designs. "Low, and behold, one of them was just what he was looking for," she remembered, "and he had jackets made!"

From cows in pastures and barns, to cows on shirts and jackets, Mrs. Buffington's lifestyle has taken a whole new turn. But there's no need to worry. It seems she has her future all sewn up!



Formerly Betty Buffington milked cows; now, she stitches them from morning to night. Seeing her work—such as the Maryland Junior Holstein jackets—pictured in magazines fills her with pride.

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