



Exhibit at the C.N.E. showing specimens of homecrafts taught in the Ontario Department of Agriculture's Home Economics Extension Service. The exhibit was arranged by staff members, Miss Eleanor Flint, Supervisor of Homecrafts and Miss Judith Gum, a field instructor. In the picture Miss Gum is shown demonstrating block printing.

Originality In Samplers

IN THE HOME ECONOMICS EXTENSION SERVICE program in Homecrafts, emphasis is placed on color and design as well as workmanship; and in the Needlecraft course, which featured Samplers this year, the women were encouraged to develop original themes in their designs so that the finished sampler would have a meaning for the woman who made it, and for her family, too, if the sampler should be preserved for generations as samplers were a hundred years ago. The originality, the appreciation of things close at hand and the human interest worked into some of the samplers produced through these courses, make them a bit of Canadiana worth treasuring.

A woman whose sampler reflected special community centres of interest explained that the embroidery depicted the church where she was married, the little red brick school attended by her grandfather, her father, herself and her children, the country store, the Institute hall and the house and barn on the farm just sold out of the family. The initial letters of her husband's name were worked into the border.

Another said she had intended to do a sampler in black and white; then she thought of a basket of fruit and this was embroidered on her sampler so she "would have something with color to hang on the wall."

A woman who had not completed her design, reported that the theme would be her home farm and her design would carry the name of the farm. She added "We raise short-horn cattle and wheat so it would be appropriate to have a shorthorn beast and a few stooks

of wheat. Our family of three boys and one girl will also be given a place in the design."

A bride of a few months describing her sampler said: "As we are in our first home, I wanted to join our initials in a design which represented that idea. It is my hope that this sampler will be passed down through our children from generation to generation."

"My sampler is centred around the Women's Institute motto 'For Home and Country'" a member explained. "The border depicts the trillium and the maple leaf, emblems of Ontario and Canada. To represent 'home' I have a house symbolizing our home with the barn in the background; and for 'country', the church and the school around which the rural community is centred. The Women's Institute crest is at the top of the design with the name of our Institute and the date."

One woman reported: "My sampler has the letter S, the initial letter of our surname, worked all around the edge for a border. The design includes our house and barn and the Christian names of my husband, myself and our only son; also the dates of our Sampler Course . . . My idea for my next sampler is to use the names for the Women's Institute at all levels, going up a stair showing the Branch, District, Area, F.W.I.O., F.W.I.C. and A.C.W.W. Perhaps a border could be made using the crest and the letters 'W.I.'"

An interesting sampler carried the maker's family tree as its design; another the quotation, in two lines, "Make new friends, But keep the old." Someone suggested a sampler bearing the names and birth dates of the family after the style of the old framed "family register." One woman who is very fond of flowers