

THE TALK OF THE TOWN

The story of Madeline Wallace's life was hooked through scene and symbol into a stair carpet, which now graces the stairway of her home. She first saw a picture in a magazine and set out to design the memories of by-gone days into a unique pattern.

Each riser and tread are one piece, with the designs hooked from fine jersey strips purchased from a mill-end store. Each tread has a dark background for practical reasons with colourful patterns on the riser.

Mrs. Wallace designed the first riser as a lakeshore scene she remembers from her childhood along with the Wallace Tartan and family crests. The next is the family home and then the third riser representative of interests beyond her home. The Rebekah Lodge emblem, the centre and most important to her, the United Church symbol, and the Women's Institute crest. All three have provided separate diversions yet each have enriched her life beyond measure.

Next is a scene from the family summer cottage where she actually did much of the hooking while vacationing: 1970 was the "luckiest year of her life", she hit the jackpot in Reno, so one riser depicts this happy event. Life unfolds and memories abound as one climbs the stairs.

It took about 2½ years of occasional work. "Madeline" said she was glad when it was finished. Mrs. Wallace has many talents, but she never considered this her major one. Crafts, particularly needlework, including felt wall hangings for special church festival days, are truly works of art.

History is another love. She is Tweedsmuir History Curator for the Woodslee WI and has compiled not only the history book but scrap books too. She worked on the history of Essex County and from her material much information was used in the Centennial history of Leamington.

In her search for historical information, many hours are spent talking to people who "remember when."

CARPET STORY — Scenes and symbols on the stairway of Mrs. Madeline Wallace, Ruscom home, tell the story of her life. Mrs. Wallace designed and hooked the rug, working memories of her childhood and family surroundings into each riser. The treads are geometric designs worked into a dark background.

