

Pretty Punch – a new home craft for you to enjoy

By Eileen Argyris

If you love the idea of doing and displaying your own home crafts, but feel you lack the time or skill to complete a project, Carol Willis of Castleton may have the answer for you.

Mrs. Willis is the manager of her own business, called E-Z Embroidery Enterprises, marketing the Pretty Punch system – "embroidery," with a difference.

"My mother used to do embroidery (the traditional way) and she tried to teach me, but I just didn't have the patience to learn all those different stitches," says Mrs. Willis.

Pretty Punch, she explains, works almost like "paint by numbers, with thread."

KIT GETS YOU STARTED

A "deluxe kit," well within the range of most budgets, gets the novice started with the special "punch" style needle, threader, 12 different coloured threads, 15 transfers, a work hoop, practice material, instruction book and catalogue.

Mrs. Willis doesn't blame people for being skeptical about the ease of the system. She was, herself.

"When I first saw it (at a flea market in Courtice) I said, 'What's the catch?' I thought it would be harder."

BOUNCING NEEDLE UP AND DOWN

But, she says the system created stitches by just "bouncing the needle up and down – no knotting.

"Then you snip the thread close to the material so it won't pull. I thought, 'Is that ever a neat idea!'"

And, it's faster than embroidery, she explains.

The finished products, completely washable, are used as wall-hangings, decals for sweatshirts and T-shirts, quilt tops, pil-



Carol Willis proudly displays her Pretty Punch handicrafts.

Photo by Eileen Argyris

lows, jackets, bibs, towels, tablecloths, tote bags. Applied to wood, they can be used as plaques.

A variety of designs are available, including ani-

mals, butterflies, clowns, balloons, birds and wildlife, animals, cartoon characters, religious themes, sports emblems and Christmas designs.

T-SHIRTS OR TEAM SHIRTS

Putting a Pretty Punch design onto a T-shirt, team shirt or sweatshirt, may require ironing on

interfacing, but with such fabrics as denim, the design can be punched right into the fabric, says Mrs. Willis.

On quilt tops, the design is punched on one fabric then applied onto the quilt.

With a little imagination, the Pretty-Puncher can create his or her own designs by using a photocopier to lift a design off, say, a colouring book or team shirt, and using a tracing pen to transfer to the design to pattern paper.

Or the really artistic and ambitious may create their own original designs.

NOT AVAILABLE IN STORES

Pretty Punch is not available through stores, only through dealers like Carol Willis. She says the nearest dealer to this area, besides herself, is in Courtice, and that's where she orders her supplies.

Pretty Punch features 80 differently coloured acrylic threads, 15 metallic hues, 15 "angel hair" tints and 18 "mist" threads.

A 'Tips and Techniques' book can give the novice expert advice, such as the "brushing" technique that is used for example, on animals, such as a lion's mane, to give it a fluffy, textured appearance.

It also offers instructions on creating a "sculptured" look on the finished design.

Mrs. Willis' Castleton home is her showplace for the creations she has made with Pretty Punch. Clocks, wall-hangings, quilts, her children's favourite cartoon and Disney characters, all are on proud display. Her masterpiece is an approximately three-by-four-foot wall hanging of a native chief in feathered headdress.

FREE LESSONS

Pretty Punch materials come with a lifetime guarantee, says Mrs. Willis. If your needles should get broken, the company will replace them.

Mrs. Willis will give free lessons to anyone interested in learning this craft. She can be reached at 344-7685.

BALLPARK INSURANCE

Cramahle council has received an inquiry from Shirley McComb about liability insurance for a ball park that the McCombs have on their farm in Morganston.

Councillor Lee Dekeyser said July 18 it could be important to ascertain whether the games being played at McCombs' were part of a township-organized recreation program, or just pick-up games among neighbours played at random times.

"Ask them if the games are organized by the Cramahle Recreation or the Castleton Sports Club."

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"We'd have to hire a planner at the county, and then, if we (council) didn't agree with a decision, we'd have to hire a planner of our own to fight it. We'd be paying twice. That's double jeopardy," observed Councillor Lee Dekeyser.

Reeve Stu Oliver agreed. "The county planner would be paid a salary (which all county taxpayers would subsidize) and if the municipalities want planning done, they would have to pay again."

Mr. Dekeyser had other concerns than financial ones, as well.

"The county has too much control right now," he said.

The township will convey its views to Queen's Park and the county.

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