



A SECTION of the Blair House handmade needlepoint rug.

Hudson's Wildlife Woven Into History by Its Women

Hudson, so full of rich history as an early Western Reserve village, made history just about one year ago.

The completion of a handmade needlepoint rug and crewel patterned bedpanels and curtains that now decorate a bed-sitting room in Blair House, the official government residence for foreign dignitaries in Washington, is not only part of

Hudson's history but also America's.

Mrs. Jane F. Fitch, a Hudson resident, was commissioned in 1966 by the Fine Arts Committee of Blair House to decorate one of its bed-sitting rooms. She owns and operates Robin Hill Ltd., an interior design and decorating firm that specializes in French and English 18th century antiques.

THE RUG, designed by Mrs. Anne H. Burnham of Hudson, depicts a lovely woodland scene — squirrels, rabbits, mice, birds, all the woodland creatures scattered amid dandelions, iris, cowslips, and tulips; a lily pond and a blue sky complete the scene.

The entire project was the volunteer work of over 200 people, mostly women, who lived in or near Hudson. It took three years to complete — one year to organize the project and two years to finish the needlepoint and crewel.

Other Hudson residents assisting Mrs. Fitch and Mrs. Burnham were: Mrs. Kate P. Baxter, coordinator from Robin Hill, Ltd.; Mrs. Priscilla Graham made six hand-drawn copies of each 18-inch square (64 different squares were used for the rug); Mrs. Theodora Tosker, technical advisor; Mrs. Debroah C. Shepherd supervised the crewel work.

Mrs. Elizabeth Floor transferred the crewel pattern to the pale-blue linen for the bedpanels and curtains. George B. Shepherd made the four-poster twin beds from an early 19th century American four-poster that was given to the project by Mrs. James Merrill.

Also involved in this tremendous project were the Paternayan Bros. of New York that donated the specially dyed needlepoint yarn and the B. F. Goodrich Co. that developed a rubber underlay so that the rug would be able to move without actually slipping.

Mrs. Fitch used American antique furniture, donated by her firm, to complete the room. Pictures of the pale-blue hued rug and curtains appear in the current August issue of "House and Garden."

According to Mrs. Fitch, the rug will last about 200 years and is insured for \$35,000.