

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: JUDY GRANT

Judy Grant was born in Iowa but says with a twinkling eye that she came to Texas as soon as she could. Actually she moved to Houston some forty-eight years ago to be near her sister's family, only to see her sister's husband relocated a relatively short time later. With some good Houston work experience behind her as an accountant with Bank of the Southwest, as an internal auditor for Gordon Jewelry, and finally in the audit department of Phillips Petroleum Company, she had grown to like the business climate here. She was also happily located in a beautiful Main Street high-rise apartment near downtown, and enjoying living in Houston, so with two of her three brothers living in Dallas she stayed the course. Now retired, she came to Treemont three years ago and is comfortably at

home in her second floor unit in Building E.



Judy's mother was a gifted seamstress and her two sisters loved to knit, but

Judy never really caught the fever until a gentleman in her building took up needlepoint as a hobby to fill the hours after he retired. She was fascinated with the beautiful pieces he was able to produce, and with his encouragement she decided to try her hand at it. Her first completed work was a somewhat stylized horse which now hangs framed on her bedroom wall surrounded by all kinds and sizes of framed pieces portraying animals, people, street scenes, still life compositions, and just about everything else you can imagine. Needlepoint cushions all but cover her



tasteful furniture and wherever you look you see evidence of a skilled and patient needlepointer.

Judy's first piece

Judy is a member of the prestigious American Needlepoint Guild, and as a member of that organization she was asked to make an ornament for the Christmas tree in the Blue Room of the White House. Subsequently she happily accepted an invitation from President and Mrs. Clinton to view the decorations. Another major project was chair seats for the library at Lady Bird Johnson's Wildflower Center near Austin. A local project she assisted in was a needlepoint rug for Rienzi, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harris Masterson which is now a part of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. Among other things she works with counted cross-stitch and crewel embroidery, but Judy says her favorite medium is needlepoint.

Impressed with her beautiful work, I asked if she was currently involved in making Christmas gifts, but she smiled as she explained that needlework had been set aside for a while as she pursued an equally absorbing but totally different avocation—genealogy. That explained notebooks stacked on almost every available surface. She has compiled data on her own parents' lineage, her father's Grant family, and the Pack family for

her mother's, plus several collateral groups. She has carefully documented and deftly organized photos, letters and legal papers along with personal notes regarding each member where available, reproducing each item into five notebooks which she is preparing for her family. Hours spent in libraries and on the internet have netted her much additional information about generations past which she had not previously known, and she is enthusiastic about the friendliness and helpfulness shown by genealogists near and far, whether professionals or hobbyists. Now and then she runs into someone working on the same lines she is researching and that may lead to a treasure trove. Ancestry.com gives her access to records all over the world, and specialized forums and chat rooms bring her in touch with people of similar interests, so she never runs out of something to do or some possible source of new information. Its tool, Family Tree Maker, will shape all her amassed work into easy to keep-up-

with and read family tree charts.



Judy with a few of her Genealogy files

Judy, a petite blonde with a lively intellect and a warm smile, also likes to travel and has had several great trips in both the U.S. and Europe. As I see it, anyone who has such complex and demanding hobbies as needlepoint and genealogy needs a time to get away from it all now and then, and just relax and smell the roses. And that is exactly what this gracious lady does.

Don't miss

PETER KEMERY'S

Fascinating story:

Boyhood in Nazi Germany.

***Postwar service
with British Intelligence.***

Graduate of Oxford University.

***Many years worldwide service
with international oil company.***

Thursday, Dec. 2 3:45 PM

Activities Room