

The National Tapestry

by Barbara Kammerzell

The fifth panel in the national tapestry has visited many parts of the region it represents (Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington). It spent time in Phoenix at the Starlight Stitches retreat, in Asilomar and San Diego, California, at region seminars, and Orange County, California, where it was well cared for in the home of Eileen Gibbs for several months.

Most recently the panel landed in the capable hands of Jeannette Clark of Valley Oak Chapter who lovingly carried it to various chapters in the Greater Pacific Region. It spent time in Evergreen, Washington; Oakland, California; many parts of Oregon; and at the Greater Pacific Region seminar in Portland this past June. It is now back in Phoenix, where it started out and where it will be finished. Stitches from Tucson to Alaska have worked on slips or spent time with the canvas, stitching background and attaching pieces.

This panel, like all the others, was designed to represent the area it covers. We have managed to paint with thread and needle all manner of flora and fauna. There is a rattlesnake, polar bear, and eagle, as well as a hummingbird, spotted skunk, bobcat, and sea lion. The flowers represented include the hibiscus, western dogwood, and forget-me-nots, as well as a prickly pear cactus wearing spring red flowers and a blooming saguaro.

The Yosemite Falls in California is represented as well as Mount Rainer and the Grand Canyon. Over two-hundred people have worked on the panel in the last couple of years. Margaret Fleming created a three-dimensional rattlesnake in beadwork that will be attached on top of the desert stitches. Each panel will be enhanced by machine embroidered trees that Casey Bradford created. The trees depicted are indigenous to

PANEL FIVE



A hundred years ago, elk had an extensive range in the U.S. Today they are found mostly in the intermountain West states (Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado), in parts of the Pacific Coast states, Minnesota, and Kentucky. Elk are herbivores and the second largest cervid in North America (moose are larger).

Prickly pear cactus is found in North American deserts.

Some of the twelve species have adapted to different environments and elevations. Prickly pear cacti have yellow, red, or purple flowers.



Found mostly along the Pacific Coast, southern Arizona, and New Mexico, the male Anna's hummingbird is noted for its iridescent red hood and throat, bronze-green upperparts, and metallic green tail.

the area and include palm, citrus, fir, and Palo Verde trees, as well as a Monterey cypress tree.

Many species of birds are featured. Myldred Richardson of the Tucson Chapter researched hummingbirds that are native to the West and discovered Anna's hummingbird, the only U.S. hummer with a red crown. Blue jays, red-winged blackbird, and downy woodpecker are also represented. Jeannette Clark, region director for Greater Pacific Region, stitched an American Eagle in flight.

All creatures great and small will have a place. Sue March of Valley Oak Chapter stitched the tiny bees, and Carolyn Stolhand of Evergreen Chapter stitched the mighty polar bear in fine wool using long and short stitch. Former national president Armida Taylor stitched a brown bear on silk gauze.

Since our panel features the Pacific Ocean



we could not forget all the critters that live in the water. Margaret Azpeitia-Taylor painted a salmon with her threads, and Linda Dunsmore of Orange County Chapter stitched the sea lion. Other water species included on the panel were rainbow trout, dolphin, and whale.

All five panels were displayed at Seminar 2006, *Gentle Pursuits*, in Richmond, Virginia, this past October. Some were finished, and some are works in progress. All are a tribute to the creative efforts of many talented people in The Embroiderers' Guild of America.



Barbara Kammerzell, former region director of Pacific Southwestern Region, is on the national nominating committee, chairman of the ESP program, and dean of faculty for Seminar 2008, *Golden Gala*, to be held in Louisville.



In the summer, the red-winged blackbird frequents marshy habitats. At other times of the year, it prefers open habitats. Adult males have a red patch on their wings bordered by yellow. This species is found throughout the U.S.

Sheep in the western U.S. are often raised under traditional range conditions in unfenced pastures managed by sheep herders. A range band consists of 1,000 ewes and their lambs. Wool production remains important in range sheep flocks.

There are sixteen types of rattlesnakes in the U.S. with one or more species in every contiguous state. Most rattlers, however, are concentrated in the Southwest. Because snakes hibernate in winter, you are more likely to see them during spring and fall migration to and from their winter homes.



The polar bear lives throughout the circumpolar Arctic, including parts of Alaska. It prefers sea ice habitat with leads (water channels or cracks through ice that remain ice-free, depending upon weather conditions and water currents) where the bears can hunt seals.



Trout belong to the salmon family and are usually found in cool, clear streams and lakes throughout North America. Rainbow trout are native to tributaries of the Pacific Ocean.