TRUDY'S VALENTINE

Dear Minnesota Quilters,
I feel inspired to write
to say I view my membership
with pleasure and delight.

My heart is full of thankfulness
for the multitude of ways,
in which you help me on my way
and lighten up my days.

Thanks for opportunities
to improve my skill and knowledge,
like the programs at our meetings
and the quilt shows at the college.

I never tire of show and tell,
it gives me inspiration.
That endless flow of items
shows superb imagination.

I think the sharing gives support
to quilting innovations.
Members benefit from feed back
as they work on their creations.

A most appealing aspect
of belonging to M.Q.
is the chance to know the quilters,
each and every one of you.

Each has her special beauty,
Each has wisdom she can share.
M.Q. brings us all together
and through the years I've come to care...

A lot about this sunny club
and feel you're pals of mine,
and am so glad that I belong
that I wrote this Valentine.

Trudy Finden

KERSPLAT!!!! KABOOM!!!
By Helen Kelley

I took a spill on the ice to-
day. I was trying to negotiate
the tire ruts beside the car when I
stepped in the icy track and down I
went. I lay there with my feet be-
neath the car and the cold seeping
through the seat of my jeans and I got
upset. It wasn't that I hurt myself. I
didn't. No skinned elbow, bumpy hip, or
stiff neck. Just my dignity! I was embar-
assed with myself for being so awkward. I got to
my feet and elaborately examined the uneven driveway
in case the neighbors were looking. I wanted then to
know that I hadn't fallen because I am clumsy, heaven
forbid!

I am like that when I quilt. Are you? It's so hard to
admit to just plain human frailties, like being a klutz.
I can live with dumping my pin dish. I make jokes about
appliquing a butterfly over the hole that I accidentally
snip in my work. I mutter a couple of good, censored
words when I put down my leather thimble and then can't
remember where I left it when I'm ready to go to work
again. It's the finished boo-boos that nag me.

I have a pillow. It's green and I made it with a horro-
endous star in the middle of it. The star is an unpal-
titable purple and an absurd maroon. The sixteen points
come together in the center accurately, but I stitched
them on the machine and I sewed right through the seam
allowances. Of course, they made a hump. Then, I
added insult to injury by trying to smash the hump down
with my iron. It didn't work. I starched the star good
and smashed it again. What I have now is a green-purple-
maroon ugly pillow with a glossy, miserable lump right in
the middle of it. I made that pillow in 1976. I have
kept it all these years, high up on a shelf in my work-
room. I look at it every day, but you know, I can't
throw the thing away. I don't know anyone to whom I
would give it. I am saddled with an awkward, clumsy
mistake.

(contd. on page 5)
MINNESOTA QUILTERS NEWS is the monthly newsletter of the Minnesota Quilters Inc., a non-profit organization formed to find and unite quilters and quilt enthusiasts throughout the state of Minnesota and elsewhere; and dedicated to enhancing the knowledge and enjoyment of quilting.

MEMBERSHIP DUES are $15.00 per year and include the following: Year round monthly meetings tailored to suit the needs of beginners, advanced and professional quilters, the newsletter, a Resource Directory of shops and services for quilters, workshop opportunities, and an "I'm a Minnesota Quilter" button.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS AND RENEWALS should be sent to Donna Hiar (Treasurer) 5800 Newton Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55419. Address labels are prepared on the first day of the month.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - a yellow underliner on your address label of the newsletter tells you that your membership is expiring. Because of our large membership, it may take 2 months or so before you receive your newsletter if membership lapses, so watch for that yellow marker.

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From the President

Dear Minnesota Quilter...

Those blah months are upon us - January, February and March. But you know something, I really love them. Granted by the end of March when we still have 3 feet of snow and cold on the ground, it gets a bit boring. Even so January and February are great. It's a time to catch your breath after the crescendo of activity in autumn and Christmas.

I wondered if others share this feeling so I asked a group of creative women. Here are some of their thoughts:
"It's a good time to start things."
"I always make a New Year's resolution to complete at least 5 projects a year, even if it is only hemming a pair of pants."
"I think better in cold weather."
"It's a time off."
"No, no it's not a time off, it's a time to start again."
"It's a time to read your Christmas quilt books."
"It's a time to make something for yourself."

Mostly it is a time to relax and enjoy. I hope you will.

Fondly,


Treasurer's Report

Income  $ 905.58
Expenses $ 1,283.82
Checking Bal. $ 2,540.06
Savings Bal. $ 6,557.06

Expenses for December 1982:
Monies for librarian, treasurer's receipt books, seed money for Historic Block committee, printing & postage for show materials, printing of newsletter (459.50), postage (239.76), and miscellaneous office expenses.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Hiar
Daytime Meeting

Our February daytime meeting will be Friday, the 11th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. with Show & Tell. The place is the Southdale Library in the Meeting Room. The special opening time for us at the Library is 9:30. (They don't officially open until 10:00 a.m.)

The program will be special readings, quilting quotes, stories, etc. from old and new quilters from all over the country. It is entitled "Quilter's Patchwork" and will be shared with us by Sharon Bobgan and Abbey Walden. I am looking forward to these readings and can tell by your requests that you are too!

We will also be having a minigram on the construction of tabard vests. Helpful hints will be shared with us by Jill Ries.

Wendy Richardson
Southdale Library, 7001 York Ave. So., Edina, MN

Evening Division Meeting

Happy New Year and Happy Valentine's Day. My! how these holidays tend to sneak up on a person. The Evening meeting for February will be held on Thursday the 10th, at Richfield Community Center at 7:00 p.m.

Our program will be a project for the spring quilt show. Last year we made heart favors for the Banquet at the show, and due to the success of them and of the tremendous efforts of the group, we have been asked to make favors for this year's banquet in March.

This year we're making "stuffed baskets"; that is, tiny baskets filled with fiberfill and covered with fabric. Please bring with you to the meeting in February some scraps of floral fabric (each basket requires an 8" circle), thread to match, a needle, scissors, and some extra bits of fiberfill you may have left over from a project. The baskets, glue, ribbon, and instructions to complete them will be provided by the committee.

This is a good time to get to know other members as we work together on a project we'll be proud of in March at the quilt show. Hopefully, we'll get quite a few done. Bring all your friends to join in the fun.

As always we'll have that wonderful Show & Tell (complete with a prize).

When: Thursday, February 10th
Where: Richfield Community Center
70th and Nicollet South
Time: 7:00 p.m.
What: Favor Making for the Quilt Show Banquet.

No Johnson

The Minnesota Quilters
"Piece Meals" Cookbook
is coming!

Watch this space for the date.
Library News

Additions to the Library include:

BOOKS
Broom Bims, published by Apple Dumplings, 1981 (donated by Elaine Carlson)
Butterflies, published by Loveland Pattern Company, 1979 (donated by Elaine Carlson)
Hawaiian Quilting Made Easy, Milly Singletary, 1982 (donated by Nancy Schell)
Lone Star Quilt Handbook, Blanche and Helen Young, 1979 (donated by Nancy Schell)

MAGAZINES
Needlecraft for Today, July/August 1979
Needlecraft for Today, September/October 1979

BOOK REVIEWS
In order to help us get to know better the three national teachers who will lead workshops at the "Artistry in Applique" Quilt Show in March, I've decided to briefly review their currently available publications. Patricia Cox, Gay Imbach and Betty Hagerman have written on a variety of quilting subjects and techniques — something for everyone's interest.

PATRICIA COX, a founding member of Minnesota Quilters, has published two books, Every Stitch Counts and The Log Cabin Workbook. The first is a collection of original and derivative quilting designs — stars, swirls, circles, flowers, hearts, feathers and braids — 100 designs in all. The designs are sized for a 12" square block; however, all the patterns are available in any size from the author. The Log Cabin Workbook presents a variety of ideas to explore the basic concept of the Log Cabin block. Explicit directions are given for piecing blocks of various sizes, block variations (court house steps, pineapple, etc.) for the completed blocks. In addition, there are two original flower patterns based on the log cabin piecing method — Pineapple Rose and Silver Lake Rose. Both of these books are available from Patricia Cox, One of a Kind Quilting Designs, 6601 Normandale Rd., Minneapolis, MN 55435. The cost for ESC is $13.50; LCW is $7.50 which includes postage and handling.

Patricia is currently negotiating with a publisher for a book on Baltimore-style quilts which would include patterns and directions for a quilt similar to the quilt which she designed for Bernice Enyeart, Indiana. That quilt will be shown at the Saturday evening lecture by Patricia Cox during the Quilt Show.

BETTY HAGERMAN, "The Sunbonnet Lady", published A Meeting of the Sunbonnet Children in 1979; it contains all you've ever wanted to know — and more — about the sunbonnet children. General information includes the origin of the sunbonnets, designs, designers and pattern companies. There are 23 pages of full-size patterns for both sunbonnet girls and farmer boys. The book is available from Betty Hagerman, Route #3, Baldwin City, Kansas 66006 for $7.00 per copy plus $1.00 for mailing.

New Members

Sherry L. Anderson 2920 W. 86th St., Bloomington, MN 55431 546-5702
Pamela Conway 736 E. 16th St. #23, Mpls, MN 55404 338-2325
Bernice Enyeart 535 N. 300 E., Huntington, Ind. 46750
Joanne M. Farley 14958 95th Place N., Maple Grove, MN 55369 420-5586
Cheryl Iverson 606 S.W. 17th St., Wilmar, MN 56221 235-7222
Corinne A. McClellan 509 W. Main St., Cambridge, MN 55008 689-3961
Mary Jo Peterson 2816 Buchanan St. N.E., Mpls, MN 55418
Margaret Plummer Box 17152, Mpls, MN 55417 727-3779
Loretta E. Quick 4750 Decatur Ave. N., New Hope, MN 55428 537-1559
Judy Schmidt 312 Lake St., Worthington, MN 56187
Jane Sybesma 1923 Mullen Dr., Fond Du Lac, WI 54935 935-6363
Susan Rucinski 5217 Phelps Rd., Mound, MN 55364 472-7856
Dawn Wynkoop P.O. Box 842, Lakeville, MN 55044 469-3100
Dee Wright 500 Westwood Village II, Roseville, MN 55113 483-4653
NANCY RASCHKA-REEVES - 3403 15th Ave. So., Mpls, MN

Nancy has accomplished what many of us would like to do—successfully combined home-work-family. She is part owner of GLAD CREATIONS, INC., working at something she loves, has involved her husband and parents in the business, and eventually, I imagine, will involve her two boys now ages 7 years and 4 months, too.

She has been teaching about eight years, six and one half in her own shop, and prior to that at the Cotton Shop. She is past M.O. Education Chairman, and chaired the committee for "A Weekend For Me and My Quilts" in October, 1981. She is now working on an appliqué quilt for the show, and also on quilts designed from computer printouts for illustrating Debra Millard's new book which will be coming out this spring.

Nancy quilts for her own enjoyment, and machine piecing, which she will be teaching in March, is her specialty.

Last September at Country Peddler's "Quilting Today" Show, her Harvest Medallion Quilt (shown behind Nancy) captured Best of Show award, and at the Sun Prairie, Wisconsin show, a First Place.

MARGARET MAKI - 7700 Cedar Lake Road, Mpls, MN

Margaret came to Minnesota about seven years ago from Tacoma, Washington; she is married and has a twenty-year-old daughter and fifteen-year-old son. She has been a M.O. member over three years, currently serving as Recording Secretary. One of her outstanding accomplishments from which we all benefit was the creation of the Minnesota Quilters' Library and the writing of the Interesting Book Reviews while serving as Librarian.

Margaret spends a lot of time immersed in quilting, maybe 5 or 6 hours a day, and also in preparing for her classes. She has taught Beginning Quiltmaking at Orono Community Education and St. Louis Park Community Ed. She is now teaching in her home an intermediate level class which is working out very nicely. She likes doing appliqué, so was interested immediately when she saw the book on Celtic Design with its tricky weavings and appliqué and decided to give it a try. She taught a class in it at the Fall Getaway, and is really very excited about teaching and challenging her students. She works them hard and hopes they accomplish something they didn't even know they could do.

(Helen Kelley – contd. from page 1)

Everyone makes mistakes. Why do I let that pillow bother me. I suppose the way to deal with it gracefully is to make a joke out of it. I think that I shall call that pillow my Green Hornet. Maybe that will take the sting out of it. I will turn it into a comic book pillow. A little laughter, some good-natured humor may make my life much less serious, much more fun. Come around some day and see my Green Hornet. Maybe I'll give it to you!

The Cotton Patch
517 Marie Avenue
So. St. Paul, Minnesota 55075
(612) 451-9110
cotton fabrics, quilting classes, supplies & kits. Mon-Fri 9:00-9:00 Sat 9:00-5:00
This year Carolyn Sidebottom of Plymouth, is the Committee Chairwoman of the "Artistry in Applique" Quilt Show. Many of you may have already had the opportunity to meet Carolyn since she moved here from Kansas.

In 1978 Carolyn started working for a friend who opened a quilt shop. A fringe benefit was a class in quilting -- the quilting interest began. Later she started to design patterns for Calico Cupboard.

After moving to Minnesota in May 1980, Carolyn started designing under the name of PLYMOUTH PATCHWORK ORIGINALS. Her designs originate from elements of designs done before or from something she has seen. Carolyn's miniature medallion wall hanging is an adaptation from a block seen at a museum. She makes her patterns to scale, then her husband does the inking and lettering. She also is her business manager, freeing her of the bookkeeping.

Carolyn said she prefers the traditional quilts, with applique her favorite. She did take several classes from Chris Edmunds. "I work in spurts. When I get an idea I work for 2 or 3 days." She does all her own quilting, but doesn't use a thimble. She quits for 5 or 6 hours a day until her finger nail is worn down, and then she waits until her nail grows out; then starts quilting again. She enjoys each project from beginning to end. "There is great pleasure to finish the top, then the quilting, and the edge." She likes to celebrate along the way.

For the small quilt, she is working on a Oliver White Design with a lot of quilting. Presently Carolyn is teaching at the Wayzata Quilting Emporium, the Cotton Patch, and the Country Peddler. Carolyn relates to what Jinny Beyer says. Students get bogged down in class because they don't feel free or comfortable enough to add their own ideas or alter the pattern. When Carolyn designs her patterns she has stayed away from colored pictures so people would use their own color. She encourages everyone to take a creativity class to feel comfortable with deviating from the printed pattern.

PATRICIA COX - 6601 Normandale Rd., Mpls., MN
Pat Cox is an artist in the true sense of the word. Her talents extend to art, design, writing and music, as well as her love for quilt-making. Pat is a self-taught quilter. She learned needlework from her grandmother and mother, and has mastered and taught many related crafts. She has taught quilting since the mid-sixties. Quilts by Pat Cox have been pictured in many national quilt magazines, and also a Canadian publication. She is especially proud of a commission done for the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis.

As a charter member of the North American Quilters Guild, Pat served as Treasurer for the organization. She was a member of the Teacher Certification Committee for the National Quilters Association and is herself a certified teacher. She is now working on the Master Quilters Committee of the NQA.

Pat realized, as a teacher, the real need for quilting patterns. She began to design her own, and ONE OF A KIND QUILTING DESIGNS has become a thriving business. Many of her patterns are applique, and all are sold internationally. Pat is widely known as an author in the world of quilts. Her articles have appeared in many major quilting publications. She has also published two books, LOG CABIN WORKBOOK and EVERY STITCH COUNTS. Pat also offers a variety of lectures, often a pleasing blend of practical information and history. Although her expertise extends to all types of quilting, Pat most enjoys creating theme sampler quits. Using either Hawaiian or her Pennsylvania Dutch original designs, Pat's quits are a work of art.

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KATHY MORTON - 9860 Crestwood Terrace, Eden Prairie, MN.

Kathy is an art teacher "by trade", but dropped it all to concentrate on quilting once she got "quilt fever" during a class she took while awaiting the birth of her little girl. Her first quilt, of course, was for her daughter who is now seven. She also has a four-year-old boy and a super supportive husband who encourages her to the "point of pushing" in quilt activities. Both she and her husband have developed an interest in oriental motifs and have decorated their home with oriental furnishings.

Kathy is doing a remarkable job as Education Chairman on the M.Q. Board, and is also on the current nominating committee. Because of her not so small salt box name tag, Kathy is easily identified at M.Q. meetings.

She loves teaching and designing. Her teaching talents are being used regularly at The Sampler in Waconia, and in and about the Fond du Lac, WI area where she teaches Shadow Applique and another of her specialties, Hawaiian Quilting. Kathy has access to special patterns direct from Hawaiian quilting families. She was the designer of the first two M.Q. Collection Quilts and has two original blocks in the M.Q. Book. She has given M.Q. workshops and programs and presented her slide show for several church groups. Her dream for the future is to write and publish her own pattern books.

For the Candlewicking Class which she will teach at the Quilt Show, Kathy has prepared two patterns—one geared to beginners, but the other applied to the vest pattern or the person wanting something more advanced.

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HELEN KELLEY - 2215 Stinson Blvd., Mpls. MN 55418

A Lady with a scholarly cap at church—loving and giving talks of trees or wearing the latest Santa attire, she's as diversified as a person can be. Yes it's HELEN KELLEY. Always herself and yet never the same. She was our first president and keeps a watchful eye over us.

Always loving the project she's working on right now, her first quilt was her green with purple tulips wedding quilt. She also made a wedding quilt for her oldest daughter, and that was the beginning.

Helen now is an avid lecturer, teacher, designer, and when does she have time to quilt? Well, she snatches time when ever she can. Like anyone who has accomplished as much as Helen; she writes her articles in her mind while quilting at the frame.

Helen is well remembered for her Mother Goose Quilt and the Rosemaling Norwegian Elf. Her latest is a magnificent Norwegian wallhanging which she designed from a Norwegian tapestry (hanging behind Helen in picture). She has already been working on it for two years. (We will all anxiously await the unveiling)

Helen is always extending her capabilities and would like to see others use their resources from within themselves. She likes competition and says this is our communication with one another.

Her work has appeared in Lady's Circle Patchwork quilts. Helen has written articles for Quilter's Newsletter.
JEANNIE SPEARS - 917 Lakeview Ave., St. Paul, MN. 55117

Jeannie is a soft spoken lady with a strong determination and delightful to know. While most of us try to find time for quilting Jeannie has found the best solution. She just tries to find the time for other chores and quilts all the time. She enjoys quilting and found out that dyeing fabric was a quick way to get to it.

She has been quilting about 12 years; started by cutting 5 inch squares to use up the scraps she had left over from sewing for her five children. Her husband says, "set a box of scraps in a dark corner and they just keep multiplying."

In February Jeannie is taking a course on color from Michele James and is very excited about it. Her new project is to find a satisfactory solution when painting on fabric. She enjoys competition—there is a lot to be gained by it. You find out if you’re working up to par and also the positive feedback when some one likes what you’ve done.

Jeannie is Chairman of the National Quilting Association Masters Guild program and working very hard on a set of rules that will determine a masterpiece quilt. She has served as Chairman of the National Quilting Association’s Teacher Certification Program, and edited the committee’s publication "Teaching Basic Quiltmaking". She has written "The Confidence Quilting Home Study Course" and "Mastering the Basics of Quiltmaking". She is one of the founders of the nationally recognized Quilters Retreat, Inc. and has taught workshops in Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, California, and Canada. Her work has appeared in Quilters Newsletter, Lady's Circle Patchwork Quilts, and other publications.

JEAN HUMENANSKY - 2177 Irene St., St. Paul, MN.

Jean lives in Roseville with husband and two teenage sons, but can be found most often at The Country Peddler. About six years ago, Jean's sister-in-law, Donna Michel, wanted to spend more time at home with her family, so Jean went in full-time as Manager. She has been quilting, teaching and sharing her ideas with others ever since. A very helpful, delightful person. Besides teaching many classes at the Country Peddler, she also has taught beginning quilting to various women's groups.

Even though she has always sewed, worked on other crafts such as stained glass, and in recent years, quilting, Jean also finds time to be a very active outdoorsperson. She likes to hike, run, canoe, ski, etc. Just recently she was slowed down a bit, however, by exploratory knee surgery, but after a month of therapy should be moving around pretty well again.

When making a quilt, Jean finds piecing by hand the most enjoyable part. This she usually does in the evening when her family is out, and with a ski instructor husband this happens quite often around this time of the year in Minnesota. She is intrigued by the curved two-patch as described in Joyce Schlotzhauer's book and now is piecing a wallhanging in mauve and eggplant colors.

Publicity for the "Artistry in Applique" Show is being handled by Jean, and the class she has been asked to teach at the show is English Snocking Basics.
JANUARY EVENING MEETING - The Evening Meeting started at 7 p.m. with Show & Tell. Each person who brought something for Show & Tell has their name in for a drawing for a prize. Linda Ikola won. 45 participated in the Name Tag Contest. One prize went to the person who finished the name tag last. Dorothy Andrus won finishing hers at 6 p.m. Her name tag was a ribbon with her name printed on and a piece of material full of pins, safety pins and a large darning needle with thread. The name tag was attached to her blouse with a big safety pin. Other winners were Betty Markland, Joanne Holzknecht, Barbara Gulden and Carol Delmonico. Some of the workshop instructors showed their projects they will be teaching at the Quilt Show.

For the program Ann Degen gave ideas on fabric selection and color by showing samples of fabric and later in her slides. She also had slides of some quilts when she attended Jinny Beyer's Seminar at Hilton Head.

Lynn Fredsall is shown holding a Pottery Flower Wall-hanging. The original design is four 12" squares.

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ODDS 'N ENDS (From Crafts Feb. 1983)

FAIRFIELD PROCESSING CORP. is sponsoring a quilt block contest entitled "Hurray for Holidays" through July 1, 1983. Contest entry forms are available from Fairfield Processing Corp., Dept. OE, 88 Rose Hill Ave., P.O. Drawer 1157, Danbury, CT 06810.

Sent to us from Kay Bailey.

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Barb Kopas received a quilt frame made by her brother-in-law for Christmas. If you have a frame, you need a quilt top. Right? Barb's sister made the Grandmothers Fan so she would have something to quilt.

Linda Ikola is holding some of the 63 blocks, Pilot's Wheel, made by Catherine and Aini Mathern over 30 years ago. Catherine is now dead, but Aini and Linda plan on finishing the quilt this year.
JANUARY DAYTIME MEETING

Beatrice Lindquist explained the faculties at the Franklin Park Senior Citizens Residence.

Mary Jones started Show & Tell:
Mary Lou Schnitz - king size sampler quilt (32 patterns and 31 quilting designs) and king size water bed - double wedding ring quilt for daughter's wedding last summer. Shirley Kirsch - goose with velvet heart. Dorothy Michaud - quilt wallhanging for her daughter. Lois Bradley - sampler quilt in tan and brown. Jean Jackson - Kitchen angel. Mary Jones - Wreath of hearts tablecloth. (I'm sorry that I can't include pictures this month - I had problems with the film pack.)

After the business meeting was over the winners of the Name tag contest were announced. Best Done - Pat Wiswell; Most Original - Jo Liberty; and Most Easily Read - Joanne Holzknecht.

FUZZY QUILT? Do you have a fuzzy quilt that needs a shave? There is a little gadget, to be found at most fabric notion counters called a "D - FUZZ - IT". It really works to remove fuzz that sometime forms on quilts. Information by Darlene Myers.

QUILTERS 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS as sung at the Houston Quilt Festival, given to us by Pat Cox.
12 bolts of fabric
11 projects finished
10 quilters' quarters
9 nimble thimbles
8 bags of batting
7 scissors snipping
6 needles stitching
5 oval hoops
4 folded stars
3 chintz prints
2 templates cut
1 and a 1st place in the Quilt Show.

FROM THE EDITOR - Nancy Schell
I never realized a month could go so fast. Since Christmas my days are not long enough. I'm getting some unfinished projects done - my name tag for the January meeting a blue Dresden vest - a daughter's tree skirt (she will get it by next Christmas) and working on more ideas for the Newsletter.

Starting this month the center page is a pattern graciously designed by Kathy Morton especially for Minnesota Quilters. Thank-you Kathy. Each month there will either be a pattern or an illustrated procedure which you will be able to remove, keeping it as a resource. If you have a particular thing you would like, do call or write me.

Are you a member of a special quilting group? Will you please write up a article about what activities each of you are doing, or what your group is working on?

Last month the cover story, "Artistry in Applique" was written by Carolyn Sidebottom. My apologize for neglecting to give her proper credit.

Mary Borowski and Lyda De Haven are helping with the articles in "Personality Spotlight". Thank-you Mary and Lyda for all the help you have already given me. I'd also like to express my appreciation for all the assistance many have provided.
HOMESPUN MADNESS: CRAZY QUILTS NOW FETCH CRAZY PRICES

Heirlooms and New Creations Become Fit For a King

After Bicentennial Revival

By Claudia Ricci, Staff Reporter of the Wall Street Journal (published in the Wall Street Journal, Monday, October 11, 1982)

Later this year, when Maria McCormack-Snyder of Baltimore sells five of the quilts she has designed and stitched, she figures the proceeds will be sufficient for a down payment on the house she is building.

In Modesto, Calif., artist Yvonne Porcella makes quilts and then fashions them into one-of-a-kind clothing priced in the four-figure range.

Two years ago, Sotheby Parke Bernet Inc., the New York auctioneers, sold a colorful early-20th century quilt depicting a bustling Illinois farm scene for $10,000 – one of the highest prices ever paid for a quilt at auction.

The homespun quilt has transcended its ragbag origins to become a luxury item. Whether delicate heirlooms or vividly colored contemporary creations, quilts today spell big business. They have acquired such cachet that quilters by the tens of thousands–rural seamstresses doing piecework, suburban homemakers hunched over dining-room tables and artists working in urban lofts—can’t cut, piece, stuff and stitch fast enough to satisfy demand.

WIDE-RANGING INTEREST

Their handiwork often fetches thousands of dollars at glitzy galleries, boutiques and department stores, and more modest sums at church fairs or craft shows from Maine to Marin County. The explosion of interest in quilts and quilting has spawned numerous classes, workshops, how-to books, magazines and newsletters, not to mention quilting-supply businesses like Jeff Gutcheon’s in Manhattan, which will gross about $1 million this year five times his sales three years ago. All told, quilt-making has become a $50 million to $100 million business, though for the quilters themselves, it is more a labor of love than money.

"Quilts are a link to past generations and a link to future generations," says Karyn Bresenhan, who owns a quilt shop and runs a national trade show for quilt-store owners in Houston every year. "They are statements of quality, they are statements of beauty, they are something that lives after you."

At a time when much of the art market is mired in a recessionary slump, gallery owners and auctioneers say that antique quilts continue to command steep prices. Patchworks from pioneer beds survive today as sought-after folk art, and are likely to be found gracing gallery walls, corporate corridors and sumptuous contemporary homes.

FLOATING SALE

In August, more than 450 quilt fanciers crowded aboard a Circle Line sightseeing boat to bid on antique bedding while cruising around Manhattan. The sale, sponsored by Guernsey’s Country Auction of New York, took in over $40,000 for 135 quilts. Barbara Mintz, Guernsey’s owner says the auction house has been selling an average of 100 quilts a month, for several hundred dollars each.

The swift rise in quilt prices has taken some collectors by surprise. A few years ago, Robert L. P. Williams, a New York tax attorney, bought an Amish quilt dating from the 1920s. He did so behind his wife’s back, for she had thought its $800 price outrageous. Mr. Williams, who sneakily bought the quilt for his Long Island home while his wife was asleep, recalls that later ”when she came home with a new dress and a couple of pairs of shoes, I felt safe enough to unveil my purchase.” Today, Mrs. Williams is delighted with the quilt, a highly prized type of patchwork that now would probably sell for between $3,000 and $5,000. ”What else can you use as an investment that you can also take to bed with you?” Mr. Williams asks with a chuckle.

Quilts have become gifts fit for a king. A New York banker recently purchased one, made for the 1876 U.S. Centennial, as a gift for Spain’s King Juan Carlos. President and Mrs. Reagan have presented quilts to heads of state while on trips abroad. And, when Prince Charles and Princess Diana’s son was born this June, the Reagans gave them a baby quilt made by Kentucky crafts-women.

Quilts are no longer confined to the bedroom. Corporations, for example, have found them ideal for adding touches of home warmth to hard-edged office environments. Quilts adorn walls at International Business Machines Corp. facilities in Franklin Lakes, N.J.; Essex Junction, Vt., and Mechanicsburg, Pa. Chase Manhattan Bank in New York boasts 49 American quilts in its extensive art collection. The San Francisco office of Espirit de Corp., a sportswear manufacturer, was designed expressly to display the company’s collection of 200 quilts valued at $500,000.

The resurgence of interest in patchworks began as part of the general interest in folk art and Americana that accompanied the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial. But the history of quilting reaches much farther back than Colonial America. Some evidence suggests that the Egyptian Pharaohs, as far back as 3400 B.C., wrapped themselves in quilts for warmth. And in the Middle Ages, crusaders visiting the Near East took to wearing quilts as protective padding beneath their armor. When they returned home, the technique of quilting spread rapidly through Europe.

Queen Elizabeth I wore quilted gowns, richly embroidered

(contd. on page 12)
HOMESPUN MADNESS: CRAZY QUILTS NOW ARE FETCHING CRAZIER PRICES (contd from page 11)

in gold, silver and pearls. Catherine Howard was given 23 silk quilts when she married King Henry VIII in 1540. And an elaborate bridal quilt given to Marie Antoinette indirectly led to her demise: The French Revolutionary tribunal held up the flower-and-cupid-bedecked quilt as an example of her extravagance.

But the craft of quilting culminated in Colonial America, when a chronic shortage of cloth and harsh conditions forced the early settlers to fall back on their ingenuity and needlecraft skill. Cotton wasn't yet being manufactured in the Colonies, and it took months to turn flax and fleece into linen and wool. Women recycled scarce fabrics repeatedly—first as garments and finally, when only scraps remained, as quilts.

Quilting was one of the only creative outlets then available for women. Little girls learned the craft as soon as they could handle a needle, and by the time they married, were expected to have pieced together a dozen patchwork tops. When a girl became engaged, family and friends would assemble to finish the blankets at a marathon quilting bee. These gatherings, like barn raisings, corn huskings and church picnics, offered welcome respite from the isolation of frontier life. (To a lesser extent, boys, too, helped quilt. Both Dwight D. Eisenhower and Calvin Coolidge admitted in later years to having helped cut and piece patchworks in their youth.)

Unlike their forebears, contemporary quilters are blessed with a surplus of fabric from which to stitch their creations. Yet they do fall victim to age-old quilters' ailments, such as heavily calloused forefingers, where the tiny quilting needles come to rest again and again.

Judy B. Dales, a Mountain Lakes, N.J., quilter who also teaches the craft, says she suffers from arthritis, a pain in her right hand so intense she can barely hold a pencil. Other quilters complain of sore hips from too many hours of sitting. "I tell all my students they'll end up hunch-backed and blind," Mrs. Dales says with a smile.

They are also likely to end up poorly paid. So time-consuming is the work that even those who produce quilts that sell for several thousand dollars often labor for the less than the minimum hourly wage. Sue H. Rodgers of Mountain Lakes, N.J., recently sold a pair of her quilts for $2,300. But it took her more than 1,200 hours to complete the intricate, trapunto-style bed coverings.

Big quilt retailers often farm out work to seamstresses in rural areas or in foreign countries. Near Bell Buckle, Tenn., about 40 local women produce quilts in their homes for shipment to stores across the nation.

A group of Mennonite women in the Lancaster, Pa., area produce quilts for a Madison Avenue boutique called The Gazebo. The store charges between $400 and $600 for each quilt, more than double what it pays to the group producing the quilt.

But most of The Gazebo's quilts are made in Haiti, where about 60 women working at a small factory earn only a few dollars a week. The store started its Haitian operation six years ago, when the Pennsylvania quilters couldn't meet burgeoning demand.

Quilt-making provides "very good supplemental income," says Nancy Puentes, executive director of the Quilt Institute, a trade organization of quilt-shop owners. "But it's certainly not producing (anyone's) living."

Clearly, the rewards of quilting are found elsewhere. Quilters say they enjoy the intricate, painstaking stitching that some might regard as tedious. "It's therapy in a way," says Ann Ralph, a New York quilter who recently moved from California. "It's almost like meditation."

Quilters are equally reverent about the end product—whether their own handiwork or that of a long-forgotten pioneer seamstress who whiled away bleak prairie winters stitching something of beauty. So it was with much indignation that they greeted fashion designer Ralph Lauren's fall collection, featuring $1,000 skirts and $700 petticoats, all fashioned from antique quilts. "You wouldn't take a fragment of a fine painting and make a Christmas tree ornament out of it," snaps Bonnie Leman, editor of Quilter's Newsletter Magazine in Wheatridge, Col. Though Mr. Lauren insists his patchwork designs were cut from ripped and damaged quilt remnants, Mrs. Leman suggests the scraps might more properly have been framed as art.

For those who love them, every quilt is a tangible fragment of history. Karey Bresenhan of Houston is especially fond of a quilt begun back in the 1930s by her great-grandmother, who had learned the craft by candlelight in a tent on the Texas prairie. A few weeks before Mrs. Bresenhan was married in 1963, 15 of her great-aunts, cousins and other kinfolk gathered to finish the quilt as a wedding present. It was a three-day quilting bee that Mrs. Bresenhan remembers with particular fondness.

"We worked 24 hours a day, sleeping in shifts," she says. For Mrs. Bresenhan, the finished product, with its pattern of five pastel-colored stars, has no price tag. "It's not the most valuable quilt I own," she says. "And it's not the most beautiful. But Howard Hughes didn't have enough money to buy this quilt. I wouldn't sell it for anything."
SMALL QUILT AUCTION - We are again asking our members to make and donate quilts for the small quilt auction. They may be any size up to 24" x 36". The deadline for the quilts will be the March day-time and evening meetings. Please keep this in mind as you plan your winter line-up of projects. We hope to have as many fine quilts as were donated last year. Please call Cathie LaRosa if you have any questions pertaining to the auction. Thank-you.

WEST AREA QUILTERS - On Thursday, February 17th the group will meet at Beverly Miller's home. To reach Beverly's home, go west on Highway 7 to Carver County Rd. 10 (approx. 3 miles west of St. Bonifacius). Turn left and it is the first farm on the left. Her phone number is 446-1425. Starting time is 10:00 a.m. Bring something for the salad bar potluck. Everyone is welcome! Bring your 12½" friendship blocks for exchange.

LONG RANGE PLANNING MEETING - will be held January 25th, 9:30 a.m. at Ruth Donohue's home. One item to be brought up is - planning special workshops with teachers whom will be paid.

Quilt Raffle - Win yourself a queen size quilt.
HELP support Minnesota Quilters. Buy a raffle ticket on the "Spider Web" designed quilt. The state fair whole cloth quilt is now completed. A special thank-you goes out to all of the MQ members that donated a few hours of quilting time to help this fund raiser become a reality. The quilt is to be raffled off March 28,1983 at the "Artistry in Applique" Quilt Show. Tickets go on sale at the January day and evening meetings. Ticket price is $1.00, or a book of (10) for $9.00. Contact Michele Keller to purchase tickets.

MNQ BOARD MEETING - will be held Saturday, February 5th, 1983 at Lee Bradford's home at 9:30 a.m.

"ARTISTRY IN APPLIQUE" SHOW COMMITTEE - the February 18th meeting will be held at Nancy Schell's home, 318 Birchwood Dr.N., Stillwater, MN 55082, at 9:30 a.m.

QUITES ExPOSITION & QUILTERS RETREAT - February 13th to February 19th, the 2nd annual quilt exposition will be held at Hickory Lane in downtown Hutchinson. Friday, February 18th Helen Kelley will present a slide lecture, "A Smorgasbord of Possibilities" at 7 p.m. Quilters' Retreat begins at 2 p.m. February 18th and ends at noon February 19th. Cost is $22.00. To register or for more information contact Hickory Lane, 131 So. Main, Hutchinson, MN 55350, Phone 612-587-8571.

HMONG HANDWORK - Classes in Reverse Applique I, February 10th & 17th and Cross-stitch Patterns I, February 12th & 19th with the Hmong women as instructors. For more information contact Hmong Handwork, 1187 Payne Ave., St. Paul, MN 55101, Tel. 612-778-8819.

COLLECTION QUILTING BEE - will be held January 26th at Lee Bradfords.

DULUTH QUILT SHOW - Piecemakers Quilt Club & North Club Country Quilters will have a quilt show at Miller Mall, February 19th and 20th. Saturday hours 10-6. Sunday hours 12-5. A queen size Dresden Plate Quilt with ice-cream-cone border will be raffled, proceeds going to Duluth's Public V. Tickets are $1.00.

Our sincere sympathy to Marcie Ryan who's husband passed away on Friday.
BLACK HILLS QUILTERS RETREAT to be held June 20, 21, and 22, 1983 on the campus of St. Martin's Academy near Rapid City, South Dakota. Nancy Donahue is the featured teacher and will present hands-on workshop on Shadow Trapunto. Additional workshops are offered by area teachers. For more information drop then a note along with a SASE. Black Hills Quilters Retreat, Jane Quinn, 4200 Calle Baja, Rapid City, South Dakota 57701. Phone: 605-342-0588.


THE TUESDAY NIGHT QUILT SOCIETY AND......* We're that small group of M.Q. members that live in the Roseville, Como, St. Anthony, Maplewood areas that formed back in October. We meet the second Tuesday evening of each month at 7:30. It was decided at our last evening gathering to here-to-fore refer to ourselves as The Tuesday Night Quilting Society and....* Anyone interested in joining us is welcome. The next gathering is February 8th at Carol Wagner's, 1148 Autumn, Roseville, 488-6286. For more details call Carol.

FLYING GESEEE QUILT SHOW - Quilt Show is Saturday, March 12, 1983. Hours 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Admission $1.00. Workshop is Friday, March 11, 1983. Hours 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Both to be held at Moraine Park Technical Institute, 235 North National Ave., Fond du Lac, WI 54935. For entry forms or more information call Sharon Stelter, 414-922-6253.

RESOURCE DIRECTORY UPDATE - M.Q. is going to revise and reprint a new update for insertion in our Resource Directory. This is an opportunity for anyone who has not yet been listed, and wishes to be, to submit an entry. Each entry would cost $1.00. To obtain a registration blank, send a SASE to M.Q. Resource Directory, 5401 Elliot Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55417, as soon as possible. Completed registration forms with appropriate payment must be returned to the same address no later than February 16th to guarantee inclusion.

DELIVER QUILTS - Add the following name to the drop off locations: Carol Wagner, 1148 Autumn St., Roseville, MN 488-6286. Deliver Quilts to the following locations Saturday, March 19 through Monday, March 21. Call ahead to arrange a time: Carol Wagner, 1148 Autumn St., Roseville, MN 55113, 488-6286 Nancy Schell, 318 Birchwood Dr. No., Stillwater, MN 55082, 439-6438 and Linda Ikola, 1431 Texas Ave. So., St. Louis Park, MN 55426, 544-0032.
Coming Events

Jan. 19 - Feb. 12 - Textile Arts Exhibit at YWCA on the Mall
Jan. 25 - Long Range Planning Meeting, Ruth Donhowe - 9:30 a.m.
Jan. 26 - Quilting Bee - collection quilt at Lee Bradford's.
Jan. 28 - Historic Quilt Block Collection Committee - at Bonnie Ellis
Jan. 29 - Mid-Winter Workshops - St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church.
Jan. 31 - Evening Planning Committee at No Johnson - 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 5 - M.O. Board Meeting at Lee Bradford - 9:30 a.m.
Feb. 6-11 - Quilters' Retreat California Style (see Dec. '82 Newsletter for more information)
Feb. 8 - Tuesday Night Quilt Society and ...* at Carol Wagners, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 10 - M.O. Evening Division Meeting, Richfield Community Center, 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 11 - M.O. Daytime Meeting - Southdale Library - 10:00 a.m.
Feb. 13 - 19 - Quilt Exposition & Quilters Retreat - Hickory Lane, Hutchinson, MN
Feb. 15 - REGISTER FOR WORKSHOP CLASSES
Feb. 17 - West Area Quilters - Beverly Miller
Feb. 18 - "Artistry in Applique" Quilt Show Committee meeting at Nancy Schell - 9:30 a.m.
Feb. 19 - 20 - Quilt Show at Miller Mall, Duluth, MN
Feb. 25 - 26 - Dye Workshops, Weavers Guild, St. Paul, MN
Mar. 11-12 - Flying Geese Quilt Show, Moraine Park Technical Institute, Fond du Lac, WI.
Mar. 26 - 29 - "Artistry in Applique" Quilt Show - College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN
Apr. 13-14 or 15-16 - Eau Claire Wisconsin Spring Getaway (see Dec. '82 Newsletter for more information)
May 9-14 - Quilts, An American Romance - Troy, Michigan Exhibit & Sale
May 20-22 - Santa Rosa Quilt Guild Nat'l Quilt Contest (see Dec. '82 Newsletter for more information)
June 10 or 11 - Quilt Market to be held in Twin Cities
June 20-22 - Black Hills Quilters Retreat, Rapid City, So. Dak.
July 5-6-7 - Symposium '83 - San Jose, CA
Aug. 8-14 - National Quilt Show in Bell Buckle, TN.

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Advertising Rates: Classified ads.: - 15¢ a word with no charge for name and address. Display ads.: 1/8 pg. $6.00, 1/4 pg. $12.00, 1/2 pg. $18.00, 3/4 pg. $27.00, 1 pg. $36.00, business cards $4.50. Ads. placed for 12 consecutive issues will be given a 15% discount. Make checks payable to Minnesota Quilters Inc. and direct all ad. inquiries to Lyda DeHaven, 2121 Imperial Ave, Forest Lake, MN 55025. Phone: 464-6600. Please note: no ads. will be included in the Newsletter unless they are accompanied by full payment with the order.

Deadline for Ads. All ads. for the coming month must arrive at the above address by the first Friday of the preceding month, e.g. ads. to be placed in September issue must reach the above address by the first Friday in August.
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