

**Ruth Herbst**

During the depression my dad's half sister(80 years old) wanted something to do so my mother gathered up old clothes we had outgrown and Aunt Ellen made 4 quilt tops--one of which I have and was featured in the Minnesota quilt book. Mom would set up the quilt frames in the dining room and then have several ladies come and sit around it and hand quilt. I would sit under it and watch.

Later, I saw a pattern in a magazine I liked so drew up the templates and hand sewed the pieces together to make a blue and mauve wall hanging. I then took a class from Carol Wagner making 9 different patterns and was hooked on quilting. I would see a picture of a quilt I liked and then designed it from that. Some blocks were up to 16" square.

What I like most about quilting is the planning for whom I am making the quilt. I have made quilts for my husband and I, 3 children, 6 grandchildren and now on my 2nd learning quilt for 2 great-grandchildren. I am also making twin size quilts for the other two great-grandchildren. I have also made many wall hangings and 2 crazy quilt jackets, which I wear all spring and fall.

I have continued to have no special technique that I emphasize. I just do whatever inspires me at the time and I try to consider the people or person for whom I am making the quilt for when I choose a technique6.

This quilt in the picture is one that I made for our son and his bride for their wedding. He selected the pattern and fabric as he has a great eye for color. It took me another year to hand quilt it on a quilt hoop built on a platform that sits on my lap and then put my left hand under the hoop to guide the needle. After that I have had all quilted Longarm by Jane Fisk of North Branch, Mn. I have enjoyed making all these quilts and wall hangings but also have many other hobbies to keep me busy.

