

EVOLUTION OF A QUILT DESIGN

NO. III

This is the third article in the series showing adaptations of The Garden quilt originally made by Arsinoe Kelsey Bowen in 1857. The other articles appear in Fall 1977 and Spring 1978.*

Ruth Snyder of Independence, KS wrote an article with a picture about her mother's quilt in the Fall 1972, NIMBLE NEEDLE TREASURES. In response to our query, she wrote the following:

My mother loved and raised many flowers and she enjoyed making quilts. While the children were growing up, she made the utility kind from scraps on hand. Our rural school community had been settled by pioneers who, as friends, migrated from Indiana in the mid-1800's via wagon train. Even after three generations, they were living in the same locality. One young lady from this group was teaching school in Emporia, KS, about the time Rose Kretsinger's quilt was being made. It is evident that through this teacher my mother obtained a hand copied pattern of The Garden for which she paid \$5.00. The pattern was more like the Bowen quilt than the one made by Mrs. Kretsinger, who used a larger swag circle instead of the twisted rope design used in the Bowen quilt.

When the children of my home community grew up and scattered about the world, the mothers organized a "Sewing Circle." During the 1920's and 1930's, everyone was making quilts of more intricate patterns. They used the "trial and error" system, each helping the other. The rope circle my mother made was not a perfect circle as though she had trusted her eye more than the ruler. I am sorry that I do not have any other pictures of the quilt. The circle containing the flowers and birds was not with all the other parts of the pattern, which I have and I do not know if she had that as she never used that

*Finley, Ruth R. OLD PATCHWORK QUILTS. Newton Center: MA: Charles 1. Bradford Company, 1929.

part of the quilt.: The pictures show a spray and no birds.

WOOL MAKES ME ITCH!

Wool makes me itch:, and I always remember when my mother had the top a great aunt had pieced made into a quilt with a wool batt.. they didn't put cheesecloth on both sides of the batt before putting it all together and it grew and grew. It always looked like it needed shearing as the wool worked itself out of the top. I could never sleep with it on the bed as it itched so.

--Elizabeth Gallager--
Redwood City, CA

Ed. Note:

This reminds us that recently Jinny Beyer, winner of the GOOD HOUSEKEEPING National Quilt Contest, 1977, discovered her quilts with polyester batts also had this problem. In one she had used a polyester-cotton blend for the top and back and the other was 100% cotton top and back. Have any of you readers had similar experiences? QUILTERS' JOURNAL would like to know of such quilts and would like to hear specifics, such as: what type fabric was, used for top and back, name of batt manufacturer, date made, washed, and other details.

Looks like thousands of tiny french knots!
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