

SOUTHERN QUILT SYMPOSIUM

The Sixth Annual Southern Quilt Symposium was held at the Hunter Art Museum in Chattanooga, Tenn. April 17-19 and featured Log Cabin and String Quilts. Concurrently, an exhibit of those quilts was featured at the museum.

The hits of the exhibition were Michael James' Poppy Log Cabin, Maria McCormick-Snyder's stunningly innovative Log Cabin Variation, and the Chicken Wire quilt designed by the SQS '78 participants and finished by Billie Crumley.

Between eighty and ninety participants were feted with a tea and exhibit by the St. Paul's Quilters at a local Episcopal Church. The opening night program was a slide/lecture on "Log Cabin and String Quilts" by Pat Kyser, quilt teacher and writer from Alabama.

Michael James opened the second day with a slide/lecture on "Color and Design in Quilts", then the participants were divided into all-day workshops, "Color & Design in Quilts" by James, "New Dimensions in String Quilts" by Pat Kyser, and "Log Cabins" by Dot Brinkman, quilting teacher from Spartanburg, South Carolina.

The final day of the symposium consisted of a "Show & Tell" in which each participant introduced herself and shared a quilt or related item.

The outstanding feature of this particular symposium is its small, intimate nature. No commercial aspects permitted and there is a real sense of sharing of the kind done when quilters used to get together for quilting bees.

Participants come from all over the South and as far away as New York, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Included are teachers, professionals who are there in a private capacity, and many of the mainstream American quilters who quilt at home for their own enjoyment.

Bets Ramsey is the quiet powerhouse behind SQS. Calligrapher, award winning stitcher and quilter, Bets now devotes most of her time directing craft activities for a senior citizen center. She single handedly plans SQS each year. She works out all details (keeping costs phenomenally low) arranges for many participants to lodge with local quilters, and remains totally unflappable through it all.

Plans for next years symposium center about Comforters, Clothes, and Containers. A by-invitation exhibition at the museum will feature quilt-related soft sculpture and Doris Hoover, formerly of Chattanooga and now a nationally known stitcher from Palo Alto, California will teach the main workshop. It is again planned for mid April when Tennessee is at its finest with pink and white dogwoods adding ethereal beauty to the countryside. For information write Bets Ramsey, Bos 4146, Chattanooga, TE 37405.

Pat Kyser
Huntsville, AL

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The Mill Valley Quilt Authority announced its second annual Fall Quilt Artist Series starring Michael James, Chris Edmonds, and Kate Dodge of the Textile Conservation Institute. The workshop/lecture series will be held once a month in Sept., Oct., and Nov. For info/send (SSAE) stamped self-addressed envelope to MVQA Box 270, Mill Valley, CA 94941.

The California Star Tea one of the first events of the Patch in Time #4, will be held in the Garden Room of the Jack Tar Hotel from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday, July 1, 1979. The drop-in tea will be informal to allow everyone to mingle and talk over the quilt show.

Charlotte Patera, well-known California quilter and designer, will be on hand with a display of her work.

Also on display will be the California Medallion quilt made by Judy Mathieson for her husband's parents, Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Mathieson's 50th wedding anniversary. The quilt was shown in the Feb. 1979 Quilter's Newsletter.

"We promise everyone lots of take-home goodies and a fun time with California celebrities and quilt lovers," said Evie Landis and Connie Morse, co-chairman of the tea.

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The San Francisco Brunch to be held at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, July 1 in the Garden Room of the Jack Tar Hotel, will honor Bertha Stenge, outstanding quilter of the 20th century. Special guests will be two of Mrs. Stenge's daughters, Francis Traynor and Prudence Fuchsman of Chicago who have brought quilts made by their mother for display at the Patch in Time quilt show.

Mrs. Stenge's quilts were last seen in the Bay Area in 1941 when Professor Eugen Neuhaus of the University of California arranged for a showing of thirteen of her quilts in the University Art Gallery. Mrs. Stenge also had a one woman show at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1943.

Several of her quilts, not part of the Patch in Time exhibition, will be on display at the Brunch. A slide/lecture will also be part of the festivities.

Jean Ray Laury, nationally known quiltmaker artist, lecturer and author, will be honored at a special Presentation Luau on Monday night in the Garden Room of the Jack Tar Hotel

Through her lectures, workshops, and classes, Jean has inspired more than 10,000 potential quiltmakers. If you are one whose life she has touched, you will want to be part of this special tribute. Lots of fun and surprises!

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The Road to California Lunch will honor Mary Douglass Osburn, the maker of an unusual all-white quilt.

Mrs. Osburn was trained in arts and mechanical drawing at the College of Arts & Crafts in Oakland, CA. She is also a genealogy buff and spent many years in researching the Douglass family.

She decided to put her two loves together into a quilt and the result is a lovely all-white quilt depicting her family history. This quilt and several others made by her will be displayed and she will be happy to answer questions.

The museum quality quilt has the family crest surrounded by meander quilting to bring out the design. Other features of the whole cloth quilt are the Great Seal of Nevada, her family ranch and brand, an Eagle and a personal history of members of the family in border squares. In the lower right hand corner is quilted the legend, "This quilt designed and executed by Mary Douglass Osburn, two years of needlework, history and affection."

A "Mystery" quilter with some of her quilts will be demonstrating her quilting at the affair.

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All of the events are open to the public and advance reservations may be made by phoning 415/388-7578 or 415/383-1117 or tickets may be purchased at the Patch in Time.