

## Robert Frost - Part II

In the Fall 1979 issue of the JOURNAL we quoted a TIME article about a quilt made from Robert Frost's honorary degree hoods and asked if any one had further information. Bets Ramsey of Chattanooga, Tenn. suggested we read ROBERT FROST: THE LATER YEARS. The book did indeed tell us about that quilt.

Robert Frost, himself, had the idea for the patchwork quilt. By 1955 he had been presented with 26 honorary degrees and with each degree had acquired an academic hood. He had carefully folded them and stored them in a closet. However, by this time, the closet could hold no more.

He discussed the problem with his friend Howard G. Schmitt of Hamburg, N.Y. and came up with the idea of a quilt made from the colorful hoods. It was fortunate that Mr. Schmitt not only approved the idea but had three German-born aunts who were excellent needleworkers who he felt would be happy to make the quilt.

Nothing more was said about the quilts, but at a reception after Frost's commencement address at Dartmouth College, Schmitt "reappeared in triumph, carrying a stunning brilliant patchwork quilt."

Two quilts as well as a small throw had been made by Schmitt's three aunts, Miss Ida and Miss Louise Schmitt and Mrs. Anna Schmitt Braunlich in Hamburg, N.Y. They printed on each quilt in India Ink a chronological list of the institutions represented by the degrees and the dates awarded. The larger quilt was for Mr. Frost, the smaller for Schmitt, and a small throw was given to Hyde Cox.

The quilt was presented to Mr. Frost the same day he received another degree and hood from Dartmouth, so back went the quilts to the aunts to have the hood incorporated somehow. They solved the problem by sewing triangular shaped patches of green on all four corners of each quilt.

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

#### REFERENCES:

TIME, "The Poet Laureate" Mar 30, 1962  
Thompson, Lawrence and R.H. Winnick,  
ROBERT FROST: THE LATER YEARS publ by  
Holt, Rinehart & Winston: pgs 214-215;  
422.

Following the publication of the Florence Peto letters, the JOURNAL had many requests for information about her books. Unfortunately they have been out of print for some time and there is no known source.

## Help Wanted

*If you have a specific area of research you would like help with, drop us a note explaining briefly what you are looking for. Let's all help each other.*

I have been exploring different arrangements of the LOA Cabin and would appreciate any information about the origins of the pattern.

Pat Cox  
6601 Normandale Rd  
Minneapolis, MN 55435

The JOURNAL would appreciate help in compiling a list of QUILT EXHIBITS (those hung longer than three weeks. Please don't assume that we know of the ones you know or that someone else will write to tell us. We need the help of each and everyone to make this list complete.

QUILTERS' JOURNAL  
Box 270  
Mill valley, CA 94941

### CUESTA BENBERRY THANKS "HELP WANTED" HELPERS

Cuesta Benberry wrote to the HELP WANTED column asking for information about Black Quilters in the last issue. She wrote last week, "I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the readers of the JOURNAL who responded to my request for information about "Afro-American Women and Quilts. I received letters and calls telling me persons I should contact, addresses of institutions with available information, photos, brochures, and stories about black quiltmakers known personally to the writers. My research project is already greatly expanded because of the generous sharing and helpfulness of the JOURNAL readers. I hope to be sharing it with you. Many thanks.

\* \* \*

### NOTES FROM YOUR EDITOR

cont. from inside front cover

Some of you may have noticed that Sally Garoutte's name is listed in the masthead under contributors instead of Textile Editor. She asked to be relieved of her duties though she promises to write articles for us from time to time. I am sure you will agree she has written some of the best documented and provocative articles the JOURNAL has published.

The response to the letters from Florence Peto which were loaned to us by Emma Andres was overwhelming. Everyone was enthusiastic and Emma was delighted that you all enjoyed them. We both hope you enjoy the excerpts in this issue.

# AT LAST A CURE FOR THE COMMON COLD!

NEW **ultra-loft**<sup>®</sup> makes the world's warmest quilts!



Now more than ever, the growing fuel shortage creates a special need for warm quilts and comforters. New ULTRA-LOFT<sup>®</sup> answers this need. ULTRA-LOFT's thickness and double weight makes quilts and comforters that will let you turn the thermostat down low during the coldest nights of winter.

ULTRA-LOFT<sup>®</sup> is everything a quilter could want in a batt — easy to handle, easy to needle, non-allergenic, hand-washable, *and* extra thick for luxurious comfort. So start stitching now for next winter and ask for ULTRA-LOFT<sup>®</sup> by name . . . .

because nothing else is good enough for your handiwork.



**fairfield** PROCESSING CORPORATION DANBURY, CT. 06810

designed by Cotton Patch Designs, Inc.

quilted by Karen Bennett