

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING CONTEST FOLLOW-UP

We do not wish to belabor the issue of the tragic fire after the GOOD HOUSEKEEPING Contest. A fire might happen to anyone at anytime, anywhere. To our knowledge, this is the first time in quilting history that it did happen'. However, the incident had profound effects on the quilting community and quilt shows who rely on the generosity of those who loan quilts. We feel there are some valuable lessons to learn.

Many of those who had quilts destroyed or damaged have settled their claims, and we do hope to their satisfaction. There are still some who are having difficulty making satisfactory settlement, because they would not and could not accept the value put on the quilts by the appraisers representing the insurance company. Betty Hagerman of Kansas was one of those who did not accept the original offer of the Insurance Company.* The original offer was \$700. She waited three weeks and replied that she had kept careful count of the hours spent on a similar quilt she was working on, and felt that it could be safely estimated that it took her 1,000 hours for construction, 200 hours of research, and \$50.00 for special materials. Figuring at the minimum hourly wage of \$2.65 it would come to \$3,280. She has now received an offer of \$1500 which she will accept. Not all quilts should or could be judged in this way, but in this case, it is a superb quilt of fine workmanship and a finalist in the national contest. She is a competent quilt maker so her speed could not be questioned.

We have talked to a representative of the Hartford Insurance Co. who handles the insurance for many of the large

**Her quilt was classified by the insurance adjustor as "totally destroyed," but she has since received the badly damaged quilt and has elaborate plans to restore it.*

quilt shows in California. They **require** a log or schedule of each quilt entered in the show with their value to be sent to them at least three days prior to the show. The GOOD HOUSEKEEPING contest form did not have space for any value.

In fact, letters sent to the finalists announcing their quilt had been selected as a state finalist suggested that, "you use United Parcel Service or mail it by the fastest method to reach us in time...Please insure your quilt for full value. Uninsured packages will not be accepted." In many cases it would be impossible to insure a quilt of this calibre for full value using United Parcel or Parcel Post because they have maximum limits.

If you are going to send a quilt to a contest or a show, the following suggestions may help:

1. Have a picture taken of the full quilt and several of the details.
2. Get an appraisal of the value. (See Marcia Spark's ad in the Classified Ad section for one way to do this.)
3. Be prepared to pay for the insurance on that appraised value when sending it.
4. Type or write your name, address, phone number, name of the quilt, valuation, and all other pertinent information on a piece of muslin or sheet and sew it to the back of your quilt. GOOD HOUSEKEEPING says that in the confusion, the identity of the quilts was misplaced and much time was lost.
5. Check with the sponsoring organization to see what type of insurance and security they have for the time that the quilt will be in their hands.
6. Be discerning about the type of quilt show and contest you enter. Obviously, quilt guilds and clubs appreciate quilts more and will probably take better care of them, than commercial organizations.
7. If the entry form does not have space for the value, write it on anyway.