

FLORAL QUILT - WOMAN'S DAY

The Floral Quilt (see back cover) appeared in full color in the Sept 1941 issue of WOMAN'S DAY in an article entitled "This is Applique". (See Florence Peto's account of the article in the Summer 1980 JOURNAL). The article was the sixth in the American Needlework series which was a forerunner to their 1941 National Needlework Contest.

The quilt is described in the article "This work of art is a little more than six feet square. (The quilt is now in the Daughters of American Revolution collection and the dimensions are listed as 78 1/2 x 78 1/4). Its corners are cut to admit the bedposts. The edges of its border and the leaves and stems of all its flowers are yellow-green. Inside the border are nine blocks, each 19 inches square. On five of these blocks is the applique design of leaves and flowers arranged in a turquoise-blue vase. Near the middle of the border on each side a little yellow bird, our American wild canary, is perched on a twig.

"The flowers are pale cerise, yellow, turquoise, orange and they are arranged differently on each block. Each petal, leaf and stem is stuffed with cotton, so that the whole design is raised, and on the white blocks the vase and flowers are repeated in stuffed quilting."

WOMAN'S DAY conjectured further about the quilt. "The woman who made this quilt is gone. The cloth she used shows she lived a hundred years ago, no one knows where. No one knows her name, no one knows when she died. Yet can anyone say that she is unknown?"

"Here is her work, it is the work of a gentle American lady, who lived in our South. She loved and knew flowers, she loved sunshiny colors, she knew our American birds. Look at the colors she chose, she was lighthearted and merry. Look at the pattern she made, she knew what she liked and she took her own way. Her manner (is) gentle

"...Each people's needlework has its own characteristics and all the peoples have made America and are Americans. Only America produces such needlework as this, so free, so gay, so candid, and so untraditional, so confidently experimental even in its use of needlework's old traditions.

"Into American applique thousands of women now forgotten put something of their lives. Even the longest lives are short, our work lives longer. The needlework we are doing today will speak of us tomorrow, as this work a century old speaks of a younger America and as it will continue to speak for another hundred years, and another and another to the unimaginable future. What work could we leave behind us that will be more beautiful or more eloquent?"

WOMAN'S DAY advertised a booklet of instructions which included the Floral Quilt and the six others featured in the article. It could be obtained by sending a 3¢ stamp to the Needlework Editor (Rose Wilder Lane) care of WOMAN'S DAY, 19 W 44th St., NY, NY.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Joyce,

I had to close my Museum from May to mid-Sept. due to surgery but am now taking a few groups.

I bought a Mrs. Boletta Huntington's (Paynesville, MN) collection of Mt. Mist patterns some years ago. When I received the JOURNAL today I got out the box of patterns and went through them. I thought you and your readers would be interested.

I noticed coloration and pattern changes in the various years with a very marked difference in color between 1934-37. The 1937 are much brighter.

Dates of Mt. Mist patterns 1928, 1931 (Peter Pan Swatches attached. 39¢ a yd) 1932, 1933, 1934, 1936, 1937, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1943, 1935, 1948, 1949, 1954, 1962, 1963, 1970, 1972.

There are more from years 1931-33-45 so these were probably the years she was most productive. I have two of her quilts - an original applique and a pieced Jacob's Ladder. Some of her quilts that stayed in the family had won prizes at the State Fair.

Joyce Aufderheide
New Ulm, Minn.

Dear Joyce,

I certainly do enjoy reading each copy of the QUILTERS' JOURNAL. There is just something about quilting - one meets so many nice people from around the country. Seems as though all the stitches just pieces us all together.

Helen Moehle
Alexandria VA



Photo from WOMAN'S DAY Sept 1941

"Floral Quilt. With bits of cloth and simple stitches, a Southern lady captured her gard-n's blossing a hundred years ago. In the Museum of the Daughters of American Revolution in Washington, this work of art keeps the summer's beauty for the centuries yet to come." For story see pg 19.

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