

PINE EISFELLER



Pine Hawkes Eisfeller poses in front of her Tree of Life quilt with Lorraine Collins, her granddaughter and Neveda and Andrea Collins her great-granddaughters.

In the last issue we ran some pictures of the reception and one-woman show held in honor of Pine Eisfeller of Cherokee, Calif sponsored by the Ridge Quilter's Guild, the QUILTER'S JOURNAL and Patience Corners.

Mrs. Eisfeller was the 2nd Grand Prize Winner of the 1942 WOMAN'S DAY NATIONAL NEEDLEWORK CONTEST and a 1st prize winner in the quilting category - ahead of Bertha Stenge and Rose Kretsinger. She was living in Lake Oswego, N.Y. at the time of the contest and was a frequent speaker on Hawaiian quilts at local women's clubs. Soon after winning the contest, Mrs. Eisfeller moved to Spokane and in the move lost 16 of her prize winning quilts. After that she dropped from the quilt world until your editor located her living about 200 miles north.

The two day show was the first time Pine had ever seen her quilts hung and though she probably wouldn't admit it she was pleased. When she saw the quilts hanging in the Shibui Gallery she said with her usual wit, "Where did you get that 'junk'?" The crowd was delighted with her as she exchanged wise cracks, smiled a lot, shared some secrets of her fine quilting, and even danced.

It wouldn't surprise me if she enjoyed the dancing the most!

Marian Graham, chairperson of the event said, "We were very pleased to honor Mrs. Eisfeller. Her quilts are some of the finest I have ever seen and I am only sorry that more people couldn't join us to show our respect to this exceptional quilter."

Johnnie Green wrote in THE PARADISE POST of Tues Nov 1981 issue "Mrs. Eisfeller's has won several national awards for her quilting. A multi-faceted talent, examples of her painting, wood carving, and bed-murals were also on display. One of her murals is a replica of the Great Seal of Nevada, in razor sharp detail and made of 90,000 beads. The two day show was enhanced with occasional soft music played by (her) daughter Dorothy Patterson.

THE CHICO (CA) ENTERPRIZE-RECORD of Friday Nov 13, 1981 said, "The orchids Pine Eisfeller wore pinned to her shoulder were dull compared to the ... quilts she exhibited at the Ridge Quilter's Guild show last weekend . . .

"Mrs. Eisfeller's quilts, ... brought exclamations of appreciation from visitors who came from throughout the North Valley to see the show. Distinctive in color, pattern and workmanship, Mrs. Eisfeller's quilts are beautiful ... The 87 year old woman, who was crippled and ridiculed as a child, is spirited and as colorful and extraordinary as her quilts."

More than 50 quilts are listed in Pine's scrapbook of Hawaiian quilts which contain notes, sketches and photographs of her work. Beside the "Poinsettia" is a notation which seems to describe her feelings about Hawaii and her interpretation of the islands through her quilts. "You can not think of Hawaii without thinking of flowers, and nowhere do you see more poinsettias, growing as high as the houses, not only in brilliant red but also creamy white ones."