From your Editor

It was EMMA MARY MARTHA ANDRES' DAY and we had gladly traveled 800 miles to see this remarkable, little 82 year old lady receive her honors. The Quilted Apple and the Central Arizona Museum had arranged a luncheon, speeches by the Secretary of State and the Mayor of Phoenix, telegrams and letters from such as Barry Goldwater and the presentation of the first "Quilt Artisian Award". Before the ceremonies, Miss Andres was seated at a table to autograph posters of her quilt "Silhouette Lady". It all served to remind the 400 guests that Miss Andres was somebody special.

When it came time for her to respond to the speeches, she took the microphone and gave some snappy one liners... "When people ask me why I'm here, I tell them because I am not there"... "I wore my hat because I figured no one else would be wearing one and that way you would recognize me"... "My needle has been my pacifier and in 1947 when I took my last stitch, I tied a blue ribbon around it and retired it"... and finally, "Now what else do you want me to say?"

Her lovely quilts and other memorabilia were displayed in the intimate setting of the Teeter House. In a preview, family members and friends escorted the guest of honor around the exhibit as she told stories about each quilt. She shed a few tears at the display case when she recognized her Carrie Hall doll and the box she kept her squares in for her Ninety & Nine quilt. She thought her original cartoon hanging beside her quilt "looked fine with the light on it."

Janet Carruth and Laurene Simmons of the Quilted Apple organized the festivities but everyone benefited. They had the satisfaction of presenting Miss Andres' work and getting to know her. It was a fitting tribute to Emma Andres, the fine quiltmaker. She enjoyed every minute of it and the memories it will bring for years to come, but the real winner is the quilt world. Those quilts had not been shown outside of Emma's little "Happiness Museum" for many years and now that we know how lovely and interesting they are, I suspect requests to show them will not stop.

The JOURNAL is proud to have "discovered" Emma Andres and of the part we played in bringing her talents to the public.



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