

STATE HISTORICAL QUILT PRO-

QUILTS OF TENNESSEE

Project Directors: Bets Ramsey, Merikay Waldvogel.

After reviewing quilting in Tennessee and the Appalachia region on an informal basis for a number of years, Merikay Waldvogel and Bets Ramsey have initiated a more intensive study of photographing and documenting quilts made in Tenn before 1930 or brought into the state before 1875 with the intention of presenting an exhibition and publication. Their findings will be made available for research and study.

So far one hundred and fifty quilts have been recorded in East Tennessee in four Quilt Days with two more scheduled. Middle & West Tennessee are to be scheduled soon.

The sponsoring organizations have provided facilities, photographers, film, travel expenses and volunteers to assist with the project. Requests for further funding are in process.

The study stresses local and family history. It includes names, dates of birth, death and place of maker, spouse, parents, and how the quilt was passed down. It is of interest to tell where the family came from, what the occupations were, church affiliation, whether photographs and diaries are available.

The Quilt Days have increased interest in family history and caused families to get information together which might otherwise be lost. Already the names of great grandparents are fading away by those who remember. The recording of the facts with the quilt documentation will serve as useful information for future genealogists.

As the survey progresses, it is thought findings will show influences from outside the state which have had a bearing on the shaping of the styles of quilts in Tennessee. Other facets of the study will emerge as the material is studied.

As we go to press, news has reached us that state and regional quilt projects are being initiated in Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, California, Texas and South Carolina. We hope to bring you information about these other projects in future issues of the JOURNAL.

CALIFORNIA HERITAGE QUILT PROJECT

Chairman: Helen Gould

President: Joyce Gross

The CALIFORNIA HERITAGE QUILT PROJECT has been established as a non-profit, public benefit corporation. In Oct 1983 the Executive Board of the Northern California Quilt Council completed a feasibility study financed by contributions of the quilt guilds. A Steering Committee of representatives of northern and southern quilt guilds and the larger community was elected to implement their findings. It is currently developing the formal structure, exploring funding, planning the budget and setting up a detailed work calendar and schedule of events.

A series of fifty Quilt Days, held across the state will be the primary means of publicizing the project and will serve as the vehicle for discovering California heritage quilts. Quilt Days provide an opportunity for a community to share its quilts and it is expected that excitement will run high. Each quilt will be photographed for Project files and knowledgeable persons will make an oral evaluation. Criteria are now being developed on which to base the awarding of each Quilt Day prize. No buying or selling of quilts will be permitted at Quilt Days nor will price assessments be made.

From among the quilts which surface during this period, some 60-100 will be selected for exhibitions to be held at both a north and south location. These exhibits will focus attention on quilts as an important part of our state's history as well as educating the public to the importance of preserving their antique quilts.

The culmination of the "California Heritage Quilt Project" will be a book documenting the exhibited quilts which will include the history of each quilt as well as color photographs.

In California, whose statehood is relatively short, a project of this kind has merit beyond the immediate interest of students of quilts and/or design. It can be a visual resource for teachers at elementary and secondary levels in exploring history and art. It will appeal to lovers of folk art and culture, genealogy and history and will serve to strengthen awareness among young and old of their state and family backgrounds.