

From your Editor

In this issue the JOURNAL departs from our usual custom of featuring a person for the cover and the main article. Articles about the Sears Century of Progress Quilt Contest kept coming to our attention so it seemed logical to devote this issue to the largest quilt contest held to date. We are very grateful to Annette Amann, Emma Andres, Lenice Bacon, Barbara Brackman, Cuesta Benberry, Phinneus and Lucille Kinnamon, Ethel Sharples, Lenore Swoiskin (Archivist for Sears, Roebuck) and World's Fair magazine. And credit should also go to the telephone company which allowed the information to flow freely from one part of the country to another. Without the help of all these and to the unsung heroines who are at heart packrats, this issue would never have been. This is really just a portion of the material on this event that we now have and I hope it will motivate some of you to be on the look out for additional material. There is more out there. How do I know that? Well just yesterday as I was pasting the last page together, I was examining the sheet on pg 18 which was pasted to a page from an old scrapbook page. I had always presumed it to be from a Sears catalog, but Lenore Swoiskin said Sears had no knowledge of it.

I had never bothered to peek on the other side of the sheet but as I was completing the Bibliography yesterday I was anxious to see if there was a clue as to its origin. Carefully, I picked up a corner and discovered that it was a pamphlet entitled "Sears Century of Progress Quilt Contest." We had no idea there was such a pamphlet. Of course I had to phone Cuesta Benberry and we both got excited about our brand new piece of the puzzle. Do you have any pieces? By the way, this new discovery makes our bibliography on pg 20 outdated so please update your copy.

And if you have other additions or corrections to our bibliography please let us know.

I am pleased to announce the birth of my new grandson, Brenden Elliott. He was so eager to see all my quilts that he arrived six weeks early requiring a rearrangement of several schedules. Everyone is fine and we hope it won't be too long before he and his grandma can go on a picnic to roast marshmallows. Of course he is very cute and really very smart.



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Table of Contents

Sears Catalog Reprint	...inside front cover
The Great Quilting Beepg 1
Century of Progress	.....1
Study Center	.....4
Editorial	.....5
Contest Rules & Judges	.....6
Matthews Correspondence	.....7
Prize Winning Mystery	.....9
Century of Progress Pattern	.....10
Sears Accused	.....13
Quilters' Research Network	.....15
Emma Andres & Contest Entry	.....17
Sears pamphlet	.....18
Contest Bibliography	.....20
Classified	.....20
Contest Winners (Sears Catalog reprint)	.21
Winning Quilts photo	.....back cover

On the Cover

On the cover: doc 28

EDITH MATTHEWS stands in front of her prize winning quilt, "Spectrum". According to her nephew, Phinneus Kinnamon in a letter dated 3-26-85, "Aunt Edith saw the advertisement from Sears & decided to try her luck at entering. She had made several quilts so had some knowledge of quilting. She ordered the material from Sears. She and Uncle Ralph collaborated on the design - her idea and his drawing."

The pattern, loaned to us by her niece, Ethel Kinnamon Sharples, was made on heavy brown paper and is labeled 'Whirling Comet'. Ed note: See pg 7.