

QUILTER'S JOURNAL

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Photograph courtesy George Dixon

Lenice Ingram Bacon
author of "American Patchwork Quilts"
pictured by the quilt appliqued from her family pattern

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

In the summer of 1976, with so much talk about the Bicentennial and preserving our National Heritage, it was evident that many of us were thinking about the importance of quilts and the role they played in our history. Quilter's Calendar, which had been started to keep people informed about quilt activities

available on the West Coast, was beginning to outgrow its original purpose, when Joyce Gross had the opportunity to take a two week trip to the Midwest to meet with some of the most knowledgeable scholars in our quilt field, Mary Schafer, Cuesta Benberry, Maxine Teele, Ben and Lucille Taylor, and Jean Mitchell.

Each shared files, scrapbooks, quilts, and knowledge, and, though Cuesta has the most extensive files, each had some articles and knowledge that the others didn't have. Everyone enjoyed talking quilts and sharing information and questions. It was a logical time to discuss how sad it was that Pat Almy was so ill she had been forced to cease publication of the Nimble Needle Treasures.

There was little doubt that there was a large void left without NNT for it was "our kind" of magazine with in depth articles and bits and scraps of information unavailable anywhere else. Articles like Cuesta Benberry's two-part article "Patriotic Quilts of World War II", (Sept., Dec. 1970), Maxine Teele's personality sketch on Mrs. Lillian Walker "Something Worthwhile" (Vol. 6 #2 & 3), There is no desire on our part to do a Nimble Needle Treasures, even if we could. It was a unique magazine with Pat Almy's special touch that cannot be duplicated. It did however, influence our perspective.

We hope to encourage as many people as possible to get into the act, because there is so much to do in researching and recording. We feel that many of you have found items and done research that you would share. It isn't necessary to write the whole story of quilts, pick a small question, a specific question, and find the answer. Write it up, giving your references, or your "proofs", or just your reasons for coming to your conclusions. If it's a little bit of history you are writing about, tell who and where and when. Include clear black and white photos if you can. When your story is published, it can be appreciated by and shared by all of us now, and will become part of the quilt story for future generations.