

Quilting is back in vogue

By Dee Dellenbach
Staff writer

For many years, Marge Peterson happily quilted with the ladies at Flora United Methodist Church - until the group dwindled down to just three women.

One evening while she was strolling through the Extension Homemakers building at the 4-H fair, a quilt display caught her eye. The Extension Homemakers were organizing a quilt club - or two. Marge attended the first meeting, given by then-president of EH, Bev Seese. Marge said she was glad to see more than 25 quilters and would-be quilters turn out for the event.

The enthusiastic group split into two clubs that autumn evening in 2003.

Quality Quilters

One of the groups named itself the Quality Quilters and began meeting in the evenings. Virginia Simison was chosen to lead the club.

"We wanted to help those who wanted to learn to quilt," said Marge, who is the current president.

"DeeDee Roth was one who knew little about quilting; she's

learned a lot," she said. "In the 4-H fair last year, she won a blue ribbon! Deb Foreman was involved in sewing, and she became a quilter. We taught others how to use the rotary cutters and things like that."

A prolific and veteran quilter with a zest for life, Marge said she likes the club because while she's socializing, she's also learning about the latest trends.

"You always see ladies do things differently than you do, and better! So you learn all the time."

Sew N Sews

The daytime EH club called themselves the Sew N Sews and began meeting on second and fourth Mondays. They bring sack lunches and make a day of it.

Bev Seese, who is the acting president, said "(This club) is more about just people enjoying doing something together than it is about quilting. Like (it was) back several generations, women would get together and quilt. It's about getting together and talking. Our generation doesn't have much of a way to do that. It's a support group!"

In that spirit, some of the members bring other projects to knit or crochet. Each person works on her own project, said member Doris Walton. She, too, enjoys the social

aspect of the club.

"We eat lunch together and do a lot of talking!" said Doris.

The club has eight or nine steady members and the group happily welcomes more.

In Stitches

In Stitches was a quilt club begun in February of 2004 at Delphi Public Library by Sara Daly-Brosman. The group found that it had lots of diverse interests and soon blossomed into a "fiber arts" club where members would bring their own projects to work on.

Like Marge, Bev and Doris, Alice Christian enjoys the social aspects of a club.

"I like the people," said Alice. "They're supportive and they want to see what you're doing. The young women are really enjoying the older women. There is a lot of encouragement going both ways."

A retired home economics teacher, Alice started quilting in 1991 after she saw the famous Eleanor Burns on television. She started making baby quilts and has many photos of the babies with their new quilts.

She said her inspiration comes from fabrics that she's fallen in love with or patterns she sees in magazines and books.

The mother of two sons, Alice is the grandmother of four grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren.

"This year, everyone in the family will get a Christmas quilt," she said. She said she has already completed 12.

Cutler Presbyterian Church

The Cutler Presbyterian Church Quilters work as a group, hand-quilting quilts for other people. The group keeps two quilt frames going all the time and has made as many as eight quilts in a year.

They generally meet during the fall and winter months, and finish up in the spring. This year they hand-quilted a log cabin quilt that Marti Dillman gave them to work on.

"We work until whenever we get done," said Mary Overholser. "It was June this year. We're all older and it depends on how things go. We like to be together. We had six of us all winter."

She said Doris Washington, who now lives in Texas, started the club in 1982 with her daughter, Connie, and Faye Sheagley.

The group recently pieced a quilt for the church's temporary pastor, Jim Long, and his wife, Kathy. "We've made a quilt for every pastor who has been here," said Mary. "This one was a surprise. The church members knew about it and they kept it a secret all winter!"

Mary, who is 89, has been quilting for the past 24 years, since the club began. She said she was married at 16, and had "always sewed at home."

She never had a quilt of her own until a year ago when Doris pieced one for her and sent it to her. It lays over Mary's couch.

Every Monday the Cutler Presbyterian Church Quilters take a sack lunch and share devotions at noon.

Mary said what the group really looks forward to is the homemade rolls that her daughter bakes for the group!

Pleasant Valley Quilters

Pleasant Valley Quilters began meeting 112 years ago at Pleasant Valley Universalist Church.

"My mother used to belong; I bet it's been 75 years," said Ruthina Forgey.

She said there are about eight members who meet at Deer Creek Community Center. They work together to hand-quilt for other people.

Ruthina has been a member of the group for more than 45 years and said the women meet on Tuesdays but are considering "folding up."

"Some members are getting older and some are having health problems," she said. "It gets harder to meet!"

Burlington Quilt Club

She isn't quite sure, but Cora Sherfey believes the Burlington Quilt Club may have started in 1983, about the time Burlington wanted to raise money for a community building. The quilt club raffled a quilt and construction of the building began.

Cora said, "Over the years the membership has died out and the



Stitching for family

A member of In Stitches quilting and fiber arts club, Alice Christian has just finished a quilt to celebrate the first wedding anniversary of her son and daughter-in-law. The quilt that she is pictured with is one that she made last year and keeps on her bed. "I love red and I collect lots of it!" she laughed. Comet photo

young ones didn't learn to quilt."

She said the group started with 15 or 20 members, but as of last year, they had only four and decided to disband.

"Last winter I wanted something to do and started making a quilt out of the scraps left from the years of quilting," said Cora.

The Burlington leaders asked her if she would donate one more quilt in support of the community center. She couldn't say no.

The newest creation is a flying geese pattern, and was machine quilted by Jackie Young. It is currently being offered for raffle to support the Burlington Community Center.

Those who are interested may call Ken Ritchey for ticket information.

Too Late to Classify!

HUGE GARAGE SALE - Friday & Saturday 9-5 375 W. Washington St., Camden (Gardiner). Lots of baby items, Carhart, Abercrombie, Hollister, Tools, Furniture, Dishes, Lots of misc., Gas furnace, Craftsman lawn mower.

CAMDEN - Huge sale behind doctor's office. Fri, 8-7; Sat., 8-7 Clothes of all sizes, boat, tools, other miscellaneous items. Something for everyone. Rain date next weekend.

CAMDEN - 563 E. Main. Fri., 8-5; Sat., 8-7 Several \$1 tables. Lots of household items priced to sell. Across from Camden Auction Barn.

tion at (765) 566-3989. The quilt hangs at Salin Bank in Burlington.

Americus Quilt Club

Joanne Farrell of West Lafayette said the Americus Quilt Club was established in 1915 and is the oldest active club in America. The group meets twice a month and does hand quilting for others. They are best known in Carroll County for attending Old Settlers and stitching a quilt.

ADOPT-A-PET

This black and tan four-month old Sheltie mix female is very playful, house broken and wonderful with children. She will weigh about 40 adorable fun-loving pounds when full-grown. The clinic still has plenty of kittens to choose from to go to your loving home. For more information, call the Delphi Veterinary Clinic at (765) 564-2606.

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The lucky winner

Alice Lambert won a Thimbleberries® "Toastie Toes" quilt made by the Quality Quilters Extension Homemakers club. The group raffled the quilt to raise money for the EH and Iris McCain scholarships. Pictured, left to right, are Marge Peterson, president of Quality Quilters; Lambert; and Cheryl Shaffer, member of Quality Quilters and president of EH. The club plans to raffle a quilt each year at county fair time. Photo provided

Reunions

CHS Class of 1981

Carroll High School Class of 1981 will be celebrating their 25th class reunion the weekend of Sept. 29-30. The reunion will be held on Sept. 30 at 6 p.m. at the Burlington Community Building. For additional information contact Michelle Oilar Simmons at 765-268-2314.

Coble family

The Coble family reunion was held Aug. 19 at the Rockfield Community Center in Rockfield.

Attending were: Melvin Kahler, Dick and Susan Kahler and Bill and Carol Coble, all of Delphi; Gina Kahler Howat and Caybree and Lexi, of West

Lafayette; Amber Kahler Bills and Ella and Ethan, Nic and Carrie Crum and Jodi, Clay, Hana and Ethan, all of Lafayette; Tom and Sabrina Kahler, and Tabitha Head of Marion; Marshall Kahler and Dan and Tricia Doherty of Indianapolis; Jerry and Karen Kahler Griffith of Brownsburg; Danny and Lynette Kahler Martin and Joel and Michelle Martin Redmon and Kyleigh and Joselynn, all of Camden; Tom and Beth Martin Curtis of Flora; Pat Coble Pittenger and Mike and Christy Pittenger and Matthew and Andrew, all of Swartz Creek, Mich.; John and Teri Pittenger Mason and Kevin and Brian, all of Macomb, Mich.

Service News

Completes AIT course

Army Reserve Pvt. Brent W. Price has graduated from the Light-Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic Advanced Individual Training (AIT) course at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

The course is designed to train soldiers to perform maintenance, troubleshoot, and repair wheeled vehicles and related mechanical components, which include internal combustion engines and power trains, spark- and compression-ignition engines, wheel-hub assemblies, hydraulic-power brakes, suspension and steering systems, and learn to operate a wheeled vehicle crane, hoist, and winch assembly.

He is the son of Cheryl L. Price of Rossville.

Battles forest fires

Army Cpl. Jared Opheim of Flora is one of more than 500 soldiers from Fort Lewis, Washington, who have responded to the National Interagency Fire Center's request for military assistance in battling forest fires in that state.

He was deployed with Task Force Blaze to battle the forest fires in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest near Winthrop, Wash.

Task Force Blaze received two days of field training before beginning to actively fight the fires on Aug. 17. They will be deployed for up to 30 days.

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You and Your Pet

Dear Dr. Wise: Misha, our two-year-old cat, is going to have kittens. Our veterinarian says she is half way through her pregnancy. We're hoping you can advise us about caring for her through her pregnancy and with her kittens.

Answer: Congratulations! Kittens are one of the more delightful additions to a household. If Misha is half way through (65 days), you have about a month to wait.

Husbandry of a pregnant and lactating queen involves providing a warm and secure retreat, a complete and balanced diet and adequate water. Misha's nutritional needs will not change much until the last three weeks of pregnancy. Then she will begin eating a little more of her regular food.

Kittens usually weigh in at about 100 grams (1/4 pound). Misha will need about two to three times her usual food to feed them. If she has more than three kittens, she will need significantly more nutrition to keep up her weight and energy.

I suggest feeding Misha a kitten food during the time she is nursing because she needs a more calorie-dense food at this time. Kitten food contains a higher percentage of fat and will fill her calorie needs more satisfactorily. I have seen cats that, by the time the kittens are six weeks old, are quite sick

from the stress of nursing so many kittens.

You also should make sure that each kitten is nursing and that Misha is not neglecting anyone. You may need to help the runt of the litter with each feeding for several days. You do this by gently pushing open its mouth and holding it on the nipple while it sucks. You know the kittens are getting enough to eat if they sleep restfully and do not cry.

When the kittens are three weeks old, you should supplement their diet. Put out a very small bowl of watered down kitten food for them to nuzzle, play in and learn to eat. Human, meat-type baby food also is appropriate.

Misha's milk production will begin to taper off at this point. She may not want to nurse the kittens as they begin to grow teeth. Further, this timetable for supplements (at about six weeks) much easier for the kittens and Misha. Raising a litter of kittens is not easy, especially during the first days which are so crucial for mother and kitten.

If you have a question about your pet, write to Dr. Wise, Indiana Veterinary Medical Association, 210 S. Capitol Ave, Ste. 405, Indianapolis, IN 46225 or www.invma.org

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