

How long have you been quilting?

About 57 years. I finished my first quilt top, which was all done by hand, when I was 9 years old. We had no electricity, so there was no other option. It was a scrappy, twin size 4 patch. Unfortunately, it was lost when our home burned when I was 15.

Who taught you how to quilt?

My mother and maternal grandmother. My grandmother made mostly utility quilts to be used for warmth. However, my mother won many awards with her quilts, some of which I own. She was totally blind in her left eye and I am amazed at how she accomplished the small stitches. She said "My fingers just know where to go".

What are your favorite techniques?

My first love is patchwork. I also do appliqué and have made a couple of Cathedral Windows, but I don't care to paper piece. It is just not my thing. I have embroidered a quilt for each of my granddaughters and 2 of my great-granddaughters. I am working on one for the next one who is due in June.

Favorite colors to work with?

I love brights in all colors and dark burgundy and green. My most favorites are civil war reproductions.

Favorite fabrics?

All cotton is best. However, one time I was given about 4 yards of seersucker by a friend, (who did not quilt), but I added a little to it and made a quilt. I tied it and it was a very warm quilt. I was living in Alaska at the time, so that was very important. It lasted for years.

Favorite quilt shop?

I LOVE quilt shops! However, I guess my two favorites would be Tiny Stitches and The Red Hen. The Red Hen has much better prices on name brand fabrics, but I love Maetha at Tiny Stitches.

If you sew by machine, what kind do you use?

I guess you could say I have been a "collector" of machines over the years and I've only let go of one. I have 10 and I have them all set to do different things, so I don't have to adjust them when I am ready to do something. The one I sew on the most is a Bernina 180E.

What inspires you to make a particular quilt most often?

I have a lot of favorite patterns I have made over the years, but I am usually making the quilt for someone, and I try to match the pattern and color to the person I'm making it for.

Favorite quilting book or pattern?

*Grandma's Best Full-Sized Quilt Blocks* is my favorite book. It has patterns from 1830-1950. Double Wedding Ring, Jacob's Ladder and Dresden Plate are my favorite patterns.

On average, how may quilts do you make in a year?

Usually, 15 to 20, but as you know, in 2007 I made 47. Thirty-two of these were for the Masonic Children's Home. So far this year I have made 6.

Do you quilt your own quilts or do you send them out?

I quilt my own. I always hand quilted them, but due to arthritis, I now quilt them by machine.

What quilt related items are you working on right now?

I am piecing a quilt for my husbands lodge to use as a fundraiser and I am embroidering a baby quilt for my great-granddaughter, Allison Mackenzie, who is due in June.

What other hobbies do you have?

I crochet, do counted cross stitch and embroidery. We have a family band and I play bass and autoharp and sing lead and harmony with the other 3 members. My granddaughter, Sarah, also sings with us. We wear matching western outfits and I also make those. I am very much into genealogy and have traced my father's family, (Wilfong), back to 1724 when they left Germany.

One way quilting has changed your life?

Quilting has always been a part of my life, and I guess you could say it is my tranquilizer. It relaxes me and brings back many fond memories of times spent quilting with my mother and grandmother.

Are you on any committees with the CROG?

Yes, I am Morning Secretary. *(Editor's Note: She also spends a lot of time unlocking the church for us and locking up after our meetings, opening and locking up our cabinets, seeing that the meeting room is put back in order, and working with the pastor for scheduling our guild activities.)*

Feel free to tell us more about yourself and your family.

I have a wonderful husband, 3 daughters, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren and, soon to be, 3 great-granddaughters. I am a born again Christian and a member of Union Grove Baptist Church where I teach the Joy Belle Ellis ladies' class and also sing in the choir. I have been a member of Cherokee Rose Quilters Guild since 1994 and have learned many new quilting ideas and made many wonderful friends. I am very blessed.