

# PLAIN PRINT

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LINCOLN QUILTERS GUILD

JANUARY 1980 /

FOR INFORMATION ON THE LINCOLN QUILTERS GUILD CALL 423-9060

## NEXT GUILD MEETING

GUESTS WELCOME!

Monday, February 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
"Here's Cupid!"  
Winnie Johnson and Janet  
Eskridge

Those attending are requested to  
bring red and white quilts and/or  
quilts with hearts in them for show  
and tell.

## QUILT SHOWS

Gateway YWCA Quilters of Clinton,  
Iowa will present a quilt show  
and luncheon on March 21 at  
317 7th Avenue South. For more  
information contact Leslie McCreery,  
95 33rd Avenue North, Clinton 52732.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Meyer, Pat  
1303 First Corso  
Nebraska City 68410

## THE GRAPEVINE

From the grapevine comes word that  
House of Fabrics now carries Aunt  
Martha patterns and some other  
quilting supplies.

## NEXT WORKSHOPS - FEBRUARY 23

Morning - 9:30 a.m.  
Karol Smith, 3415 M

Afternoon - 1:00 p.m.  
Lydia Norton, 2820 Sumner  
Cohostess: Beulah Rulla

Evening - 7:30 p.m.  
Sandra Anderson, 5531 LaSalle

MEMBER'S

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JANUARY ACTIVITIES

The January general meeting attracted a large number of members and nine guests to hear Mary Ghormley's program on making and loving old quilts. Mary's presentation was like Mary herself--warm, informative and enthusiastic. I must admit to a little confusion concerning "making old quilts;" however, all was made clear when she began: Mary buys and quilts old tops. And it was certainly easy to love her quilts--they were beautiful. She showed, among others, a pink and white pinwheel (her first quilt), an excellent Farmer's Daughter scrap quilt, a striking blue and white rolling stone, one called 'Unfinished Block' by the maker, and an elegant cotton sateen Rose Wreath in pale shades of pink and green.

Mary presented some guidelines for quilting old tops. Wash first in Lux, Woolite or Ensure in cold water to check for fading. Do not wash by machine. If stains remain after washing, ignore them. Mend tears carefully. To compensate for small size, add borders if desired, using old-looking fabrics in colors that compliment the top. For an old, flat look, avoid fat bats, and for an old feel, use cotton instead of polyester. Quilting should be close as in old quilts. If the top is not flat or puckers, work it out during quilting.

During the business meeting arrangements were made to set the Christmas quilt, and a sign-up sheet was sent around for prospective quilters. The quilt will be put in at Ruth Hicks' and stitchers may work during day or evening hours. Members also signed up for the trip to Omaha on April 14, and it was announced that a tax consultant will briefly address the membership during the business portion of the February meeting. Judy Fitzgerald announced that copies of the newsletter have been placed in Northwest Fabrics, Miller's downtown, and Calico House, and, as a result, she has received several phone inquiries. Finally, the membership was presented a request by the City Mission that the LQG make gratis a quilt for their director to use on his speaking engagements. Volunteers interested in working on it should contact Evelyn Reichenbach.

The business meeting and program were followed by delicious refreshments by Hostess Kate Becker and her committee: Ruth Graff, Pat Hackley, Catherine Hennessey, Emmy Lou Henningson, and Heidi Henningson.

The Christmas quilt was the center of interest at the January workshops. Some of the blocks were displayed and enthusiasm began building at the morning session at Winnie Johnson's. At Mida Giesecker's for the afternoon meeting, basting was begun. Back at Winnie's in the evening, joined by guest La Donna Pankoe, all of the first part of the sashing was finished. All of the blocks have now been framed and the right hand sashing put on. Rosemary Seyler and Ginny Welty will arrange the blocks for assembly. Also in production at the evening workshop were Retta Bettenhausen's Nebraska Windmill, Kari Ronning's Stars and Crosses and Roma Spangler's Dresden Plate.

Quilts are a precious heritage and need proper care and storage to be preserved. According to an extension home furnishing specialist at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, improper storage may result in unrepairable damage.

Magdalene Pfister offers these hints for quilt storage. "Do not use plastic to store a quilt in because it may cause streaking and mildew," she says. "Old towels, undyed sheets or pillow case covers make good storage covers. Avoid cardboard boxes, they have a tendency to become damp in humid weather."

She suggests folding the quilt inside out to avoid abrasion in pulling in and out of a storage facility. Fold the quilt differently each time it is stored to avoid creases which cause fibers to break or fold quilts over padded bamboo poles. Cedar chests provide good quilt storage, Pfister says. Place stored quilts in an area of relatively even humidity and cool temperature. Avoid attic storage.

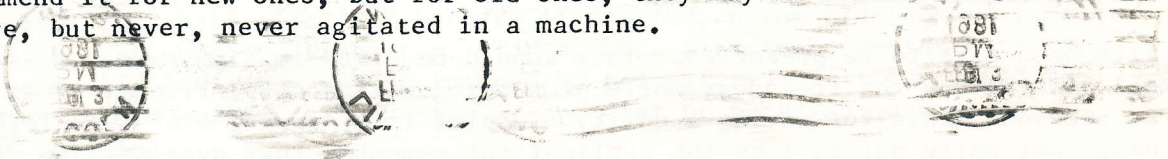
Quilts need care to be preserved. They should be aired to eliminate a musty smell and restore the freshness while preserving workmanship, Pfister says. Here are some hints for airing a quilt. Support it by drying over two clotheslines. Let white quilts face the sunlight but remember that dyes used in fabric of old quilts were not sun fast. Turn the colored, printed quilts wrong side out, Pfister says. A gentle hand vacuuming may help and can be done with the quilt hanging or flat. Using a quilt on a bed helps to air it. Persistent odors may be treated by stuffing cedar shavings in a stocking or using activated charcoal wrapped in tissue in a bag to absorb odors, the specialist says.

When cleaning quilts, Pfister says to first be certain that a quilt needs washing and that it can be washed without ruining its historic value. Be sure the filler is cotton, or synthetic and not wool. Drycleaning is not the safest method of cleaning quilts. Old silks, velvets and satins can go to pieces. For fabrics that can't be washed, airing is the best method of cleaning. For washing cotton quilts, Pfister offers some hints to remember: Use Cool or lukewarm water. Test to determine color fastness by filling a medicine dropper with the diluted washing agent, wetting a small area and blotting it. If the color comes out on a white blotter do not wash. Use a mild low sudsing soap or detergent. A gentle machine cycle may be used on all except extremely fragile quilts. Hand washing using a soaking method may be done in a large basin, bath tub, or child's inflated swimming pool. Rinsing well is very important. Use at least one extra rinse cycle if machine washing and several extra rinses if by hand. Avoid using a dryer, the abrasion may cause unnecessary wear on the quilt. Hang outside, wrong side out unless white, to dry using two clotheslines for support. You may wish to put an undyed sheet beneath the quilt, directly on top of the clotheslines. It may take two days to complete the drying. If so, take it in at night. Quilts may be dried by laying on the grass on top of an undyed

sheet. Avoid overwashing quilts, air quilts instead. Even quilts that are in use should not be washed more than twice a year. Problem brown spots may be caused by algae, fungi, minerals or chemicals remaining in the quilt after washing. You may not be able to totally remove them; try sunning, oxygen bleach or borax.

Avoid: Pressing may yellow stored fabric, especially if soap or detergent is left in the quilt. Washing a quilt top before quilting. Washing anything heavy like a comforter. Drycleaning quilts of red and blue fabric; they tend to bleed. Washing quilts of black fabric, they tend to bleed.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The foregoing is a news release from the Extension Service. and contains much that is useful. However, Plain Print does not endorse washing any quilt in a machine or hanging them on clotheslines. We recommend Ensure (available at Calico House) for handsoaking, and laying flat to dry on a sheet or mattress pad. As for washing a top before quilting, we do not recommend it for new ones, but for old ones, they may be soaked clean with Ensure, but never, never agitated in a machine.



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Christmas USA 15c