

Quilting Instructions, Encouragement From An Expert

(Continued From Page 34)

simply quilt a solid color sheet for an interesting effect. For a beginner, the quilting can be in a diamond shape, with large 3-4 inch diamonds. These can be easily marked off with a yardstick.

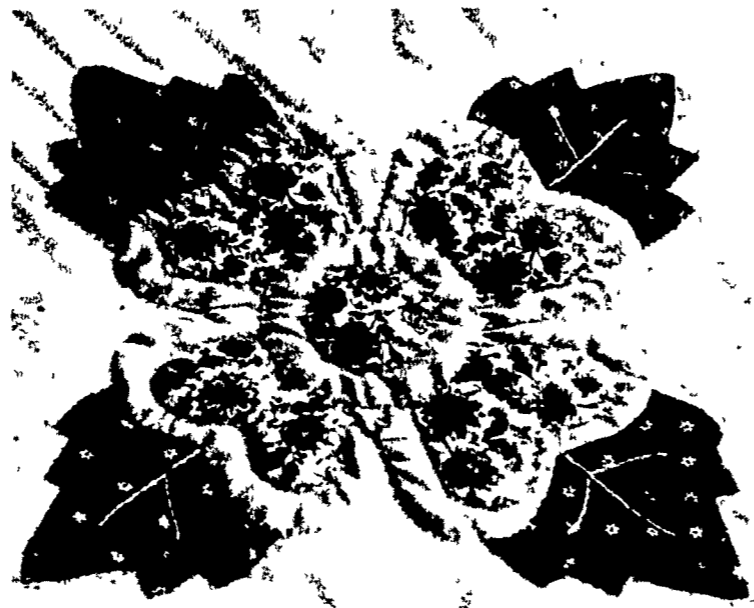
It's easy to see that a modern quilt, with the pieces sewn together by machine, and the fabric of dacron and polyester blend is a breeze to care for.

But what about that heirloom quilt that was passed down from your great-grandmother? Mrs. Hess says that washing is really the only way to get rid of age marks which inevitably mar the beauty of an heirloom quilt. But washing is also risky business, because of the variety of materials used in a patchwork quilt, and because of the deterioration of fabric with age.

If the binding has become ragged with use, Mrs. Hess suggests that you simply re-bind over the old binding.

Mrs. Hess has been teaching quilting at the Farm Museum for almost nine years. She is also responsible for getting groups to quilt at the museum so that visitors may see the old-fashioned skill actually being practiced. These quilts are then sold at the Black Rock Sale.

Mrs. Hess is a member of the



A close-up view of the Lancaster County Rose.

Landis Valley Mennonite Church Sewing Circle, and that group and many other sewing circles assist in making the quilts.

Along with quilting, the Farm Museum offers courses in such things as crewel, rug hooking, rug braiding and bargello. These are free to the public.

Mrs. Hess says she has met many fascinating people through her work, and is always surprised at the intense interest shown in quilting by tourists. Many people are interested in purchasing quilts or having them made as a result of their visit to the Farm Museum.

In preparation for her classes there, which are being held now and will be offered again in November, she said, "I interviewed and visited good quilters in the county."

She adds, "No place in the world does as much quilting as Lancaster and Lebanon Counties."

Fix-It Tip

When using a file, keep the pressure light and even. Cutting is done on the forward stroke, never on the back stroke. Move the file across the work the full length of the file for even wearing.

Material to be filed should be held rigidly, preferably in a vise. To remove excess material start with a coarse file, end with a finer one.

Do not use a file without a handle. The tang (the pointed end) is the part to be inserted into a handle.

A file card is a brush with short wire bristles. Get one to clean all your files.

department, Mrs. Hess says she recognized a great similarity in some patterns used in Britain with those used here.

As Mrs. Hess describes her experiences with quilting and shows the many quilts in her collection, it is easy to get caught up in her obvious delight with the endless possibilities which the art affords.

We hope we've spurred your interest to learn more - and perhaps you'll soon have an heirloom in the making!

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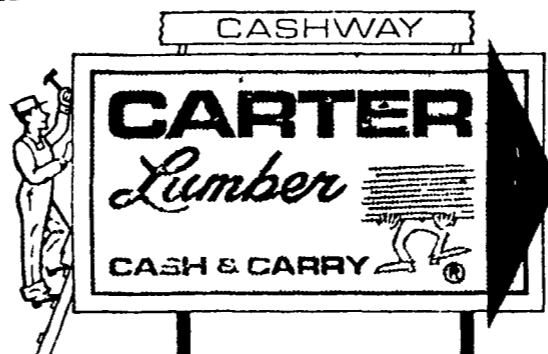
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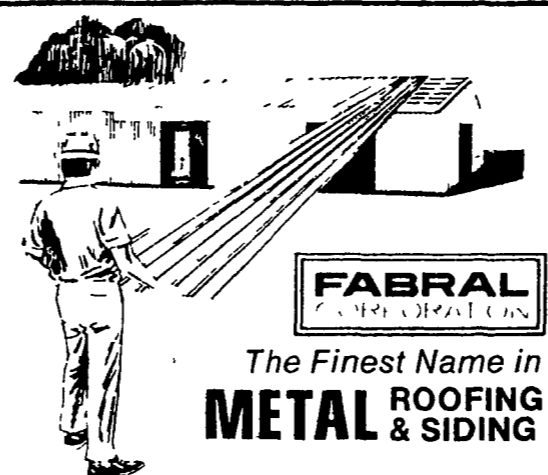
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