

Bradford-Sullivan ladies learn about piecing lives and quilts

BY JANE BRESEE
Staff Correspondent

MIDDLETON — "If you can sew, you can make a quilt", said Joyce Nichols of Milan, Bradford County.

Joyce was speaking to the farm women attending Ladies Day Out at the Monroeton Fire Hall. She was the morning speaker at the annual luncheon affair sponsored by the Women's Committee of the Bradford-Sullivan County Farmers' Association.

Joyce, now a veteran quilter and volunteer teacher for county extension classes in quilting, started 13 or 14 years ago, she said, and for the most part is self taught. "If you really want to do something, you can do it," she encouraged the audience of 30 farm women.

Making one quilt a year is her goal. Her latest is a butterfly quilt, with plain brown quilted squares interspersed with squares of appliqued butterflies. One of her favorite designs is the sunbonnet girl. One such quilt top took 500 or 600 hours of work, she said, which doesn't include putting on the backing and doing the quilting.

Some quilts on display were made by Bea Simons, another quilter, who also helps teach extension classes. Others included a log cabin quilt, a heavily

embroidered crazy quilt, flower garden, postage stamp, and a baby quilt done in a yo-yo design by Joyce for her first grandchild.

The day long meeting was chaired by Jean Tiffany, county women's committee chairman, and also a member of the state women's committee of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association. She introduced her husband, Fred Tiffany, state director, who spoke briefly about the local structure of PFA. Jeff Patton, Regional Organization Director, also talked, explaining the organization at the state level.

Following the luncheon, June Langan, director of treatment of Quo Vadis, a drug and alcohol detoxification unit and half-way house located in North Towanda, was introduced. She said that the most abused drug is alcohol and is most frequently misused together with other drugs.

Quo Vadis is a house where people may come for 3 to 7 days to get the drugs out of their system. Then they usually go to a rehabilitation center for treatment such as the one in Blossburg, after which they come back to Quo Vadis where they make their home while they are trying to get back into the stream of normal living.

Group therapy is used both



Joyce is proud of her patchwork apron which she frequently wears when teaching quilting classes.

at the Center and Quo Vadis to try to get the person with a drug problem in touch with reality and with his feelings. We try to tell them, she explained, that there is nothing to be afraid of when they take charge of their own lives.

Presently, June said, she and the staff are trying to make an assessment of the 7 high schools in the county to find out what drug problems the students have. It is a frustrating job, she worried. Some high schools won't admit they have problems while others welcome them to come and start educational classes about drug abuse.

During her presentation, a film about an alcoholic wife and mother, called "The Secret Love of Sandra Blain" was shown.

The afternoon was climaxed with the appearance of Shanna Learn, a 7 year old from Ulster, who sang several hymns and western songs. According to her mother, the child knows over 60 songs by heart and has been singing for churches and other groups throughout the state since she was 3 years old.

The program was adjourned after the awarding of door prizes. Jean announced that the Regional Ladies Day Out will be held July 14, the place to be announced later.



Bea Simons, left, and Joyce Nichols, speaker at the Bradford-Sullivan County Ladies Day Out, show off the Butterfly Quilt. This is the latest quilt made by Joyce.

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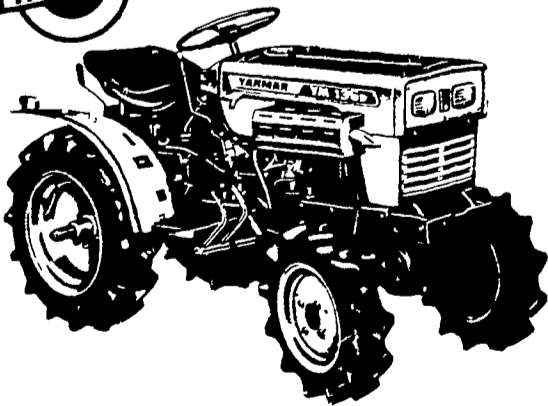
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