

From 1 to 140, the Quilter's Guild grows

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

LANCASTER — In October of 1981, when Lancaster County's 4-H Extension agent Donna Lucidi, came to Lancaster, she contemplated joining a quilter's club — envisioning herself in the heart of "quilter's country."

But what she found was that, although it's definitely quilter's country, the quilters STAY in the country, not mingling or organizing for the promotion of quilting.

Frustrated and disappointed, Donna again proceeded quilting on her own, always eager to find some friends to share her interest.

Finally, in January of this year, Donna added a little note in the Lancaster County Homemaker's Newsletter, published by the Extension office, asking anyone who was even remotely interested in quilting to attend a meeting.

"Twenty-eight people showed up

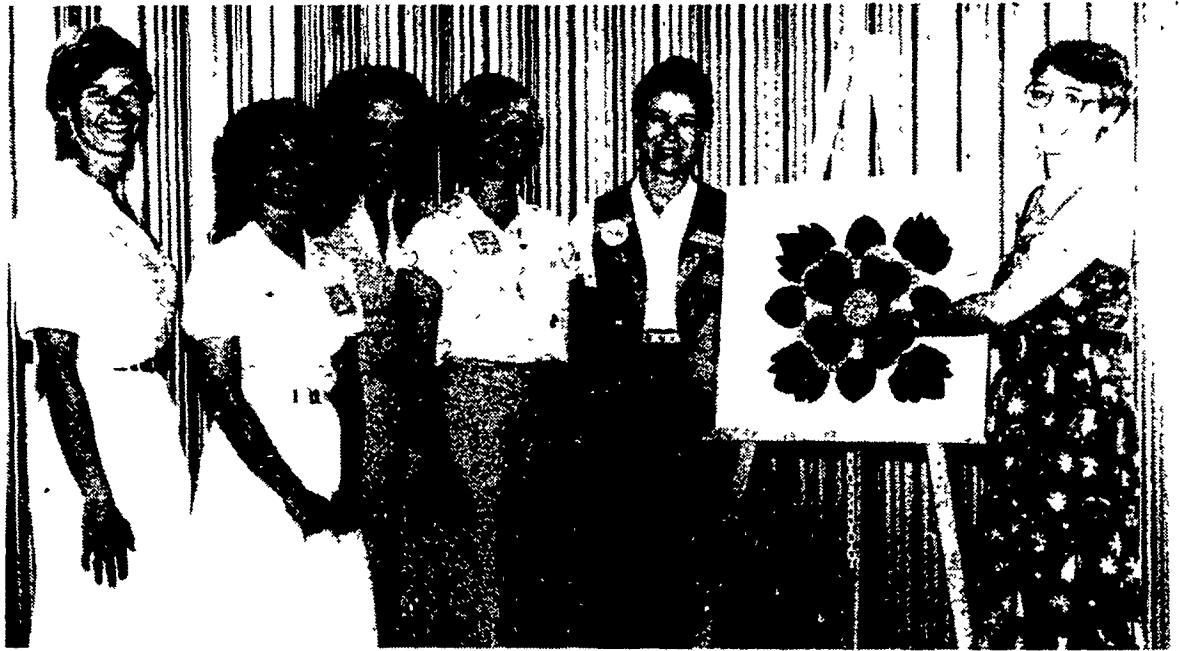
at that first meeting," Donna remembers. "And they all expressed a strong interest in quilting and said they were glad that something like this was being done."

Before long the now monthly meetings averaged 60 to 70 people with at least 140 people having attended at least one meeting.

"When it started, I pictured a small group of ladies getting together and sharing stories and quilting secrets. I didn't think it would be this large since there was never an organization like it before."

Donna, who has been quilting for 5 years, began her quilting experience through self teaching. As her interest developed, she introduced it into the classroom where she once taught high school home economics.

"I've always sewed. I've always enjoyed textile arts, so quilting



The Lancaster County Quilter's Guild, barely six months old, is still in the process of establishing its place in Lancaster County and in the lives of its members. Installation of officers Tuesday night took them one step closer to their goal. From left are Barbara Flosdorf, treasurer, Lititz; Kim Weaver, corresponding secretary, Lancaster; Esther Solecki, second vice president, Elizabethtown; Bonnie Lounsbury, first vice president, Gordonville; Sharon Hammons, recording secretary, Millersville; and Donna Lucidi, president, Landisville, who is completing the Lancaster rose they created for the ceremony.



Barbara Musser, formerly from the Carlisle area, lives and teaches in Texas. As a quilting teacher, she has had opportunity to try her hand at several different techniques. She shared some of her expertise and quilt show slides with members of the Quilter's Guild Tuesday night.

just came naturally," she remembers.

The latest meeting of the quilter's guild met Tuesday evening at the Farm and Home Center. The evening included an installation of officers and guest speaker Barbara Musser, now from Texas but formerly from the Carlisle area. Mrs. Musser is a quilting teacher back home in Texas.

According to Donna, speakers such as Mrs. Musser will be added to each monthly meeting's agenda so participants can benefit from time spent at meetings.

Other goals the Guild has adopted include promoting quilting as a rewarding needle art and encouraging and motivating its members.

"We passed around surveys at one meeting asking what the group has done for its members, and almost everyone wrote that the group has motivated them and made them spend more time with their quilting," Donna adds.

Three immediate plans for the Guild include adopting a club name, beginning a newsletter to provide communications about quilt related events, and to offer workshops directed toward developing a skill in a particular area of quilting.

The latter goal is necessary, according to Donna, due to the large amount of members, thus making it impossible to hold hands-on educational demonstrations at monthly meetings. The group has also split into nine smaller, localized groups which meet periodically.

The next meeting of the Guild will be held at the Coca Cola Building off Route 72 in Lancaster on July 11. On Saturday, July 9 at 2 p.m., the Guild will participate in a tour of the Amish quilts at the Heritage Center in Lancaster.

According to Donna, all persons interested in quilting, regardless of their skill level, are encouraged to attend the meetings. For information, contact Donna at the Extension office, 394-6851.

Popcorn added

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Popcorn has been added to the list of experimental crop insurance programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

This is the USDA's latest effort toward providing insurance protection on all crops in all areas of the country, said Merritt W. Sprague, manager of the crop insurance agency.

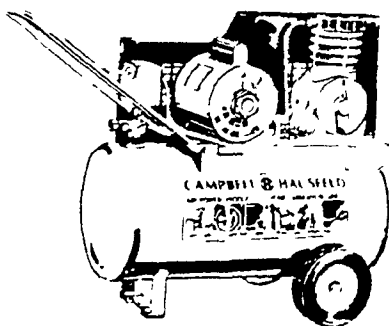
Sprague said the pilot program is for popcorn grown in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Nebraska in the 1984 crop year. Eventually, he said, the agency hopes to expand the program into Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio. These nine states produce 99 percent of all popcorn grown in the United States.

In the 1981 crop year, 247,000 acres of popcorn were grown with an estimated value of \$103 million.

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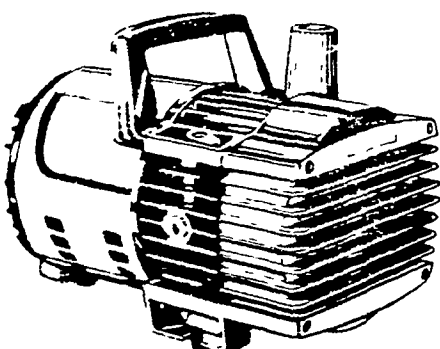


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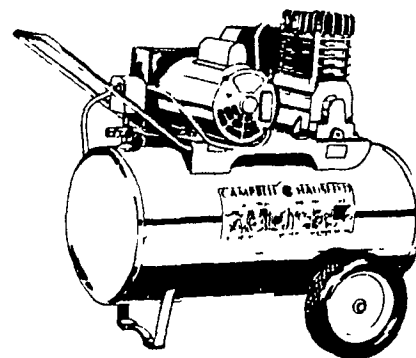
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