

Quilter Wants to Sponsor Contest

BY KIMBERLY HERR

NARVON — With sheep peacefully grazing by a pond dotted with geese, the large, white Koser home appears to be a place to relax, to kick your feet up by the fire. And it is, in a way.

But it is also a home buzzing with activity, creative activity.

At the back of the house is a room, complete with wood stove and a quilting frame. It is a cozy room and you almost do not notice the shelves of homemade crafts that line the walls. There are pillows, quilts, stuffed animals and wallhangings.

This room is in fact the Mt. Rock Family Shop, but it is also a favorite living room for J. Melvin and Minerva Koser. It is also the room where Minerva, her daughters, daughters-in-law and sisters get together to quilt.

And if Minerva and her daughter, Phoebe Oellig, have their way, this room will also be the scene of a quilt patch contest this summer.

Minerva explained that she had read about quilt patch contests in one of the quilting magazines that she enjoys reading. Since she had never heard of anything like that in her Lancaster County area, she thought it would be fun to try.

The patches that she receives for the contest will be judged the week of Aug. 6 by all of the customers that come through her shop.

"I like it better when the people chose the winner, because they are the buyers," Minerva explained in a quiet voice that is characteristic of her.

Patches for the contest, which is open to everyone, should be nine-inch quilt patches made in the design of the quilter's choice. The deadline for Minerva to receive the patches is July 30. And if quilters want the patches returned, they should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Mt. Rock Family Shop, Box 203, Narvon R2 17555.

Minerva also asked that the name, address and phone number of the quilter be included with the patch. Also, she would like to have the name of the quilt design, if it is known.

Awards will be given in adult categories and in categories for children age 16 and under.

Minerva's interest in quilting began when three of her six children got married within nine months of each other.



These animal pillows are another one of the homemade crafts featured in Minerva's shop.

"I had to find something to do at home," Minerva laughed. "It (her interest in quilting) went from one small thing to another."

However, even before that time she was making quilts, but that was due to necessity. She remembered how when her family was going through "poorer times," she made a quilt from an old feed bag.

"When I look at it (that quilt) now, it wasn't so beautiful," Minerva said.

The same cannot be said of the intricately designed quilts she now makes.

One quilt found in her shop is a sampler quilt. "It is all handmade, every stitch," Minerva explained.

There is also a crib quilt, done in the bridal wreath pattern, which contains 150 tiny leaves, all expertly done. Another quilt is done in the frontier girl pattern.

And in addition to making quilts for her family and her shop, Minerva enjoys helping other people.

"I help anybody that wants to make a quilt top," she said. "I do more helping other people than I do selling, but I love it. It (quilting) is only a hobby."

She explained that she thinks the interest in quilting is growing and hopes that due to that interest people will be interested in her contest.



Carol Koser, Minerva's daughter-in-law, makes these stuffed toys which are on display at the Mt. Rock Family Shop, Narvon, Lancaster County. Minerva's daughters and daughters-in-law often help keep the shop supplied with crafts.



Minerva Koser and her daughter, Phoebe Oellig, left, are interested in sponsoring a quilt patch contest which will be judged by the customers in Minerva's store. Above, Minerva and Phoebe display one the quilts made by Minerva.



The Mt. Rock Family Shop is indeed a family operation. Many of the crafts on display have been made by a member of Minerva Koser's family, with Minerva contributing most of the homemade goods. Above, the women work on a quilt

which belongs to one of Minerva's sisters. Shown from left are: Ruth Snader, Minerva's sister; Grace Landis, Minerva's sister; Minerva, and Carol Koser, Minerva's daughter-in-law.