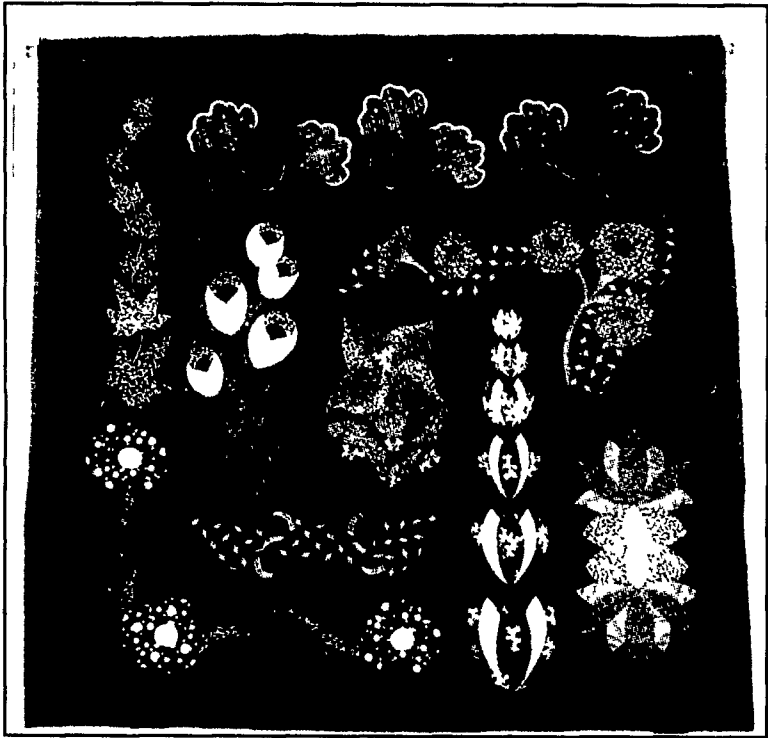
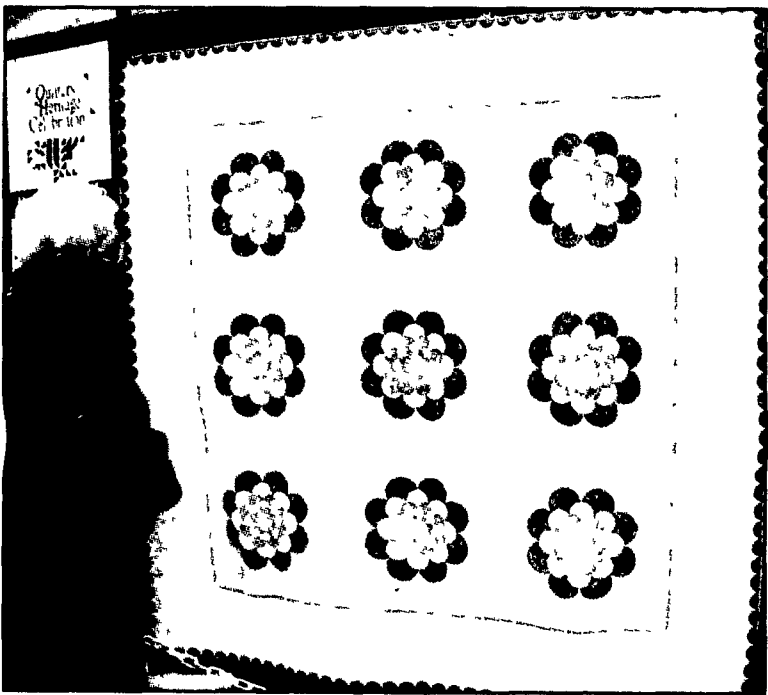


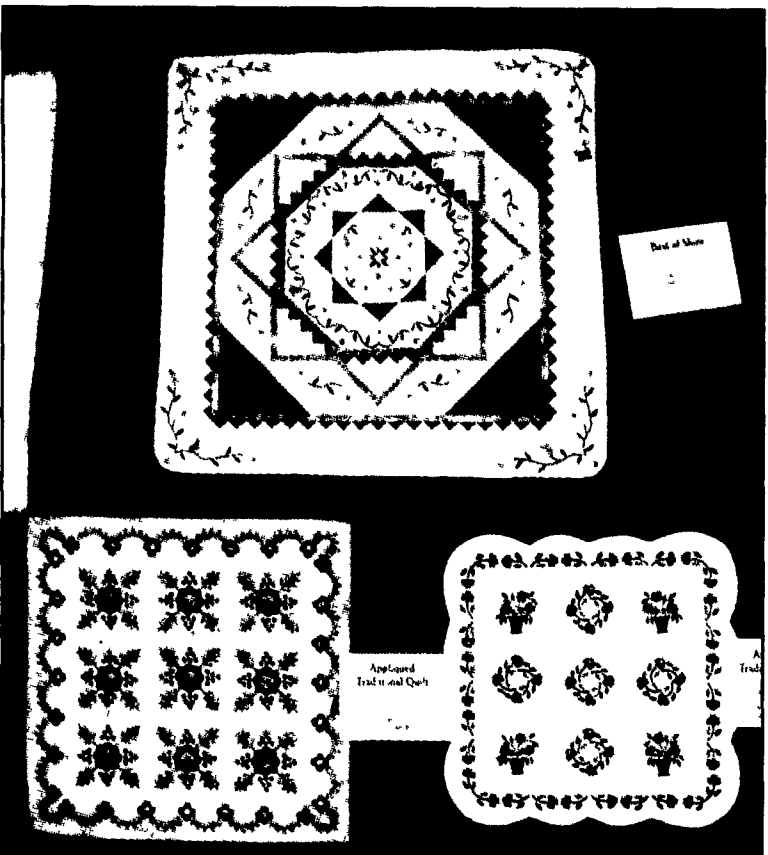
Cross-Country Quilters Stitch Artsy Quilts



Quilters' Heritage Celebration holds fast to traditional methods of piecing and patching but utilizes the newest materials and technologies for innovative work. In the pictorial quilts competition, this "Garden Variety" by Marcia Krue, Mich., placed first. The juried show is rated one of the top five quilt shows in the country.



Best workmanship went to Jen Lohmar, Illinois, for *Pride of Prairie*. The tiny stitches enhance the pattern and show how quilting is an artistic design in itself.



These prize-winning miniatures feature the exquisite detail of full-size quilts. Best-of-show miniature, "Golden Melody," was stitched by Cheryl Kagen, W. Seneca, N.Y. "Summer Rubies" by Nancy Wagner Graves, and "A Bit of Sunshine" by Marie Moore, Houston, Texas.

LOU ANN GOOD

Food And Family
Features Editor

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — "I can't think of anyone who comes through these doors who wouldn't be impressed, no matter what their age," said Sally Carpenter about the 14th annual Quilters' Heritage Celebration.

About 16,000 people attended the show March 15-18 at the Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center.

Although the quilts on display attract the attention of the crowds, Hetty Wengert, Lebanon, said, "They like to see the quilts, but they'd be lost without the vendors. They want to see what's new on the market."

What's new on the market is inconceivable unless you've browsed the merchant's mall, which is part of the annual show. The techniques and gadgets to create works of beauty can inspire even the most untalented fiber artists.

In addition, free workshops offer sewing lessons and instructions in machine quilting.

Jason Pollen, quilt juror, said, "What strikes me deeply is the overwhelming number of quilts that embody a strong point of view, both visually and conceptually. Sometimes humorous, sometimes profoundly introspective, sometimes somewhere in between, the majority speak, sing, shout or whisper with individual voices."

The most unlikely subjects — such as cars, animals, people, profiles, and fashions — are often incorporated into the quilt designs.

The stories that accompany antiques are often as fascinating as the items themselves. One display of antique quilts included the story of a woman who refused to let her husband sleep beneath a quilt pattern called *Wandering Foot* for fear he would run off. However, she felt safe when she renamed the quilt *Turkey Tracks*.

Renaming a quilt pattern is part of the reason the same quilt pattern varies in name from area to area.

"Come, you must see this," are the most often overheard words spoken with a sense of awe while more than 16,000 visitors crowded the exhibition area.

The Lancaster show is rated as one of the top five quilt shows in the world.

Rita Barrow Barber, producer, said, "In celebrating the quilt, we learn, share, and enjoy the splendor of expression shared by so many quilters."

Before the 1970s, Barber said, artists who used fabric to create works that were pieced, layered, stitched, and stuffed were not accepted in traditional quilt shows. Instead they needed to display their art quilts in mixed-media fiber shows, which dampened their impact. In the 1970s, several volunteers preserved an abandoned dairy barn to display 20th century creations in Athens, Ohio.

Quilt National was intended to demonstrate the transformations taking place in the world of quilting.

"It's purpose was then, and still is, to carry the definition of quilting far beyond its traditional parameters and to promote quilt making as what is always has been — an art form," Barber said.

The plan is to hold fast to the traditional methods of piecing and patching but utilize the newest materials and technologies for innovative work.



Fiction in quilting? That's exactly what Jennifer Chiaverini offers with three novels she has written and had published by Simon & Schuster.



"Flaming Flowers Brightly Blaze" is a three-dimensional quilt by Robin Haller, Illinois.

The stiff entry requirements state that works must possess the basic structural characteristics of a quilt, be predominantly fiber, and composed of at least two full and distinct layers held together with stitches. Work must be original by the entrant, not a copy of a traditional design nor a variation of that of another artist.

Preliminary acceptance for

the juried show is gained by submitting two slides of the original quilt, one showing the full view of the quilt and the other detail of the front. However, the work is not accepted for the show until seen by a jurors' representative.

The next Quilters' Heritage Celebration is scheduled for April 4-7, 2002.



"Moody Hues" in shades of blue shows many different quilting techniques designed by Candy Groff, Montana.