

Quilts spread out special history lesson

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Merry Silber of Birmingham remembers the visitor to a quilt exhibit who carried a quilt tenderly, as if it were a baby.

Such a response isn't that unusual, to quilts, Silber would say. A longtime curator of quilt shows throughout the country, she understands why Americans hold a special fascination and appreciation for them.

"This is an original American art form," Silber said. "Patchwork quilts and jazz."

"We spend one-third of our lives in bed. We cover the gamut of emotions — birth, death, sickness, love-making."

With patterns bearing such names as California Tears and Philadelphia Pavement, quilts can tell stories about war, love, farming, building and politics.

"It's the history of our country," Silber is coordinating the third annual quilt show and sale of the Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, May 14-16, at the BASCC, 30800 Evergreen at 13

mile in Southfield. It will feature 150 years of quilting.

The show will present 50 antique and contemporary quilts, 25 of which were made by male quilt-makers from the United States and Canada from 1970 to the present. The new events this year will include a lecture and workshop by Beaver Island quiltmaker Joe Cunningham. Pre-registration is required. A sampler quilt, made by members of the BASCC Quilt Club, will be raffled Saturday, May 16.

Noted San Francisco quilt historian Julie Silber will lecture. Ongoing demonstrations of quilting and rugmaking, a mini mall, quilting supplies and fabrics, books, posters, stuffed dolls and animals, refreshments and free parking will also be featured. Admission is \$3. Call 642-1040. See related listing of events.

"This is a first for this area, 25 extraordinary quilts made by male quiltmakers from the United States and Canada. Most are artists turned textile painters — an important dimension of quilting, long overdue for recognition in this country."

"Viewers will be stunned at these works of art and will also see another 25 quilts which are my favorites from past shows."

A quilt is a sandwich of two layers of fabric filled in the center and sewed together. The original quilts were burlap sacks filled with scraps or feathers.

"They (women, who made the quilts) couldn't live without beauty," Silber has examples that show quilts can be true works of art, more than fabric and thread. The skill and patience involved tell a tender tale all by themselves.

A colorful quilt from 1920 features more than 10,000 squares. An antique quilt, circa 1850, has more than 6,100 half-inch squares. All handmade, with hand-dyed fabrics, the quilt is bordered in braided binding.

Applique or sewn symbols of a family's interests or background are other ways a quilt may tell a story.

Many artists have turned quilt makers, Silber said.

"It is such an expressive art form... Today quilting (is one of the) major, major works of art. It has become a fine art."

"It's finally come into its own... Every major art museum now has a quilt department."



JERRY ZILINSKY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Special history: Quilts are more than fabric and thread to someone like Merry Silber of Birmingham, who is curator of a quilt exhibit in Southfield next week. The items are works of art, made with skill and patience, that can tell a little bit of history of a community or family.

Lectures, workshop featured

"American Quilts: His and Hers," curated by Merry Silber, will take place Thursday-Saturday, May 14-16, at the Birmingham Area Senior Citizen Center, 30800 Evergreen at 13 mile in Southfield. Call the BASCC office at 642-1040 for information.

"Bring Your Own Quilt," a lecture/appraisal by Silber, will take place 10:30 a.m. daily. Other scheduled events are:

"The New Spirit Collection," a slide lecture by Julie Silber of San

Francisco, author, lecturer, curator and historian. 2 p.m. Thursday, May 14.

"Men in Quilting," a slide lecture by foremost artist and quiltmaker Joe Cunningham of Beaver Island. 2 p.m. Friday, May 15.

"Intuitive Quilting," workshop by Gwen Marston and Cunningham, popular quiltmakers, teachers and writers. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 16. Pre-registration is required.



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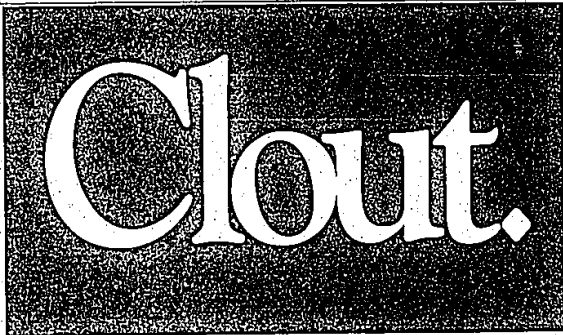
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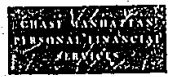
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COMMERCIAL
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BEAUTIFUL 3 bedroom 2 bath brick Tudor w/ hardwood floors. 1st floor. 3 bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. 1st floor study large family room. Newer French doors and fireplace. Central air. 1887. 2 car attached garage. \$118,500. CENTURY 21 Suburban. Plymouth 455-5880.

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1918 sq. ft. colonial kitchen appliances and home protection plan included. For sale at \$141,900 or lease \$1,300. CENTURY 21 Suburban. Plymouth 455-5880.

TELEGRAPH & Ann Arbor Trail area 3 bedroom 2 1/2 bath master suite up stairs and master bath. Finished basement. 2 car garage. \$179,500. CENTURY 21 Hartford North. 325-9600.

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CONDO — Gorgeous open, contemporary ranch. Spacious great room den and 1st floor. 2 car attached garage. 2 bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. \$166,500. CENTURY 21 MJC Corporate Transferee Service 851-6700.

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Nestled among the trees. All glass 41 ft. great room. 2nd floor. 2 bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. \$174,000. CENTURY 21 MJC Corporate Transferee Service 851-6700.

TERIFIC 3 BEDROOM
ranch. Full finished basement. Newly redecorated kitchen & baths. Walk to all schools. good freeway access. \$151,900. CENTURY 21 MJC Corporate Transferee Service 851-6700.

TWO ACRES WITH RAINIER
stream. Custom 3 bedroom family room. 2nd floor. 2 bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. \$184,900. CENTURY 21 MJC Corporate Transferee Service 851-6700.

WOODCREEK FARMS
Over 15 acres of tranquil natural beauty surrounds this custom one-owner brick ranch. 3 1/2 bedrooms. 3 1/2 baths. \$184,900. CENTURY 21 MJC Corporate Transferee Service 851-6700.

OPEN SUNDAY 2-5
Hickory Lane. 5 of 11. 3 bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. 1st floor study large family room. Newer French doors and fireplace. Central air. 1887. 2 car attached garage. \$118,500. CENTURY 21 Suburban. Plymouth 455-5880.

SPACIOUS FAMILY HOME
1800 sq. ft. 4 or 5 bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. 2nd floor. 2 bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. 1st floor study large family room. Newer French doors and fireplace. Central air. 1887. 2 car attached garage. \$118,500. CENTURY 21 Suburban. Plymouth 455-5880.

BEAUTIFUL Bluegrass
Farms colonial 3 bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. formal dining room. family room. fireplace. finished basement. 2 car attached garage. \$163,900. CENTURY 21 Suburban. Plymouth 455-5880.

CAPE COD family room. fireplace. formal dining room. 2nd floor. 2 bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. 1st floor study large family room. Newer French doors and fireplace. Central air. 1887. 2 car attached garage. \$118,500. CENTURY 21 Suburban. Plymouth 455-5880.

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BEAUTIFUL HOME
Wooded lot on a quiet street. 3 bedrooms. living room. fireplace. family room. 1st floor. 2 bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. \$174,000. CENTURY 21 MJC Corporate Transferee Service 851-6700.

VALUE. Excellent 3 bedroom
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MILFORD
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MILFORD'S MYSTIC HILLS
3 bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. 1st floor study large family room. Newer French doors and fireplace. Central air. 1887. 2 car attached garage. \$118,500. CENTURY 21 Suburban. Plymouth 455-5880.

CLASSIC COLONIAL IN
COMINGS. 4 bedroom 2 1/2 bath large family room. 2nd floor. 2 bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. 1st floor study large family room. Newer French doors and fireplace. Central air. 1887. 2 car attached garage. \$118,500. CENTURY 21 Suburban. Plymouth 455-5880.

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PLYMOUTH
PRICED TO SELL — Owners transferred. Stunning amenities galore. 3 bedrooms. 2 1/2 baths. 1st floor study large family room. Newer French doors and fireplace. Central air. 1887. 2 car attached garage. \$118,500. CENTURY 21 Suburban. Plymouth 455-5880.

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BUDGET HOME
Immediate occupancy on this lovely 2 bedroom home with 2 full baths. new carpeting. basement and garage. \$54,900. CENTURY 21 John Cole Realty. Inc. 937-2300-455-8430.

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QUICK CHARM 3 bedroom
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