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CRAFTY QUILTER

By Kaye L. Burlison

To just about anyone peering through the pane of her front door and seeing her bent to her task, she would seem a frail grandmother who has blue-gray hair. However, Sue Hampton of Hinton is, at 91 years of age, a woman who is still interested, as she has always been, in creating and sharing the beauty of her crafts.

When Mrs. Hampton was younger, she helped her husband, C.A. Hampton, with their grocery store in Hinton. Still she managed to rear three children as well as find time for church work and artistic activities.

She raised beautiful flowers in her garden and supplied her church with lovely fresh-cut floral arrangements. She also played the organ and aided in creating a worshipful atmosphere for services. Her abilities overflowed as she taught others the harmonious chords of hymns and sonatas on the piano.

In 1931, when some of her friends made some quilts, Mrs. Hampton pieced together her first quilt. For the Flower Garden pattern, she carefully cut each small block with a tiny flower in the center. Because her mother-in-law in Colorado could quilt beautifully, she sent the quilt to her for quilting. Last year, Mrs. Hampton's granddaughter entered this "antique" quilt in the local fair and won First Prize.

"...at 91 years of age, still creating and sharing the beauty of her crafts."

As age and arthritis began to hinder her outdoor activities and after her husband died, Mrs. Hampton focused her energies on her indoor creative projects. Her stitchery projects included many crewel embroidery pictures and a needlepoint piano-bench cover. Because of her giving nature, she gave many of these projects to others after many hours of loving labor.



Mrs. Sue Hampton and her great-granddaughter, Allison Hawkins, learning to quilt.

And then she began quilting again. Most of these objects of warmth and beauty have been selected from catalogs by the recipients. Mrs. Hampton donates the labor while the receiver pays for materials and quilting. She has done quilts that have cross-stitch embroidered patterns, appliqued fabrics, and the old-fashioned pieced quilts in which the cloth strips themselves form the pattern. In the past twenty years, she has completed seventeen quilts.

Once again, as long ago, this lovely lady is sharing the beauty of her talents. She placed before us a beautiful family, a breathtaking rose, a memorable melody; and now she has stitched together colorful strips of cloth that, like her love, will keep us warm for years to come. ●

KAYE L. BURLISON of Moore received her Master's of Education degree from SOSU in December, 1988. She works as a draftsman for an architectural firm in Oklahoma City. Like her grandmother, Sue Hampton, she enjoys stitchery projects and has completed her first quilt.