SNIPPETS

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Projects / Challenges
Visit the website for current
Committee Chairpersons

Web Page
coastalcarolinaquilters.com

In The Spotlight!
Lyric Montgomery Kinard

Lyric Montgomery Kinard is an award-winning artist with a passion for sparking the creativity that she knows each of her students possess. With playful support and gentle encouragement she will take you through your first steps on a new path, seeing the world through the eyes of an artist.
As an artist, author, and educator she transforms cloth into art in her studio and timid spirits into confident creatives in the classroom.
Lyric was recognized for her talents as the 2011 International Association of Professional Quilters Teacher of the Year and is the author of the book "Art + Quilt: Design Principles and Creativity Exercises." She has written extensively for Quilting Arts Magazine, appeared on Quilting Arts TV, and has two DVD Workshops - Surface Design Sampler Platter, and Bead It Like You Mean It. She has studied with many well-known textile artists around the country and continues to expand her skills in the area of surface design. She has a BA in English Literature from the University of Utah and has also formally studied music and architecture. She currently lives in Cary, NC with her husband and some of their five children.

Greetings from Bev

It's time for Meet the Quilters again! I hope you all signed up because if you didn't, I'm sorry but we cannot accept any sign ups now. We are at the occupancy limit of our meeting room (by order of the Fire Department). Several things to remember - use the side door, CARPOOL even if it's just from the shopping center on the corner of 17, bring your lunch, bring any goodies you signed up for, come early if you are one of our workers - 8:00 a.m. please!

A special thank you goes to the 5 ladies (Nancy Wentzel, Jeane Park, Barbara Thaxton, Carole Perrotta and Linda Lanham) who put together the 300 table favors for Meet the Quilters. Nancy Wentzel solicited free stuff from quilting and notion suppliers to fill the bags and the group made over 600 yo-yos to decorate the bags. Nancy told us a cute story about Carole Perrotta. Carole and her husband drove to California and back over the holidays and Carole made good use of her time in the car making over 300 yo-yos. It just proves that old adage - "busy hands are happy hands."

We want to recognize our own snowbird, Tina Roth, from Michigan. She is in the Member Spotlight on the www.nqaquilts.org website! Check it out - great photo of her and lots of her creations. In fact, I'm really liking the one called "Peachy Keen" - I think she needs to teach us that one. And of course, she won Best of Show at the Quilt Gala last week. All the winning pieces will hang in the Museum during the month of March. If you have not been to Conway to see this museum, you need to go. It's a great museum with lots of extremely well displayed articles. If you would like to see all of the winning quilts, photos are on our website, coastalcarolinaquilters.com

We are talking about the history of the sewing machine this month and probably continuing into the next few months. This subject should be near and dear to our hearts so I hope you enjoy the article (pages 4 & 5). See you on the 16th!

Beverly Clement, President

Notes from Margo

To-Do List

- Wear your name tag
- **Carpooling** is imperative!!!!!
- Bring your goodies if you signed up (a reminder was e-mailed to those who volunteered).
- CCQ members use the side entry door
- Bring your lunch
- Bring Show and Tell (limit - <u>one</u> item please)

March 16th Program – Meet The Quilters has finally arrived! This year's event is a far cry from the first MTQ we hosted back in 2003. We had no speaker, only 66 ladies were in attendance and it was held in the small Activity Center next to the beautiful building we use today. But within the past 12 years it is evident that the NC and SC quilting communities are thriving - this year we are at around 300 attendees. Fun and fellowship is what this day is all about. Please make all our guests feel welcome. We look forward to Lyric's lecture and her trunk show. We anticipate that the event will end shortly after lunch so that everyone can hit the quilt shops and BUY, BUY, BUY!!

Parking – We cannot stress enough that parking will be a big issue. **Everyone** needs to carpool. As Bev said, meet at the Bi-Lo, or some other location, and several of you come into Oceanside Village in one car, or have somebody drop you off.

Coming Up in April – Get all those unwanted items you want to sell ready for our **flea market**. Also, the **miniature challenge** will end. Your miniature quilt must be totally completed including quilting and binding. Prizes will be awarded!

Membership additions and corrections – Please update your membership roster to reflect these changes and add the new members.

Correct these e-mails:

Victoria Gustafson - should be
victoria1@lonuf.com
Peg Coyne - should be
pegcoyne@sc.rr.com
Remove e-mail for Polly Davis

Add:

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The Good Wife's Guide

(. . . continued)

◆ Prepare the children. Take a few minutes to wash the children's hands and faces (if they are small), comb their hair and, if necessary, change their clothes. They are little treasures and he would like to see them playing the part. Minimize all noise. At the time of his arrival, eliminate all noise of the washer, dryer or vacuum. Try to encourage the children to be quiet.

◆ Be happy to see him.

◆ Greet him with a warm smile and show sincerity in your desire to please him.

◆ Listen to him. You may have a dozen important things to tell him, but the moment of his arrival is not the time. Let him talk first - remember, his topics of conversation are more important than yours.

◆ Make the evening his. Never complain if he comes home late or goes out to dinner, or other places of entertainment, without you. Instead, try to understand his world of strain and pressure and his very real need to be at home and relax.

◆ Your goal: Try to make sure your home is a place of peace, order and tranquility where your husband can renew himself in body and spirit.

(more tips next month . . . . .)

History of the Sewing Machine – Part 1

If you thought Isaac Merritt Singer invented the sewing machine, you are waaaay off! He wasn't even 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th! But more about him later. He doesn't even make this first part of the history! For those of you who smugly say it was Elias Howe - nope - not him either but he certainly developed the basics of our modern day machines. Nearly all of them use his original design in some form. When I decided to write about the history of the sewing machine, the first thing I did was hit the internet. It took about 2 minutes for me to see that this would not be just one article! The amount of information available is amazing.

According to Mahatma Gandhi, the sewing machine was "one of the few useful things ever invented." That might be a stretch, but it was certainly in the "Top 10" for the 1800s. I might list a few more things, but I'm not going to argue the point or the sewing police might come and take my collection! One website that had a wonderful history was www.sewalot.com written by Alex Askarott. As should be expected, the Smithsonian Institute has a fabulous 176 page ebook that you can download for free and from which I got a lot of this information. And I don't want to leave out the ISMACS website- International Sewing Machine Collectors Society. I belonged to that organization for several years and learned a lot from their experts.

Before the Victorian times, all clothing was made by hand - every stitch! Almost no changes from the stone age. The first sewing machine was patented by Charles Weisenthal in 1755 - 260 years ago this year! He was German but living in England and it was patented there, so England claims Weisenthal and his invention. The patent claims 'mechanical sewing' but no description, diagram or machine exists today, so no one knows what it looked like or how it worked - or even IF it worked!

Next was Thomas Saint who patented his machine in 1790. Saint was another Englishman, and though he invented the sewing machine that sewed a chain stitch for sewing leather and canvas during the first industrial revolution, he apparently never built one. His patent was misfiled under 'Glues and Varnishes" and was discovered by accident by Newton Wilson, who used the designs to build a working model. He had to make a few changes because the exact model would not sew. It's possible that Saint filed the information incorrectly deliberately to keep someone else from stealing his designs.

In 1804, Thomas Stone in France, James Henderson and a Scot named Mr. Duncan all patented machines but nothing is known about any of them except that Duncan's was called an embroidery machine.

In 1810, Balthasar Krems, who made knitted hosiery and hats, invented a machine that sewed the seams in the hats that he made for French troops. His machine had a pedal that operated it, and sewed a chain stitch. A bust of him is in Mayen on the Genoveva castle wall. One of his machines is in the Eifle museum in Mayen and a replica is in the Deutsche Museum in Munich. His machine was not patented so the dates and his exact designs are unknown.

An Austrian tailor produced his first machine in 1814 and patented it in 1815. Beginning in 1807, Josef Madersperger took 7 years to get it together and he called it the mechanical hand. Apparently the machine had a lot of problems with tension, feed and other mechanical operations that made it impossible to sew together 2 pieces of fabric. Josef never put the machine into commercial operation. In 1839 he came out with another machine which sewed a chain stitch to imitate weaving.

There may have been a machine invented by John Knowes and Reverend John Adam Dodge and maybe another man known only as "Adams" invented a machine in Monkton, Vermont around 1818-1819. It's possible that Mr Adams was simply a mistake that picked up the Reverend's middle name as another person. Historical societies have been unable to verify any of this information.

Ok - let's get down to the first successful commercially operated machine! Barthelemy Thimonnier, a French tailor, got a French patent in 1830. The machine made a chain stitch using a hooked needle. The hook went through the fabric and picked up a thread from underneath. The hook then brought the bottom thread up to form the chain. This imitated tambour embroidery. Fabric had to be fed through the machine by hand, much like our free-motion stitching, so the operator had to be very

steady to form even stitches. By 1841 he had 80 machines in operation in his tailor shop, making Army uniforms. A mob of tailors, thinking they would be put out of work, raided the shop and destroyed the machines (doesn't that sound like people who thought computers would take their jobs?) He obtained financial backing and improved his machine to stitch 200 stitches a minute. The French Revolution of 1848 killed that endeavor too. He did receive 2 French patents and a British patent with his partner Jean Marie Magnin and one in the US in 1850. By this time he was completely broke and died in a poor house in 1950.

In 1833, Walter Hunt developed a lockstitch machine but he didn't think it was very promising and he lost interest and sold the invention without patenting it. His lockstitch was the first attempt to design a machine that did not imitate the sewing movements of a human hand. He came up with a shuttle that carried a second thread and an 'eye-pointed' needle. Prior to that, the machine needles had an eye in the middle of the needle like some of today's beading needles. Thanks to Hunt, future inventors were not limited to the prior attempts that imitated the motions of hand sewing. Hunt did nothing to promote his invention and sold it with the right to patent to George A. Arrowsmith, but only after he demonstrated that it worked. It faded into history and only came out when Singer tried to use it against Howe when Howe sued him for patent violation - oops! Another story!

Back in England, Edward Newton and Thomas Archbold invented and patented a machine in 1841 for tambouring or ornamenting the backs of gloves. This machine had a hook on the top and a needle on the bottom. The top hook would catch the loop of thread from an eye-pointed needle on the bottom which pushed the thread up through the fabric. The machine could also use 3 needles for 3 rows of chain stitching. It could sew together 2 fabrics but was never used for that. Their patent stated that it was for "improvements in producing ornamental or tambour work in the manufacture of gloves."

John Greenough patented the first machine specifically recorded as a sewing machine in the US in 1842. It used a needle with 2 points and an eye in the middle. This machine made both a running stitch and a back stitch. To make a stitch, the needle passed completely through the fabric using pinchers on each side of the seam which pushed and pulled it back and forth. Thread was in short lengths and the needle had to be rethreaded often. (And you fuss to have to rethread when your thread breaks!) It was designed to sew leather and an awl punched holes in the material just in front of the needle. The machine was not produced commercially and the patent model is the only proof that it existed. It could only sew straight seams. The material was held in clamps on a bar and it could only sew to the end of the bar. Then the material had to be reset. What a pain that must have been!

The third American patent was to George H. Corliss, an owner of a general store in Greenwich, NY. A customer complained that his new boots had split a seam and George wondered why a machine could not sew stronger seams than the hand-sewn ones. His new machine used 2 needles - one on the top and one on the bottom - that made 2 running stitches simultaneously and pulled the thread tightly. Awls punched holes before the needles went through them. His working model would sew together 2 pieces of heavy leather at the speed of 20 stitches per minute. He went to Providence, RI to secure backers but failed in that. He abandoned his sewing machine and went to work as a draftsman and designer. His new vocation led him to invent the machine that he is known for - the Corliss Steam Engine!

The fourth US patent went to James Rodgers in 1844. His model disappeared and his machine had only minor differences from prior machines. It apparently had no commercial success.

Next month I will continue the history of the sewing machine and later I'll tell you the story of Isaac Merritt Singer and what a cad he was!

Don't waste brain power doing the math to figure out how much fabric you need—just buy the bolt!

someecards

Improving Your Piecing

1. Shorten your stitch length to 2.0 mm or 12 stitches per inch. The default stitch length on most computerized machines is too long for piecing. Shortening the stitch length reduces the amount of fabric fed under the presser foot between stitches. The piecing has less of a chance to "wobble" while the needle is up, and your accuracy will improve.

2. Check your seam allowance but not in the way you've been taught! Try this instead: from scrap fabric, cut five patches, each 1½" x 5½". Sew the patches together, measuring the combined patches after each seam. It's the size of the piecing that tells you whether or not you need to adjust your seam allowance. When all five patches are joined, you should have a perfect square that measures 5½" x 5½". If it's wider or narrower, adjust your seam allowance accordingly.