

SNIPPETS



***What is this new
contraption????***

Do you look like this when you get a new "toy?"
I can just hear Lucy calling "Ethel, HELP!!!!"

This picture fits in with the History of the Sewing Machine that has been
in our newsletter (compliments of your president, Bev.)

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Projects / Challenges

Visit the website for current
Committee Chairpersons

Web Page

coastalcarolinaquilters.com

Greetings from Bev

I love summer! Yes, it's hot, but we never have to shovel it! Lots of time at the beach and the pool where we see friends we haven't seen all winter. Our pool has a new picnic area and a new gas grill so some of the regulars are already talking about bringing foods to share.

All this is great, but it's also the time that we concentrate on our charity quilts. Margo, Kathy and Judy will get us all organized to complete as many as we can along with pillow cases and bead bags, so come prepared to sew, sew, sew!

July will be a wonderful visiting time where we can do more charity sewing or just bring your own projects to work on. What a great time to work on those UFOs that you vowed to finish this year. And August will be more time to work on all our charity projects. These projects are so appreciated by the kids and adults who receive them. They remind these people that there are folks out here who care about them.

So bring your machines and willing hands to make as many items as we can.

Beverly Clement,
President

Notes from Margo

To-Do List

- Wear your name tag
- Bring your Indigo-A-Go-Go project
- Bring your lunch
- Bring Show and Tell

June 15th Charity Workshop — It's that time of year again. We are ready for our first charity workshop of the year. And we need your help! We have 60 baby quilts ready to be layered and sewn and pillowcases ready to be serged. If you can't bring a machine there are 200 Beads of Courage bead bags ready for cording and we always need ironers. It's a fun day spent helping others.

Here's what you need to bring:

- Sewing machine with a **walking foot** and quilting (darning) foot to machine quilt
- Serger to sew pillowcases
- Extension cord and multi-plug
- Threads – neutrals and assorted colors for topstitching
- Basic sewing kit – scissors, ripper, pins, etc.
- 4 irons and 4 ironing boards - Call Margo at 655-4826 if you can bring one

Goody Preparers – Ronnie Sue Bruton, Sandy Dionne, Vickie Hardee, Cathy Story and Joan Whalen are on the schedule to bring the goodies. Remember ladies, bring your cakes already cut into bite-size pieces and be sure to bring any serving utensil you'll need. Thanks!

Coming up in July – There has been a change in our schedule; our speaker is not able to come. We don't often have the opportunity to just chill out at our meetings!! Since our numbers are down in the summer we thought it would be fun to just sit and sew for the day. Work on your PHDs, charity quilts or do whatever you'd like to do. No strings attached!!

Membership additions – Please update your membership roster to add these new members.

Thomas, Jim

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Conway, SC 29526

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A.A.A.D.D. - Know the Symptoms!!

Thank goodness there's a name for this disorder.

Age-Aggravated Attention Deficit Disorder

This is how it manifests:

I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose on the driveway, I look over at my car and decide it needs washing.

As I start toward the garage, I notice the mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mailbox earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is full.

So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first. . .

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my checkbook off the table and see that there is only one check left. My extra checks are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Pepsi I'd been drinking.

I'm going to look for my checks but first I need to push the Pepsi aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over.

The Pepsi is getting warm and I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the Pepsi, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye — they need water. I put the Pepsi on the counter and discover reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning.

I decide I'd better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses back down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table.

I realize that tonight when we go to watch TV, I'll be looking for the remote but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers but quite a bit of it spills on the floor.

I set the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.

Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day —

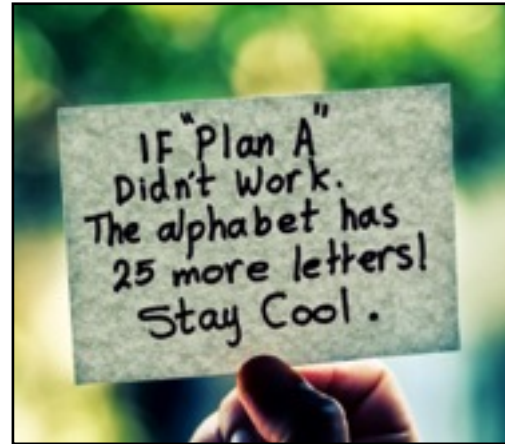
the car isn't washed
 the bills aren't paid
 there is a warm can of Pepsi sitting on the counter
 the flowers don't have enough water
 there is still only one check in my checkbook
 I can't find the remote
 I can't find my glasses
 and I don't remember what I did with the car keys

Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day and I'm really tired.

I realize this is a serious problem and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail. . . .

Don't laugh — if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!!

(contributed by CCQ member, Peg Coyne)



The following article was shared by Nancy Horsley, a member of Little River Quilters. It is quite long so I didn't want to copy and past. Check it out, it is funny and well worth your time.

The Sewing Lawyer: A Speech on Quilting

kaythesewinglawyer.blogspot.com

History of the Sewing Machine - Part 4

I promised you the story of Isaac Merritt Singer and here it is. Singer was an interesting man who, though he did not invent the sewing machine, he really brought it to the world. His improvements produced the first practical machine that was mass marketed. His marketing was aimed directly at women who, though they didn't control the money, they did control the husbands who controlled the money! He hired women to demonstrate sewing machines in department store windows to show everyone that 'the little woman' could run that big complicated machine. He developed several rent-to-own and credit arrangements including one he called 'hire-purchase' where the consumer would pay about \$5 down and \$3-5 in monthly installments. He also hired door-to-door salesmen to canvass homes to demonstrate the machines. He was only president of the Singer Company from 1851-1863 - a mere 12 years - and since then no one named Singer as been President. By 1876 the Singer company (under various names) claimed to have sold 2,000,000 machines and displayed the 2,000,000th machine in Philadelphia.

He had factories in several countries, thus making Singer the first multi-national company. In World War II, the company stopped making sewing machines and retooled their factories to make weapons. In the US, they made the Norden bomb sights and M1 Carbine rifle receivers. Factories in Germany supplied their armies with weapons too. They developed plans for building pistols and the government gave them an order to produce 500 pistols to be used by the US Ordnance Board to teach companies without gun-making experience to manufacture weapons. They went on to other tooling and manufacturing and those original Singer pistols are extremely valuable today - the highest priced one was auctioned in 2002 for \$80,000.

But who was Singer? He was born October 27, 1811 in Pittstown, NY and raised in the upstate town of Oswego. His father was Adam Singer from Germany who had changed his name from Reisinger. I found conflicting stories about his mother. She was either Ruth Benson or Ruth was his father's second wife. Either way, his father divorced Isaac's mother when Isaac was 10 and his

father married his second wife. Isaac did not get along with his step mother and at 12 he left home to live with his elder brother in Oswego. He had very little education and worked in many laborer jobs before he took up acting, went broke and went back to being a mechanic.

By 1950 he was working as a sewing machine mechanic where he came up with his first machine. His machine used a suspended arm and encased the needle in a horizontal bar. It was the first machine that could sew continuously on an object - even around curves. It also had a presser foot and sewed a magnificent 900 stitches a minute! However, how many of these 'inventions' were his and how many were copies has long been argued. Some of them were taken from Elias Howe's inventions and when Howe sued for patent infringement, he won. Singer continued making his machines and by 1860, he was the largest manufacturer of machines worldwide. By 1867 he had 22 patents and retired. He died on July 23, 1875 in Paighton, Devon, England where he is buried. He was one of the richest men in the world. His will named 22 of his children (one reference says 24 but that included 2 who died young) and made them wealthier than they ever dreamed.

Those 24 children came from 5 different women - either wives or mistresses. His first marriage was to Catharine Maria Haley in 1830. By 1831 they had moved to New York and were living with her parents but 2 years later he was back in Oswego working in a machine shop. Isaac and Catharine had 2 children, William and Lillian. By 1836, he was bitten by the acting bug and joined a troupe of traveling players. While on the road, he met Mary Ann Sponsler and they had a child, Isaac in 1837 - the same year that he also had Lillian with Catharine. The marriage was effectively over but they did not divorce until 1860.

In 1839 he received his first patent for his rock drilling machine and sold it for \$2000 which he used to start his own troupe called the Merritt Players. He continued his common law marriage with Mary Ann and they eventually had 10 children. The Merritt Players ran out of money in Ohio and he worked his way back to NY with Mary Ann. He then had invented his wood and

metal cutting machine and the prototype was in the machine shop of A. B. Taylor & Co when the boiler blew up, destroying the shop and the cutting machine. Orson Phelps in Boston invited Singer to recreate his cutting machine. Phelps also had some sewing machines which Singer started improving, thus starting his dynasty. In the 1850s and 1860s, Singer and Mary Ann Sponsler lived in a Fifth Ave mansion in NYC. He had finally divorced Catharine in 1860 by accusing her of adultery but he never married Mary Ann. So Catharine was gone, but by now he was still living a triple life with 2 women other than Mary Ann! His third family was with Mary McGonigal, who gave him 5 children! Mary McGonigal had set up a home as the Matthews family, but he continued to live with Mary Ann until Mary Ann saw him driving around in a carriage with Mary McGonigal. Mary Ann charged him with bigamy, claiming a common law marriage, and he was arrested. He was released on bail, but his reputation was ruined and in 1862 he went to Europe with Mary McGonigal. At this time, it was discovered that Singer had yet another "Mary" in the wings - Mary Eastwood Walters - with a daughter, Alice Eastwood Walters, in Lower Manhattan. Alice adopted the name Merritt. By 1860, Singer acknowledged 18 children by 4 women - 3 of them named Mary (maybe that made it easier for him to keep them straight).

After Isaac left the US, Mary Ann started legal proceedings to claim his wealth saying that they had a common law marriage and listing his infidelities. She eventually got a settlement but never divorced him which apparently did not bother her, since she then married John E. Foster. Mary McGonigal and Isaac first lived in London, but Singer soon went to Paris where he met and, on June 13, 1865, married Isabelle Eugenie Boyce Sommerville. They stayed married for the rest of his life and had 6 children. They settled in Paignton, Devon, England near Torquay. They bought an estate and built the Oldway Mansion - a 115 room palace. Several of his children by his previous wife and mistresses lived with him in the mansion and his daughter, Alice, was married there.

His son, Paris, was born in Paris on February 20, 1867 and died in London on June 24, 1932. He

married Cecilia Henrietta Augusta Graham and they had a daughter. Isabelle Blanche Singer who married a French Aristocrat Jean, Duc Decazes et de Glucksberg in 1888. He also fathered a son with the modern dancer, Isadora Duncan, but his son was killed in a car accident when he was still a child.

Isaac had a sister, Elizabeth, who was born July 16, 1801 in Germany, came to the US with her parents in 1803, and died on August 18, 1872 in Oswego, NY. She had 13 children with her husband Daniel D. Colby. She is buried in Union Rural Cemetery in Oswego.

The family has apparently run through all of his money but the company continues making machines under the names the I. M. Singer Company, the Singer Manufacturing Company and finally the Singer Company.

There are dozens of references to Isaac Singer on the internet and several books about him. From what I've found, there should be a movie! I got most of this material from the Wikipedia website, the Rootsweb website and the Sewalot website.

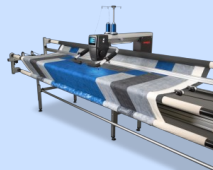




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