

Quilt Stories from Hummingbird Stitchers October 4, 2017

Collected and typed by Kay Wentworth for the HSQG:

1. My first quilt was a mystery quilt. My sister was very surprised since I didn't even sew or have a sewing machine. I have kept that quilt.
2. I made a log cabin quilt for Christmas for my sister. The joy she shares every Christmas warms my heart every year because I made something that someone loves.
3. 1st Anniversary quilt made for my nephew's new wife. I did not have enough advance notice on the wedding to have a quilt made as a wedding gift. This turned out to be a plus as where we visited them in Pasadena, Ca I discovered how much the wife loves the color red. There were 3 red bathrooms and the bedroom walls were yellow so I made a queen size quilt of a large variety of reds and yellows with a great red/yellow print backing. The wife loved it and sent me by far the most glowing thank you note. She is from Singapore and was totally unfamiliar with quilting. I had to send her some websites on quilting.
4. One of the greatest gifts I've received was from my son when he asked "What can I do to give you more quilting time?"
5. I was making a wall hanging (Native American) in 1970. There were no templates, or native fabrics like you can purchase now. I used tea and herbs for dye to get the colors I wanted. All of it was hand quilted and embroidered.
6. I belong to a large church that has a bazaar every year. People come from all over. Donations come from everywhere! We have volunteers that go through the donation boxes. I am one of the shed ladies. Going through lots of fabrics, mostly old, filthy fabric but sometimes find treasures. I found two filthy but fabulous quilt tops. Exciting. I bought the tops from the church with a donation of \$50. Got them home, washed them, quilted them and cherish them. Made by unknown women in the 40s and 50s. I had the quilts appraised and they were worth money, but to me they are priceless. Made from thousands of pieces of fabric – one is the twin of the other and big enough to cover a queen. Every time I see them I think of these unknown talented women whose forgotten artistic work was saved from the garbage from shed ladies.

7. I designed a quilt for my brother using the Mariner's Compass and the Fleur-de-lis representing his time in the Navy and as an Eagle Scout. He has since passed away and his daughter now has the quilt.
8. My very first finished quilt was a baby quilt. Made for the adopted daughter of my best friend.
9. Moved 1100 miles and bought my first house.
10. Moving to AZ and loving it!
11. Shared quilting with my sister!
12. My daughter and I had the opportunity to shop in a fabric store and she chose some colors and patterns. I purchased samples and a few years later she announced she had found a nice young man and they were getting married. I went back to that Colorado store and purchased enough of her favorites to make a King sized star pattern and matching shams. It took several months and I was able to deliver it in person. She loves it and I love the fact that we chose the fabrics together.
13. I made a quilt for my neighbors who were both stationed overseas. When I presented it, the female said that while serving she often wondered if anyone back home remembered them. She said this with tears in her eyes.
14. Love the skunk. Traveling in Texas it seems every 5 miles there was dead skunk smell. Is a wonder there are any left in the hill country of Texas. Great times with my sister and lots of fun quilt stores.
15. I made a jack-o-lantern quilt for my husband and it is a queen size and has 16 different orange fabrics and was many years in the making because orange fabric was not popular at the time so it took more than a year to find the fabrics.
16. I made a quilt for the mother of a child who I had treated until he died. He has a rare form of M.D. I put the pictures of him in between books on a book shelf. We diagnosed him at 4 years old and he died at 12. His mom still has the quilt.
17. Quilting, sewing or embroidering is so much fun and rewarding! I made 3 Tree of Life quilts that were cross stitched & embroidered. Oh, so much fun! All 3 are gorgeous and are used.
18. My first quilt came to be because my daughter earned many Girl Scout badges that year (1972). I used the camp badges in the center of a Dresden Plate block. Then used the badges she earned in cornerstones. I did the entire quilt by hand so it took 7 years. I gave it to Julie when she left for college. Over 40 years later I am still traveling the quilt journey. I don't know yet what will be my last quilt.

19. My husband worked for a large pharmaceutical research company who had tea shirts printed to celebrate breakthroughs in genetic research. At his retirement I made 2 tea shirt quilts. They will go to my 2 sons as a memento of their dad's work accomplishments and history.
20. My most unusual quilt was made for a young American who won the championship for the premier motorcycle racing on the planet. It was a celebration of the race that gave him the championship. Note: It is very difficult to contact a world champion –another story.
21. Friends bought a Turkish rug on a trip there. She asked me to make a King Size quilt to go with it. (It was very southwest looking). I called it trip around the delectable mts of Turkey.
22. 2017 summer: My husband and I had a business conference in Indianapolis in June. During free time we visited quilt shops and picked up their Row by Row patterns/kits. Then on the way home we planned our itinerary to pick up more row by rows through Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, OK, Texas, New Mexico and AZ. I couldn't use all the rows but used 25 to make a queen size quilt. Many ways to show on the go road trip, balloons, cars, stop sign, winning hand and houses.
23. My favorite quilts are creative – I don't know what they will look like until I am finished. They are fun.