

Exhibit at Bruce County Museum close:

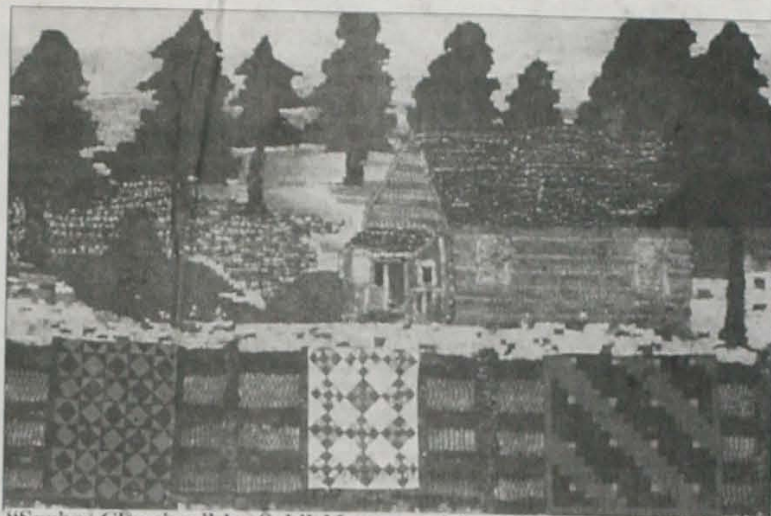
Quilt wins Viewer's Choice Award

The recent exhibition of the year's Best Miniature Quilts and wallhangings at the Bruce County Museum Southampton concluded with the presentation and Viewer's Choice Awards. "Spring Cleaning," by Sybil Mercer and Isobelle Underwood, both of Southampton, won the prize for the Artist-Quilter Challenge. "Fallert Rhapsody" by Joanne Miller of Tara, was first in the wall-hanging category. "Grandma's Yo-Yo Garden" by Ann Sanders of Sauble Beach was the winner in the miniature category.

A draw for a sewing machine, especially designed for quilters by Husquavarna, and donated by Chris McCrae of "By Design," Ferndale-Lion's Head, was won by Carole Sutter of Warton. Mrs. Sutter's daughter-in-law and granddaughter were present to hear of the win.

Isobelle Underwood's slide illustrated lecture, "Women and their Quilts-Stories Never Told" on Saturday and Sunday afternoon was very well received. She described her ongoing work with the Grey-Bruce Heritage Quilt Project. Over 500 quilts have already been documented.

Mrs. Anna Hodge of Tara was present to mark the end of the special exhibition of large quilts, loaned to mark the Centennial of Women's Institutes around the world. Many of these quilts were museum quality family treasures, and the whole exhibition provided a comprehensive overview of the changes and similarities in the art of quilting over a period of about 150 years. Mrs. Hodge is the Grey-



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Bruce area president, provincial board director for Bruce Company and western regional vice president of Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Over 2000 visitors viewed the entire collection of more than 230 individual works. Six of the pieces are on their way now to juried shows in the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, and the Stewart Museum in Montreal, for the summer of 1997.

An additional feature this year was a Merchants' Mall on the last weekend. Participating were "By Design" of Ferndale, the Sunshine Shop of Port Elgin, Cindy's Victorian Sewing Room of Southampton and Burgoyne and the Kuepfer Family Dry Goods of RR#5 Ancardine.

Plans are already being made for the fourth annual staging of this very popular exhibition.

Quilts great storytellers

Guild celebrates 10th anniversary with show

BY SCOTT DUNN
Sun Times staff

Quilts have stories to tell.

Casual observers can admire a quilt's scenic pictures or geometric shapes and colors that can be worthy of art.

An even closer look may reveal clues about the hands that sewed it.

That's what fascinates Isobelle Underwood, who created the Bruce Grey Heritage Quilt Project. She says quilts are historical signposts that tell us stories about people.

She shared her interest with visitors to the Bluewater Quilters' Guild 10th anniversary show at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre Friday. The show continues today, with hourly demonstrations and more than 350 quilts displayed.

The first quilt that ignited her interest in this research was one made of the unlikeliest of materials, socks and underwear.

But the clothing belonged to a boy killed at war and the laborious quilting



Sun Times photo by James Masters

Isobelle Underwood, of Southampton, with the Manke Quilt, left, which was made from upholstery scraps from the Knechtel Furniture Factory between 1912 and 1915.

was his mother's way of coping with her grief.

"And you couldn't look at that quilt and not be moved."

A quilt's story is almost never written down. It's passed from mother to son or daughter, ever at risk of fading away.

But one "signature quilt" in the show, by the Seaman family who bought a sawmill in Sauble Falls in 1905, includes patches marked with initials of family and landmark dates in their lives.

"So there's all that genealogical information put onto this quilt," Underwood said, admiringly.

Another quilt in the show, made by Elizabeth Manke of Hanover, consists of upholstery scraps brought home by her husband from the Knechtel furniture factory. "And I know you could follow this through and do a study of furniture factories through quilts."

The retired Port Elgin and Saugeen Township public school teacher intends to give her research to the Bruce County archive.

The show has quilts traditional and modern.

June Sparling, a quilting teacher who has taught Underwood, noted quilting designs are changing.

See Quilts on page 2.