



## Residents pitch in to make heritage quilt

By KATE GILDERDALE

Uxbridge Public Library celebrated its centennial in 1987 with an addition to the south end of the building, which opened in June of that year.

To commemorate that special anniversary, residents Barbara Murphy and Theresa Lewis designed a heritage quilt which depicts the original library. It was named after Joseph Gould, who left the money and plans for the Victorian building to the town in his will.

The beautiful quilt now hangs on the wall above the main stairway, a work of art which encompasses the efforts of 133 individuals.

"We wanted to have as many people as possible involved with it," stresses Mrs. Murphy. "We tried to ask absolutely everybody we could."

For everyone who agreed to work on it, there was at least one person who said no, she recalls.

She found herself stopping people on the street and asking if they'd be willing to participate. "A lot were people I knew, but

some were total strangers." without taking a kit, each one of lot of material, and used the batik which took half an hour to prepare.

To create the design, "we simply drew it, with all these colors like an artist's palette, and

tacked it on the floor."

Since Mrs. Murphy has a large bedroom, they made up the quiltthere and tacked down each piece, "with 16 boxes of pins to hold things in place."

She credits her husband with finding all the stray pins. "He kept stepping on them," she says.

Each piece was one-and-a-half inches square, giving a finished size of one inch by one inch and it took 14 different people to cut out She never went anywhere and mark them. They bought a method for dyeing it.

"The sky was a hundred shades of blue," says Mrs. Murphy.

The finished quilt comprises 5,510 pieces.

project, and the different level of skills involved, it was no mean feat to fit it all together.

"After we got it all done, we had to start dismantling it in eight inch by 10 inch blocks to get it to the library."

Each square had to be carefully numbered, to avoid confusion during re-assembly.

Stitching it together required skill and expertise. "We gave it people who we knew could stitch well." After it was all put together, the clock, with embroidered numbers, was appliqued on. Once it had been stretched onto frames, the quilters were invited in. Lunches were often

Because of the sheer size of the supplied by members of the community.

> "It was a total community project," remarks Mrs. Murphy.

> All those who participated had their names embroidered and appliqued onto the quilt.

"We had four men," she recalls. "People from every corner of the township, from teenagers to old ladies, were part of the project. I don't believe there's anybody who could say they weren't included."

Although some of the experienced quilters felt it couldn't be done, Theresa Lewis and Barbara Murphy were determined it was possible.

"We spent a long time talking about it and working it out before we decided to do it," stresses Mrs. Murphy.

The idea was conceived in August, 1986 and completed at the end of 1987.

"We hung it on November 13

She's pretty happy with the

final result, she acknowledges. All the people who worked on it really have a sense of pride. "It was a very gratifying

It's also a beautiful and permanent reminder, not only of a piece of history, but of the true mean ing of community spirit.

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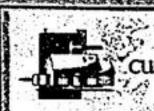
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