

ATTIC TREASURES... by Rob Reid

I welcome inquiries about any objects that you may have and look forward to seeing and perhaps writing about them. Please forward a photo and a description to me through *Stouffville this Month*, or drop it off at Reid's Antiques, 6397 Main St. Stouffville during regular business hours or via e-mail at robert.reid5@sympatico.ca.

Summer is an excellent time to air out your linen closet and hang out blankets and other bedding. With this in

right): appliqué and embroidered baby's cradle quilt (1950s), quilted blue one piece with picot edges (1970s), nine-patch (1930s), large irregular strip quilt (1940s), and appliquéd butterflies circa 1950s.

The infant quilt was designed for both decorative purposes and daily use. The delicate scalloped border, fine diamond pattern quilting and rabbit theme would make this attractive to new mothers today. The design for the

of cloth, the precision of the quilter's stitching becomes the primary element of the design. This particular example features rays of diagonal stitching, corner floral motifs and a rope border. Unfortunately this example appears to have been left on display while folded, perhaps over a rack, for some time. As a result there is evidence of irregular fading that diminishes the value to collectors and decorators alike.

Next in line is a nine-patch quilt. This most popular of patterns can be seen in many variations, and this one features diagonally placed patches arranged with alternate plain white blocks. Due to frequent washing many of the pieced blocks have faded, particularly the greens, purples and blues, leaving sections of the design nearly completely white. The quilting employs a scalloped variation across the entire surface.

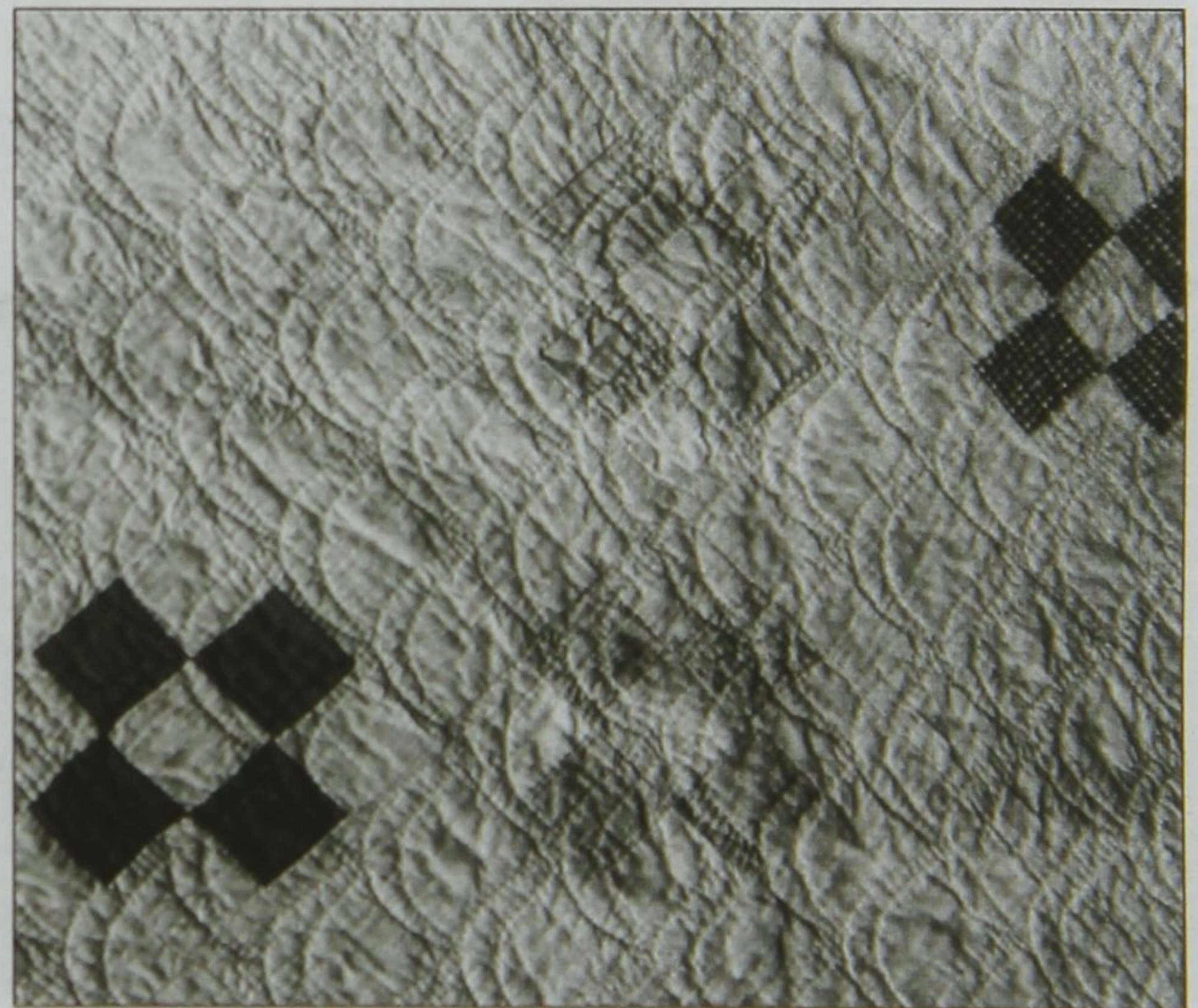
The next quilt is a simple and practical irregular strip quilt. This is clearly a utilitarian quilt designed using large scraps from dressmaking. Large strips are assembled from scraps of each design and then the large blocks are

joined together. An efficient diagonal quilting joins the layers of fabric. Of all the quilts this is the least decorative, yet still illustrates the quilter's technical skills both in stitching and design.

The final quilt is a simple summer pattern featuring purple butterflies on a white field. The individual patches were first produced and then joined using internal strips and larger overall borders. The butterflies were embroidered using the same variegated floss used for the child's quilt. This is an attractive summer motif.

Fabric choice, colour and design influence the value of historical quilts as do condition (stains, wear) and of course size. The palette of colours in this selection is soft and easily adaptable to modern decor. However all of the quilts illustrated are well used and show signs of age. Quilt restorers collect other cloth to replace damage areas, so collectors should be mindful of the stitching as well as the cloth selection when evaluating textiles. This selection would range in price from \$75-\$150.

Rob Reid is the owner of Reid's Antiques and Consignment on Stouffville's Main St.



mind, here is a interesting selection of quilts. Patchwork and appliqué quilts are primarily a North American craft, although the popularity of this craft has now spread world wide.

Many world cultures use stitched layers of cloth for protection, insulation and warmth in clothing and the construction of bedding, but only in a few places has the technique evolved to create such artistic items from humble scraps. The grouping, above, illustrated airing of the fence includes (left to

pattern is likely adapted from a commercial pattern or a children's storybook of the time. The appliqué includes a variety of older calico prints that are helpful to date the quilt.

The embroidery floss used in the design is a spaced-dyed thread, popular in the 1950s. The quilter took care to ensure that the variegations inherent to the floss were arranged to create appropriate shading across the entire design of the quilt. This lends a sense of dimension to the design and identifies the quilter as a thoughtful and talented craftswoman. (Enlarged right hand photo)

The solid blue quilt is an excellent example of the stitcher's technique. Using one single piece

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