

Email Letters from Marie

April 2003, 2nd Letter

A Story of Crazy Patch History

Dear email friends (who have weathered the storms with us),

On a little lighter note, this message was given at a Los Angeles Quilt Guild gathering specifically honoring the crazy patch quilts.

Through the Looking Glass

The story of Piecemakers is as colorful as a crazy patch quilt, and just about as crazy. The development of America is about as colorful as a crazy patch quilt and also just about as crazy. It has been like “Mr. Toad's wild ride,” both of them. We brought “The Story of Piecemakers” along. It is just a thumbnail sketch of our awesome journey with Christ as we forge our way back to God.

Piecemakers’ foundation is God, just the way our country’s foundation is God. Quilt making has been the mainstay of Piecemakers and also the fabric of our country. Although we women did not have the freedom to express ourselves in the marketplace like the men did, we carried our own message of survival; stories told in quilts.

The history of our country is carried down in quilts. You can tell the time in history by the kind of fabric used. The joys, pain and suffering experienced by our people is also told in quilts: the Double Wedding Ring, the Log Cabin, the Tree of Life and the Underground Railroad, to name a few.

Because this is a trunk show on crazy patch, let me tell you a little bit about how crazy patch started. All quilts, in their beginning, were made out of necessity rather than a hobby. Clothes were worn until only a portion of usable material remained, and out of these scraps being pieced together, a covering was made to keep them warm.

There is something innate in most people to create or make their surroundings beautiful. Perhaps like our Creator Father who created all nature, looked upon His creation and said, “Yes, it is good.” Even though color selection was important for most, our brave ancestor women did not have much to choose from.

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Quilting was not only an outlet for their severe and hard way of life, it also was a way to come together and fellowship. There were quilting bees that made each person become a part of the particular quilt they were working on. Neighbors got together and not only helped each other tie their quilts, but many a heartache was healed as they shared one another's burden.

Yes, history is indeed the ability to look through the looking glass and capture just a glimpse of what has made our country great.

Now for us spoiled Americans... let us have our trunk show showing beautiful creations with all new fabrics, without which our fabric suppliers would go out of business. Far be it from any of us to take any garments we are tired of and use them to make a quilt. However, please do not get any ideas — without your buying new fabric, Piecemakers would be out of business!

Quilting is even more exciting now because necessity has given way to art and creativity. Before we begin our trunk show, I look out at all of you who, too, are making history just as our ancestors did and I would like to say: “God bless all you quilters with new ideas, new methods of creativity and a continued joyful journey in the world of quilting.”

Marie and all the Piecemakers