

Quilters Audition Side 1:
Ages 12-15, Annie

My ambition is to become a doctor like my father. I'm my father's girl.

My greatest accomplishment was when I was ten years old and was successful in chopping off a chicken's head and then dressing it for dinner. My mother tries to make me do quilts all the time, but I don't want nothing to do with that. I told her, "Never in my life will I stick my fingers 'til they bleed." Very definitely. My sister Florrie is a real good quilter, I guess, Mother says so all the time. Florry's favorite pattern is the Sunbonnet Sue. Mother taught her how to do applique blocks and since then she's made prob'ly a dozen "Sunbonnet Sue" quilts. You've seen 'em, they're like little dolls turned sideways with big sunbonnets on.

Quilters Audition Side 2:

Ages: Late 20's to 40's, Miss Jesse, a teacher

I am pleased to announce to you children that I have finally received permission from the school board to add the subject of geography to our course of study. You will be the first students this school ever to have this opportunity. Before we open that wonderful new door, however, we will be spending the next 45 minutes, as usual, on needlework. It is an art and every art requires effort. Take as much care with your design as if you were painting or drawing, and if it's wrong, rip it out. Millicent that orange will not do. It is vile. Please go to my piecebag and find something more suitable. Cyrus Johnson, just what has provoked this disturbance? Kindly return to your seat and do your piecing. Clara that is lovely. Lily, I can see those stitches from way over here and they are as crooked as the teeth of a jack-o-lantern. You will remove and redo. Ah, ah, ah – would you leave that shoddy work there to be shaming you for the rest of your days? Thank you, Lily.

Quilters Audition side 3:

Age: 60s, Sarah

My Mama pieced the “Doves in the Window” set it together and I quilted it. I wouldn’t take nothin’ for it. It was the second quilt I made. In the summers, we’d put up the frame on the screened porch and when the work was done for the day, Mama would say, “OK girls, let’s go to it.” That was the signal for good times and laughin’. We’d pull up our chairs around the frame and anyone who dropped in would do the same, even if they couldn’t stitch straight. Course we’d take out their stitches later if they was really bad. But it was for talking and visiting that we put up quilts in the summer. People would get out after the chores in the summertime and oh how the word would fly that we had the frame up. Had to have a screened porch ‘cause sometimes you’d quilt and visit ‘til midnight by lamplight with the bugs battin’ against the screen. I guess we were the Doves in the Window then.

