



Addie Bernice Stevens Jouett Interview Transcript July 16, 1985

Tape No. 21

INTERVIEWER: Jeannette Lasansky (J)

INTERVIEWEE: Addie Jouett (A)

PLACE: Clovis, NM

DATE: July 16, 1985

(J) Can you tell me the first time you had anything to do with quilting?

(A) When I was 13 or 14 I made my first quilt and my mother and grandmother and I quilted it and I did use it on my bed.

(J) What did it look like?

(A) It was just little squares. They thought I done good.

(J) And how did you arrange the colors?

(A) Well, I always tried to put a solid color with a print that kinda' matched. In other words it was more like a Nine Patch. You put three in a row.

(J) How would you do blocks in the blocks? You'd set the blocks...?

(A) Together, just sew the little blocks one after another.

(J) How when you did block designs did you set those in a grid of some sort with a sash or scripping around?

(A) No, just little blocks.

(J) You put one next to another?

(A) Yes. I still do that. I'll put a solid color and then a print, solid and print.

(J) I notice some of the old tape we looked at, some of them did have the block set into sort of a grid. Those done by your grandmother.

(A) Yes. A lot of times when I'd run across a long strip that's the reason I have so many long strip ones, I didn't want to cut them. I'd just sew them together, a printed one and a solid one.

(J) After that first quilt what did you do next?

(A) Well, I embroidered a lot - I embroidered sheets, pillowcases, lunch clothes - just anything to keep busy.

(J) Why?

(A) Well, I just don't like to sit and hold my hands for one thing. My hands makes little minds. Little minds go to the next house if they're not careful.

(J) So you're being careful?

(A) Careful as I can.

(J) Some of your quilts combine applique with embroidery.

(A) Yes, I applique a lot. I wish that I had kept count of the quilts I have given away.

COLLECTION

AR.00027 Traditional Quilt Makers in New Mexico Survey

IDENTIFIER

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DOCUMENT

DESCRIPTION

On July 16, 1985 Jeannette Lasansky interviewed quilter Addie Bernice Stevens Jouett. The interview was transcribed into typescript circa 1985-6, and the transcript was digitized May 23, 2017.

Addie Stevens was born September 25, 1907, in Waco, Texas. On February 5, 1923, she married John R Jouett in Estaline, Texas. The couple moved to Las Cruces. About 17 years later, the couple moved to New Mexico, first to Las Cruces and later to Clovis.

Addie Stevens Jouett enjoyed embroidery as well as quilting, and many of her quilts included both applique and embroidery work. She worked with scrap fabric, and fabrics bought at garage sales.

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DATE

July 16 1985 Date created
Date created

DIMENSIONS



11 in (length) x 8 ½ in (width)

CURATORIAL CATEGORY

Textiles-United States and Canada, Textiles and Dress

RELATED PEOPLE

Museum of International Folk Art (publisher)

Jeannette Lasansky (contributor)