



## Vera Marida Reynolds Medling Interview Transcript July 2, 1985

Interviewer: Jeannette Lasansky (J)

Interviewee: Vera Medling (V)

Date: July 2, 1985

Place: Chama, New Mexico

J: When was your first experience with quilt making?

V: When I was about five or six I imagine, I started piecing a quilt top. I finished that one. Mother helped to quilt it. And life went on from there.

J: Was that a full size that you had started on?

V: They did not have king size or little quilts but just full size bed. It was mine porch. I have made many quilts and around the world. old retrieved quilts out of wool. I would take dresses and pants and things.

J: How the people would not start off with a small dolls quilt or a small quipster first, they were right into it.

V: We never made no doll's quilt back then. It took all of the material to cover the back, make quilts for the back. You always pieced her quilts.

Oh I have known her to quilt some out of plain material but most of the time she pieced them.

J: And the fabrics she was getting?

V: Cotton or percale she would buy them or we made all of our clothes and she kept the scraps and she would use those.

J: How sometimes did you need to purchase fabric...

V: Go out there together, to get them out.

J: Were there colors that were favorites of yours and hers if you had a choice of things.

V: Red was my favorite color. I guess you can see you have got all this red in things. But I do not know what her favorite color was. I never heard her say.

J: Where about where you would get your dress fabrics? Getting dress fabrics at that time.

V: Well we lived four miles from Marmaduke, Arkansas and we then would buy them all in Marmaduke, Hazell and Texaco, Arkansas. In the fall we would usually take a load of cotton and go to Texaco and have it ginned, sell it and we

### COLLECTION

AR.00027 Traditional Quilt Makers in New Mexico Survey

### IDENTIFIER

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### DOCUMENT

### DESCRIPTION

On July 2, 1985 Jeannette Lasansky interviewed quilter Vera Marida Reynolds Medling. The interview was transcribed into typescript circa 1985-6, and the transcript was digitized June 28, 2017.

Vera Marida Reynolds was born in Marmaduke, Arkansas on April 18, 1915. She attended school through the eighth grade. In 1931 she married John Jefferson Medling of Gamburg, Missouri. The couple had six children, 3 boys and 3 girls.

Vera and her family lived in Arkansas until 1936, when they moved to Missouri. In 1950 they moved to Taos, New Mexico, and Vera became a cook in a cafe, her first job outside her home. In 1963, they moved to Chama, New Mexico.

Vera Medling got quilt patterns from family members, magazines, kits, Mountain Mist batting wrappers, and books. She used both scrap and new, purpose-bought fabrics. She quilted because "I can't sit + do nothing."

One year when times were hard and she and her husband were ill a lot, Vera made miniature furniture out of beer cans to sell. She made 500 miniature chairs, and 3 living room sets.

Vera, the youngest of 12 children, learned to quilt from her mother, Martha "Matty" Jane Gooch Reynolds (1871-1955). Matty Reynolds was a spinner and weaver as well as a quilter. Two of Vera's daughters also quilt, and she said they'd compete with each other.

In 1985 Vera was planning a corduroy quilt for a grandson - "He likes quilts, and demands them. I pity his wife [when he marries]."

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#### **DATE**

July 2 1985 Date created

June 28 2017 Date modified

#### **DIMENSIONS**

11 in (length) x 8 ½ in (width)

#### **CURATORIAL CATEGORY**

Textiles-United States and Canada, Textiles and Dress

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Museum of International Folk Art (publisher)

Jeannette Lasansky (contributor)