

SCRAP CHAT

December

The Newsletter of The Bed-warmer Quilt & Sew

2016

Sew New Latest Shop Updates

Our online shop is up and open. If you haven't seen it, go check it out on our website: bedwarmerquiltandsew.com Then click on "Shop."

We are offering free shipping through the end of December

We have GIFT CERTIFICATES available, perfect for gift giving; it's a perfect fit every time.

We have "SEW" much NEW fabric. All these are the great fabrics I ordered at the spring market. It literally is just like Christmas, I don't know what is in the box but when I open it, I remember, it's just what I wanted! (and you will too!) We've recently gotten in a beautiful deer panel, more black/red/white Razorback coordinates, beautiful teal, coral and gray feathers and arrows, an incredible Steam Engine collection, new blue and yellow IV, the adorable Hansel and Gretel Doll Panel and old world Americana. And, there is more on the way...

Tuesday, January 17

Bargello Fire on the Savannah Class (SOLD OUT)

Saturday, January 21

Bargello Fire on the Savannah Class All day class

Watch for more upcoming classes as more fabric arrives.
(Like the "When Pigs Fly" class--- oooohhh its so exciting!!!)

Shellie's Stash



I love the holidays! All the lights and decorations, music, food, family gatherings, parties with friends, even the sappy Christmas movies, I love it all.

When I was growing up my mama would go all out on the decorations. All the regular household decorations were put away so that the Christmas decorations could be displayed. She would put up multiple Christmas trees and our house was covered in lights, inside and out. I would watch as my mama would plan, draw, and then paint a holiday scene on our enormous plate glass window. My dad would put up a giant nativity in our front yard with everything life-sized. He built a stable and mama painted animals, wisemen, shepherds, and there was a Mary and Joseph. Dad built a wooden manger and one of my dolls would be wrapped and laid in the manger. I always got a little nervous and worried about my doll when the temperatures would drop and the snow would start to fall.

It's funny to think about it now. As I reflect on those days, I remember that my favorite part of the nativity was the cow.

My grandfather worked for a local dairy and he fixed everything for them, their refrigerators, freezers, outlets and lighting, and anything else that could be tinkered with til it worked again. He was the one that added the cow to our nativity. It was an entire life sized cow that chewed on hay and moved its head and tail. The dairy was getting rid of it because it had stopped working and when he said he was sure he could fix it, they just gave it to him. Sure enough he fixed it and it joined the scene on our front lawn.

People would come from all over, drive slow down our street, some stopping in front of our house, causing a bit of a traffic jam. I was certain that they had come to see the cow. Did I mention we lived in a city suburb where the only animals that were ever seen were an occasional pet cat or dog. Livestock animals were not allowed in city limits, except for our nativity cow.

The cow was the simplest part of all the festive décor, but always my favorite. Sometimes it is the smallest of things that can bring the greatest of joys. I hope y'all find the small and simple joys this Christmas season and share them with those you love. From my family to yours, Merry Christmas!

By the way, cows are still my favorite!

~ Shellie Blake
The Bed-warmer Quilt & Sew

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Social Circle



When I was growing up, one of my favorite Christmas' was when our family did a 'sub for santa' from an angel tree. It was so fulfilling to be able to share the bounty we had with someone else who had so little.

Looking back on it the only thing that would of made it better would have been to be able to give them a quilt too. Something they could literally wrap up in and feel the warmth and love that comes from a quilt. A quilt continues to give that warmth and love long after the holiday is over.

If you have an opportunity to give to an angel tree family, consider making a quilt part of it. Spread the joy and share the love of a quilt with others.

Snippets

Do you label your quilts? Here is a tip (or lesson I learned the hard way).

I had made a quilt for a friend of mine and yes, I labeled it. I hand sewed it on with a beautiful blanket stitch after the quilt was completely finished. My friend worked in a quilt shop and had taken this quilt into the shop and hung it on display. On her day off, someone took it down, cut off the label, then sold the quilt.

The lesson I learned is to put the label on BEFORE it is quilted so that the quilting sews right thru the label. I have thought about that a lot and even considered that a label could fall off over time too. So whether it is a gift or just a quilt you'd like to pass down, make sure the label is quilted into the quilt. That way the quilt will tell where it came from and stay where it belongs.

Spotlight Customer Focus

Jan Burton Shelnut

Jan Burton Shelnut has lived in Benton most of her life. She went to Jonesboro and Little Rock for college and then returned to Benton. Her father owned Burton's Jewelry Store until he retired in the 70's. She still has lots of family that live here and enjoys being with them.

She met her hubby after he got out of the military. He had been with the US Army and stationed at the Pine Bluff Arsenal. Together they have 1 boy and 1 girl. Her son works in construction and her daughter is in college. She currently doesn't have any grandchildren so she takes advantage of having lots of great nieces and nephews and spoils them—rotten!

Jan worked for the Dept of Veteran Affairs in the home loan dept for 37 years before retiring and currently LOVES being retired.

Jan started sewing in junior high in her home economics class, but didn't start quilting until 2000. She loves the modern quilts and bright color fabrics like Kaffe Fassett, Amy Butler and Tula Pink. She made her 7 foot tree quilt with a jelly roll and her plan is to hang it in the family room AS her Christmas tree. Super easy set up and take down with no chance of the tree dying early and most of all NO shedding of needles. She also loves reading, being outdoors, church, family and friends.

Jan has a very adventurous spirit and is willing to do lots of "crazy" things. Her big claim to fame is that together with her cousins and sister, Myra, she hiked the Havasupai and SURVIVED!

The Havasupai is on the Indian Reservation Supai Village in the Grand Canyon in Arizona. The Havasupai are the traditional guardians of the Grand Canyon and there are beautiful blue/green falls at the end of the over 8 mile hike. They all hiked down and then rode horses back out. What a fun adventure! I wonder what her next adventure will be....





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Story Corner

Miss Cindie Part 3 of 3

Written by Darren Blake

The next few days found Cindie fretting over the proper gift to give to Robby and his new bride for their wedding. It didn't seem right to give one of the standard wedding gifts, such as a toaster, mixer, set of knives, or vacuum cleaner. As a youngster at the height of his vulnerability, he had given her the most cherished items in his possession. What could she do in return?

While going through her desk files, she came across the four twelve-inch quilt blocks sewn into a square that Robby had given her so many years before. She had taken it off the bulletin board after that school year for fear that it might become faded or torn. Here it was again, still colorful and pristine, and an idea began to germinate in her mind. A quick internet search led her to a small quilt shop in Benton, and she determined to make a trip over and see what could be done.

Walking into the shop, called The Bed-warmer Quilt and Sew, she was met by a lady who extended her hand.

"Hi, I'm Shellie. And you are.....?"

"I'm Cindie Packer. Nice to meet you."

Shellie guided Cindie over to the cutting table and leaned on it, prepared to help this delightful new customer. "So, what project are you working on?"

Cindie pulled out the quilt patch, unfolded it, and laid it on the table. "Years ago, a little boy who was my student in elementary school gave me this. His mother had made it right before she died, so it's very dear to me." Cindie looked up at Shellie and smiled. "Now that little boy has finished college and is preparing to get married. I thought that a fitting gift would be to complete this quilt and present it back to him as an heirloom. I've done some sewing, but I frankly don't know how to put a quilt together. There are all kinds of colors, patterns, shapes, and other things I just don't know how to work with. Can you help me?"

Shellie picked up the small quilt top and looked it over. "You've got four blocks here. I think if you can make an additional twelve blocks to surround these, plus some additional fabric for a nice border, you would have a really special gift for them." Shellie suddenly stopped in mid-motion and looked at Cindie. "I've got an idea. You said he gave it to you in elementary school, right? What grade was he in when he was in your class?"

"Fourth."

"Fourth, huh? Did he ever do any art projects that you have saved?"

Cindie thought for a moment. I usually save four of each child's drawings for their student file. I'm sure I've saved four of his. What did you have in mind?"

Shellie patted her hand. "I've got just the thing. We can copy those art projects onto fabric and make those into quilt blocks. Do you think he'd like that?"

Cindie nodded vigorously. "I think he'd really love that."

"If we plan out a quilt together, do you think you'll be able to make it?" Here Cindie was not so sure. She felt a little inadequate to the task and told Shellie so. Once Shellie discovered that Cindie had some sewing skill and capability, and planning for the time necessary to complete the quilt, she invited Cindie to attend a couple of the classes the shop offered that would give her the knowledge necessary to finish the job. By the time Cindie walked out of the shop, she felt she had found the answer to the problem of the perfect gift for the newlywed pair.

Over the next two months, Cindie learned all that she could in the



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quilting classes and how to put colors, textures, and shapes together. As planned, she was able to reproduce onto fabric the four art projects that Robby had made in the fourth grade, which were in turn made into four of the twelve blocks needed to complete the quilt.

With Shellie's help, Cindie planned and constructed the remaining eight blocks to match the four center blocks made by Robby's mother. By the time she had sewn it together and added some border material, Cindie believed she had fashioned something that would be truly special. Cindie used the shop's long-arm quilting service to quilt it together with batting and backing, and Shellie gave her some instruction on how to bind a quilt. When the finished piece was eventually unfolded for Shellie's final inspection, both of the women felt sure that it would have made Robby's mother proud. With the wedding and reception only a couple of weeks away, Cindie was hardly able to contain her excitement to finally present it to her former student.

The big day finally arrived. Cindie was delighted to find that Robby's new wife was everything she could have hoped for. The former Jennifer Strong (who was now Jennifer

Bannister) was as beautiful inside as she was on the outside. Standing next to one another in the reception line, Jennifer and Cindie talked to one another almost more than they spoke to the guests coming through the line. It was clear they would be very close friends if Robby's medical practice ended up situated in the suburbs of Little Rock. But if not, there was still social media and a hundred other ways they could keep in touch. Even though Cindie was quite a bit older than Jennifer, they just seemed to communicate on exactly the same wavelength.

As the time for the end of the reception drew near, Cindie asked if she could see Robby and Jennifer alone for just a minute or two before they departed to begin their honeymoon. Pulling out her substantially sized gift, she handed it to Robby. "I hope you like this as much as I like giving it to you."

With a smile and some gusto, Robby began unwrapping while Jennifer and Cindie looked on. As he took out the quilt and unfurled it, his eyes stopped on the center four blocks. "Oh my," he said, his eyes growing wide.

"You recognize the middle part then?" Cindie asked.

With his mouth slightly open and his

eyes sparkling in amazement, he responded in a voice that had begun to quaver a little. "That's my mom's quilt. You finished it." Looking at Jennifer, he pointed to the part that had been made by his mother. "My mom made that part there. I haven't seen that since I was in Miss Cindie's class." He turned to Cindie. "It's wonderful! It's spectacular! I don't know what else to say! I'm just so happy. Thank you so much for doing this!"

Suddenly his eyes fell on the four blocks made from his art projects and he pointed and laughed. "Sweetheart! Can you believe I drew those pictures way back in the fourth grade? And here they are decorating this quilt!"

Cindie smiled, relieved and joyful that Robby was happy with her efforts.

Carefully, Robby folded the quilt back up and handed it to Jennifer to hold. Stepping toward Cindie, he threw his arms around her and said the words he had said so many times before. "I love you, Miss Cindie."

"I love you too, Robby."

The End