



# Hope's Quilts

Hope Packard



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Quilts by Hope Packard

Volume I

Quilts

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Photographs and introduction

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*Old Mystery Quilt*

This is a very old quilt. I don't know where it came from, but think it may have come from my grandmother Williams. The edges are frayed.



*3x3 and 4x4 versions of  
Irish Chain (#5 and 6)  
1987–1988*

Twin bed size quilts, these  
were made in my early quilt  
years. Both were the same  
blue, but one has faded.



*T*here was a time when my mother did not make quilts, but I don't remember it very well. Sometime after I became an adult and she was not bothered by the responsibility of worrying about her kids, or of sewing clothes for my sisters, she was bitten by the quilting bug.

It seemed harmless enough at the time, something to keep her busy and maybe to help her use up some of the fabric and thread she had amassed from her years of sewing and the absorption of her mother's collection. "Want to see the quilt I'm making?" she would ask, the same way she would ask "Want to see what I'm cooking for dinner?" And then, "Here's the one I'm making for Jan." And every so often, "I was thinking of giving this one to you." Those were the days when she only worked on one quilt at a time, the very beginning of her quilting career, when projects were contained and the amount of time spent was limited and sporadic.

One fall while she and Fred were visiting, she told me she was thinking about making a quilt based on the shape of a heart. She couldn't explain why, but said that she had been thinking of it a lot lately. She asked if I could draw her a heart design that could be tiled into a quilt design.

That weekend we went for a hike, me taking Rhubarb for a run while she and Fred went at their own pace. As I was waiting for them I could hear her approach before I saw them coming down the trail. Her breathing was heavy and strained, making me wonder about the heart she asked me to design. A week after they returned home she survived a heart attack, and a few days later she was "in the shop for repairs."

She was relaxed as she was having the risks of surgery explained to her by the surgeon who was about to replace several of her coronary arteries. Perhaps she was too relaxed, doing what many patients do to avoid thinking about what would come next. She could not engage the half hour of advice from a nutritionist, was uninterested in the physical therapists who tried to explain to her the process of cardiac rehabilitation. She was a little more concerned when asked to give up her teeth, to go into surgery stripped from all accessories, as, they explained, a baby comes into the world. As the surgeon began to go through the last minute legal disclaimer, Hope told her that she just loved her hat, green with a small animal print.

“There is the risk that things will not go as planned,” she explained. “There is the risk that there will be more blockage than anticipated, that repair will not be routine, that other circumstances might prevent full recovery.” Hope finally focused on the surgeon, who then said, “There is the risk that you will not survive the surgery.” She just let the words hang there, perhaps so they would soak in, or because after that, there was little more left to explain.

For what seemed like the first time since she was admitted, Hope finally connected the risk with the consequences, bearing down on the serious nature of her condition and the procedure she had consented to. Her eyes narrowed, she glared at the surgeon, and noted firmly, “I can’t die now. I have five quilts started.”

That was in 1994. She did recover from surgery, and finished those five quilts. Over the past seventeen years there has been a constant stream of quilts—being planned, in progress, and eventually given to friends or family members. She claims to have kept good records of every quilt she has made, but that just isn't the case.

The truth is that neither she nor I have any idea how many quilts she has made. While there is this sample I can show here because I have photographed them myself, there is the much larger collection which is represented by snapshots in her album, quilts which I did not have access to because she has given them away. Over and over, as I sat and talked and asked questions about this or that pattern, she would flip the album's pages back and forth, cover to cover several times, before concluding "I guess I don't have a picture of that one."

Early on she numbered each quilt. In 1996 she finished #29. That was the last quilt she numbered. This is a game she now plays without keeping score.

Most of my quilts don't have names, only "Made for.." or "With Love." But even the ones I have just made without anyone in mind soon find a place. I started making quilts in 1974. The first one was for Woody because I had never made anything for him. I sewed a lot for the girls and me. I discovered then that I loved quilting. Still do.



Besides the quilts in this book I have made them for all our family. Each kid has several, our sisters, nieces, nephew, great nieces, great nephews, even great great nieces, friends, my minister's babies and wife and lots for my guild which gives a quilt to every foster child in our county. The guild quilts I make are machine quilted by other members.



My quilts are machine pieced and hand quilted and appliquéd. As with all quilters, my stash of material grew and grew, but a few years ago I was given such a huge stash by a friend, Elma Black, that I haven't hit the bottom yet. Such fun!



Fred was always a big part of my quilting from making templates, rulers, patterns, and most of all doing all the chores, except cooking, so that I could work on quilts. He was very proud of every one I made, so half of any thank-yous I have received are his.

I am a member of the *Martha Washington Quilter's Guild*. Business meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of each month; work sessions are on every other Tuesday. I don't go to the first meeting of each month because I don't want to miss playing bridge.

For many years *Martha Washington Quilter's* guild has been making quilts for every foster child who comes through Washington County's *Child Youth Service*. 2004 was my first year and they had been doing it before I joined. We also support other charities, such as *Avis Arbor* and *Women's Shelter*.



*Wood's Quilt, 1974*

I had never made a quilt, had no books or information of any kind when I tackled my first one for my son Woody. I had a lot of corduroy and velveteen that seemed good for a quilt. I had no idea it would be so thick and heavy, but since it ended up in Rochester, NY, it was good. I just finished putting a new binding on some very worn edges and repaired all the ripped edges so it will last a few more years. And I still don't believe I started my quilting career on a velveteen and corduroy quilt!









*Tumbling Blocks, 1975*

"I want one," Jan said when she saw Woody's, the first quilt I made. So the second quilt I made was for her. Each light colored square has a different picture quilted on it.





*Triangle Scrap Quilt, 1989*

I made this one for fun but used it as a trade for Woody's unwanted microwave oven we gave him one Christmas.

(She's still mad about that)





*Crown of Thorns, 1992*  
Another Amish pattern, I made  
this for myself. It disappeared  
for a few years and was found  
in the cedar chest upstairs, in  
plain view.





*Diamond in the Square, 1992*

Made for Fred, this pattern is from "How to Make an Amish Quilt" Red, blue, and purple with blue backing, thin batting, and lots of quilting. Kathy has it now.





*Quillow—Quilt Pocket Pillow, 1993*  
This was made for our VW camper. Judy has it now. The quilt was another of my designs, though the pillow came from *Quilter's Newsletter*.



*Bonsai, 1994*

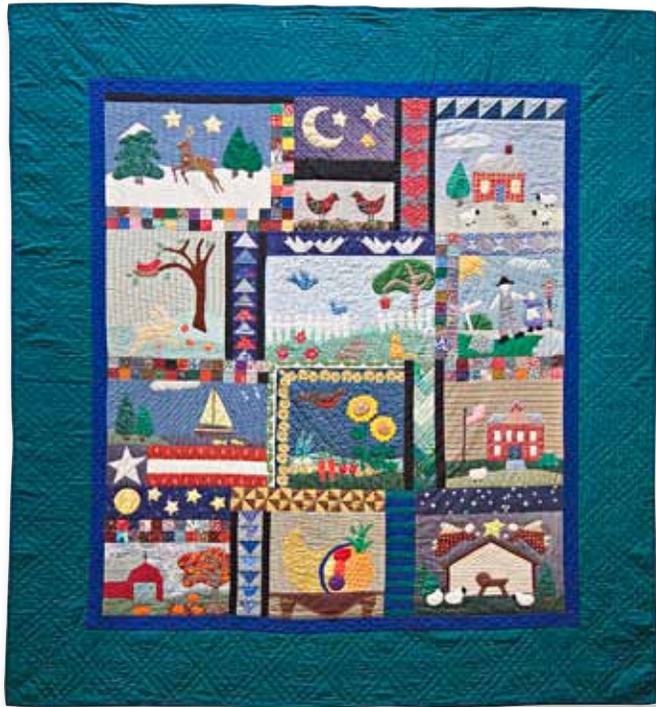
*Daffodils, 1993*

After many quilts I took a class that had us make pictures from 1 inch squares. These small quilts are quilted “as you go”—no hand quilting afterwards. The irises are from the lessons in the class. The bonsai was drafted by Fred from a picture of one of his trees.









*Block-of-the-Month, 1995*

This is a block-of-the-month quilt from Quilter's Corner. There is a block to represent each month of 1994, the year I had the heart attack and bypass—the year Woody claims I said, "I can't die I have 5 quilts started." I don't remember that.



*Bear's Paw*  
*Jan's Quilt and Pillow Case, 1992*  
An aqua and pale grey quilt for Jan's spare room. It was made in 1992.

*Fred's Valentine, 1996*

A twin size quilt with a lot of red and white fabric with hearts and polka dots. It was made as a Valentine quilt for Fred. These are log cabin squares put together in a different style—depending on how you look at them you may see either butterflies or pinwheels.







*Sampler, 1995*

Another block of the month quilt from *Quilter's Corner*. This one is a Pennsylvania Dutch Sampler. It was finished in 1995 and shown at Three Rivers Quilt Show.







*Our House, 2000*

My first original design – a picture of our house that Fred had painted and then drafted for me. It was entered in the *Three Rivers Quilt Show* in 2005—no ribbon but a very nice note was attached when I got it back.



*Birthday Party Leftover Quilt, 2002*

On Woody's 50th birthday Judy had 8 calico tablecloths for a picnic at Mendon Ponds Park. She gave them to me to make a quilt. It turned out to be Christmas colors, with a pineapple pattern.







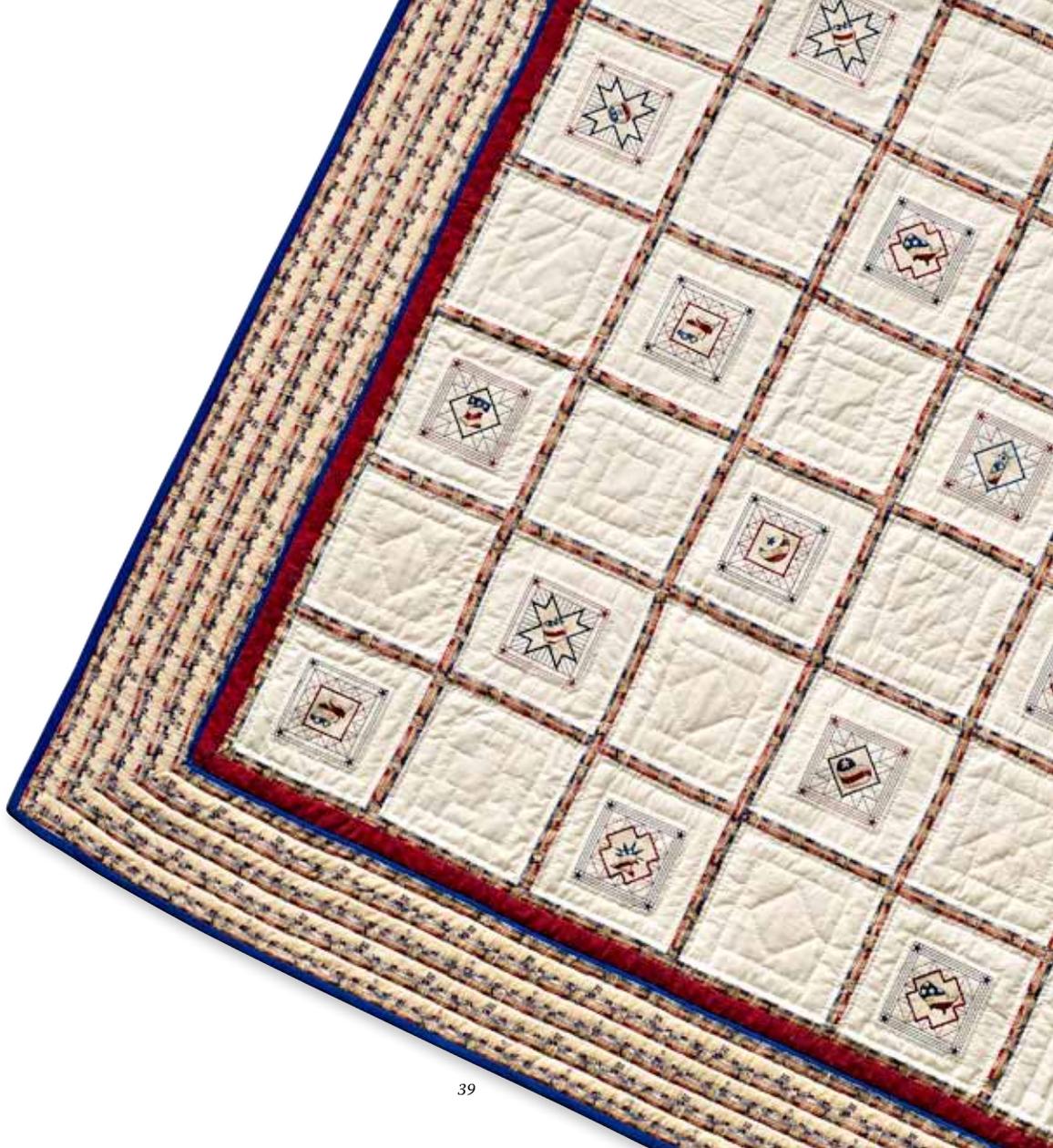
*Flower Garden, 2002*

For my good friend, Marian Rhodes, who uses this one for a table cloth.

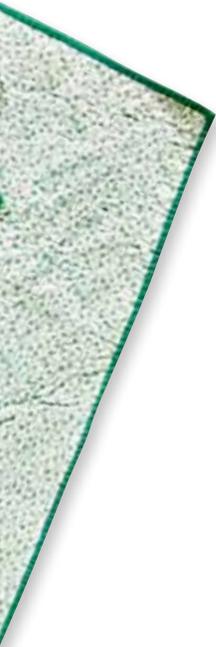


*Patriotic Squares, 2003*

Mine and Jan's joint effort. Her embroidery, my piecing and quilting. A very big queen size quilt with patriotic pictures in every other square. This one went through several changes before we considered it done—the stripes were added after the rest of the quilt was finished.







*Virginia Reel, 2003*  
Yellow and green queen  
size quilt from fabric  
from my mother's job at  
Singer. Eight pieces were  
for beginner's lessons.  
Now I would like to make  
another.





*Chinese Coin  
Charm Quilt,  
2005-2006*

Two twin size charm quilts—no two patches are the same. “Chinese Coins” are put together and bordered with bright red and backed with tiny cherry print with “Life is just a bowl of cherries.” I use these on the beds down stairs. Not my favorite quilts. Jan sometimes turns them over because she likes the backs.



*Portrait Quilt, 2005*

A real scrap quilt made for Martin Hein with a picture of his girls, Ellie and Margarite as the centerpiece. Made early in 2005. This finishes making a quilt for all the family sisters, nieces, and nephews.



*Rose Ring Quilt, 2006*

For Norma Hartman Wall hanging about 52" square. Hand applique and hand-quilted.









*Star Quilt, 2007*

Big flower prints from my wonderful gift stash makes up the stars with a tiny print solid square. This one gets used so much I worry about it lasting. I use it on my bed, and parts of it are fading. The back is a lovely purple print and I like the pieced border.



*The Purple Quilt, 2008*

Joyce Dehls is just one of those people who takes care of everyone else. I made this for Joyce in 2008 without knowing that purple is her husband's favorite color.







*Baltimore Album, 2008*

This is my masterpiece. I started making the squares in the early 1990s and at age 85 decided I did not want them to end up being sold at a flea market so I finished it on December 13, 2008. I entered it in our *Martha Washington Quilt Show* in November, 2009, and won *Best of Show*. It is now hanging in my living room with its first place blue ribbon!







*Black Quilt with Fish, 2008*

This design came from the Quilter's Newsletter.  
I made it for Peg Rychcik, the wife of our  
church's minister.



*Cats, for Marion, 1990,  
and for Joanna 1991*

Both cat lovers, these were  
fun to make.

*My Favorite Quilt Reading*

*How to Make an Amish Quilt*

by Rachel and Kenneth Pellman,  
Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA, 1989

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