

BRIEFS

Alzheimer's group to meet in Shelby

The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet Tuesday, March 18 from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Life Enrichment Center in Shelby.

The program will be "Avoiding Problems With Medication."

Sitter service is available at no charge for persons with dementia.

For more information call the Life Enrichment Center at 484-0405.

Duo to perform at Gastonia church

Suzanne Gilchrest and Winslow Browning will perform the final concert for Gaston Concert Association's 2002-03 season March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Gastonia.

Admission is by membership, which is \$35. Tickets may be purchased at the door and the \$35 price will include the entire 2003-04 season.

For more information call B-an Vance at 853-2822.

Hoop-a-thon for Huntington research

A hoop-a-thon April 19 at the Dover Foundation YMCA, 411 Cherryville Highway, Shelby, will raise money for medical research for a cure for Huntington's Disease.

There will be a 3-on-3 tournament and free throw shooting competition. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the shoot will run until 4 p.m.

For more information call Gina Hamrick at 482-0112.

Quilt talk

Women learn about different trends and types of quilts during lunch meeting at Kings Mountain History Museum

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

Paula Barringer, a Shelby quilter, gave a talk on quilts to several area people during their lunch breaks on Tuesday at the Kings Mountain Historical Museum.

Barringer defined a quilt as anything that has a top and a bottom and batting in between. She said quilts can be tacked, machine-made, or stapled. The covers can also contain a wide array of styles, she said.

She said that history books show that quilting has had many trends, just like any other form of art. In the early 19th century, American quilts were typically made in the patchwork style and followed the cycle of life. Young girls learned to do needlework early in life and then went on to make friendship, double wedding ring, crib, and widow's bereavement quilts.

Without television, socializing took place at church, she said. Quilts were also a way for women to have fun at the same time that they visited and performed a necessary task for the household. Quilts were mainly layered on beds for warmth at night, she said.

During the time of slavery, members of the Underground Railroad would hang quilts with Log Cabin patterns and blue centers on their clothes lines so that slaves would know that they had reached a safe place to rest.

With the development of the sewing machine, railroad, and fabric mills, more man-

made fabrics became available to women. In the late 1800s, women began to make crazy quilts, which were quilts with no specific pattern.

Crazy quilts contain much intricate stitching and bright colors. The quilts are made of scraps of whatever kind of fabric the women could find. Barringer and another woman shared that their grandmothers used sample scraps for men's suit jackets to make their quilts. Barringer's grandmother also used

empty feed sacks for the back of the quilt. Barringer said that crazy quilts were American women's answer to the Victorian age, when women were not considered to be much above livestock. Crazy quilting allowed women to express their creativity. The embroidery stitches on the quilts include many different shapes, like hearts, spiders, flowers, lines of poetry, dates, names, and initials.

During World War I, women continued to make crazy quilts, although less materials were available. They used the materials they could find and often stitched the quilts together with yarn. By looking at the fabric in the quilts, Barringer said people can figure out when the quilt was made.

Contemporary quilts, like contemporary art, can be interpreted in many ways. Quilters prefer to leave the meaning of a quilt up to its beholder. Memorial quilts are also in style. The huge AIDS quilt, 9-11 quilt, and breast cancer quilt are among the most famous.

Barringer offered some advice for the beginning quilters at the talk.

"If you make a mistake, don't agonize over it. Don't rip it out. Just move on," she said.

Barringer brought several quilts that she has made through the years to the talk. One of her quilts was made entirely out of silk ties. She even sewed the tie tags around the edges. She also showed a quilt she had made with the students of her daughter's third grade class. The students formed animals with the geometric shaped fabric, and she ironed them onto the fabric.



ABIGAIL WOLFORD / HERALD
Paula Barringer, a local quilter, presented a lunch hour talk on quilts to a group of interested citizens at the Kings Mountain Historical Museum on Tuesday. The quilt she is holding is one she made. She brought several of her quilts to demonstrate different patterns at the talk.

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