

# Photo of the Month

Quilts! Is there anything they can't do?



Children and Quilt  
(Neg. # 04840, Courtesy of Herbert Hildabrand)

Besides being colorful and artistic, quilts have many practical uses. They can keep you warm on a cold Ozark Mountain night; provide shade from a blistering Arkansas summer sun; serve as a ground cloth for a spring picnic; and much like a towel, you can wrap it around your head to protect you from the gaze of the ravenous Bug-Bladder Beasts of Trall – animals so amazingly stupid that they think if you cannot see them, they cannot see you (In memory of Douglas Adams)! In this example a quilt is used as a backdrop to photograph children. The quilt in this photograph is a variation of a pattern called Road to California.

Quilting has long been an Ozark tradition and a form of very functional art. Volumes have been written on the subject and exhibitions, such as the Rogers Historical Museum's "Springtime in the Ozarks: Floral Quilts from the Enfield Collection" (January 23 through April 28 2007) attract large crowds.

There are also many organizations and guilds that have been established to keep this craft alive. Locally, the QUILT [Quilters United in Learning Together] Guild of Northwest Arkansas was formed in 1985. With a membership of almost 250, this group meets once a month and offers both training and research opportunities. They also have an annual quilt show

References:

Luster, Michael. *Stitches in Time: A Legacy of Ozark Quilts*. Rogers Historical Museum, 1986.

Brackman, Barbara. *Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilt Patterns*. American Quilter's Society, 1993.