

Bedford Antique Quilt Show By Judy Simek

Squeezing a trip to Bedford in between activities in Ossining and Montrose seemed a daunting thing to do yesterday, but I'm so glad I did. The day, of course, was gorgeous so driving was a good excuse to enjoy the beautiful outdoors. The object of my quest was splendid.

Ellen had sent out a blurb about a quilt show at the Bedford Presbyterian Church. It was only a one-day affair. What a shame it couldn't have been longer. They had dozens of antique quilts on display using the entire church to display them. Quilts were draped over the pews, spreading them out to good advantage. They were grouped by type: log cabin, crazy patch, patriotic, Hawaiian, pineapple, churn dash, Grandmother's garden, compass star, fan, Dresden plate, etc. They even had a biscuit quilt, something I'd never heard of.

In front of the altar was a gorgeous triptych quilt while, above it, a beautiful appliqued piece echoed its vivid colors.

A cross stitched child's quilt with Raggedy Anne type figures reminded me of something from my early childhood I'd totally forgotten. Sadly, I have no idea of what happened to it.

In case I'm not the only one who is/was unfamiliar with a biscuit quilt, here's a brief description. The sashings on this piece were stripped, to give the impression of layers of biscuits, then stuffed with extra batting and rolled into cylinders. They were then stitched into the spaces in between the blocks. The effect produces a very 3-dimensional quilt.

Still another quilt which caught my eye had blocks showing a man with a hat. The pieces, of course, were rectangles of various widths and colors laid out at right angles.

Lastly, there were exquisite modern quilts made by the parishioners. And, of course, a quilt raffle.

Several times I was invited to go to another room for tea and cookies. Inside I found more (modern) quilts all made by Karen Eckmeier, a former member of this church (before moving).

Finally, I proceeded to get my tea. I chose my flavor, then had it served in a beautiful porcelain cup with saucer. The delicious cookies were all made from cherished recipes and presented in China plates on cloth tablecloths. The small tables for sitting and eating were similarly covered. I joined a group of 3 people and was introduced to each, two ladies and the church minister. I swear, if I lived closer, I'd probably have signed up as a parishioner right then and there. Everyone was so friendly and everything so fine.

Can you believe it, the entire event was free though donations were discretely accepted?

They will be having a "mistletoe mart" on Sat., Dec 7 from 9 - 3. The mart presents handmade, one-of-a-kind gifts and sells food if you find yourself hungry. The address is Bedford Presbyterian Church, 44 Village Green, Bedford.