

# **Quilt Trails** of Western North Carolina

## **Green Mountain & Relief**

This scenic and historic trail will take you on mountain roads built before engineers ignored farmland and opted for straight lines. These roads hug the side of the mountain, curve around the fertile fields and parallel the river. You can be as adventurous as you want on this trail. There are several ways to approach this trail.

**Option #1.** The best (because you can see ALL the blocks this way) is to start on Jack's Creek from Hwy 19. Jack's Creek is a road of endless delights. Every turn (and there are dozens) brings you a new view and all the views are different. You'll see open fields with no fences, a bold creek, horses, cows, steep pastures, woodlands, wonderful old farmhouses, delightful barns, funny road names and much more. It ends up at the Toe River Rd. Turning left will take you to the community of Relief. Turning right will take you to Hwy 197 where you can turn left to go to Bakersville or turn right to return to Burnsville.

**Option #2.** If you are on the East side of Burnsville and want to go to the Green Mountain trail, head north on 197 beside Glen Raven Mills. When you see the sign for the Green Mountain Post Office at the Toe River, turn left onto the Toe River Rd. It will fork twice; take the right fork both times. The second fork is just past a one lane bridge and will be a hard right instead of just a fork right. This is the intersection with Jack's Creek.

**Option #3.** If you want to do the trail in reverse (i.e. start by turning on 197 in Burnsville at the Glen Raven Mill inter-section), you can stay on 197 until you get to Red Hill where you will turn LEFT and then left again to stay on 197. The first turn you would take after getting onto 197 out of Red Hill would be onto Whitson Branch Rd. Then

backtrack back to 197 to follow the rest of the trail. You will have to turn off the Toe River Rd. onto Jack's Creek to find the blocks on that part of the trail. You can then follow Jack's Creek to Hwy 19 and go to Burnsville. The pages of this Tour Guide are arranged for option #1. So you would go backwards through the Tour Guide if you find yourself doing the trail this way.

**Option #4.** If you are on the Bakersville Trail, you can follow Hwy 226 to Red Hill where you can pick up 197. You can turn left onto 197 and go to the Toe River Rd. (Green Mtn. Post Office) where you will turn right to begin the tour, or you can go straight on 197 at Red Hill and follow

**Option #3.** This is a fun area to explore and if you get lost, you may end up in Erwin, TN. If that happens, you can take I-26 back to NC and take exit 9 to return to Burnsville. It is a beautiful drive so don't fret if that is what happens to you. We hope we have given you enough directions within the pages of this guide to keep that from happening.

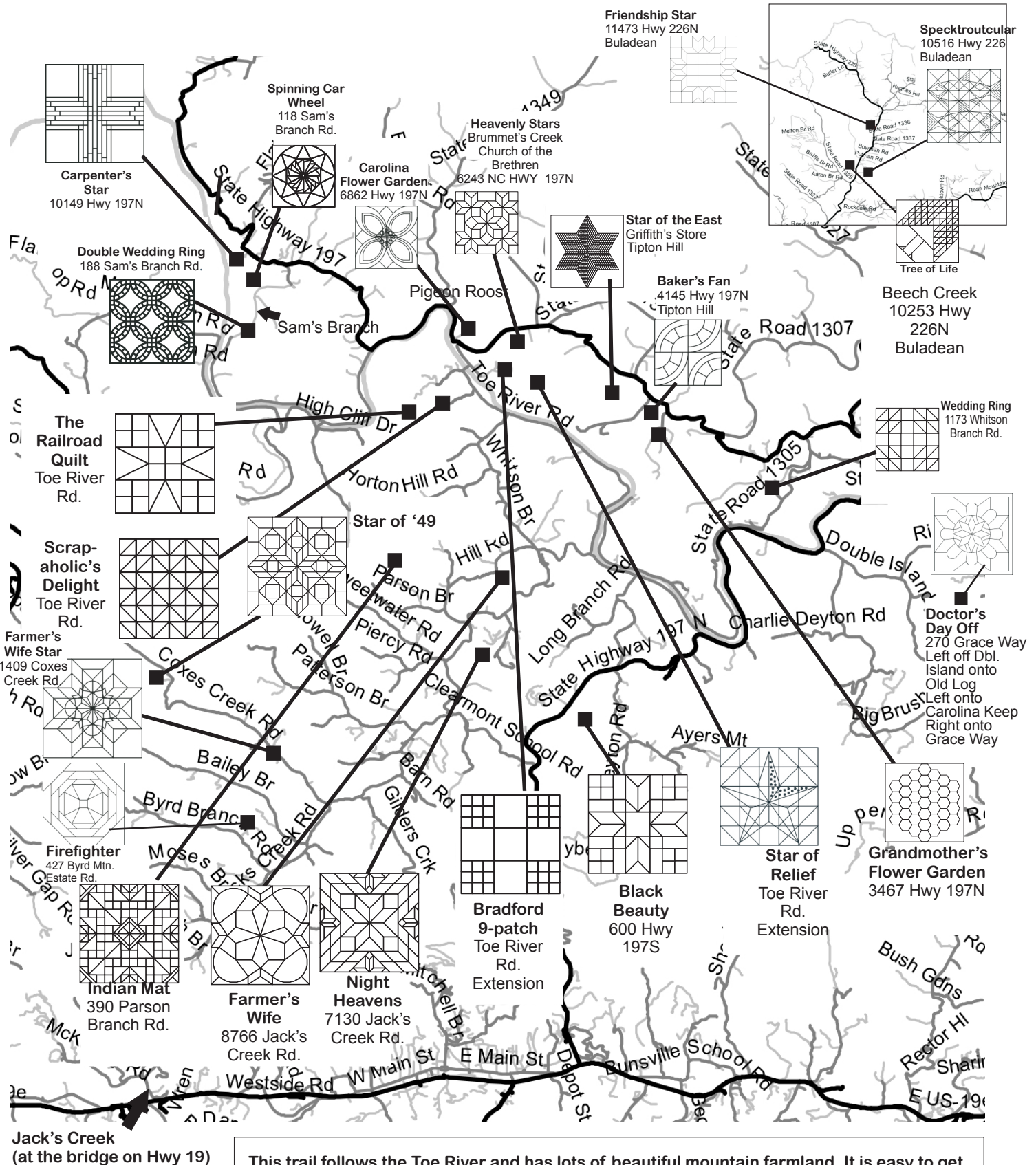
We have put directions on most of the pages to help you find the blocks and plan your trip. Some of the roads on this trail are very steep and very curvy so if you get carsick this trail may not be for you. There are no guardrails on most of the narrow, steep, curvy roads which adds to the excitement of the trip. Exercise caution on these roads and do not stop in the curves.

You will need to stare at your map and read the directions on these pages to plot your trip.

**NOTE:** While we try hard to keep the maps and Tour Guides updated, blocks are going up all the time and the maps and guides may not always be up-to-date. If you spot a block not on the map, take a picture if you can and email it to us so we can update the map and guide both for the next printing and for the internet. (In other words - become one of our volunteers!!)

This trail can dovetail with Bee Log (see page 2) and Bakersville trails.

Make sure you start with a full tank of gas.

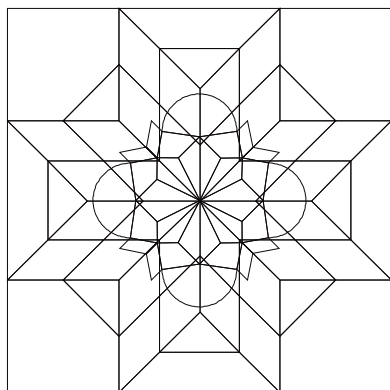


This trail follows the Toe River and has lots of beautiful mountain farmland. It is easy to get lost on these rural mountain roads, but if you keep going downhill, you will eventually find your way out! You might want to pack a picnic lunch before heading out on this trail. If you head in an easterly direction, you will pick up the Bakersville Trail.

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**GREEN MOUNTAIN/RELIEF TRAIL**  
Estimated Driving time: 3 hrs. from Burnsville, 1.5 hrs. from Bakersville  
This is a highly scenic drive. You may want to pack a box lunch.  
Start at Jack's Creek and Highway 19 on the West side of Yancey county.

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*If you want to be REALLY adventurous, you can start this trail by going out the Cane River Rd. (Hwy 19w) and turning RIGHT onto Coxe's Creek. That will put this barn on your right. Coxe's Creek will take you over to Jack's Creek where you can turn LEFT to find the Indian Mat block. This route follows the Cane River.*

*Also, if you have started out on the Bee Log Trail, when you get to the end of Bald Mtn. Rd. and are facing the river, turn left across the bridge to find Coxe's Creek. This is an adventurous way to see the mountains and go from one quilt trail to the next.*

## Farmer's Wife Star

*Location: 1409 Coxes Creek Rd. Drafted by Barbara Webster, painted by Dot Dantzler, Fayma Childs, Susan Crutchfield, Dot Gibbs, Katherine Hancock, Cheryl Hughes, Barbara Webster, Caitley Symons, and Deborah Palmer. Installed by Billy Shade with help from Wade Whitson of Whitson Electric and Edward Silvers.*

### Story by Barbara Webster

"I'm going to live there one day. I'm going to have a house on that hill." So said Wendell Wilson to his wife, Brenda as they drove on Coxe's Creek looking for a place to build a house and raise children. At the time they were living on Jack's Creek in a trailer on her parent's land.

The land Wendell had his eye on belonged to Kenneth Honeycutt who ran a big dairy farm on Coxe's Creek. For two years they tried to get Kenneth to sell the land to them and for two years Kenneth wasn't interested. All their friends told them Kenneth would never sell it. But Brenda decided to give it one last shot and called him again to ask if he would sell to them. That time he told her "Let me think about it." The next day he called her back and not only offered to sell, but offered owner-financing as well. And so Brenda and Wendell bought their dream farm, built a house and raised their three children.

Wendell was raised in Bee Log and Brenda was raised on Jack's Creek. They went to school together, but it wasn't until they both worked together at Bi-Lo that they started "talking to each other" as Brenda put it.

Before they bought the Honeycutt farm, they were raising tobacco on leased land. After they bought the farm, they continued raising tobacco on their own land until they were bought out in 2006. Now they are raising boxwoods.

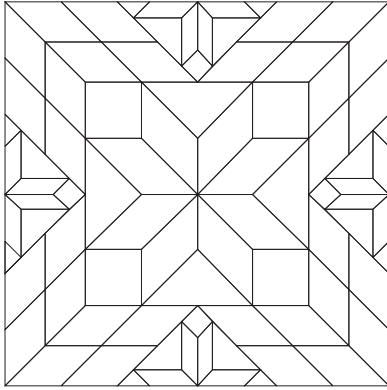
Wendell also raises cattle on land he leases with Nelson Silvers in Buncombe County.

When they first married, Wendell was working at Baxter's and Brenda worked at Bi-Lo. Wendell is now the plant manager at Glen Raven and Brenda is the receptionist at Cane River Middle School.

The Farmer's Wife block is frequently requested and Ann Myers was the lucky person who asked for it first. You can see the original traditional Farmer's Wife block on her small shed on Jack's Creek. When Brenda Wilson also wanted the block we had to get creative. We took the original block and placed it inside a star and created a new block—Farmer's Wife Star.

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## Night Heavens

*Location: 7130 Jacks Creek Rd., Green Mountain. Drafted by Caitley Symon, Painted by Caitley Symon, installed by Billie Shade and Edward Silvers.*

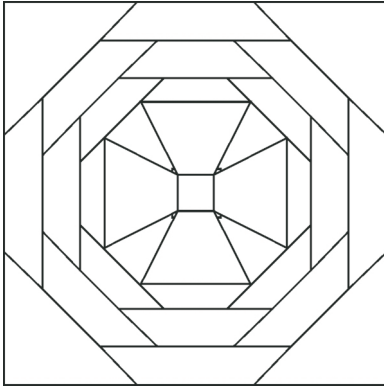
### Story by Peg Emerson

We chose Night Heavens as our quilt block for two reasons. The building on which it is mounted began its life as Beth Aven Presbyterian Church in 1901, and the heavenly reference seemed to fit. The block also recognizes the fantastic view of the starry heavens we have here because we have a wide open space to view the night sky and no ambient light to spoil our view.

Our church was built at the turn of the century under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. John Wilson Hunter sold two acres of his farm to the Presbyterian Home Mission Fund in New York City for the sum of \$50 in 1901. The church also served as a mission school for children of families living in the Daybook Community along Jack's Creek. About 1910 two women missionaries came from Pennsylvania to help run the school and to serve the community. The community built the two story house next to the church for them to live in. Miss Mary Denlinger, one of the original missionaries, spent the remaining twenty years of her life here running the school. She was a much loved teacher, mentor and friend. Many children in the neighborhood were named after her. The church continued until the mid-1950's when it was deconsecrated.

In the next stage of its life the building returned to Clifford and Ethel Hunter and was used as a tobacco barn. The house was occupied by Hunter family members until the flood of 1977. Following the flood the buildings stood empty and the land was sold to Floridians who planned a development called Horseshoe Highlands. The development did not come to pass, and in 1988 George and Peg Emerson bought the property, restored the historic buildings, created gardens and turned it into their much loved retirement home, Mission Farm.

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## FireFighter

*Location: 427 Byrd Mountain Estate Road. Painted by Kathy Rose, Lou Joiner, Carole Pearson, Alisa Upson Cheryl Hughes and Carolyn Bareford. Installed by Jeff Phillips.*

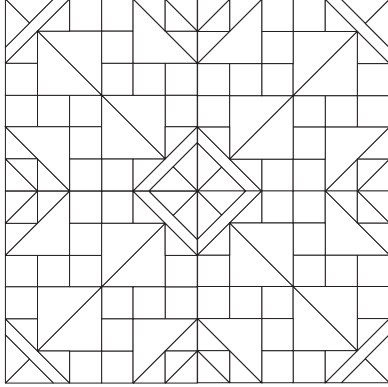
### Story by Keitha Swaim

Richard Deke was with the Miami Fire Department for 36 years and retired as a Captain. After his retirement, he returned to work for the City of Miami as their graphic artist and was known for his cartoons in the Miami News sports page. His family has chosen to honor him by hanging a quilt block with a Fireman theme at their cabin.

The cabin is now owned by Dorothy Deke. She and Richard were married for 57 years and built the cabin over 20 years ago as a summer getaway, making many improvements over the years.. Dorothy still spends much time at the cabin. Their children, Sharon, Mark and Rick also enjoy times at the mountain cabin. Recently a garage, master bedroom, and balcony have been added. A new roof and repainting has also been done.

Richard and Dorothy enjoyed collecting antiques, which adorn both their Miami and Burnsville homes. Richard especially enjoyed collecting antiques that pertained to the firefighting profession.

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*To find this block, turn left off Jack's Creek (if you are traveling from Hwy 19 or from Coxe's Creek) onto Peterson Branch Rd. (not to be confused with Paterson Branch which you will pass.) Then turn left onto Parson Branch. The block is about a half mile up the road on the right.*

## Indian Mat

*Location: Parson Branch Rd. off Peterson Branch which is off the North end of Jack's Creek. Painted by Deborah Palmer, Christine Strom, Carolyn Bareford, Cheryl Hughes and Barbara Webster. Installed by Jeff Phillips with the help of Wade Whitson of Whitson Electric.*

### Story by Alray and Gink Howard

Alray and Gink Howard purchased their land in Yancey County in 1996, shortly after attending John C. Campbell School of Crafts in Brasstown, NC.

Both their families originated in North Carolina, hailing from Greene County, Tennessee.

Alray and Gink chose the Indian Mat pattern for their quilt block, since the former landowner told them of a much earlier time, when Indians occupied the property. He showed them the area, with evidence of arrowhead making and a quantity of flintrock.

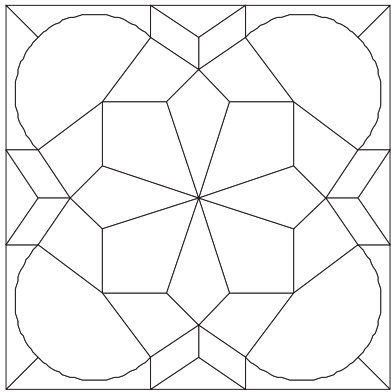
After that time, the land was used for crop farming and the barn for hanging tobacco, with one large area for animals.

The Byrd family, prior to the Howards, raised crops and Lamar Byrd, a highly skilled craftsman, made furniture in the old barn.

In later years (1990s), one "upper area" of the barn, with a skylight, was used for a studio, with drawing and painting, paper maché and other craft projects. There was also a living area for the artist.

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*Look for this block on the right as you continue out Jack's Creek and after you have passed Peterson Branch. It is on a small shed next to a wonderful old farmhouse. This is the original Farmer's Wife block.*

## Farmer's Wife

*Location: 8766 Jack's Creek Rd. Drafted by Barbara Webster, painted by Wayne Joyner, installed by Chris McLeod.*

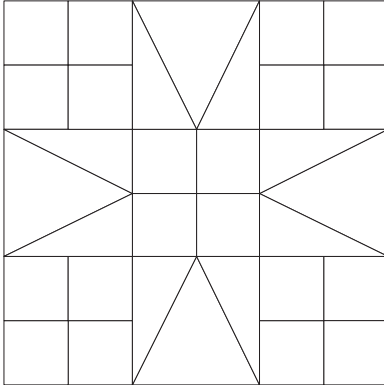
### Story by Ann Myers

This Quilt square is in honor of my grandmothers who were both quilters and a "Farmer's Wife." They both gave me quilts as wedding presents. My paternal grandmother, Lora Ann Letterman, gave me a quilt with a wedding ring pattern. My maternal grandmother, Mary Renfro Peterson, gave me a quilt made of squares of fabric, many of which I recognized as coming from clothes my mother or I had worn.

"Aunt Mary" as she was known in this area, came to this house as a young bride and lived here until she was 99 years and 8 months old.

I cherish these two quilts above the others I have that these two ladies made, because they were made for me. My mother was also a quilter, and over the years I'm no longer sure which of the three made which quilt. I do know that all of them have great value as a reflection of our local culture.

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*If you have come out Jack's Creek, it will meet the Toe River Rd. Turn LEFT onto Toe River Rd. to see this block next.*

*If you have come out the Toe River Rd. from Hwy 197 (Green Mountain Post Office), turn right just as you cross the one lane bridge to stay on Toe River Rd. You will see that Jack's Creek goes left.*

## The Railroad Quilt

*Location: Toe River Rd. near Bryant Branch. Drafted by Barbara Webster; painted by Cheryl Hughes, Carolyn Bareford and Deborah Palmer. Installed by Billy Shade, Edward Silvers and Wade Whitson.*

### Story by Maryallen Estes

Jewel Warrick chose the Railroad Quilt design to honor her late husband, James Warrick.

When I asked Jewel what her husband did for a living, she replied, "He wore many hats."

She listed his first two "hats" as carpenter and textile worker. In 1967 when working in Burnsville as a textile worker, a neighbor got him a job with the Clinchfield Railroad in South Carolina, now called CXX.

Prior to working on the railroad Jim grew tobacco on his rented land. Even after working on the railroad and purchasing his hundred year old home, he continued to grow tobacco and raised Hereford and Angus cattle on their present land. Jewel stated the profits from the sale of tobacco helped pay for her beautiful home and surrounding acreage.

Jim's first job on the railroad was laying track. Not long after, he was transferred to Erwin, Tennessee where he was on call 24/7. This schedule was very hard on Jewel and her six children because he was rarely home and when he was home, he was constantly working taking care of the tobacco and cattle. In spite of that, Jewel said he loved every minute of work. In Erwin he worked as a brakeman and categorized trains as they went to various destinations. He often worked away from home and in all kinds of terrible weather.

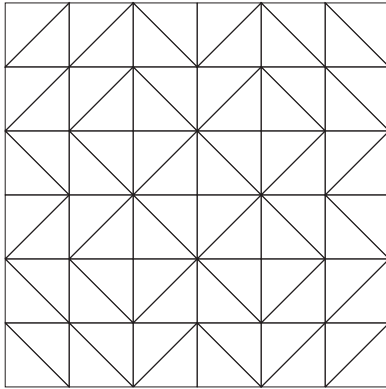
After retiring in 2001, being very ambitious, he purchased a backhoe and a bull dozer. He had dreams of building a whole development of cabins on a hillside. In the meantime, he used his backhoe to landscape, to ditch and put in septic tanks. Jewel said he never lacked for work because of his extreme values of honesty and dependability.

Unfortunately, in 2006 Jim died without fulfilling his dream of cabins on the hillside.

However, the quilt design on their big barn will always be a reminder of Jim's conscientious devotion to his work ethic.

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This quilt block contains 33 colors and can be made completely from half square triangles. It is a block that quilters would make from scraps of fabric left over from other projects. There is a star in the block, but if the color were laid in differently, the star might not be apparent. This makes it a very versatile block so that numerous blocks sewn together to make a large quilt could feature a quilter's entire "stash" of fabrics. Careful placement of color invites numerous design possibilities.

## Scrapaholic's Delight

*Location: Toe River Rd. near Bryant Branch. Drafted by Barbara Webster, Painted by Margot Parker, Dot Dantzler, Fayma Childs, Corine Jourdain, Caryl Cullom, Susan Crutchfield, Katherine Hancock, Dan Wingate, Caitley Symons, Barbara Webster and Deborah Palmer. Installed by Billy Shade and Edward Silvers with the help of Wade Whitson of Whitson Electric.*

### Story by Maryallen Estes

The Scrapaholic Quilt block can be seen on the side of the two hundred year old Griffith home, now owned by Jewel Warrick. It is next to the barn that features the Railroad Quilt honoring Jim Warrick.

Lemual Griffith built the home himself. Being a Jack of all trades, he even handmade the bricks for the two chimneys. He also made the bricks that encircled the well which was found by Jim Warrick, Jewel's husband, a few years before Jim died.

Lemual Griffith led a colorful life having had two wives who between them delivered twenty one children. Since he was very well to do, he had no problem feeding the whole clan.

He was born March 8, 1857 and died January 10, 1932. He was twice married, his first wife was Mary Bailey who died August 20, 1912. Together they had sixteen children, twelve daughters and four sons. His second wife was Madge Woodby and together they had five children, three sons and two daughters. He had 58 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

"Uncle Lem" as all knew him, was in the early years a shoemaker, blacksmith and farmer, following the two previous trades until the day came when shoemaking by the old method ceased, then devoted his entire time to farming until his death.

He was a "big hearted, consecrated Christian gentleman" according to his obituary in 1932, "a great helper to the poor and needy, and enjoyed dividing his accommodations among his many friends." He was a member of the Christian church, and had been united with this church for more than forty years when he died. His vast amount of Bible study enabled him to be a great Bible scholar and teacher, often giving Bible lectures of interest.

The Scrapaholic Quilt block was chosen because of Griffith's many trades and multitudes of colorful events that occurred in his vast family.

The Lewis family were the next owners of the old house. When James Warrick was a teenager, he worked in the Lewis sawmill which was on the same acreage as the old house. He often looked at the sun rays beaming on the house and longed to own it, never dreaming that one day it would be his to cherish.

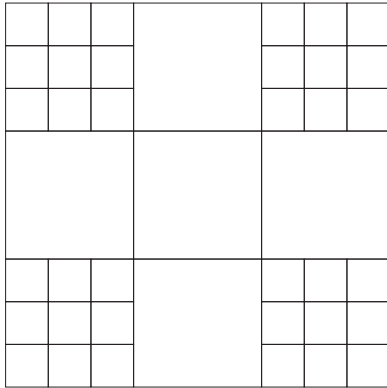
When Jim Warrick bought the property in 2004, he discovered when facing the left side of the house, the chimney had dropped because someone had dug under it searching for a legendary "pot of gold".

There's another old tale that claims the house is haunted. Reportedly, the tale was told by an old drunk who Jewel thinks was just having hallucinations.

With the installation of the Scrapaholic block, perhaps Jim Warrick's spirit will rejoice that his dream house has been so honored. Anyone passing by will also enjoy the workmanship of old Lemual and take another look at his fine craftsmanship.

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*Proceed on past the Railroad Block and the Scrapaholic block and cross the bridge (turn right) to cross the Toe River and the railroad tracks. This will put you in Mitchell County. On the far side of the bridge turn right. This big barn will be on your left. Continue on to the deadend and you will see the Star of Relief as well.*

## Bradford Nine-Patch

*Location: Home of Sarah Jane Bradford, Bald Mtn. Road, Yancey County and barn of Jewel Warrick, 19 Relief Rd. Ext., Mitchell County. Drafted by Barbara Webster; painted by Cheryl Hughes and Carolyn Bareford, installed by Jeff Phillips.*

### Story by Betty Wells

One of five siblings, Sarah Jane Bradford was born June 9, 1920 in her grandparents home in Bald Mountain about five miles up from Bee Log. She says there are two distinct communities, but when the Bee Log school was built that somehow became the term of reference for both areas.

Farming approximately 80 acres made them almost entirely self-sufficient. In addition they had their own animals: horses for the plowing, pigs, chickens, and both beef and dairy cattle. There were peach and apple orchards where the spring house was located providing such refrigeration as they had.

Everyone had jobs to do. The grandmother had a kitchen garden laid out in such an orderly fashion that it resembled a quilt pattern itself. She did the churning and made most of their clothes. On a wood stove her mother cooked and canned even until she was 86 years old. She cared for the house, a one-story building with four very large rooms and a beautiful wrap-around front porch. Everyone worked in the fields as needed and as able.

Sarah Jane remembers that she had to hoe corn in the summer heat. It took about two weeks to get it all done and by that time it was ready to be done again. At age 12, laundry became her responsibility. From the pump on the back porch she would carry water to the fire pit where she heated it in a large galvanized tub. Using a washboard and a flat iron she did the laundry for two households.

There were grist mills along the creek, and her grandfather owned one as well as a small store. Their corn was ground into meal there and even though they raised their own wheat, it had to be ground elsewhere. In the five or six miles from Bald Mountain to Mouth of the Creek, there were small stores located about a mile apart so that the 50 or so families in the area wouldn't have such a long walk to do what shopping they had to do.

Sarah Jane walked the 3/4 mile to a one-room school house where all grades 1 - 12 attended until the Bee Log School was built. She remembers her grandfather going with her in first grade until he was satisfied she was ready to go alone. Sarah Jane graduated second in her class from Bee Log highschool.

In the summers she loved to play in the creek and to swing in her swing in the orchard. Her grandfather played banjo and other relatives played guitar. On Friday evenings after supper they and friends would gather on the wrap-around porch to pick and sing.

Winter evenings were for quilting, sewing, and reading (Zane Gray her favorite). S. Jane has quilted most of her life, learning literally and her "Granny's" knee. They would sit around the fire, S. Jane at Granny's feet, and Granny would give her small scraps that wouldn't fit her pattern so she could practice. They used chop (feed) sacks for their fabric.

At age 21, she married Tilden Zack Bradford and moved to his family farm where her three children were born. It was a great day when in 1948 electricity arrived. Immediately they purchased a wringer washing machine.

After marriage she made "punch" (hooked) rugs to supplement income. She would draw her pattern on brown paper. Using a mixture of soot and kerosene, she would punch through the paper transferring the pattern to a burlap backing. Dyed sock material was punched in and out of the burlap to make the rugs. They were usually 2x3 or 3x5 feet in size. She took the finished products to a Mr. Campbell in Swiss (Bald Creek) who sold them throughout the area.

Later she took a job at a garment factory in Barnardsville sewing. She dearly loved that work and retired from there.

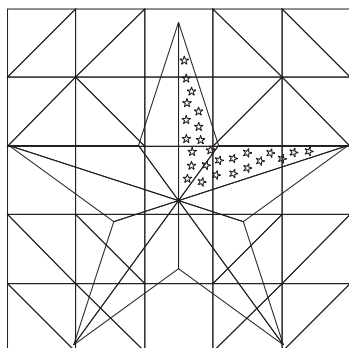
Jewel Warrick, Sarah Jane's daughter, says her mother always helped with the farm work, gardening and cooking large dinners for the work hands. She was in the fields early mornings working until 11:00 am. then she would return to the house to cook dinner for the workers and return back to hoe corn, set tobacco or whatever needed to be done. Jewel says her mother's favorite movie was "Gone With the Wind."

Sarah Jane is now a widow and is no longer able to quilt after two heart attacks and two strokes. But she is still an avid reader, preferring Westerns which she also enjoys on TV. She has read all of Zane Gray and Louis Lamour and may start on Larry McMurtry. She divides her time between her two daughter's homes, Teresa Burleson in Burnsville and Jewel Warrick in Mitchell County.

The quilt block on Sarah Jane's house (Bee Log Trail) is a small duplicate of the eight foot block on daughter Jewel's barn in Relief. The block was painted to match a quilt square that Sarah Jane made. Cheryl Hughes hand painted the flowers on the big block to match the fabric. This is the only duplicate block in the Quilt Trails system.

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*When you get to the end of the road where this block is, turn around and head back out keeping the river on your left. Do not cross the bridge but instead follow the railroad tracks. You will come to a T intersection. This is where you make a decision to go to Red Hill via 197 or to go see the four blocks that are out Sam's Branch. You will have to backtrack if you go on to Sam's Branch but we recommend it. It isn't far.*

*If you want to see the blocks on Sam's Branch, instead of turning right onto 197, turn left at the intersection and go under the railroad tracks. This will parallel the river. If you want to skip those four blocks, turn right onto 197.*

## Star of Relief

*Location: Old Relief Post Office and Country Store, Relief, NC. Designed and drafted by Barbara Webster, painted by Carol Bareford and Cheryl Hughes, installed by Jeff Phillips with the help of Wade Whitson of Whitson Electric.*

### Story by Julia Deyton

Nestled in a valley of the Appalachian Mountains in Mitchell County, North Carolina, is a small rural community called Relief. During the early 1800s, this community was thriving with settlers, a general store, a lumberyard, and a boarding house. This small community even had its own country doctor, Dr. Isaac Bradshaw. He traveled miles on horseback to tend the sick.

The community known as Relief received its name in a most unusual manner. A few years after the Civil War, a country emporium (store) run by Squire John Peterson was opened. This store provided the settlers in the Toe River Community with essentials like sugar, salt, flour, oatmeal, and "specialty" medicines. At this time there were several brands of patent medicine, most of which contained fair amounts of alcohol.

Mountain folks traveled for miles either by horseback or wagon to stock up on supplies at the country emporium. Many of these same people purchased some of the vast tonics, pills, ointments, liniments and dry-herb mixtures carried by the store. One medicine, Hart's Relief, became the most popular elixir in the area. It was proclaimed to cure anything and everything. Squire Peterson could not keep this "miracle" medicine on the shelves.

As the story goes, one day a couple of mountain men met on the road and exchanged greetings. One inquired of the destination of the other, and was told he was on his way to Squire Peterson's store to pick up Hart's Relief. The other traveler was poor of hearing and all he understood was store and Relief. On arriving home he told his wife about a fellow traveler he met going to Peterson's Store at Relief.

As word gets around quickly in small rural communities, Relief became the name used when referring to the location of Peterson's store. Very soon everyone in the community began calling the community Relief.

On May 19, 1888, the Relief post office was opened according to the records in the postal service archives in Washington, D.C. When the government decided to place a post office in the community, a lady by the name of Bailey was asked to name the post office and since everyone called the community Relief, she replied that should be the

name of the post office. According to official records, the first postmaster was a Mr. Robert G. Griffith.

The country emporium opened by Squire Peterson was destroyed during the flood of 1901 when the Toe River raged out of its banks and consumed a large portion of the river communities. The country store that had been opened a few years after the Civil War was gone.

In 1913, J.D. Bradshaw purchased a store that had been built close to the original location of Peterson's Emporium. Mr. Bradshaw also carried Hart's Relief until it was taken off the market. Many loyal users were dismayed and frustrated with that decision.

The location of the post office near the river and the railroad tracks helped to develop the area into an important link. During this time, mail was dropped off by the trains, one going north and the other going south. The train would drop off 25 to 50 bags of mail with each stop. There was always a lot of parcel post for the existing 14 merchants in the area.

When passenger trains became popular, Relief became a star route for passengers from Johnson City, Tennessee and Asheville, North Carolina. Anyone needing to go across the mountain to Johnson City, Tennessee would meet the train at the Relief depot.

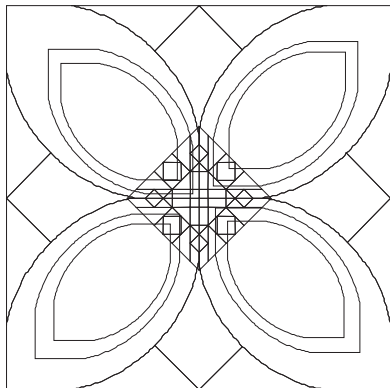
Mr. J.D. Bradshaw ran the store and the Relief post office from 1913 until 1942. Upon his retirement, his son, John W. Bradshaw, took over the store and the post office. John Bradshaw closed the store in 1963. John Bradshaw remained postmaster until the government closed the post office on June 23, 1973. For 85 years, the Relief post office was an important mail center for 60 years the postmasters were John Bradshaw and his father.

Times have changed and life has gone on, but the Relief post office still stands, a tribute to the early settlers in this area. Today, Julia Deyton, John Bradshaw's daughter, owns the old post office building.

Relief is marked by one sign, but is no longer a hub of commerce marked with the arrival of passengers for the train, or farmers loading their produce, or even lumber companies hauling their timber to market. There are still many of the original families living in Relief, but they must travel several miles to get to a grocery store, any business, or place of employment.

The beauty of Relief is still there...the flowing Toe River, the banks lined with trees, and the woods filled with wildlife. Life goes on, but luckily some things never change!

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*You will pass this block on  
your way to the next blocks.*

## Carolina Flower Garden

*Location: 6862 Hwy. 197 N., Green Mountain, N.C.*

*Drafted by Barbara Wester; painted by Dot Dantzler; Barbara Webster and Carolyn Bareford. Installed by Jeff Phillips and Wade Whitson with the help of the bucket truck from Whitson Electric*

### Story by Dot Dantzler

This home was originally owned by James W. Peterson. James Peterson was married to Alice Honeycutt Peterson. They had 12 children, 6 girls and 6 boys. Alice died at the young age of 52, leaving James to raise several small children. Having lost an arm in a sawmill accident and their home destroyed by fire, James moved to property on the N. Toe River near Pigeon Roost after Alice died. In 1941, he purchased a small piece of property bordering Pigeon Roost Creek. He built a store to start a business to care for his family, as 5 of the 12 children were still at home. It is said he borrowed \$18 to buy the first merchandise to start the business.

In 1946, James purchased adjoining property from Harvey and Viola Miller and built a small 2 bedroom house for his family near the store. James' younger son, Park Peterson later operated the store with his wife, Madge. Park and his family lived in the home until the early 1970's. The store was known as the J.W. Peterson Store and was open for business until 1968. The store building and home still remain and 4 of the 12 children are still living—Eula Laws, Pansy Hagie, Park Peterson and Raymond Peterson.

Perched on a ridge above the property is the historical Relief Christian Church. When the church was active, members had to walk through this property to attend services. It is said that many a great revival was held there.

The house and property remained in the family until 2002 when Johnny and Dot Dantzler from South Carolina purchased the property from Dallas K. and Hazel Peterson, a grandson of James Peterson.

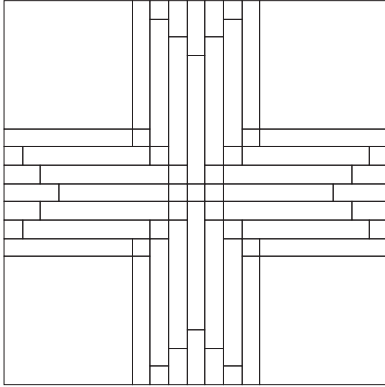
Johnny and Dot's love for the outdoors and natural beauty of the area ignited a desire to renovate and landscape the property. Some flowers were on the property and Dot began transplanting flowers, many making the 250 mile trip from their home in S.C. Other flowers and plants have been shared with them by neighbors in the area. Dot has enjoyed combining flowers from their S.C. home with the natural flowers here. This is such a beautiful area along the river and many people passing through are observed stopping to view or photo the river's curve or railroad overpass adjoining the property. to view or photo the river's curve or railroad overpass adjoining the property.

Johnny and Dot's mothers both loved flowers and Dot's mother, who still enjoys trips up with them at the age of 89, is a quilter as well. Johnny's mother also enjoyed trips to their place before her death in 2004. She especially enjoyed the flowers, sitting on the porch and watching and listening to the river.

Johnny and Dot chose a flower garden block, placing a South Carolina block in the center to represent the beauty of both states. It is placed to honor the Peterson family, all of the friends they have made in and around Green Mountain, their mothers, and a loving God who places beauty all around us.

# Quilt Trails

of Western  
North Carolina



*You will turn right onto 197N and cross the RR tracks again to find this block. It will be on your left.*

*After you find it, turn around and go back to Sam's Branch and turn right onto Sam's Branch to see the next two blocks.*

## Carpenter's Star

*Location: 10149 Hwy 197N Green Mtn. Drafted by Ethel Nash, Painted by Ethel Nash, Mary Nelson, Renee Gibbs, Jean Bennett, Brandie Griffith, Hollie Hunt. Installed by Brian Gibbs.*

### Story by Katherine Hancock

I had thought this would be the easiest Quilt Block Story/History to write. After all, the purchaser of the Quilt Block is the Office Manager at Higgins Memorial Methodist Church in Burnsville, North Carolina. She is a lovely, deeply kind young woman, and I expected a brief tribute to the object of her faith - simple but sweet and heart-felt. It is, assuredly, the enduring faith lived out in daily life here in Appalachia that is part of what has historically made this culture distinct from much of the world.

But it is the unexpected turn in the stories behind these Quilt Blocks that gives one pause, at times taking away breath at the poignancy of the tribute behind this small square of painted wood. That is the essence of the project - taking us to the depths of tradition, the personal history of both the land and its people, the unseemly twists of fortunes that take us so far away from the expected that it can only be possible that we must soon come back full circle to the beginning thought.

Renee Bennett Gibbs is the only child of Bobby and Jean Bennett of the Poplar community in Mitchell County. Her father was a carpenter who built cabinetry in his garage at home and took in many other side jobs to make extra money for the family.

"Daddy built homes during the day, his cabinetry was a side job, kinda like a hobby. He just loved to work."

"I look back now and wonder why they didn't save more. But Daddy wanted to make sure we had everything we needed and wanted. He wanted us to enjoy life to the fullest, which meant we lived day-to-day and paycheck-to-paycheck. I can't remember a summer he didn't take us to the beach - no matter how much work he had to do or how little money we had. He loved us, and he loved to work. He had a genuine passion for carpentry, did some electrician work, and restored old cars."

The amazing thing was that Bobby was in poor health all this time. He had severely injured his back while stationed in Germany in the Army - lifting and working on a truck. Eventually, the injury got him medically discharged and sent home. Nonetheless, he continued the carpentry work he so loved and was able to provide for his family in those years. On Thanksgiving Day in 1998 the garage burned down - destroying all his tools, 4-wheelers, lawn mowers - everything. Bobby had done the electrical work for the garage himself, without installing a meter. It was determined that a power surge had started the fire, so the insurance company refused to pay.

True to their persevering character, her parents tried to rebuild the garage and business and painstakingly saved as much as possible. When it was finally rebuilt and work started again, her father began making silly mistakes in measurements - a very unusual thing for him. A malignant brain tumor was diagnosed in 2004. He went to the VA Hospital at Duke. The doctor was not able to remove much of the tumor because it was so close to the memory/sensing part of the brain. Bobby was assured that the tumor was so slow-growing that he would die of old age first. Renee's father underwent 30 treatments of radiation, which she says burned up a significant amount of brain cells and has led to multiple seizures throughout the following years. He is no longer able to work with his hands or build anything. At the age of 60, there is not much he can do anymore.

After his brain surgery, Renee and her husband helped her mother, who had little formal education, get her Certified Nursing Degree. "We were all so very proud of mommy." Since 2004, her mother has worked at minimum wage to

support the family. In the meantime, Bobby has had to undergo three back surgeries, leaving him almost crippled.

“My parents came from a religious background. Now Daddy doesn’t even go to church. Every time we were out driving through the countryside, Mommy would say how much she loved those quilt blocks - how beautiful they were, how much she would love to have one on our house. I kept telling her you can’t just get one - there is a process - stuff you have to do. I did check into it for her, and I bought it for them for their anniversary. My mother and I both helped paint it. The “Carpenter” part is a tribute to Daddy - to honor him for working so very hard to give us the best, and for his love and skill in the art of carpentry. The “Star” part is to watch over them - to guide them - especially now that he can’t go to church.

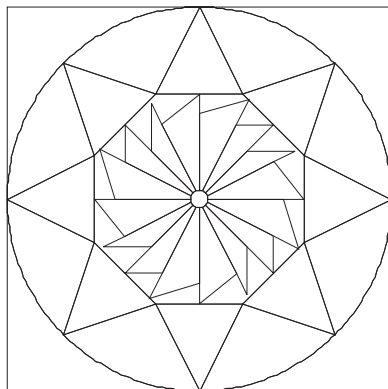
“The garage the Carpenter’s Star Quilt Block is on was built by my father with his own hands when I was 7 years old. This land belonged to my granddaddy, and he still lives across the road from our house. Both Daddy and my aunt were born in the house down the road that my granddaddy gave to my aunt. I am not sure how many generations my family has lived here, but many. When my daughter was in high school she did a family tree that went back a long way. Remember I said my dad loved to restore old cars? Well his pride and joy was a ‘66 Chevy II. When I was 15 years old he sold it. I couldn’t figure out why he would sell the one thing that gave him so much joy. I found out a short while later it was so he would have money to buy me a car. That is just the way they are.

Renee said, “These are still difficult times - for many people. My husband worked for Unimin. His plant received materials from the one that burned down, so he and many others were laid off as a result. My 20-year-old son is one of many that were laid off at Altec when they cut back on the work force because of the economy. We still try to help my parents as much as possible. And we have taken a young single mother and her toddler under our wings. Compared to her, we have nothing to complain about. And the requests for help are constant at the church from the community. I try to do what I can to help, but there are people here literally going hungry every day.”

Our conversation ended with what help could be done for others - not focusing on herself or her family’s concerns. As I said, these convoluted, gut-wrenching turns seem to take us so far off from where we started, that we unexpectedly end up at the beginning, having come full circle. I think, after all, this is a story about the object of her faith, about another Carpenter whose teachings were just what this story embodies - enduring love, persevering faith, and honoring commitments - to family, community, country - in spite of life’s injustices, or maybe because of them. It is the quintessential story of the Quilt Trails of Western North Carolina.

# Quilt Trails

of Western  
North Carolina



*This is the first block you will see after turning onto Sam's Branch off 197N. It will be on your right and you will discover that if you know when and where to look you can actually see it from 197N. Barely.*

## Spinning Car Wheel

*Location: 118 Sam's Branch Rd. Drafted by Ethel Nash, Painted by the Higgins QT Painters and installed by Jeff Phillips.*

### Story by Rebecca Warner

Garnie Peterson and his wife, Irene have adorable Chinese pugs ("little ole bitty babies") and they anticipated incorporating the pugs in their quilt block theme. But because the project is trying hard to use traditional quilt blocks, and because there were no quilt blocks about Chinese Pugs, Garnie chose the Spinning Car Wheel quilt block, and aptly so.

Mr. Peterson "always fixed cars". It was a hobby while growing up, but his interest and ability went far beyond the hobby stage. Camaros were his specialty, and he "really put back together" approximately 70 of those particular cars, using both his bodywork skills and his mechanical aptitude. He bought, worked on and drove Corvettes, Trans Ams and Mustangs over the years. When they were repaired to his satisfaction, he found a ready market for these refurbished autos.

His skill in fixing cars as a boy came in handy in helping to support his family. Garnie was one of sixteen children. He was born in Higgins Hospital in Yancey County, but a number of his siblings were born at home. His daddy was just about a week from retiring from the Clinchfield Railroad when he passed away at age 49--Garnie was only four years old at the time. His daddy was working on putting a roof on a house, felt ill, got down from the roof, sat down in a chair, and died. His mother received a stipend from the railroad, and on that amount of money, she raised Garnie and his fifteen siblings by herself.

Garnie's mother lived to be 91. Garnie's loving wife is a beautician, but she also works for CAP in Spruce Pine, taking care of disabled people." She took care of Garnie's mother for five years before she passed away.

He says that he is 5'7" tall, and his mother only came up to his elbows. He recalls her long hair, which fell all the way down her back, and how she would fold her hair upon her head each morning. His mother worked hard all of her life, lovingly tending house and growing gardens.

Mr. Peterson's profession was that of a carpenter. He built many nice homes in Linville and Linville Ridge, but always bought and fixed cars on the side. Though cheerful and optimistic, he has had his share of trials, the most difficult one being an accident which he barely survived. He was injured at the age of 47 when a bolt "flew off and busted his skull." He was in bed for over a year, and had to go to school to learn how to talk again. He is a gospel singer, but the accident "took all of that away." While growing up and attending church, he learned hymns by ear and says that "the good Lord would let them pipe through me." He had to learn those hymns all over again, with

the exception of “Borned Again” and “Thank You Lord.” Those he never forgot.

His two sons inherited his mechanical skills and are putting them to fine use in their own lives. He sent one son, Garnie Lane Peterson, to college in Nashville to learn auto diesel skills. That son worked for Grindstaff's and for Tri-City Collision for many years, but he and Garnie always collaborated that one day, they would have their own building and their own business—and they realized that dream in February, 2007.

His other son, Stacy Shane Peterson, after finishing his education, pursued a career in welding for nuclear power plants. He flies all over the world to ply his trade.

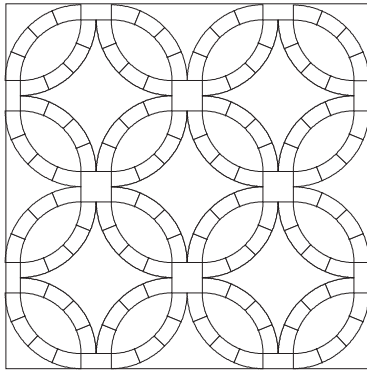
The quilt block hangs on the barn where Garnie works on his cars.

Garnie's life and that of his mother has led him to ruminate: “You gotta keep going. If you fall down you won't last long.”

Hmmm.....that's true of cars, too, isn't it?

This highly colorful block is worth the trip to see. When it was being painted, it caused a lot of comment among the painters with many saying they wished it was THEIR block. It was a favorite of everyone who saw it.

# Quilt Trails of Western North Carolina



*This is the second block on Sam's Branch. You will need to turn right and go down a steep driveway to view the block on the barn. Turn around at the barn and then go back out the way you came to 197 and follow 197 to Red Hill to see the rest of the blocks.*

## Double Wedding Ring

*Location: 188 Sams Branch Rd., Green Mtn. Mitchell County  
Drafted by Barbara Webster; painted by Cheryl Hughes, installed by Jeff Phillips  
with the help of Wade Whitson and Whitson Electric's bucket truck.*

### Story by Beth Bridges

The Hughes Farm has been in our family for at least five generations now. It began with my great great grandparents and then my great grandparents, Garrett and Victoria Hughes. It was then inherited by my grandparents, Leeter and Cora Hughes. The farm then became my parents', Charles Garrett and Atlas Hughes. Now I have siblings and nephews with homes on the property. Our father, Charles, died 18 days before he and our mother's 55th wedding anniversary.

I am the youngest of my parents' 7 children. Including our children and spouses, we are a family of 45 strong and close.

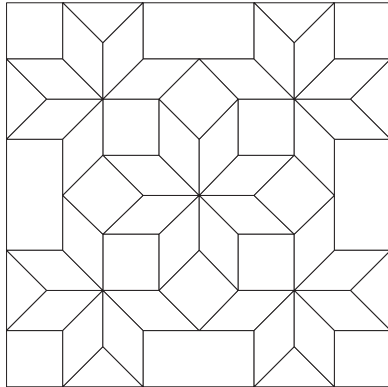
We also come from a long line of quilters. I have many memories of my mother's large quilting frames taking up our entire living room. My mother and grandmothers would sit by the wood stove, quilting and talking. I would be at my post, under the frame, pretending it was my house and the soft batting above me was my roof. I was given the occasional task of making a pincushion or seeing how many stitches I could sew in an inch.

The barn where the block hangs, was built by my father about 30 years ago. The barn has had many functions over the years. It has been a home and shelter for various small livestock. It's tall rafters have held acres of burley tobacco. My daddy's barn gave him a place to work on cars and keep his "ole pickup" running so he could haul his Christmas trees to market. Lastly, for decades it has given his children and grandchildren a place to laugh, play and explore.

The double wedding ring pattern represents the 55 years my parents were married as well as all the other long, happy marriages so many in our family have been blessed to enjoy. The block is derived from a quilt made by my mother, Atlas Hughes.

# Quilt Trails

of Western  
North Carolina



## Heavenly Stars

*Location: Brummett's Creek Church of the Brethren  
Drafted by Barbara Webster; Painted by Carolyn Bareford and Cheryl  
Hughes. Installed by Jeff Phillips with the help of Wade Whitson,  
Whitson Electric*

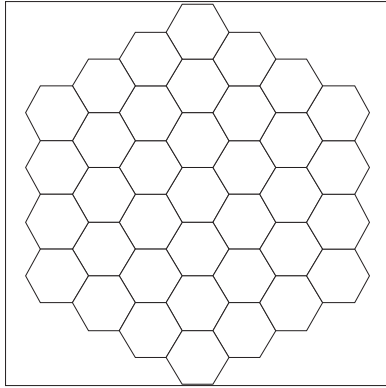
### Story by Carolyn Bareford

As a church, which celebrates our rich Christian heritage, Brummetts Creek Church of the Brethren is proud to have our very own quilt square, “Heavenly Stars”. The church was founded in Germany in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and brought to America soon after to avoid persecution. In 1845, a congregation was organized in the mountains of western North Carolina and became known as “Brummetts Creek Church”. With a strong membership of 85, the church building was erected in 1893. At its present location on NC Highway 197 and has enjoyed several remodeling projects over the years. We are still a small congregation striving to be strong in faithfulness to follow the Brethren beliefs; to live simply and peacefully in fellowship with others as the fundamental doctrines of the Holy Bible teaches.

The year 2008 commemorates the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church and our quilt square is a unique way to observe this milestone, for it unifies both our Brethren heritage, as well as the rich Appalachian culture, of which Brummetts Creek Church of the Brethren is proud to be a part.

# Quilt Trails

of Western  
North Carolina



## Grandmother's Flower Garden

*Location: 3467 Hwy 197, Green Mountain*

*Drafted by Barbara Webster; Painted by Mary Jane Mash and Susan Oder; installed by Mary Jane and Susan.*

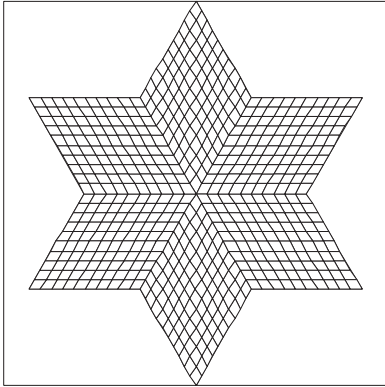
### Story by Mary Jane Mash

This property was the home of Mrs. Sally Street. Mrs. Street is a long-time resident of Mitchell County who raised eight children, surviving two husbands. Mrs. Street worked outside the home as well as raising her children, farming and gardening on the property.

The property includes the “new house”, the old farmhouse, a barn, spring house and several out buildings. Now called “Sally’s Farm”, it’s available for vacation rental. The barn continues to be used for drying tobacco by the neighbors. Mrs. Street’s family still live and work in Mitchell County.

Our mother grew up on a farm in Georgia. She and her mother made quilts using calico and scraps from outgrown dresses. Two quilts that Mama made as a young girl used the patterns Sunbonnet Sue and Grandmother’s Flower Garden. In honor of our mother we have painted Grandmother’s Flower Garden for the barn.

# Quilt Trails of Western North Carolina



## Star of the East

*Location: Griffith General Store in Tipton Hill Community, 4301 Hwy 197, Bakersville.  
Drafted by Barbara Webster, Painted by Susan Oder and Mary Jane Mash. Installed by  
Jerry Griffith.*

This block was painted to match a family quilt made by Cordelia Ellis, the mother of Mrs. Faye Griffith, wife of Frank Griffith. The Griffith's store has been open for over 60 years serving the Tipton Hill and surrounding communities. The store sells general merchandise as well as farm supplies and equipment.

Mrs. and Mrs. Frank Griffith took the store over in 1948 from Frank's uncle. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Griffith have served the citizens of Mitchell and Yancey counties.

While Mr. and Mrs. Griffith are still helping out in the store, their son, Jerry Griffith is the current proprietor and continues the family business.

Frank has written a book, *The Life and Times of Franklin Wade Griffith*, which you can purchase at the store. It is full of anecdotes of his life, including the price he paid for his cars and furniture, and makes for very entertaining reading.

# Quilt Trails

of Western  
North Carolina



## Baker's Fan

*Location: 4145 Hwy 197 North, Tipton Hill, NC. Painted by Carolyn Bareford, Cheryl Hughes, Fayma Childs, Rosita Ferrell, and Miriam Savard. Installed by Keith Beam.*

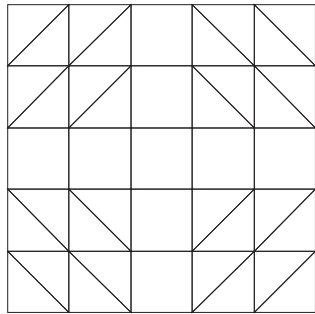
Connie Watts owns the Baker's Fan quilt. She says her two great aunts made the quilt and it has been in her family since it was made in the 1930s.

Connie was named after one aunt and her sister was named after the other aunt. Connie says "We often call ourselves Mildred and Sue."

The quilt block that can be seen on Connie's barn in Tipton Hill is painted to match the quilt her great aunts made.

# Quilt Trails

of Western  
North Carolina



*Turn left onto Whitson Branch off 197 to find this block. Note the 360 degree view as you drive across the crest of the mountain. Then you will go down down down and suddenly this barn will pop into view on your right.*

*Now you can turn around and head back to 197 and continue on to Red Hill where you can go straight and pick up the Bakersville Trail or turn right and go to Burnsville.*

*OR you can continue down the mountain on Whitson Branch and go under a 10' "tunnel" beneath the RR tracks and follow the road until it brings you to a bridge that takes you across the Toe River and back to the Toe River Rd. At that junction you can turn left to go back to 197 where you will turn right to go to Burnsville or left to Bakersville. Or you can turn right and go back to the Jack's Creek/Toe River Rd. intersection. This gravel road is a big adventure as you are traveling between the RR and the river the entire distance.*

## Wedding Ring

*Location: 1173 Whitson Branch Rd. Drafted by Barbara Webster, painted by the 2008 Art Class at Mountain Heritage HS. Installed by Billy Shade.*

### Story by Maryallen Estes

Laura and Gene Pope are the present owners of the old Tipton farm which now consists of only seven acres.

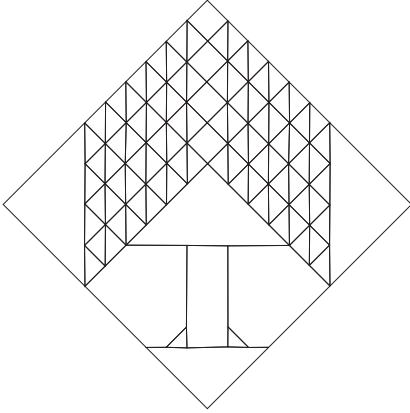
The Tipton family built the barn in 1900 as a tobacco barn. The land was in the Tipton family until 2007 when Diane Tipton Banks, great grand daughter of the original owner, sold the farm to Laura and Gene Pope. Diane Tipton Banks now lives in Erwin ,Tennessee.

The barn is now used as a fire wood and tractor storage place , but Gene plans to eventually renovate it into a wood working shop.

Laura stated since she and Gene were starting a new adventure in their life with the initiation of their marriage, they chose the wedding ring design for the barn. However, the colors chosen were those of tobacco to harken back to the origin of the barn.

# Quilt Trails

of Western  
North Carolina



*When you get to Red Hill (Hwy 197), follow 226N to Buladean to find this block. You will have to backtrack to continue this trail or pick up the Bakersville trail.*

## Tree of Life

*Location: 10253 Hwy 226N, Buladean. Drafted by Barbara Webster, painted by Lora Warnell, installed by Roger Hobson.*

Approximately five years ago, Danny and Lora Warnell, who are from the Savannah, Ga area, bought a small house near Buladean. They would come up from Georgia to enjoy the scenery and weather and started spending more and more time in the area. Eventually, Danny bought 600 acres in Buladean as an investment.

Having dabbled in real estate all of his life and having grown up in a rural area, Danny has never believed in investing in the stock market, preferring instead to invest in land. After all, they aren't making any more land! Danny followed in his Grandfather, William Daniel Warnell's shoes who was involved in banking farming and timber.

The oldest existing southern forestry school was established in 1906 through an endowment by George Foster Peabody. The School was originally called the George Foster Peabody School of Forestry. Over the years, the University of Georgia's School of Forest Resources has become more sophisticated and respected. A regional and National frontrunner, the School is ideally situated, offering easy access to the three major provinces of the Southeast: the coastal plains, the Piedmont, and the mountains. Complex demands were made on the profession, requiring greater competence of forest resource managers and scientists. To ensure that future graduates are better prepared to meet the diverse challenges they will face, the school was renamed The School of Forest Resources and designated as a professional unit in 1971, when the curriculum was redesigned. In 1991, the School of Forest Resources was dedicated in honor of the late Daniel B. Warnell. Mr. Warnell was a native Georgian who was involved in the management of banking, farming, and timber enterprises. He served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1931 to 1937 and in the Georgia Senate from 1937 to 1939. As a state legislator, Mr. Warnell made significant contributions in rural development, public education, public transportation, and conservation of natural resources.

The acreage which is now called Beech Creek, is formerly the home of several families who farmed and planted white pine trees. This is in keeping with the Warnell philosophy of planting trees to preserve and reforest land and appealed to Danny.

Over the past four years Danny decided to make it a gated

residential community. To maintain the beauty of the land and preserve the rural, farm atmosphere, green space has been created and large split rail fenced pastures provide space for horses, goats and chickens. Additionally, there is a community garden for the enjoyment of the residents.

The cabin on which the quilt block hangs is one of two cabins Lora and Danny have built using reclaimed logs from Virginia, thus giving the logs a new life.

Lora is from Savannah and worked in the medical industry all her adult life as an x-ray tech and also in interventional cardiology. She worked for 15 years for a medical device company doing clinical applications training for doctors on different medical products in hospitals.

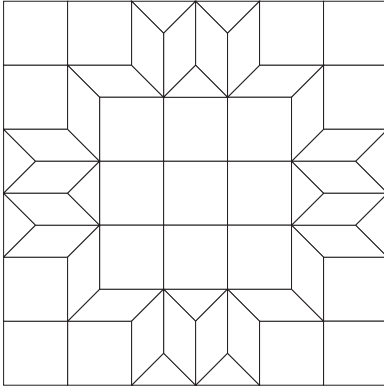
When they married, Lora started overseeing the contractors working on Danny's real estate developments, and thus she began a new career.

Lora chose the Tree of Life block because it seemed to fit the area, with the trees planted in the development and the fact that the land was coming back to life after being dormant for many years.



## Friendship Star

Story by Sue Guerrant



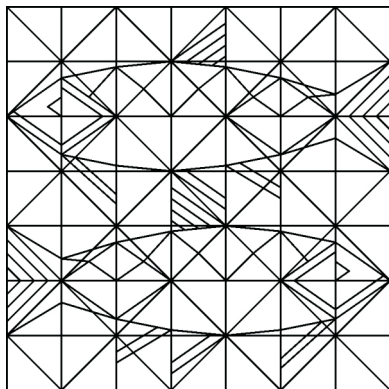
The Friendship Quilt block was commissioned by Sue Guerrant and Bill Lord of Louisburg, NC to honor their neighbors and friends in Buladean, particularly Rachel and Jerry Jenkins, Shelby and Buddy Street, and Thelma Cumbie. The quilt block is mounted on the Jenkins' barn on the west side of Highway 226 as you approach Buladean.

The Lords have been vacationing in Buladean since 1999 and enjoy tubing on the North Toe River, hiking Roan Mountain, exploring Bakersville, Spruce Pine, and Burnsville, and spending time with family and friends. When the Frank Hughes home, a neighboring property of the Streets and Jenkins and the childhood home of Thelma Cumbie, was listed on the market in fall of 2009, they purchased it and began a full renovation. (Bill and Sue have completed four house renovations, including three properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.) Being part-time residents gives them a connection to the community as well as an opportunity to meet local citizens extending the circle of friendship that is represented in their chosen Quilt Trail pattern.

Bill is a water quality specialist with the NC Cooperative Extension Service, and Sue teaches computer classes at the local community college in Franklin County. Bill, a beekeeper for over 30 years, consults internationally on beekeeping projects throughout the world having traveled to the Sudan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, Armenia, Nepal, and Malawi. Sue, who comes from a family of seamstresses, is a part-time quilter and appreciates how color, fabric, pattern, and stitching interplay in quilts. She has completed four quilts and several wall hangings. Both are avid gardeners, and Bill is a regularly featured speaker on NC Public TV's Almanac Gardener. They have a daughter, Laura, and a son, Ben, who are students at NC State University, and a spoiled Rat Terrier named Little Bit, in addition to three cats and a small flock of chickens.

It was Jerry Jenkins' idea to place their hives of honey bees on the flat barn roof of the Hughes property to avoid tempting the skunks and bears on Roan Mountain; thus, the name of their mountain honey: *Bill and Jerry's Rooftop Honey*.

# Quilt Trails of Western North Carolina



## Speck- Troutcular

*Location: 10516 Highway 226, Bakersville. Designed by Martin Webster, painted by Carolyn Bareford, installed by Keith Beam. Photo by Calla Gouge.*

Story by Calla B. Gouge

Originating on the slopes of magnificent Roan Mountain, multiple small streams of some of the coldest, most crystal clear waters flow. Eventually the waters of these pristine streams meander and wind their way down to the beautiful, picturesque, valley of Buladean, N.C. Here they join together to form one of the area's largest and most bountiful trout streams ...Big Rock Creek.

It is in these small feeder streams and other bubbling brooks that form the coves and hollows beneath towering Roan Mountain that the native brook trout of spectacular effervescing beauty resides and reproduces. Natives know it as the "Speckled Trout."

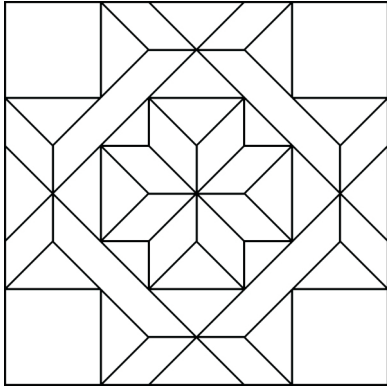
As a boy growing up in this theater of natural, unsurpassed beauty, Dr. Roger Jenkins developed a lifelong love and admiration for this native species. At times, his career as a businessman and an educator would take him far away from his native homeland, across international waters and into foreign countries, but his heart never ventured far from the beloved creek banks of his childhood.

Out of this love grew a passionate hobby we know as the art of fly-fishing. Roger always enjoys a challenge in any endeavor he is pursuing and in this he finds the elusive, tantalizing speckled trout a worthy adversary.

In recent years, Roger was motivated and inspired to purchase properties in and around the community of Buladean, where most of his family still resides. This would allow him to spend time with family, have access to the streams where the trout fishing would be available to him on his own properties, and where some rental homes would provide some rental income during his and his wife Basia's retirement years. This led to the development of [BuladeanRentals.com](http://BuladeanRentals.com).

In his travels around the world, Dr. Jenkins has seen and experienced many beautiful things, but none more breathtaking than that of the speckled trout. Akin to the magic, mystery, and magnificence of the hummingbird, the speckled trout has a beauty that is simply unsurpassed. This is why he chose to honor the speckled trout with a quilt block aptly named "Speck- Troutcular".

If you would like to join Drs. Roger and Basia Jenkins for some time fly-fishing or just relaxing amidst the beautiful scenery of the Western North Carolina Mountains, contact them at the website [www.BuladeanRentals.com](http://www.BuladeanRentals.com) to make your reservation today!



## Lena's Choice

Location: 174 Crest Line Dr., Green Mountain. Painted by Carole Pearson, June Pearson, Kathy Rose and Barbara Webster. Installed by Jim Rabon.

Story by Barbara Webster, with help from Colby Martin

It was the dahlias that led Jim and Lisa Rabon to the front door of Lena Masters six years ago. Lisa says that after they moved to the area, they would have to travel Ridge Road to get to Double Island to eventually hit 197.

“On that route we would pass this lovely old white house with the most incredible dahlia garden in full bloom. We would see this sweet little older lady on the porch almost always and she would wave when we passed by. We would honk each time we passed. (We eventually got everyone in our area to honk for her as well--a tradition now.)

One day we just stopped and went up to the porch to meet her. That 2-1/2 hour visit was the beginning of a great friendship that is now going on 6 years. We have met all her remaining family, have taken her food whenever our group has a gathering, bring in her mail and papers, and generally look out for her well being. She doesn't get around well anymore as she has broken two hips, a collarbone, and many ribs. Still her spirit is great, her heart has touched everyone she meets, and she is determined to live by herself. She is a remarkable lady and we 'newcomers' call her the matriarch of our mountain. I guess it is all because of the dahlia garden. Last year we all got together and planted it for her. We hope to next year as well.

The person Lisa and Jim “discovered” on their daily route was Lena Masters. Lena was born “close to Magnetic City – that's what they used to call Buladean – from all the iron ore they found there.” Born in 1918, her father was a veteran of the Spanish-American War. Lena was one of 10 children – eight boys and two girls. She attended school in Mitchell County and graduated in 1937. She said that most of her time in school she would stay out one day per week to help her mother do the ironing and washing. Back then there were no washing machines, so clothes were washed in a bucket and on a board.

And as with all the families at that time, farming meant survival. Lena said “we had turkeys, chickens, cows, every kind of livestock you can imagine. We'd sell some of the cattle and take our apples and potatoes in a covered wagon to Johnson City to sell. We all had

jobs. When school was out for the evening, we'd come home and change clothes and go out to do our chores.”

At age 20, Lena eloped with Ralph Masters. Ralph took Lena to Kentucky where he was employed by Marshall Lumber, running a saw mill and logging operation. Overnight Lena discovered she was cook for 23 men. For months at a time she and her husband would reside in company-built homes, work long, hard days, and go back to their families every other weekend. After an area was logged, Ralph and his crew would pack up their meager possessions and move to the next batch of timber. Lena says, “The homes we lived in were cheaply built. Most of them were made of fresh timber and when the wood cured, large cracks would open.”

“When I got married, I knew I'd be cooking,” Lena said. “Mother had put me to cooking when I was young, so I knew how to do it.” Lena put breakfast on the table each and every day, as well as dinner and supper for up to two dozen men at a time – single handedly. Ralph's camp was fed better than any of the others, which was a key factor in keeping quality employees. As Colby Martin put it in a story he wrote about Lena, “Ralph may have led the crew, but Lena kept them happy.”

In 1943, Ralph and Lena bought the house she still lives in today. It was two years before they could move in, and even then, Ralph continued to work, being gone for weeks at a time, but Lena settled in. “It felt like moving to heaven,” said Lena. With Ralph still working, Lena raised tobacco, cattle, corn, hogs, chickens and turkeys. “You couldn't make it if you didn't have a farm.”

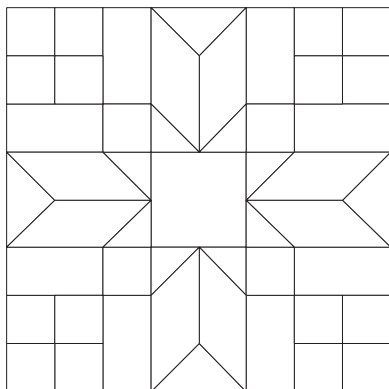
Lena adopted two children – Hal and Beatrice and started attending Deyton Bend Methodist Church. For 20 years Lena lived and worked mostly by herself. Ralph retired from logging in the 1970s and finally came home to farm and do odd jobs about the county. He died of a heart attack in 1988 at the age of 79 just shy of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

These days Lena says it is about all she can do to take care of her beloved dahlias. “As far back as I can remember, Mother always grew dahlias. And we'd take them up to the cemetery and decorate. When she was older she told me, 'I'm leaving that up to you.' Now I know what she meant.” Even now people come in and sit a while to visit and leave with an armful of dahlias to decorate their loved ones' graves.

And so in wanting to find a way to honor their neighbor, Lisa and Jim Rabon chose the traditional quilt block called “Lena's Choice” which they have mounted on their home at 174 Crest Line Drive in Green Mountain. And if you find yourself on Ridge Road in Green Mountain, stop at the white house with the big dahlia patch and sit and talk a while with Lena. You'll be glad you did.

# Quilt Trails

## of Western North Carolina



*You will see this block on 197 coming from Burnsville heading towards Bakersville/Green Mtn. Or if you started on Jack's Creek, you will see this block if you choose to go to Burnsville via 197. This is a bright red barn and the block is wonderfully flashy on the barn.*

## Black Beauty

*Location: Hwy 197N. Drafted by Barbara Webster, painted by Cheryl Hughes, Carolyn Bareford and Christine Strom. Installed by Embert Barnett from Tipton Hill and Ricky McCourry.*

### Story by Betty Wells

The Deyton family of Scots-Irish descent have been living and farming the land in Yancey County perhaps even before it was Yancey County. Lisa Deyton McCourry currently lives on her grandparents' farm, and almost all of the original tract is still in family hands. In fact one area of Rt. 197 near their farm is familiarly known as Deyton Hill because the family owned significant acreage on both sides of the road there.

Like all the early farmers, they were pretty much self-sufficient, raising their own food, animals and money crops (principally tobacco). The land is today still a working farm; but since the tobacco market isn't what it used to be, they have diversified into cattle, tree, and trout farming.

The Deytons are also a family of educators. Lisa's grandfather (Cecil), her mother (Caroline), and her father (Lloyd) all taught. Caroline Justice Deyton's father was superintendent of schools in Yancey County for a while. Lisa's father was the eldest of eleven children, and if you include them, their spouses, children, and grandchildren, you can count fifty educators in three generations of one family.

Lisa was a member of the first sophomore class of the new Mountain Heritage High School. She attended Mars Hill College and later married Ricky McCourry of Mitchell County whose family have been there for generations. They have two sons, Anthony and Brandon, both married. Anthony works, attends para-med school, and true to his Scots heritage is a prize-winning competitor in Highland Games throughout the Southeast. He usually attends at least a half-dozen meets a year. Brandon has a degree from Western Carolina University in construction management. He is employed by Mayland Homes, and his wife teaches. Lisa is currently branch manager of PNG Bank and Ricky is principal of Buladean School.

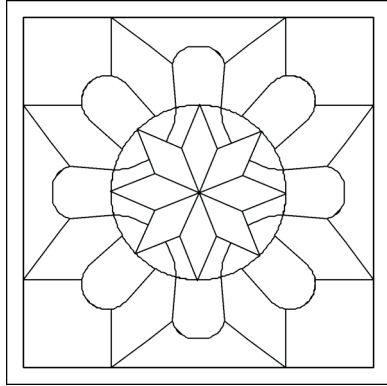
Five years ago Ricky's long-time love of horses led them to begin breeding Tennessee Walking Horses. They have been highly successful. They now have twenty-five animals which they sell, show, and use for their recreational pleasure. The horses they choose to show are boarded with their trainer in Tennessee; but all the others are on their land here and are cared for by the entire family who pitch in with feeding, cleaning the barn, etc. Lisa and Ricky even birth the foals without a vet's help unless the mare has problems delivering.

For the first time in summer 2007, they entered a horse in the Shelbyville, TN, World Championship for Tennessee Walking Horses. Guess what? They won first place!!

It's not surprising then that they chose the Black Beauty quilt pattern to adorn the square for their brand new, bright red barn. Even though the barn itself has no history, it sits in a field that has for generations served no other use than to pasture the family's animals. Surely, this barn, too, in its own time will become an interesting part of Yancey County's history and heritage.

# Quilt Trails

of Western  
North Carolina



## Doctor's Day Off

*Location: 270 Grace Way, Green Mountain. Painted by Cheryl Hughes.  
Installed by Jeff Phillips with the help of Wade Whitson manning the Whitson Electric bucket truck.*

### Story by Teaky Tollison

One Christmas, Dr. and Mrs. Vincent Molina's family surprised them with a gift certificate for a quilt square for their home. Barbara Webster sent examples of some basic designs which Dr. Molina then turned into one of his own. As he describes what he created, it is clear that Vince Molina the artist invented the design, not Vincent Molina the physician, even though he and his wife Jeanie named their square Doctor's Day Off. He points out that in the center is a circle of white. When white light bursts, it breaks into all the colors of the rainbow; thus, radiating from the circle are red, orange, yellow, and green on a blue field framed by violet. Later, a daughter, who does traditional quilting, made a cloth square of the same design for their door in Fort Pierce, Florida.

Dr. and Mrs. Molina are a loving couple who live near the top of Green Mountain. They have been a team a long time going back to Vince's days as an intern. When they first saw the property, they already owned land in North Carolina, but they immediately felt an affinity for the mountain. Jeanie Molina even did something she never does: she made a bargain with God in a quick prayer. "God, if we're meant to build a house here, let me see a deer."

Suddenly, Vincent said, "Look! There's a deer!" The rest is history. They bought the acreage fifteen years ago and built a cabin. It is part of a colony of Floridians, all friends who have known each other for thirty years. While they were still working as doctor and nurse-practitioner, the developer of Grace Way called and said that he was ready to start their house. At the time, they hesitated because they felt that they were no place near ready to retire, but they went ahead. After their house was completed, friends and family gave furniture so that the Molinas would have things with a history, such as the dining room table from a dear friend. Jeanie likes to tell visitors that their house was furnished with love.

As they began coming to the cabin, and especially after they cleared away part of the trees and discovered they had a view of the Roan, the Molinas questioned why they were still working. Vincent brought his collection of old medical instruments and started experimenting with them. He began welding and cutting, and the sturdy instruments became delicate birds. His whimsical sculpture of conception is the perfect collaboration of the artist and physician in Dr. Molina. Soon, an apartment and workshop, where Vince can often be found working, were added to the

home. Jeanie is both his biggest fan and critic. She confesses that she cannot see a sculpture in a pile of instruments, but she knows when it looks right.

Their cabin, now home, has been the sight of weddings and reunions. The visitor is immediately made welcome when the Molinas are there. Unlike many native Floridians, who winter in Florida, the Molinas go when one of their five children needs them or simply grows lonesome for their parents. hey are liable to find themselves in Florida in the hottest part of the summer and East Tennessee in the winter.

Vincent and Jeanie formed a hard-working medical team for many years. Nowadays, up on Green Mountain, they are a new team of artist and muse.