



1917 - 2000

## Memorial V. Natalie Edwards

*by Karren Elsbernd*

On March 6th, we lost a charter member of the San Francisco Quilters' Guild, Natalie Edwards. After living a full and active life of 83 years, she accepted her incurable disease with dignity. Even at the end, with the loss of speech, her smile and the twinkle in her eyes remained.

Natalie was orphaned as a young girl. She went to live with an aunt and uncle in Springfield, Massachusetts, where she graduated from high school. She began her secretarial career in Buffalo, New York, but moved to Oakland and then San Francisco in the 1940's. She worked for the Veterans Administration and the Internal Revenue Service.

Natalie was always busy, and when she retired at the age of 55, she got even busier. Besides quilts, she made dolls and baskets, plus tailoring her own clothes. She frequently traveled throughout the United States and Europe. She also made a trip to Australia and South Africa. Later in her life, many of these trips were quilt tours, including several trips each to Paducah and Houston.

Natalie was generous with her time and talents. She was always promoting projects for our guild's outreach programs. She asked for and collected donations and distributed them to fellow sewers. She and her helpers made countless quilts, plus dolls and tote bags. Natalie also hosted international visitors, making life-long friends from around the world. She was a volunteer at the San Francisco Craft Museum and also in the textile department of the DeYoung Museum. For many years she was a active member of the East Bay Heritage Quilters.

## CALIFORNIA HERITAGE QUILT PROJECT

### AUDIO CASSETTE LOG

FIELD WORKER (INTERVIEWER): JEANIE CHOOEY LOW

QUILTMAKER INTERVIEWED: NATALIE EDWARDS

DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 1997

#### Tape 1 - Side A

- 010 Early family history in Pennsylvania.
- 014 Arrival in California in 1943.
- 017 Work experience in government in Veterans Administration and Internal Revenue Service.
- 020 Arrival in Bay Area (San Francisco).
- 023 Quilting memories of being given a quilt top.
- 025 Became interested in quilting after Joyce Gross' exhibit at San Francisco Fabrics.
- 027 Her quilt top on her comforter. Early 1930's quilt squares.
- 033 First quilt was a baby quilt for a friend made before SFQG started.
- 037 Started quilting in early 1970's.
- 039 First instructor was Joy Stockfield in "Quilt as You Go," then Sonya Barrington; and present, Caroline Lieberman.
- 048 Quilts are primarily made for children and some weddings. Participant in San Francisco and California Academy of Sciences quilts.
- 050 Preference for hand quilting and some machine piecing.
- 059 Fabrics collected.
- 064 Involvement with San Francisco Quilt Guild as a Charter Member.
- 066 Her own involvement and encouraging others in making charity and opportunity quilts.
- 078 Work in canvassing fabric vendors to donate fabric for opportunity and charity quilts.
- 091 Discusses a Chinatown children's group with quilt needs.
- 095 Her work in wearable in arts, such as jackets and vests.
- 104 Curent project is an animal quilt for Ronald McDonald House.
- 105 Invited to sell her dolls and animals at the Ft. Mason Christmas sale.
- 111 Personal fabric storage.
- 123 Distant relative quilter.
- 129 Quilt related travel nationally and internationally to New Zealand and Africa.
- 149 Source of her quilt designs are from pictures and patterns. Talks about her favorite Japanese story inspired quilt.
- 162 Talks about documenting quilts.
- 167 Her participation in quilt shows.
- 175 Her other favorite quilt, "Alive & Free in '83," a Sunbonnet Sue quilt.

**CHQP: Natalie Edwards, 9/27/97**  
**Oral History: San Francisco, CA**

- 183 **Displays her quilts at shows at the Senior Residence where she lives.**
- 187 **Description of her "Kellogs' Cornflakes Quilt," a commemorative quilt.**
- 201 **Life as a independent single woman.**
- 215 **Transportation to quilt guild meetings.**
- 224 **Her participation as a member of East Bay Heritage Quilts.**
- 231 **Benefits from quilt guild membership.**



Edwards, N





Edwards, N - 6