

CALIFORNIA HERITAGE QUILT PROJECT

AUDIO CASSETTE LOG

FIELD WORKER (INTERVIEWER): SUE BRÜENKOW
QUILTMAKER INTERVIEWED: CELIA (SPATZ) LoPINTO
DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 1997



Tape 1 - Side A

- 010 Early History - born in New York City
- 017 Moved to Long Island at 3 years of age
- 027 Talks about sister who was 2 yrs. younger, now deceased
- 030 Talks about 1st and 2nd grade teachers and being forced to write right-handed, though she was left-handed
- 037 7th grade teacher taught students how to make string puppets
- 049 8th grade at Christmas had appendicitis and missed school, so graduated as Salutarian
- 050 In Debate Society and worked on school newspaper and yearbook in high school
- 057 Graduated from high school in June 1942
- 058 Pearl Harbor Day while in high school. War declared.
- 080 Went to a local college for a year and then to Columbia University
- 088 Family moved to New York City because everyone in family was commuting into the city for college or work
- 096 Went to engineering school to learn electrical engineering for 1 semester
- 104 Went to architecture school when she was 18
- 122 Went to work for a famous Swiss architect when she graduated from college
- 142 Met her future husband of 46 years working for this architect
- 148 Went to California with a girlfriend Connie from Detroit by train and eventually ended up in San Francisco
- 175 Met Dorothy Wormser (S&"W" vegetables) Coblentz who was an architect who had worked for Julia Morgan.
- 190 Found a room in a rooming house on Steiner street.
- 204 Korean War started.
- 208 Future husband had gone to France on the GI bill to study.
- 215 Her girlfriend's mother became ill and Connie went home to be with her.
- 217 Celia got a job in architects' office.
- 222 Went back East to "get on with her life," because her future husband had come back from France.
- 229 Got a job; got married the following year; got pregnant and became a mother and a housewife, who brought up 3 kids.
- 238 Husband opened his own business. Designed the Better Living Building at the New York World's Fair.
- 250 Built their own house (after third child was born) on Long Island after first child was born.
- 257 Moved to Denver for 3 years. Husband worked for I.M. Pei. Third child born here.
- 283 Became involved with Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.
- 290 She made all her own clothes and all the kid's clothing.
- 293 Made her oldest daughter a biscuit quilt when she went off to college, the first quilted piece she ever made.

- 303 Spotted another daughter's quilt she had made in the bottom of her dog's house.
314 Husband sent to S.F. to work on a project. She worked for him then. Moved to S.F.
325 Son had left school and gone to S.F. before this. Speaks of him.
335 Middle daughter had graduated from Carnegie Mellon in graphic design and moved to Rochester to be near one of her sisters. She had done a quilt for Celia with Celia's name on it.
358 Talked about sewing and a class at Fort Mason taught by Sonya Lee Barrington where she took a quilting class and began her quilting "career."
375 Talked about Hannah Goldberg and the SF Quilt Guild.
383 Side one ends here

Tape 1 - Side B

- 001 Talked about starting a children's science museum with a neighbor and they did it - The Science Museum of Long Island - in 1962, which is still operating.
016 Started going to SFQG meetings and eventually was asked to join the board of the California Heritage Quilt Project in 1986.
033 Talked about getting an architectural job in San Francisco and working on the IBM Macy stores design and future work for the structural engineer that they worked with. Has worked with them for almost 20 years.
060 Back to CHQP and work on getting museum venues. Discussed Oakland Museum.
088 EBHQ had show at Mills College, so Celia went there to get them to sponsor the first CHQP show.
098 Historical Society Building in Eureka set up as next venue.
100 Went to Southern California to find a venue. Balboa Park agreed.
111 Jean Ray Laury writing the book about it. Still looking for a place to open the tour.
114 Discussed opening of CHQP tour with Robert Barry, head of the Fresno Museum.
146 Went to "Quilt Days" at the DeYoung Museum and in San Jose.
152 Did a lot of work to prepare quilts for the exhibits -- attaching sleeves, labels, giving them code numbers.
163 Really started to quilt after that. Make wall quilts and full-size quilts.
168 Emphasizes to everyone to PUT A LABEL ON YOUR QUILT.
176 Drafts her own patterns, using her architectural skills.
180 Was Treasurer of the SFQG for a while and has worked on the shows.
185 Collects fabric, like all quilters.
187 Has done a lot of pro bono work: She has sent dozens of quilts to a group in Utah, that services 5 mountain states, with small 20" square quilts with flannel on the back to give to parents of stillborn babies to hold the baby in and have their picture taken with the baby.
207 Has made quilts for St. Anthony's, and kids quilts for the shelters with the Guild. Discussed assembly of the wall quilt made for entry way of new St. Anthony's women's shelter.
283 Words for Quilters: Enjoy!!
286 Just made a king size bed quilt for daughter's 20th wedding anniversary. Discussed fabric exchange in Caroline Leiberman's class: 35 people brought in 35 packets of (6) 4" flower squares, and what she did with her squares.
314 Greatest experience of her quilting career in California is having met Jean Ray Laury. Has attended her quilt camp for the past 8 years.



Lo Pinito, Celia