

Local Man Embraces The Art of Quilting

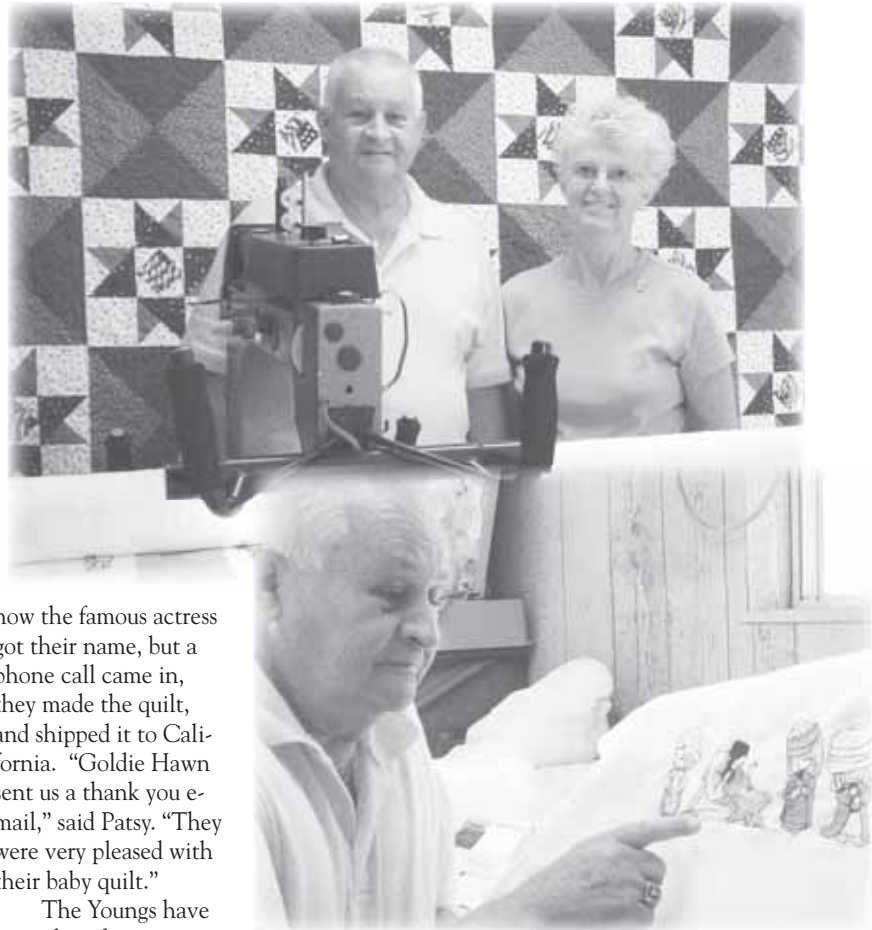
By Randy Olson

Quilting is not a normal hobby for a man to have. But Buddie Young has found it to be quite an enjoyable adventure. Young operates B & P Quilting Service in Mill Shoals. The B in the name stands for Buddie, and the P stands for Patsy, his wife.

Buddie retired after many years of working for the State of Illinois, before discovering his hobby of quilting. "I was looking for something to do to keep from going nuts," he said. "I began restoring antique cars, but soon learned that it was just too expensive." Young used to help his mother and grandmother make quilts, and thought it was interesting and relaxing. As a perfectionist, Buddie decided if he was going to do it, he was going to do it right. So about five years ago, Buddie and his wife Patsy located a custom-made industrial type quilt sewing machine in Missouri. Since that time, the hobby has taken on a life of its own. Patsy marvels at what Buddie has achieved with his hobby. "I am just amazed at what he can do," said Patsy, "I am so proud of him."

Buddie is totally self-taught. While he began perfecting his newfound hobby, Patsy was still working as a beautician at Way-Fair Restorium in Fairfield, after operating her own beauty shop for many years. She just retired in March of this year and is now learning the craft from Buddie. "We could make this a business if we wanted to," said Buddie, "but I don't want to work that hard. We're retired and it's our time to enjoy life and travel a little." However, due to the outstanding quality of Buddie's work, it's hard to slow down demand for his product. People seem to understand and are willing to wait. "I just work when I want to," he says, "so if people are patient, I will get around to it."

In the five short years that B & P Quilting Service has been making quilts for people, orders have come in from all over the country-literally. They even made a baby quilt for Goldie Hawn's daughter in California. They are not sure



how the famous actress got their name, but a phone call came in, they made the quilt, and shipped it to California. "Goldie Hawn sent us a thank you e-mail," said Patsy. "They were very pleased with their baby quilt."

The Youngs have met a lot of great people while quilting. They both became a bit emotional while recanting a story about finishing a quilt for a woman's sister who had cancer. "It took us nearly five weeks to rework and finish that quilt," said Buddie, "it needed a lot of work but it came out excellent." Unfortunately, the sister died before the quilt was completed, but the woman has a lasting memento of her sister, and she thinks about her every time she looks at the quilt.


Buddie and Patsy also have an embroidery machine, which allows them to do many creative designs. They are assisted by Willena Oliver of Springerton, who sets the quilts together, doing the binding.

The Youngs do mostly queen size quilts, although there is an increasing demand for baby quilts and wall hangings.

"We even did a wall hanging for a church in Mt. Vernon, and every member was on a separate block," Young said. Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative provides the electricity for B & P Quilting Service. "We have always been pleased with the services provided by the cooperative," said Patsy, "I have even taken pies into the Fairfield office to show our appreciation." If you are interested in having a professional quilt or wall hanging made, and you don't mind waiting a little while for it, call Buddie or Patsy at (618) 599-7477 and reserve your place in line.



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SEPTEMBER 2005



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9