HANGIN THE QUILTS — Bonnie McQuillen and Laura Reeser hang a quilt at the St. Francis Library.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Quilts on display at library

By Karen Krien

Laura Reeser, St. Francis, has 12 quilts on display at the St. Francis Public Library. The quilts will be there throughout the month.

"I felt it was an honor to be asked to display the quilts," she said.

Mrs. Reeser said there are a variety of types of quilts on display. Each has its history. One of her favorite quilts on display was given to her by her friend Jessie, who is a tailor. She said Jessie had watched a quilting show on television and then made a butterfly quilt from triangular pieces of fabric.

Mrs. Reeser started making quilts when she was a child and she and her sisters, Jo and Lois were headed for summer camp.

"We each needed a quilt so our mother set up each making and tying our quilts," she said.

Those quilts are long gone but she still remembers making her first quilt.

She said her mother made quilts but they were a necessity — a covering for warmth.

When she and her family moved to Texas, their church group wanted a money-making project and decided to make and sell baby quilts. Each person created their designs and then the group quilted around the designs.

"We prayed over the quilts and we made some for homeless children, some went to the battered women shelter and others to babys who were sick," she said.

Before Christmas, there was an article in *The Saint Francis Herald* asking for people to send quilts to foster children. Mrs. Reeser called and found out that quilts can be donated throughout the years and are always needed. She plans to send quilts for these children.

The quilts were a big money maker for the Texas church. In the area, there were people who had antique quilt tops and, before long, the ladies were quilting these tops to their new bottoms.

She said there are still many of the older generation making quilts and, while there are not as many of the younger people quilting, today, quilting has become a "big thing."

Mrs. Reeser has taught her great nieces and grandchildren to quilt. Not too long ago when her grandchildren were visiting, the weather did not allow for the children to play outside, so they were given quilt squares and could create any design they wanted.

"It was like putting a big puzzle together," she said. "They were totally on their own."

Her grandson did not want any of the same squares of fabric to touch while her granddaughter made a baby quilt for a new cousin.

"I would be happy to teach any person how to make a quilt," she said.

In the past 10 years, Mrs. Reeser has made around 30 quilts and has kept a photo album showing each.

When her mother died in 1997, she left a huge box of quilting squares. Mrs. Reeser began making quilts for her sisters so each had a quilt of their mother's squares. She then made them for her father and her mother's grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The last quilt she made from the scraps was named "Finale`" and is on display at the library with the first quilt made from the scraps which gave to her father and is titled "Dad's Quilt."

Mrs. Reeser uses a grid and almost every quilt she has made is made from squares or half squares (triangles).

"The designs are endless," she said.

She generally makes a graph and, while most designs are her own creation, she has done some with patterns. One time, a friend gave her the material to make a quilt for a mountain cabin. It is on display at the library.

"There are differnet ways to quilt but I like plain quilting," she said. "It is something I do to relax."

Some of her most recent quilts were made for premature twin granddaughters. When they were a year old, she gave them each a baby doll that was the size of them and matching quilts.

Moved to St. Francis in 2003

Mrs. Reeser and her husband Rick moved from Texas to St. Francis in May, 2003. They live near Mrs. Reeser's sister Jo east of town. Rick is the new administrator of the St. Francis Good Samaritan Village.

They have four children: Bonnie, Tim, Joshua and Benjamin. They also enjoy their seven grandchildren.

Her other hobby besides making quilts is growing plants, especially herbs.

"This hobby (herbs) has turned into a job," Mrs. Reeser said.

She and Jo are avid gardeners and their older sister and husband use many herbs in their cooking.

Sometime, we would like to conduct a school with our sister teaching how to use herbs in cooking," Mrs. Reeser said.

Part of Monday had been spent looking up how and when to use a certain herb.

Mrs. Reeser and Jo like working with the herbs and, in the near future, they plan to have a place where they can properly dry the herbs they grow.

Husband Rick Reeser is administrator at GSV St. Francis and Goodland

Couple exchange wedding vows in Colorado on Oct. 22

Amber Marie Curtis and Jonathan William Zweygardt were united in marriage at 2 p.m. Oct. 22, 2005, in St. Peter's Historic Catholic Church in Greeley, Colo., with Father Rocco Porter presiding.

The bride is the daughter of Gene and Joanne Curtis, Macomb, Ill., and the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Vilas Curtis and the late Mr. and Mrs. William DeMay.

The bridegroom is the son of Shirley Zweygardt of St. Francis and the grandson of Raymond and Martha Zweygardt, St. Francis.

The bride wore a Michaelangelo satin asymmetrical A-line white gown with a split satin lace-up back and a pleated bustle. The bodice and train were adorned with beaded-corded lace, pearls, sequins and Venetian lace. Added to her train were satin-covered buttons from her grandmother, Alice DeMay's wedding gown and pearls from mother, Joanne Curtis's wedding gown. The bride carried a bouquet of Black Magic roses with satin trim. Gene Curtis, father of the bride, escorted her down the aisle.

The maid of honor was Kati Ball, St. Louis, Mo. Bridesmaids were Sarah Nemlowill, Oklahoma City, Okla., Larissa Dugger, Bartlesville, Okla., Abbie John, Macomb, and Gracie Whalen, Chicago. They wore black strapless beaded bustier tops with black taffeta slim skirts. They carried bouquets of white roses and Black Magic roses accented with long white-satin ribbons.

Best man was Brock McAtee, Bloomington, Ind. Groomsmen were Ryan Wiltfong, Springfield, Tyler Lampe, Denver, Reid Frohlich, Hays, and Michael Dorsch, Enon, Ohio.

Ushers were Matt Curtis, Omaha, Neb., and Nick Curtis, Macomb, brothers of the bride, and Kyle Buffington and Brian Holzwarth, St. Francis, cousins of the groom.

Following the ceremony, the couple enjoyed a limo ride with the Colorado mountains as a backdrop. Dinner and dancing were held at the Grand Ballroom at the Best Western Regency Hotel in Greeley. Shirley Zweygardt, mother of the groom, created a special wedding cake for the reception.

The couple honeymooned in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

The bride is a graduate of Macomb High School, Missouri State University and Cox College of Nursing. She is a registered nurse at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Colo.

The groom is a graduate of St. Francis Community High School and Missouri State University. He is employed by Natural Lawn of America.

The couple is making their home in Evans, Colo.

Jonathan and Amber Zweygardt

Facts

Needless to say, personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told "mind your own bee's wax." Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term "crack a smile." Also, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt and therefore the expression "losing face."

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Ladies wore corsets which would lace up in the front. A tightly tied lace was worn by a proper and dignified lady as in "straight laced."

Macomb High School, Missouri

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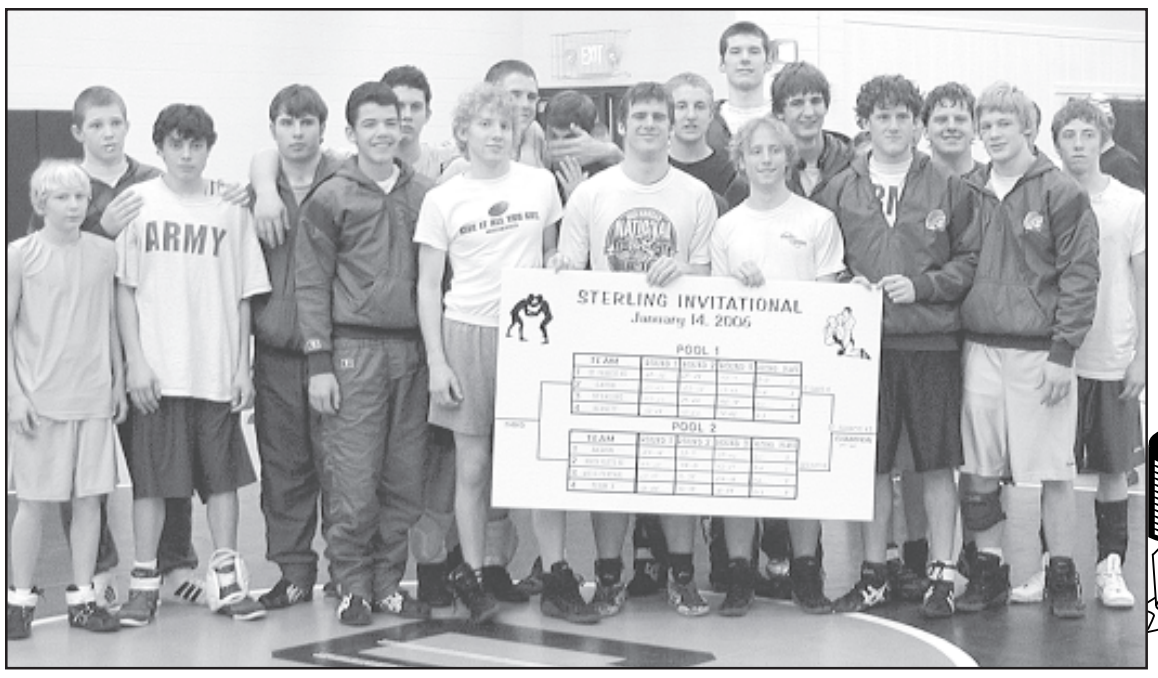

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