

Sew worthy?

Quilt appraiser Linda Karppinen knows the value of the 'tender artifacts' goes beyond money



COURTESY PHOTO

Coastal Quilters Guild member Ellen Heck's national award-winning quilt "Nature's Symphony" will be displayed at the showcase this weekend.

QUILTERS SHOWCASE

You'll be on pins and needles when Linda Karppinen appraises your quilt at the Coastal Quilters Guild "Harvest of Colors: A Members' Showcase," 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Earl Warren Showgrounds. Written appraisals are \$30, verbal appraisals are \$15.

Admission to the quilt show, featuring more than 150 local traditional and contemporary works, is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 and free for kids under 5. Highlights include:

- Guild member Ellen Heck's national award-winning quilt "Nature's Symphony."
- "Touchy Feely" quilt designed for kids who can't keep their hands off anything.
- Rare collection of historic Marie Webster quilts.
- Raffle for Guild quilt "Let Freedom Ring."
- Quilting demos.

Linda Karppinen, a Santa Barbara quilt appraiser, can be reached at 563-0817.

By CHARLOTTE BOECHLER
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

Grandma probably wasn't expecting the family dog to sleep on her hand-made quilt when she put it in her will.

But that's not the only reason you shouldn't let Snookems snuggle up on it.

The labor of love could actually be worth something — and not just the fond memories of the woman who made it.

Linda Karppinen, a local quilt appraiser, said most people probably have one at home that's good for more than a dog bed. They just don't usually find out its value until they bump into someone like her.

Ms. Karppinen will appraise quilts during the Coastal Quilters Guild "Harvest of Colors: A Members' Showcase," 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at Earl Warren Showgrounds.

"If they haven't used it to let the dog have puppies on, they might bring it in and say, 'I want to sell it.' Then they find out it's worth four, five or \$600 and they go, 'Wow! This old rag?' It's like there's a new respect for their grandmother's handiwork," she said. "They might even keep it just because it's worth money. They don't value it because it's a personal object created by their grandmother, maybe even for them. Just the sheer monetary value gets their attention."

But don't expect your ratty old crazy quilt to register any cha-chings. Condition is the No. 1 factor that influences value. Stains, holes, bunched batting (the filler inside the quilt), ripped seams and loose appliques are all a seller's nightmare.

"Some quilts that have been hung too long actually will become distorted because of the strain on the fabric. The points no longer match. A square will become elongated," said Ms.



LEN WOOD / NEWS-PRESS

Quilt appraiser Linda Karppinen examines the details on a quilt. Ms. Karppinen says the condition of the quilt is the No. 1 factor in appraising a quilt.

Please see **CRAFT** on D6