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AUTHOR OF

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Quilting gains popularity as University Plus class

By Kim Sanders
Reporter

Quilting is no longer looked upon as something done purely out of necessity, and grandmothers are not the only ones picking up a needle and thread anymore.

The rising popularity for quilting can be seen on the Texas A&M campus in the University Plus quilting class.

"Quilting is on the upsurge," says Mary Gay Boedeker, a graphic designer for the veterinary school. "For several decades it was just used for rural, utilitarian purposes. For the past 10 to 15 years, it has become an artistic endeavor — the fun of it has been revived."

The class holds a maximum of 15 people and already has been filled for this semester with 10 students and five non-students, University Plus supervisor Wayne Helton says. In past years, the center has had to open more than one section for the class.

He says that when the first class fills they start a waiting list; it takes a minimum of six people in each class for the center to "break even financially."

Boedeker says quilting is important in her life because it relieves stress. She says she tries to work on her quilting almost every day.

"Most of the people in our guild (Brazos Bluebonnet Quilt Guild) work," she says, "and many are professionals such as doctors."

Boedeker believes that now that more women are working, they are finding they need a way to relieve stress and quilting offers one way to relax.

The University Plus class is taught by Norma Metzger, who has been teaching it since the center first opened in 1975.

Helton says, "She is our most experienced instructor in University Plus — I can't think of anyone else who has been here from the start."

This semester the class costs \$8 for students and \$16 for non-students. It will be held March 21, 28, April 4 and 11 at 7 p.m. Helton says anyone wishing to take the class in spring will be placed on a waiting list.

Deposit balance stabilizes after February withdrawals

DALLAS (AP) — First Republic Bank Dallas' deposit balance appears to be stabilizing after customers withdrew \$599 million during a single week last month, the chairman of the state's largest bank-holding company said.

The lead institution of First Republic Bank Corp. lost more than 8 percent of its deposits when customers apparently reacted to rumors of a government-assisted bailout, regulators said.

"By the middle of last week, the sources of funds for the Dallas bank and for the corporation as a whole appeared to be stabilizing," First Republic Chairman Gerald Fronterhouse said Monday. "We feel this is the result of our efforts to communicate directly with our customers and the strong support we have received throughout Texas."

The bank held average total deposits of \$6.87 billion during the seven-day period ending Feb. 24, down 8.7 percent from the previous week. Since the end of 1987, the bank has lost \$1.1 billion deposits.

During the week covered by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas report, the bank-holding company was the subject of published reports that takeover or bailout negotiations were under way, and that its lead institution had suffered deposit outflows.

A 55-member team supervised by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency began auditing First Republic Bank, which lost \$656.8 million in 1987 and finished the year with \$3.92 billion worth of problem assets.

The company later denied that First Republic officials or regulators were negotiating a merger or bailout. Bank officials also revealed companywide deposit outflows of \$1.14 billion during the first weeks of 1988 that it characterized as "manageable."

First Republic previously has borrowed excess funds from other banks to make up deposit shortfalls and does not borrow any emergency funds from the Federal Reserve Bank.

Numbers of First Republic depositors were moving their accounts to other banks, area bankers say.

Blaze kills four people as they sleep

LUBBOCK (AP) — Four people, including a 1-year-old baby, were killed in a fire early Tuesday as they slept in their apartment.

Killed in the blaze, which was reported shortly after 3 a.m., were Stacey Owens, 19; Kenneth Daves, 18; Larry Daves, 17; and 1-year-old Tonia Daves.

Interim Fire Marshal Jack Carlile said arson investigators from his office were still on the scene, but had not confirmed a cause.

"They're still over there sifting through things trying to come up with something more definite," he said.

Fire Chief Don Stevens said the fire did not look suspicious.

He said the apartment complex manager told him all apartments were equipped with smoke detectors that were checked every month, he said.

"There was a report that neighbors heard buzzing and some noise over there, and that may have been the smoke detector," he said.

The fire began on the first floor of the two-story apartment, officials said.

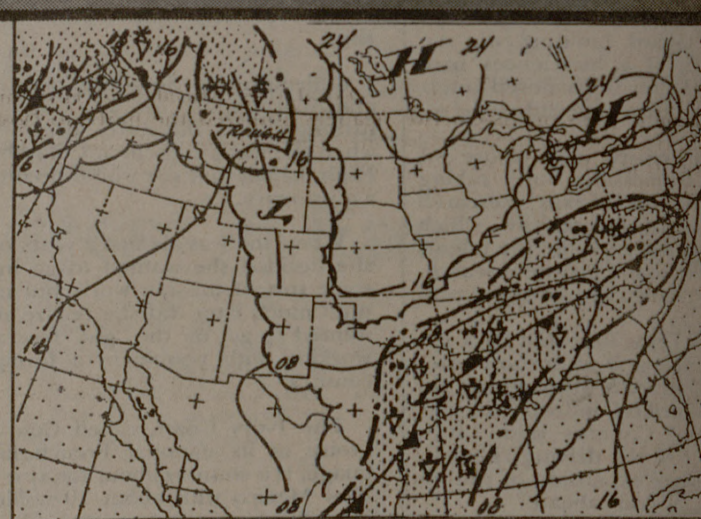
The victims were not burned, but apparently had been overcome by smoke, District Chief Gale Hooper said.

About 24 firemen battled the blaze for approximately 90 minutes before extinguishing it.










No damage estimate was immediately available.

Owens, Kenneth Daves and the infant had lived in the apartment since early February, and Larry Daves was visiting the couple, apartment manager Donna Whitehead said.

Weather Watch



Key:

-  - Lightning
-  - Fog
-  - Thunderstorms
-  - Rain
-  - Snow
-  - Drizzle
-  - Ice Pellets
-  - Rain Shower
-  - Freezing Rain

Sunset Today: 6:24 p.m. Sunrise Friday: 6:47 a.m.

Map Discussion: Eastern Texas will be the focal point for active weather in the form of showers and thundershowers again today. The low pressure system aloft which will track northeastward. This will produce significant precipitation from Texas to Washington, D.C. and some of the thundershowers in the local area and into Mississippi may reach severe limits. A strong front approaching the Washington and Oregon coast will initiate precipitation through the Pacific Northwest while the southwest comes under the influence of drier northwesterly flow.

Forecast: Today and Tonight: Overcast and mild, high 68, with scattered showers and thundershowers, some of which may reach severe limits. Winds southerly at 15 gusting to 25 mph. Low Friday morning 47.

Friday: Decreasing cloudiness and cooler. High 64. Winds northeast at seven to 12 mph.

Weather Fact: Tornado Occurrence - Tornadoes have occurred in all 50 states in all months of the year, and can occur at any time of the day. Most severe weather in Brazos County occurs from March through May. The Hurricane season, June through November, can on rare occasions, produce a secondary maximum of severe weather locally.

Prepared by: Charlie Brent
Staff Meteorologist
A&M Department of Meteorology

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