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A stitch in time

Quilt Walk success exceeds previous walk

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Quilt appraiser and historian Teddy Pruett uses a pick glass to examine the details of a Baltimore Album-style quilt made by an 18-year-old Harriet Ann Dean in 1853. The Quilt Walk will continue today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. JASON MATTHEW WALKER/Lake City Reporter

Gene Perry of AmyJean's Embroidery Studio said vendors told him that Friday morning's activity exceeded the sales of both days from the 2008 Quilt Walk.

The Quilt Walk continues from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. today.

More than 300 registered quilts are on display, said Paulette Lord of the Columbia County Tourist Development Council. Last year, there were 200 quilts, she said.

Four centers for seeing quilts are complimented by the many other quilts on display at businesses along Marion Avenue between Duval Street and Railroad Street.

Quilts are displayed at the Lake City-Columbia County Historical Museum, 157 SE Hernando Ave., the Hotel Blanche, 212 N. Marion Ave., the First Baptist Church, 182 NE Justice St. and at AmyJean's Embroidery Studio, 273 N. Marion Ave.

Vendors of everything needed for quilting, including old sewing machines, are on sale on the second floor of the Hotel Blanche.

"The Old Sewing Machine Man" Johnny Johnston is selling machines "from the early 1900s to the famous featherweight machines that quilters love."

There are drawings for three quilts that are being raffled to help the Lake City Quilt Guild: the Springhouse Quilters of Trenton; and the Quilt Walk Committee. The Lake City Woman's Club is selling cookbooks.

A professional quilt appraiser is at work. One person learned surprising news on Friday morning.

Valeria Crenshaw, 76, of Fort White brought a quilt made in 1868 by her husband's great-grandmother, Sinal Crenshaw. This variation of the "Lone Star" quilt, she said, was appraised at \$1,200.

While quilters will find everything related to their art at the museum, visitors there can also see other artifacts and pieces from local history. Some of the quilts on display are contemporary too.

In the Keepsake Quilting collection, there are 21 quilts divided into 10 categories, which include "Homespun Challenge," "Pieces In Time Challenge," "Balle Challenge," "Floral Challenge," "Home Sweet Home Challenge" and five other challenges.

Pat McAlhany, museum president, said there is a collection of six original dresses, which were made in the mid-1800s. These dresses are on loan from Camilla Donnelly.

Also at the museum, docents are dressing in attire from the 1880s, which is when most of the house was built.

The sound of the 40 & 8 Train resounded throughout downtown Lake City on Friday, as it is planned for Saturday. Free train rides are being given from the museum to downtown and back, adding to the sights and sounds from days of old.

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