

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Our Founding Members —Nancy Vase

*Nancy Vase has been a dedicated quilter for 47 years who is not only a WSQG founding member but also a founding member of the Sweetwater Piecemakers and has served as WSQG Vice President/ Membership Director and President (1999-2001), Regional Director and currently Director-at-Large. In the spirit of quilters, she is willing to share her quilting skills and knowledge. Thank you, Nancy for stepping forward again and sharing your experiences with us. UC*

### Nancy Vase

My recent quilting has focused on baby quilts. Our first grandchildren, twins, arrived May 4, six weeks early! Other than that I have been trying to finish up some UFOs and have a pile of tops ready to quilt (20 and counting).

My first exposure to quilts was sleeping under one made by grandma from pieces cut from suits and trousers, wool, corduroy, etc., with a flannel back, tied with red yarn. Unfortunately it was loved to death long ago.

I learned to sew at an early age. My first quilting experience came when I bought a quilt kit at an after-Christmas sale in 1966. It took three years to finish the embroidery and hand quilting. Then I decided to make a Lone Star quilt. That pup tent lives in a trunk.

Needing serious help I found there were only a very few very old quilting books at the library, no others available. One day I went to the grocery store and wonder of wonders, there was a quilt magazine on the rack! I'd never seen one before. I bought it and read it cover to cover that night. I was hooked. I watched every newsstand for more. It took a while before I found another.

Those early magazines were mostly for sewers who knew what they were doing. I didn't, but I quilted anyway. Then pictures of quilts began to appear with the celebration of the Bicentennial. Do you remember Jinny



**Spangled Midnight Garden** The star patterns Star Spangled Banner are from Marsha McCloskey's book, Feathered Stars: Really Hard Blocks That Take a Long Time to Make and includes five stars with flowering vines adapted from the designs of Nancy A. Pearson. This quilt was in the 2007 *Quilter's Newsletter Magazine Calendar*. The photo was taken when it won Viewer's Choice at Quilting on the Green.

### Beyers' "Ray of Light"?

Tired of quilting alone, I put an ad in the paper to start a group. No one replied. A few years later, about 20 years ago, I saw a similar notice at the library. I attended the first meeting of that group and am still a member of Sweetwater Piecemakers.

As the years went by, I learned more about quilting, took some classes, new books began to appear and my quilting improved. I've seen various techniques improve our abilities, I bought a rotary cutter in 1981 and have quilted both by hand and machine.

The advent of WSQG made it possible for me to take more classes, meet more quilters and find a community of others with the same interests. I have served in several offices and tried to make a contribution to our group. I have watched the development of quilting from a nearly forgotten activity to a continuously growing part of all of our lives. WSQG has helped enormously.

Every year I organize my activities around four days in July. I have attended every convention of WSQG with my cohort Jeanne Allen. I tell my husband our vehicle could break down anywhere in Wyoming and I could find someone to rescue us because of WSQG. When I arrive home from Casper the dates for QW 2014 will go on the calendar again.

### Long Live Quilting! Nancy Vase



**Labyrinth** "Ariadne's Thread No. 1" which is an original design. It was in the 2006 Quilt Art Engagement Calendar. When one of my friends saw the initial elements pinned up on the wall she said it looked like a turkey. So now my friends (?) call this the turkey quilt. The tiny footprints going in and out of the labyrinth were taken from the prints of a friend's child. They follow the path all the way through.