

Monica Jessen

Altonah, Utah

July 19th 2015

“Hand Piece Quilt”

Material Culture

Informant:

Monica Jessen is my aunt or so we call her our aunt. She is more of a cousin within the family, but she and her husband (Lee Jessen) have always played a more important part within our family. She is 60 years old and grew up in Illinois. Even though she had grown up in Illinois she says her heart has always belonged in Altonah where she met her husband when she was only 14 years old.

Context:

I interviewed Monica within her house, more specifically in her very cozy living room. My mom and I had gone over in the late afternoon to visit like we always do frequently. In perfect Monica fashion she greets us with a huge smile and hug. She also has her t.v. going in the background, which is always playing the most recent Lifetime movie. The day previous I had asked Monica if I could visit her to see all the heirlooms she had accumulated over the years, she was more than delighted to show me her possessions. The most prominent one and the one she was the most proud of was a hand pieced quilt made by her Aunt “Ducky”. Monica took me back to the memory of when she received this quilt; she mentioned that she and her mother (Verna Prince) had been visiting her Aunt Ducky in Illinois when she was younger. While visiting Aunt Ducky, she asked Monica what she would like her to leave for her when she passes away someday. Monica was a little taken back thinking that Aunt Ducky had many years before she would pass away, but Aunt Ducky explained she had nobody to leave anything to due to her 3 sons passing away in the years before. She told Monica to pick something out that day just in case she couldn’t later. Monica told her Aunt Ducky she wanted her hand piece quilt she had made single handedly. That very day Aunt Ducky washed and made SURE Monica had that quilt with her to take back home when her and her mom left even though they still had a week left of their stay.

Text:

Hand pieced quilt made by Aunt Ducky in the early '70s



Texture:

Monica presented her quilt with pride and the upmost admiration while talking about her Aunt Ducky. Monica was getting pretty teary eyed while retelling the memory of when she received the quilt. Even though Monica had been getting teary eyed, it is in her nature to look at the bright side of things. She started laughing at the memory saying how crazy Aunt Ducky was for washing the quilt that very day. After both of us had stopped laughing, Monica gave me a big hug and thanked me for making her remember that special memory.

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