

WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORICAL NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2015

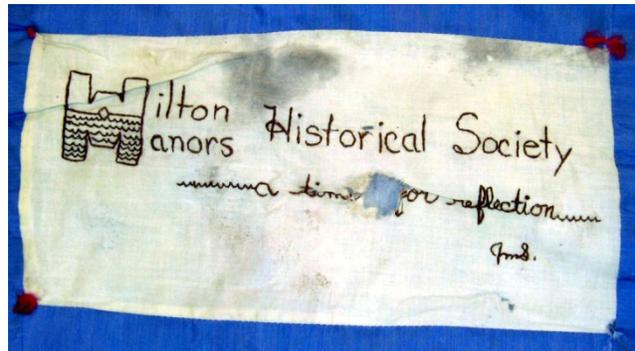
THE CITY QUILT

By Benjamin B. Little
Wilton Manors Historical Society

The City Clerk's office, Kathryn Sims, City Clerk, and Patricia Staples, Deputy City Clerk, continue to surprise and delight with important artifacts of the City's history.

Their latest "find" is "The City Quilt." It was not really a "find," it was sitting in the vault waiting for someone to ask about it. Kathryn and Patricia have generously taken the time to display it for folks, including Nancy Sawallis, who contributed to it, to view.

July 1976 was a big deal with the Bi-Centennial of the founding of the United States. The Historical Society created this quilt and also spent three years recording



Nancy Sawallis pointing to her panel

interviews, primarily conducted by Jett Schmelz and Dianne Thompson. Joe Beard, long time resident and owner of Audio Duplicating Services, generously converted the cassette tapes to CDs for the Historical Society.

At the center of the quilt is a prominent panel "Wilton Manors Historical Society – A Time for Reflection." There are panels for the Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department, a Gold Star Mother, Girl Scouts, and a number of families, including the Kalis's. Patriotic panels abound. The artists are identified on the reverse of the quilt. Nancy Sawallis, Vicki Goodworth, Doris Beaupre, Ginny Hagen, and Dianne Thompson, among others, were major contributors.

There does seem to be a "City Tag Line," "A City Alive!"

There continues to be some mystery around this quilt. We are told that it was to be raffled off, but disappeared. Dianne Thompson, President of the Historical Society, had custody of the quilt for some time, as did Mary Kalis. It got to the City Vault via Diane Cline and Brenda Clanton.



The Historical Society's plan is to look into the feasibility of

restoring it (it is not in bad shape) and mounting it in a glass frame. The City Manager's Office is open to discussions about hanging it in City Hall.

The quilt is 76" by 44 1/2 inches. We have the names of most of the artists involved. If you have any information about the quilt, or would like more information, please contact the Historical Society at WMHS@WiltonManorsHistoricalSociety.org. Note that the Historical Society has located a second quilt, made by the Woman's Club in 2000. More to follow.

Nancy Sawallis' panel, with squirrel and mailbox. Needing a little restoration.



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