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RECORD SETTER—A 28,152-piece quilt set a record in the late 1930's at the Eastern States Exposition. Mrs. Rita Danese of Warwick will have a surprise for judges at this year's exposition—a 51,608-piece quilt. See story on this page.

Mosaic Quilt Will Wow Judges At Summer Fairs

"And when it came to winning blue ribbons, You must have shown the other kids how. I can see the judges' eyes, As they handed you the prize, I bet you took the cutest how..."

Unlike the 1942 tune, its doubtful that Mrs. John B. Danese of 92 Shand Avenue will resort to taking a cute bow, and it's also certain that she won't be competing against kids. But there's no doubt that blue ribbons will be coming her way.

With the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass. planning its

annual quilt contest, the Warwick woman is rushing a special quilt to completion. In the late 1930's a participant in the exposition set a record by entering a quilt that will go into the record books at 51,608 pieces.

Quilt Veteran

"I have been making quilts for the past six years, but I never dreamed that I would some day decide to make one of this magnitude," she explained. "I was studying the history of quilts and learned that a 10,000-piece quilt was made in the 1700's. This surprised me, but when

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MOSAIC QUILT

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I read that other quilts were made with as many as 21,000 pieces, it seemed like a human impossibility. Now here I am with my own 51,608-piece quilt."

Breaking the record set in 1930 became an obsession with Mrs. Danese, she admits. Terming her work "The Mossaic Quilt," she explained that her product is 82 by 94 inches. She started the quilt only six months ago.

Blueprint

"I started out with a sort of blueprint made of colored pieces of paper. Then came the headache of cutting and sewing," she said. "I knew that God would give me the courage and patience I needed to do it. The pieces

themselves are cut and then sewed on my power sewing machine. The pieces are three and an eighth inches square.

Thus far, the Warwick resident has worked 600 hours. She has used 13,000 yards of thread and 30 yards of varying colors of material—orange, green, pink, blue, yellow and orchid. With white as the quilt's main color, 25,804 of the pieces are white.

Quilting consists of the fastening together of a top piece, a plain piece of white material and a batten material in between. Once the three layers have been sewn by machine, the quilt is entirely sewn by hand with a running stitch.

Widely Exhibited

The many piece quilt will be seen my many. In addition to the Eastern States Exposition, Mrs. Danese plans to enter her work at the Brockton Fair and Long Island Fair.

"And of course, I will enter the quilt in my favorite of all exhibits, the Rocky Hill Fair," she said. "Many people have asked how I could possibly finish such a quilt in six months. They underestimate the encouragement I have gotten from so many well wishers."