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SECOND SECTION

Quilt at Fair Has Record 51,300 Pieces

By JUDITH YOUNGSTROM
Woman's Editor

If you entered the contest for pieced and tied quilts at the Brockton Fair this year, and didn't win the blue ribbon,

don't feel bad — you were competing against a record - breaking quilt!

Mrs. John B. Danese's prize - winning entry is the largest quilt — in numbers

of pieces — ever made. It contains 51,300 squares, each three - eighths of an inch on a side.

Each piece was sewn on a machine, but Mrs. Danese assembled and tied them in back by hand. The judge, she said, commented that it was done "to perfection."

Although she has made 14 quilts during the last seven years, this is the first time Mrs. Danese has entered one in competition. She has, however, won a number of ribbons for her flowers and flower arrangements, including 19 at the Brockton Fair.

Rhode Islander

A resident of Warwick, R.I. Mrs. Danese entered Brockton Fair partly because she had heard no Rhode Islander had taken home a ribbon from Brockton lately, and partly because she hoped she

could win a blue with her quilt and by so doing, make her Brockton relatives proud.

A guest of her cousin, Mrs. Edward Maroon of 374 Ash St., during Fair week, Mrs. Danese has two aunts and many cousins living in the city.

Her beautiful multi - colored quilt is the culmination of six months of steady work — up to eight and 10 hours a day! She began Dec. 8 and finished May 1.

30 Yards

Using 30 yards of various-colored materials and 13,000 yards of thread, Mrs. Danese stitched a quilt measuring 82 by 94 inches. The average size is 84 by 96 or 108.

The design of the quilt — an original — is that of a giant X of color, with V's radiating away from the point at which the X crosses; one

V for each corner of the X.

Mrs. Danese used 19 colors in her quilt: Three colors each of orange, green, pink, blue, orchid, and yellow; all accenting the main color, a white background.

What compels a person to undertake such a tremendous task? Mrs. Danese first conceived the idea of her record - breaking quilt while reading a history of quilting.

From the book she learned that a 10,000 piece quilt had been sewn in the 1700s, and that the most recent record-setting quilt contained 28,152 pieces — entered in the Eastern States Exposition about 30 years ago.

"When I read that, I knew I had to break that record," she said.

Is it definite that this quilt with the myriad pieces has set a record? Well, after investigating the matter, an insurance company was sufficiently satisfied to insure the quilt for \$5,000.

Later on this year the quilt will be entered in competition at the Eastern States Exposition and at the Rocky Hill Fair in East Greenwich, R.I.

In the meantime, Mrs. Danese's record - breaking quilt is still on display at the Fair Grounds . . . perhaps inspiring some industrious Brockton seamstress to set new records.

Deborah G. Gibbs, 18, of Tremont St., South Carver, admires the prize winning quilt made by Mrs. John B. Danese of Warwick, R. I. Containing a record-breaking number of pieces, the quilt is on display at the 4-H building at the Brockton Fair.

