



Ruby Richey and Estelle Rineheart

Interviewed by Anne Kimzey

1. How they began quilting (02:20)

R. Richey: She can beat me at quilting <Kimzey laughs>, [unintelligible [?]] about the quilts.

Kimzey: Um, so you said you- when you retired....

R. Richey: Um-hum.

Kimzey: Um, and you'd seen her work and decided you wanted to do that or....

R. Richey: Uh, well, I hadn't seen anything. She made it at the time we were talking. She called me, uh, we, uh, was talking and I told her [unintelligible [?]]. She said "Well, I can teach you everything you need to know <Kimzey laughs>." And the lady that was teaching over there, she doesn't quilt as good as Mrs. Rineheart does, and, uh, I had seen hers cause she [unintelligible [?]] carried me to a friend's house.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: And, uh, so, uh, I went by to visit a sick friend one night and she was propped up in bed and she was making [unintelligible [?]]. She had them all cut out, you know, and she was appliquéing them on a-

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: And I said "Well, I can do that." She was using the buttonhole, she couldn't....and it was a little [nurse doll [?]]-

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: And, uh, so I sit there and helped her. And so we got together, she got good many scraps at the, uh, place where they make men's shorts.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: And so she cut out me a quilt and her a quilt and she even got the stripping that goes with it. We put it together, we didn't hem those little dolls. We just appliquéd on them on there, that's the way she was doing it and that's what I'd done.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: So with that all ready to quilt, and we didn't know how to put it in, so we called her and we had never put [our [?]] stripping around it, so she made us put a stripping around it. And then she showed us how to put it in a frame. She said "You should've hemmed those little doll's dresses <Kimzey laughs>." But it turned out pretty good. Um, I visited there, um, two weeks ago and I saw the first quilt, you know, I'd made and it wasn't too bad, it really wasn't <Kimzey laughs>. The little girls' dresses were colorful, you know, but she come over there and helped us put it in there. She has to come now to get that "Wedding Ring" top in the frame.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: Cause I don't know how to get that, you have to pull it and stretch it, I think [unintelligible [?]] going to tear it all to pieces, but she gets it in there <Kimzey laughs>. So it's been a joy. She- it's meant a lot to me, and I have quilted all my children and my grandchildren, some of them have two quilts apiece.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

2. Buying material (00:59)

R. Richey: [Unintelligible [?]]. We go to the store and we buy, uh, uh, fourth of a fourth of a yard, you know, a quilt or however we want it. Now for that theme, you [going [?]] to have to have long [unintelligible [?]], you know. So you got to get a fourth of a yard for that. You can get an eighth of a yard if you're making a "Dresden Plate."

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: But usually you just get a fourth, and [if it's real pretty material [?]], you get the half yard because you'll be using it later.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: See, we have loads of scraps [unintelligible [?]] <Kimzey laughs>. Beautiful material.

Kimzey: [Unintelligible [?]].

R. Richey: And we found out, you know, she made nice material. [The first ones I made [?]], I used those scraps that [unintelligible [?]] brought me. Then I- as I began to learn, I found that it would pay to buy a nice material to go in the quilt, see?

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: Cause it has a sheet. She said use a sheet instead of just a soft white material.

Kimzey: Uh-huh.

R. Richey: But we used it. And that so the quilts that I make now are much nicer than the ones I started off making.

3. More on materials (01:03)

Kimzey: When do you start- like planning your quilt ahead of time and buying material?

E. Rineheart: [Unintelligible [?]] that- that red one in there was the first one that I did [that [?]].

Kimzey: Um-hum.

E. Rineheart: And that was the bicentennial- was that '64?

Kimzey: That's '76, I think.

E. Rineheart: '76? Well, that's the first one that I bought material [unintelligible [?]] and from then on, we began to do that.

Kimzey: Um-hum. And before that, you, um, used what you had?

E. Rineheart: Um-hum.

R. Richey: And people give you scraps. They won't quilt, but they'll give you what's left from the clothes they make.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: That's how she got scraps. She sews, you know.

E. Rineheart: You know, my children, they would go, they would go back [unintelligible [?]] get up out of bed or something, they [would go over this quilt [?]], this one was my dress, this one was so-and-so, and all of it.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

E. Rineheart: It was a lot of fun.

Kimzey: That- that "Cathedral Window," is that one like or-

E. Rineheart: Well, [unintelligible [?]], but no, I don't have any.

4. Dresden Plate (01:18)

R. Richey: I should have brought you my husband's "Dresden Plate," it's red and blue.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: And, uh, I had made my youngest son and his wife, [they were young people, just married [?]]. And he was [home [?]] one day and I had a lot of material I'd bought up [in [?]] Ninety-Six [unintelligible [?]]. And he put together the blue and the red, he said "That was pretty, wasn't it?" So I took the, uh, loose square and appliquéd it- the "Dresden Plate" on it, and I stripped it with red and, uh, she showed me how to make a little fancy stripping.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: And, uh, it's real pretty. Everybody loves his quilt.

Kimzey: What's- what's the fancy stripping? [Unintelligible [?]].

R. Richey: <Speaking to Rineheart> What did you call that? It was just little square blocks, [cut in two [?]], made a little point. What did you call the name of that? It looked [kind of [?]] easy work, you know.

E. Rineheart: Was it "Dresden Plate?"

R. Richey: You know [unintelligible [?]] "Dresden Plate" that he's got on his bed?

E. Rineheart: Um-hum.

R. Richey: Well, you remember that little fancy stripping we put around it, you know?

E. Rineheart: Oh, the little square triangle?

R. Richey: Um-hum.

E. Rineheart: You just cut a triangle and sew two together.

Kimzey: Um.

E. Rineheart: And it makes a beautiful little-

Kimzey: So it's like a-

R. Richey: Um-hum.

E. Rineheart: [Unintelligible [?]] it's pretty.

5. A lost art (01:09)

E. Rineheart: It's almost like a lost art, there are not many people who quilt.

R. Richey: She was- who was it was telling you up yonder at the schoolhouse, you know, that it was a lost art, one of our....

E. Rineheart: Oh. All I know is [Redmond [?]].

R. Richey: Yeah. [Unintelligible [?]] Redmond, he was here [unintelligible [?]] flowers <Rineheart in background, unintelligible>, you know, he was....

E. Rineheart: He loves the [unintelligible [?]].

R. Richey: Yeah.

Kimzey: [Unintelligible [?]].

R. Richey: Yeah, yeah.

E. Rineheart: He's a kind [unintelligible [?]].

R. Richey: And uh-

E. Rineheart: Time I was over, they was having a Fall Festival, you know, and I had a booth and he came along and [unintelligible [?]] a pillowcase [unintelligible [?]], you know, and he says "You know what, this is a lost art." Well, it is.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

E. Rineheart: [So [?]] it's just a lot of people coming back to it now.

R. Richey: Yeah.

E. Rineheart: But they do it in a different way than what we do. A lot of them lap quilt.

Kimzey: Um-hum. Which is with the big hoop, that-

R. Richey: Um-hum.

E. Rineheart: But I just prefer the old time [unintelligible [?]].

Kimzey: On the frame.

E. Rineheart: Um-hum.

6. Why they quilt (00:39)

E. Rineheart: Well, it's that, uh, something that I learned from childhood, [unintelligible [?]].

R. Richey: It's interesting to plan a quilt.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: You got your color, you select your pattern, you cut them out and it's a lot of fun and it's very relaxing to sit and quilt <Rineheart in background, unintelligible>.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: It's just like you're going to make an afghan or something, you know, sitting in a chair, crocheting or whatever you're doing, you know, you're getting it pretty.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: Uh, and, but- now, sitting [out [?]], the reason we like the old-fashioned quilting frame, you're sitting up straight where on- if you quilt on your lap, [unintelligible [?]].

E. Rineheart: [Unintelligible [?]].

R. Richey: We prefer to sit up straight <Kimzey laughs>.

7. Creating something (01:08)

E. Rineheart: I think what is the most interesting part about it is to see that you can create something.

R. Richey: Yeah. It's [unintelligible [?]].

Kimzey: Um-hum.

E. Rineheart: And that's why I love [unintelligible [?]]. I can't understand [unintelligible [?]], they don't want to do anything with their hands. Well I just love to do it, to create something.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: Now the "Wedding Ring," most people just use the scraps that, uh, they have left over, you know, for that little peak, you know? And they just put them back [in the box [?]]. I've got several boxes, I've [unintelligible [?]], [unintelligible [?]], and it's all colored. But it's not as pretty as that little "Pastel" in there.

Other voice: And we get it cheap, you know.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

E. Rineheart: For the inside, you know, of it. And, uh, then we-

Kimzey: [Unintelligible [?]].

E. Rineheart: Line it with a sheet. [Unintelligible [?]], you see that, you can wash that, and, uh, it'll last a long time. And it's- you got [unintelligible [?]] nice little colors. So you get them all on your table, you put all the colors out, you know, in rows, you know. And you pick up this one or that, that won't do, [unintelligible [?]].

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: So it's interesting. It's really an art.

8. Reasons for quilting (00:55)

Kimzey: Is quilting something a lot of people do when they retire or it's just some- now that you have more free time, or....

R. Richey: I think so. This is my hobby.

Kimzey: Your hobby.

R. Richey: Um-hum.

E. Rineheart: Well, a lot of people....

R. Richey: And she quilts for profit.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: You know. But I give most of mine away. To my family of course.

E. Rineheart: Well, [unintelligible [?]] at the beginning of it, see, that's what they- they used for cover. They didn't have heat in the house like we have now.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

E. Rineheart: But they just had a fireplace, when they went to bed the heat went out. So they had to have something for cover. And that's the- that's the whole- I mean that's the way it started.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

E. Rineheart: They had- you couldn't buy blankets and all that thing back then. [Unintelligible [?]]. People didn't have money to do it.

9. Quilting to relax (00:47)

R. Richey: But the thing about our quilt in the wintertime-

E. Rineheart: We quilt mostly in the winter. See, it's cold, you can't get out.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

E. Rineheart: Especially when you get some age on you, you know, you enjoy staying at home. And, uh, it's so nice, you get tired of cleaning up all the time <Kimzey laughs>. And, uh, so it's so nice [doing [?]]- go in there, sit down and quilt. I'll turn the radio on.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

R. Richey: I enjoy it. You can [unintelligible [?]] relax.

Kimzey: Um-hum. Do- um- and you two quilt together?

R. Richey: [She helps me and I help her [?]].

E. Rineheart: Yeah, we- I used to help her more than I do now. I told her I think was getting a little aged <Kimzey laughs>.

R. Richey: Sometimes we do them by ourselves you know.

10. Afghan (00:51)

E. Rineheart: Now this is the one I was talking about. This is the scrap- the bags of scraps.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

E. Rineheart: They might have been a little ball that big.

Kimzey: Oh, you just-

E. Rineheart: And, uh, of course I hadn't finished it, I want to do a- make it a little bit larger here. But everybody loves it.

Kimzey: Um-hum.

E. Rineheart: There's a woman at Ninety-Six sews [unintelligible [?]], said "If you don't want to sell that thing, then [unintelligible [?]] come down here with it <Kimzey laughs>."

R. Richey: I think that's large enough, I wouldn't make it any larger, cause for a spreadover, you see.

Kimzey: Yeah.

R. Richey: And when you go to the nursing home, you know-

Other voice: This is the nicest thing [unintelligible [?]].

E. Rineheart: I don't know what I'll do with it, somebody called and want it, I might let them have it.

R. Richey: She made-

E. Rineheart: It just shows that you can take a little bitty thing [unintelligible [?]] and make something out of it.

